

ELECTIVES

Classes offered as available

Band

Blue Band is a YEAR LONG beginning/intermediate band class. No previous musical experience is necessary. Blue Band also welcomes experienced players. Instruments in the band include Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone, Trumpet, Trombone, Baritone Horn, and Percussion (xylophone, concert drums, and auxiliary percussion). Students are expected to practice, at home, at least one hour per week and attend all performances (most are evening performances). Instruments can be provided for students who need them.

Advanced Band

This is a YEAR LONG elective. Gold Band is an intermediate/advanced ensemble for musicians who have been studying their instrument for at least one year. Musicians may join Gold Band after successful completion of Blue Band. Musicians who have not been in Blue Band, but have prior musical training on their instrument may join Gold Band by an audition with the director, or through teacher recommendation. Students are expected to practice, at home, at least one hour per week and attend all performances. (Most are evening performances.) Please contact the director with any questions.

Choir

Choir is a YEAR LONG elective. This is the entry-level chorus for Mission Hill. Students will have the opportunity to prepare and perform choral music in a variety of styles. Using their voices, choral students will sharpen their music skills, learning essential elements of music including how to read and interpret rhythms and melodies, how to perform melodies and rhythms on sight, proper singing technique, performance technique, and expression. This class is open to students of all levels. This class may be repeated.

Advanced Choir

Choir is a YEAR LONG elective. This is the advanced chorus for Mission Hill. Students will have the opportunity to prepare and perform choral music in a variety of styles. Using their voices, choral students will sharpen their music skills, learning essential elements of music including how to read and interpret rhythms and melodies, how to perform melodies and rhythms on sight, proper singing technique, performance technique, and expression. Students will have many performance opportunities, and are expected to participate in several performances throughout the year. Interested choral students can be eligible by audition for additional performance opportunities including solos, and CCS Honor Choir. This class is open to anyone who has been in choir at MH before, as well as new 6th, 7th or 8th graders with audition and of the approval of the director. This class may be repeated.

Beginning Music

Students will explore all aspects of music: listening, composing, reading, conducting, practicing, and performing music. Students will study the different elements of music such as rhythm, pitch, melody, harmony, form, and music history, as well as how to communicate with one another using the language of music. They will learn different characteristics of musical styles and will spend a great deal of time listening and describing what they hear, as well as writing their own compositions and making their own instruments. This class is designed to give students a solid foundation in music for continuing into choir, band or creating music on your own. Students will work individually and cooperatively in-group projects, including a “Rock-n-Rap Concert Tour” in which students will create their own fictitious rock band, a tour book and their own performance.

Leadership

The Leadership Elective is a semester long elective that is repeatable. Mission Hill students learn to develop and utilize leadership skills to promote and lead fun, inclusive, and memorable events for the Mission Hill Community. In addition, students gain the tools to be effective leaders within their school such as mindfulness, empathy, digital citizenship, and take time to study leaders that they look up to. Specific programs that leadership will be supporting next year are MHTV, Maverick Mentors, Dances, and Lunchtime School Activities. Students also get a direct line of communication with administration to help solve problems and make suggestions on how to make Mission Hill a better place for all students.

Students will learn that you do not have to be an elected official, a manager, or the president to be a leader in your community. The best leaders are the ones that care about the people they are leading. Sometimes all it takes is a positive attitude to lead their peers in the right direction.

Leadership Elective Essentials

Before applying to Leadership please keep in mind the following skills that are essential for this elective.

Students must be:

- Responsible, organized, and punctual
- Able to work independently, and collaboratively
- Enjoys sharing innovative ideas, and supporting others in developing their ideas
- Enjoys planning events with others and seeing them through
- Available to help run activities during Brunch, Lunch, After School, and in the evenings for dances on occasion
- Comfortable with promoting events and activities with integrity
- Mentoring new students

Requirements for Application:

To give yourself the best chance to be placed in leadership please do the following:

- ✓ Complete the [application](#)
- ✓ Provide a teacher recommendation
- ✓ Make sure to tell counseling and the leadership teacher!

Ceramics

This is a ONE SEMESTER elective in which students will have hands on practice with the hand building techniques of pinch, coil, and slab, extruded forms, slip casting as well as an introduction to the wheel. Various glazing methods will be explored including Raku. Each semester one professional artist from the S.C. ceramics community comes in to demonstrate his or her techniques. Students may repeat and either follow along with the projects or work independently on a project of their own choice to improve skills. Suggested donation for supplies is \$20.00.

2D Design

This is a ONE SEMESTER elective. Students will use a variety of traditional materials such as watercolor, pastels and charcoal. Students may repeat and either follow along with the projects or work independently on a project of their own choice to improve skills. Suggested donation for supplies is \$20.00.

Stained Glass

This is a ONE SEMESTER elective focused on color theory. Students will learn about different types of glass, cutting glass, working with copper foil, soldering and etching. We only use lead free solder. Students design an independent small piece, which could be a night-light or sun catcher. Students may repeat and either follow along with the projects or work independently on a project of their own choice to improve skills. Suggested donation for supplies is \$20.00.

Multi-Media

This is a ONE SEMESTER elective. Students will explore many mediums in art. Students will begin by creating artwork that has personal meaning and will be displayed for Youth Art Month at the Loudon Nelson Center. This will be followed by a fashion unit, which results in a runway show. Next students will work on mosaics that end up as public art somewhere in Santa Cruz. (Past projects have included the Water Street, Soquel and Laurel Street bridges.) The final project is a new surprise every year. Class may be repeated. Suggested donation for supplies is \$20.00.

Woodshop

In this ONE SEMESTER elective, students will be introduced to the characteristics and properties of wood and safety in a shop setting. Through choice projects, students will develop a variety of woodworking skills and techniques with both hand and power tools. There is an optional donation to support materials and supplies. This class may be repeated with instructor

and counselor approval.

AVID – Advancement Via Individual Determination

The mission of AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) is to ensure that ALL students and most especially the least served students who are in the middle range of a 2.5 - 4.0 GPA will:

- succeed in rigorous curriculum,
- complete a rigorous college preparatory path,
- enter mainstream activities of the school,
- increase their enrollment in four-year colleges, and
- become educated and responsible participants and leaders in a democratic society.

AVID's systemic approach is designed to support students as they increase school wide/districtwide learning and performance. This is accomplished with in-class tutorials using AVID trained university tutors, lectures from guest speakers sharing their college stories and career choices, field trips to colleges and building a strong community of learners that support each other in all their classes.

AVID is a YEAR LONG elective course for 7th and 8th graders who are determined to reach their full academic potential. AVID classes we focus on study skills, time management, and strategies for success in school to make sure that all students achieve their goals of attending college. UCSC tutors support AVID students by leading tutorials for academic classes.

AVID in 6th grade is a semester long elective course for students who want to reach their full academic potential. The AVID elective introduces and instructs students in skills they will need to be successful in middle school, high school, college and careers. This class will focus on study skills, time management, setting goals, and strategies for success in school to make sure that students can achieve their goals.

Office Aide / School Service

This is a ONE SEMESTER elective that involves working with a Mission Hill staff member in the office, classroom, or the physical education department. This elective requires approval by the staff member with whom you will be working. Teacher aide and office aide positions are only available to 8th grade students.

Library Aide

This is a ONE SEMESTER repeatable elective in which you will be assisting the Teacher Librarian and Library Assistant by using the library catalog system to check books in and out, and by shelving books correctly in alphabetical order or by using the Dewey Decimal system.

Other responsibilities will also include assignments which give you practice with library science skills, and skills to assist our school community, such as students and teachers, in a friendly and knowledgeable way.

Library Aide Essentials

Before applying to the Library Aide elective please keep in mind the following skills that are essential for a library aide. Students must be:

- Responsible
- Organized
- Punctual
- Comfortable with alphabetizing names with 3 letters or more
- Counting over a hundred
- Able to work independently
- Manage time wisely

Requirements for Application

Please be aware the library aide elective requires the following 3 things:

- Completed Application
 - Select this link to apply: [Library Aide Application](#)
- One teacher recommendation
 - As you complete the Library Application you will be able to include the recommending teacher's name
- Approval from the librarian, Ms. Said
 - Ms. Said will notify you of approval. However, this does not guarantee there will be enough Library Aide positions available

Spanish

Spanish is a yearlong 8th grade elective that will provide the student with a general introduction to the Spanish language, functional vocabulary related to everyday life, basic grammatical structures and pronunciation. The successful student will develop beginning level proficiency in the language by engaging in a variety of communicative activities that focus on developing reading, writing, speaking and listening skills. In addition, the student will develop cultural awareness through participation in activities and discussions.