

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS 2015

FIRST PERIOD SELECTIONS

Blogging/Digital Photography: Do you have ideas and opinions to share? Come learn the ins and outs of designing and writing your own blog in a kid-friendly environment. Learn the 21st century "netiquette" involved in commenting on other student's blogs, AND help to keep a camp-wide photo blog of the daily DECATS happenings.

Building Instruments: Making Music-makers! Call it what you will - we will be creating our own instruments from provided and found materials, from simple noise-makers to pitched percussion, wind instruments to stringed wonders. We'll deconstruct some natural and electronic instruments as inspiration and guidance, including some circuit-bending. Using some basic mathematics and creativity, you might just build something that no one has heard before!

Clay Works: Like to play with dirt? Make several decorative and functional clay pieces. Just for starters, with a few slabs and coils make a beautiful original mosaic piece and a box to store your treasures. Learn various construction, texturing and coloring techniques and bring functionality and beauty to your environment.

Creative Drama is an exciting class that will introduce students to the marvelous world of theater. We will be focusing on acting and improvisational games that promote teamwork, encourage creativity, and build confidence! So, get ready to have lots of fun - make some new friends - and boost your self esteem!

European Lawn Games: Are you tired of the same old games you play with your friends? After this class is over, you'll have learned 4 new lawn sports that you can play in your own backyard! We will play popular games originating from Europe like Kubb (Sweden), Croquet (Great Britain), Golf (Scotland), and Archery (Germany). Don't worry if you've never heard of Kubb, you'll have a great time learning the history and rules of this great nordic game. See you on the green!

Fairy Tales on Trial! That's right! We are going to put some of your favorite fairy tale characters on trial! We will be doing all new, never done before cases. Some of your favorite characters will be put on trial; like Cinderella, Sleeping Beauty, The Three Blind Mice, Aladdin and more! Our big finale trial will include putting Queen

Elsa on trial!! What is she being accused of? Come find out! You will learn how to be the defendant, the prosecutor, the witness, the judge and so much more!

Jedi Academy: Before the Force awakens, we'll explore the Star Wars Universe and take the first step into a larger world. The force will be with you. Always.

Paintings Possible: Create, Invent and Explore! It doesn't matter if you are a painting master or if you think of yourself as a painting disaster; this course is for you! With your creativity running wild, you will develop paintings that break all the rules. Take a risk! The rewards are grand for dreamers who dare to color outside the lines, travel to new artistic places, and create freely with no comments and critiques! This is a course where you will experience your creative freedom. Lead the way!

Simple Machines, Rube Goldberg Style: Engineer and cartoonist Rube Goldberg is famous for his crazy machines that accomplish everyday tasks in overly complicated ways. Scholars will take apart everyday appliances or toys and discover they are comprised of a collection of simple machines. Scholars will also learn how simple machines create useful devices we use in our daily lives. To bring the discovery all together, scholars will create a new machine whose job will be to complete an everyday task. The key to their new machines is that it has to be "Rube Goldberg" like in design. That is, they need to see how many different simple machines they can use to complete a simple everyday task.

The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly: It's not all about the Princes and Princesses! For over 80 years, Disney has brought to life over 125 villains through books and movies. We will explore physical and personality traits of many of these villains, comparing and contrasting these, sometimes, misunderstood, characters. You will also use what you learn to create your own villain! Maybe yours will be the next new Disney villainous character!

SECOND PERIOD SELECTIONS

Advanced Potion Making: When you arrive at Hogwarts, you will pass many frightened first years waiting to be sorted. You are of the select few who've been chosen to the elite class of Advanced Potion Making. No cauldrons or elixirs needed from Diagon Alley. Professor Slughorn has a premonition that one of you might in fact be, the Half-Blood Prince.

Computer Music and Audio: Sound is all around: you can capture and create it from any computer these days. We will explore the different ways to manipulate audio to help create songs, speech pieces, chiptunes, and sound effects. You will even learn how these creations can make their ways into video games!

From the Book to the Board: Are you bored with regular board games? It's time to roll the dice and create your own! We will investigate numerous types of current board games, by playing them of course! Then you'll create your very own game based on a comic or book of your choice! Will your game include lose a turn, you may not pass go, or, skip ahead to the end!?? The rules, the theme, the game pieces are all up to you! It's time to bring those great ideas from the book to the board!

Fruitopia: Create nutritious and delicious sculptures out of fruit! Using a variety of tools, we will create a-peeling designs. Everyone will go bananas over your exciting creations. Grape expectations for a berry good time!

Movie Making: Students will learn about the movie making process and will write, direct and star in a short film.

Musical Theater Madness is exactly what it sounds like, a class dedicated to Broadway style dancing. It's tons of fun and no matter what level of experience you have there is a spot for you! At the end of camp we will showcase a performance that will have the whole crowd on their feet!

Open For Business: Do you want to have the chance to open up your very own business and sell the items at the end of DECATS? If yes, this class is for you! You will have the opportunity to learn all the ins and outs of starting your own business. We learn about marketing, making commercials and more!

Pixel It! Do you want to use your creative energy to make fun, trendy art projects? Discover how to use ordinary Perler Beads to create anything from Minecraft, Disney, and other characters, as well as, 3-D creations. You will use your math skills to follow patterns and your imagination to create your own patterns for others to use! Some of our creations will be donated to a local children's hospital!

Printmaking: Ever wonder how images are reproduced? Learn various methods used in printmaking as you create several editions of your original designs. Make your own stencils, mono prints and multi color card and poster designs.

There be Pirates, Ahoy! During the time that the great sailing ships ruled the seas, there lived a group of people known as pirates. Scholars will create a theme for their pirate group, play pirate games, and eat pirate style. Scholars will then go on adventures by finding clues to awesome treasures. Scholars will learn how to read pirate maps and also how to navigate with compasses. So batten down the hatches "matey" and come join us for some pirate fun and games!

THIRD PERIOD SELECTIONS

Chef Master Junior: Do you have what it takes to be Chef Master Junior? We'll see about that! If you think Gordon Ramsey is tough, wait till you meet OUR judges! Come each day ready to cook against the toughest competitors DECATS could find. We will have daily cooking challenges and surprise obstacles to keep the competition exciting till the last day. No prior kitchen skills required, because these dishes will be prepared and "cooked", ready to serve.

Comics: Back by popular demand is the comic-drawing course from an award-winning artist. Create new characters, refine old ideas, and discover new directions for your drawings and scribbles. Learn (or hone) the art of 1-panel, 3-panel, 4-panel, serial comics, and other comic book styles, both on paper and on the computer. Let your cartooning skills blossom!

Crime Scene Investigation (CSI): What role does science play in solving crimes? Come get a hands on look at forensic science. Students will learn about collecting and interpreting the smallest bits of evidence through activities including classifying fingerprints, analyzing fibers, and testing their own memories as an eye witness.

Guts and Goo: Grab your scalpel and your scissors! Aspiring surgeons and zoologists, come investigate the insides and outsides of many creatures, including some of your favorite seafood, owl pellets, and frogs. Extract bones and recreate skeletons of mice, voles and birds. Every day is hands-on excitement and scientific sleuthing.

It's All in the Cards! Your competitive spirit is bound to erupt as you use individual creativity and teamwork to battle the odds, deal the cards, roll the dice, and strategize, compromise, and realize that it's all in how you play the game! Explore all sorts of card and dice games: old favorites, current crowd pleasers, and ones of your own making.

Music Video: Who doesn't love a good music video. Students will look at several famous videos AND pick their own songs to write and producer their own videos!

Mythology: What could be easier than fighting the many-headed Hydra, stealing the Golden Fleece from a fire-breathing dragon, being raised by wolves, or having your heart weighed against a feather? Scholars will explore different Greek, Egyptian, and Roman myths through writing compositions, creating artwork, and competing in their own mini Olympics! This is a beginners' class filled with the exploration of ancient Greek, Egyptian, and Roman gods and goddesses that will lead the scholars through various activities and a variety of literature.

Origami in Action! Join us for the exciting world of origami. Create paper toys that fly, flop, gobble, and inflate. We will focus on origami that moves, transforms, or lends itself to performance. Intrigued? Let's get folding!

Papier Mache Alebrijes: Learn some of the traditional techniques of the mexican art of paper mache. Invent an imaginary creature as you integrate your knowledge of the animal kingdom and construct a free standing or suspended sculpture. Invent new "skins," with patterns, textures and color combinations to finalize your paper mache sculpture.

Playwriting: Do you like writing stories? Do you like acting in or watching plays? Then this is the class for you! We will learn to develop characters, create new worlds, and tell stories in a dramatic format. This class will also feature improv exercises designed to spark your creative writing skills. Together we will write a show to be performed in a "Readers Theater" format for the whole camp!