

SY21 (2020-21) Bak Middle School of the Arts Course Descriptions 6th Grade Art Major Classes and Elective Selections

Required art major classes are described in bold print.

Communications

Communications Studies - Mandatory course for Communications majors

This introductory class is required for all 6th grade communications majors and is divided into four sections. The course consists of one nine weeks of foundations in **video production** where students will learn the basics of camera operation, shot composition and storyboarding; one nine weeks of **broadcast journalism** where students will learn how to effectively communicate a message in the TV and radio news medium; one nine weeks in introductory **speech**; and one nine weeks in **computer technology**.

**Communication Majors are required to choose a journalism class as one of their 6th grade electives. These include Photo Journalism (for a semester) OR, Introduction to Journalism for a year.*

Photo Journalism – semester elective

The objective of this class is for students to master basic and intermediate elements of photojournalism. By the end of the course, students will have a basic understanding of journalism laws/ethics, censorship, copyright, visual storytelling, composition, camera settings & exposure, Photoshop, and InDesign.

Introduction to Journalism - year long elective

Prerequisite for Newspaper in grade 7 (Yearbook staff is also selected from this class.)

The objective of this class is for students to master basic elements of journalism. At the conclusion of the course, students will have the necessary understanding of journalism laws/ethics, censorship, layout and design concepts, typography, reporting and writing for a newspaper to help you obtain a position on the school newspaper or yearbook staff. The Portfolio Newspaper staff is selected exclusively from this class and although not required, yearbook staffers are selected from this course as well.

Dance

Dance I – Mandatory course for Dance majors

Prerequisite - Dance major. Two periods of dance are required for all 6th grade majors. These will include classes in both ballet and modern dance. Classes will focus on ballet and modern techniques with exposure to a variety of ethnic dance forms, dance history, and movement analysis. Students will be placed in levels according to experience and ability.

Piano

Piano – Intermediate I

This course is required for all 6th grade Piano Majors and provides students with introductory experiences on the keyboard in performance skills and interpretation of simple notation. The content includes the development of music fundamentals, keyboard performance techniques and interpretation of musical notation. Note: all 6th grade piano majors will be placed in an additional semester of piano as one of their electives.

Band

All students will be placed in the following:

A major ensemble* based on their audition:

***Intermediate Band, *Concert Band, or *Symphonic Band**

Technique Class – (Brass, Percussion, & Woodwinds)

Students will be expected to furnish a suitable instrument for class. The content will include refined reading of intermediate music and development of consistent performance techniques.

Music Theory – year long required elective

This course is required of 6th grade Band majors in Concert or Symphonic Band. This course provides the opportunity to study theoretical music principles in depth and apply them to creative activities. Music theory fundamentals and related applications are addressed.

Strings

Beginning Strings

Prerequisite – Acceptance into the strings program at Bak MSOA. Students will be expected to furnish a suitable instrument for class. School instruments may be rented based on director's recommendation and availability. This course provides students with instruction in the development of technical skills on orchestral stringed instruments. Content includes development of fundamental skills in reading musical notation, music theory and fundamental techniques.

Intermediate and Advanced Strings

Prerequisite – Demonstrated proficiency and/or teacher recommendation. These courses provide students with instruction in the application of musicianship and technical skills through the study of varied string orchestra literature. Content includes interpreting medium level string music, ensemble performance skills, refining tone production, reading musical notation and aesthetic perceptions. Practice outside of class is expected and private lessons are encouraged.

Vocal Music

Chorus I

This course provides students with experience and applications of vocal production techniques and part-singing. The content includes enabling students to individually refine skills in vocal tone production, part-singing, choral performance techniques, musical literacy and music appreciation. This is a performance-oriented course and will require extra rehearsals and performances beyond the school day as announced by the director.

Music Theory – year long required elective

This course is required of all Vocal Music majors. This course provides the opportunity to study theoretical music principles in depth and apply them to creative activities. Music theory fundamentals are addressed.

Theater

Theater Level I - Mandatory course for Theater majors

This class is for 6th grade theater majors only. Extra rehearsal time and performances are required and will extend beyond the school day as announced by the director. This course provides the opportunity for self-expression through dramatic activities. The content may include, but is not limited to, instruction in dramatic literature, movement, voice, improvisation, directing, set design and construction, obligations and elements of theater, theater history, costuming, and make-up for the stage.

Visual Arts

Visual Arts Studies I - Mandatory course for Visual Arts majors

This course includes one semester of 2/D art and one semester of 3/D art. In the 2/D course, students are provided with the experiences necessary for understanding, appreciating and producing two-dimensional works of art. Experiences are provided in perception, description, and use of the compositional qualities and subject matter of two-dimensional works of art. In the 3/D course, students are provided with the experiences necessary for understanding, appreciating and producing three-dimensional works of art. Perceiving and responding to basic design concepts in three-dimensional works of art is emphasized.

Methods and Materials – Mandatory course for Visual Arts majors

Methods and Materials is a class to inform and help students get acquainted with the multitude of art making mediums. The focus of this class is the proper use, care, and maintenance of art supplies for a working artist. Students will explore traditional and experimental ways of using these mediums.

General Electives

Creative Writing – semester long elective

This semester course is an introduction to creative writing. Students will receive hands-on experience in writing short stories and poetry. Students will learn writing techniques such as creating characters, developing plot and various poetic techniques. This will be the class where you will be able to expand your creativity without all of the roadblocks, and you will even have the chance to publish your work! This course is open to grade 6.

Intro to Graphic Design – semester long elective

The content of this course includes, but is not limited to, the use of commercially available software programs like Word, PowerPoint, Excel, Google Docs, Google Email, Google Classroom, and Photoshop. Students will acquire basic knowledge that will help them improve their technology skills. This course is open to grades 6 & 7.

(Communication majors may not choose this elective.)

Introduction to Speech and Debate – semester long elective

This semester course covers a variety of styles of public speaking and formal debate. Through research and practice students will become familiar with these styles through instruction, interactive activities and in class performance opportunities. This course is open to grade 6. ***(Communication majors may not choose this elective.)***

Visual Arts for non-majors – semester long elective

This course provides students with opportunities to develop a basic knowledge of the artistic expression of ideas through two and three-dimensional media. This course offers the opportunity to learn and apply various drawing techniques to non-visual majors. Students will work on alternative methods of creating the illusion of 3-dimensional images on 2-dimensional surfaces. Open to grades 6, 7 and 8.

(Visual Arts majors may not choose this elective.)

Piano – semester long elective

Open to students in all art areas and grade levels. This course is designed to give students an opportunity to begin or continue their study of keyboard music and technique while in another major art area at MSOA. This course is open to grades 6, 7 and 8.

Intro to Theater – semester long elective, Non-theater Majors only

In this comprehensive theatre course students will gain knowledge and experience as actors. Students will participate in a variety of acting exercises, theatre games and improvisations and apply what they learn to preparing and presenting monologues and scenes from plays. Students will also have the opportunity to develop their own skits and scenes based on their Improv work in class. Open to grades 6 & 7.

(Theater majors may not choose this elective.)

Multi-cultural Dance – semester long elective

Offered to students throughout the school, the purpose is to provide the student with an ongoing exposure to dance from a multicultural perspective. Instruction in dance forms will be led by artists in residence and guest artists.

Students will be required to follow the dance dress code and to respect the discipline of the art of dance. The class may be taken both semesters with permission and if there is room in the class.

Open to students in all art areas and grade levels.

Robotics – semester long elective

This course aims to guide students in learning the basics of mechanical engineering, design, and computer programming, with an understanding of such concepts as:

- sturdy construction
- gear ratios
- gears
- motors, lamps, and sensors
- center of gravity
- levers
- engineering teamwork
- programming structures- loops, forks, subroutines

More importantly, the course aims for students to learn to think like engineers- to learn to break down complex problems into simpler, solvable blocks; to model and describe what they want something to do; to see failure as an **essential** opportunity to learn rather than as a judgment upon their ability.

Open to students in all art areas and grade levels.

Beginning French – semester long elective (Note: this course is **not** for the native speaker)

This sixth grade exploratory course in French will introduce students to basic vocabulary and culture. We will focus on a variety of topics including basic greetings, numbers, days, months, seasons, weather, the alphabet, body parts, likes and dislikes, family and colors. This course is intended to elicit interest in the language that will inspire future study.

Beginning Spanish – semester long elective (Note: this course is **not** for the native speaker)

This sixth grade exploratory course in Spanish will introduce students to basic vocabulary and culture. We will focus on a variety of topics including basic greetings, numbers, days, months, seasons, weather, the alphabet, body parts, likes and dislikes, family and colors. This course is intended to elicit interest in the language that will inspire future study.

Media Center Aide – semester long elective

Students who wish to work in the media center **must have a note of recommendation from their 5th grade teacher. Without this recommendation, they will NOT be placed in this elective.** They must be students who are responsible, trustworthy and dependable. They must be able to take direction, learn new skills and follow through with the tasks they are given to do. Notes of recommendation may be attached to the course selection sheet **or emailed directly to Kathy.tyler@palmbeachschools.org** Be sure to state the student's first and last name.

Critical Thinking (aka Study Hall) – year long elective

This elective is designed to allow students additional time to get school assignments and homework completed. Participation in this "study hall type" class is especially suited to those students who are involved in activities outside of the school day and have a very busy schedule OR those who do not have access to the internet or technology at home.

All 6th graders should review all elective choices and prioritize six choices on their course selection sheet.

Remember, your art major is not considered an elective.

Required in 6th grade for all majors

Arts Exploration (one semester)

The purpose of Arts Exploration is to expand the knowledge and appreciation of all art programs offered at Bak. Students will develop team cooperation skills as they adventure into arts classes around the campus. Students will also receive valuable understanding of the media center through computer technology. Every sixth grader is required to participate in this class for one semester.

Physical Education (one semester)

Every 6th grader is required to participate in one semester of physical education during their 6th grade year. (In grades 7 and 8 PE is chosen as an elective only.)

Offered to ESE students only per IEP

Learning Strategies (year)

This course is offered to ESE students who have it noted on their IEP. Learning strategies provides extra support to ESE students in their academic and arts classes, as well as organizational skills and strategies.