

Winter Term Course Descriptions - by day of the week

Class Title, Day(s), Time	Course Description	Instructor
MONDAYS		
Ready Readers M/W - K-3 - M & W - 8:30-10:10	Twice weekly class. Two instructors will work with different groups of students to develop reading skills at each child's reading level. Through games, manipulatives, and other engaging ways, very early readers will be learning letters, phonemic awareness & phonics, while more developed readers will work on improving reading fluency, sight words, and vocabulary. From awareness/exploration stage to emergent readers to early reading & writing stages. Please speak with your Guide if your child can not attend twice per week.	Meredith Rich
Project Adventure - 3-5 - Mon. 8:30-10:10	Join the adventure using a time machine to visit Ancient Civilizations. Learners will role play as they take on a character, learn about different cultures, and write—journal entries as their character, creative stories, brief essays, poems, letters, and more.	Marian Scadden
Age of Exploration - 6-8 - Mon. 8:30-10:10	Navigating the seas of history, inventions, economics, and advancement of the age of exploration. The class will work on a comprehensive timeline of technology, events, and people from this era of history.	Andy Johnson
Hopscotch Math - 3-4 - Mon. 10:45-11:55	Learn about and memorize facts about multiplication and division through physical activity, like hopscotch and "tennis ball bounce".	Stasey Norstrom
Bowling - 3-8 - Mon. 10:45-11:55	Besides having fun learning how to bowl, there is actually a lot of math to be learned through bowling - using the normal scoring system and then playing other math games we bowl.	Andy Johnson
French - K-3 - Mon. 10:45-11:55	<i>Learners will be introduced to French through common words (such as numbers, colors, etc.) songs, poems, and stories. Much of the speaking will also be movement-oriented to facilitate the learning. Students will also practice and memorize simple phrases.</i>	Marian Scadden
Tumbling / Beginning Gymnastics - 1-4 - Mon. 12:30-1:25	In this class your child will learn the main shapes and skills that are used in the sport of gymnastics. We spend time warming up with games and stretching and then move on to floor skills (handstands, cartwheel, forward/backward rolls), balancing skills on beam along with many other important foundation skills. This class is not strictly gymnastics. We play team games and have movement related competitions to keep the class exciting and fun while learning new ways to build strength and skills.	McCall Connors
French - 4-8 - Mon. 12:30-1:25	<i>Learners will be introduced to French through common words (such as numbers, colors, etc.) songs, poems, and stories. Much of the speaking will also be movement-oriented to facilitate the learning. Students will also practice and memorize simple phrases.</i>	Marian Scadden
Roberto's Rainforest (science) - 1-3 - Mon. 12:30-1:25	Student teams study the fascinating ecosystem of rainforests while on an imaginary expedition on which they construct a large classroom replica of a rainforest (including various flora and fauna, and natives), and learn and voice concerns about the survival of these regions.	Meredith Rich
Tumbling / Beginning Gymnastics - 3-6 - Mon. 1:30-2:25	In this class your child will learn the main shapes and skills that are used in the sport of gymnastics. We spend time warming up with games and stretching and then move on to floor skills (handstands, cartwheel, forward/backward rolls), balancing skills on beam along with many other important foundation skills. This class is not strictly gymnastics. We play team games and have movement related competitions to keep the class exciting and fun while learning new ways to build strength and skills.	McCall Connors
Daring Kids - 1-4 - Mon. 1:30-2:25	We will do many of the activities from the Daring Book for Girls and the Dangerous Book for Boys, from knot tying and secret codes to learning about nature, animal tracks and basic survival skills.	Marian Scadden
School Newspaper (two hours) - 5-8 - Mon. 1:30-3:25	Working collaboratively, students will combine their individual strengths and expertise to do research, conduct interviews, write articles, take and edit photos, draw pictures, and create other media to use in our digital school newspaper (using Google Docs & Websites).	Andy Johnson
Learn it on Board (learning through games) - 1-4 - Mon. 2:30-3:25	Using board, card and dice games, students will play a variety of games that increase knowledge of vocabulary, geography, history, math, reading and strategy.	Marian Scadden
Geo Kids & Mystery Skype - 3-5 - Mon. 2:30-3:25	Kids will be exploring different parts of the world, working together to create a 3D wall-map of countries and cultures, and connecting with people around the world through mystery Skype visits (they will have to guess where the person is located based on questions about their country and culture).	Meredith Rich
Kicks for Kids (Martial Arts) 2-8 (OFFSITE) M/W. 2:30-3:25	Kicks for Kids™ is a martial arts program for children ages 6 through 12. Students in Kicks for Kids™ learn Taekwondo, Karate and self-defense techniques. Students have a great time while improving their fitness and gaining traits to benefit them throughout life. Aside from fitness, discipline and self-confidence, students learn the five tenets of Taekwondo. Students will attend this class twice per week, on both Mondays AND Wednesdays.	Parkside Self Defense
TUESDAYS		

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Ready Readers - K-3 - T/Th 8:30-10:10	Twice weekly class. Two instructors will work with different groups of students to develop reading skills at each child's reading level. Through games, manipulatives, and other engaging ways, very early readers will be learning letters, phonemic awareness & phonics, while more developed readers will work on improving reading fluency, sight words, and vocabulary. From awareness/exploration stage to emergent readers to early reading & writing stages. Please speak with your Guide if your child can not attend twice per week.	Meredith Rich
Biome Discovery - 3-5 - Tues. 8:30-10:10	With hands-on projects, reading, research and writing, students will learn about biology, ecology, and environmental sciences by studying important world biomes: Tundra, Taiga, Temperate Rainforest, Tropical Rainforest, Marine, Savannah, Grassland, & Desert.	Stasey Norstrom
State Government 5-8 - Tues. 8:30-9:25	This highly interactive class will cover the history and structure of the U.S. Federal Government. Students will be researching and writing about an aspect of the Federal Government which interests them. Helps meet state social studies (civics / government) requirements for these grade levels.	Linda Connolly
Essay Writing (year-long)— 5-8 - Tues. 9:30-10:30	This course takes students step-by-step through every aspect of an essay with extra emphasis on the thesis statement. We will cover introduction and conclusion techniques, strong topic sentences, smooth transitions, and solid organization and structure. Students will learn and practice models for descriptive and persuasive, narrative, expository and compare and contrast essays. Helps meet language arts requirements for these grade levels.	Linda Connolly
Independent Study - 2-8 - Tues. 9:30-10:15	REQUIRES THE APPROVAL OF DCS GUIDE - Students in independent study will work on curriculum assigned by their parent educator, an online course of study, or a Book Mountain reading program.	
Art Exploration K-4 - Tues. 10:45-11:55	Students will explore various artists and types of art as they explore and create artistic projects with a variety of media.	Meredith Rich
Bricks4Kids (LEGO Engineering) 1-8 - Tues. 10:45-11:55	Students will use LEGO® Bricks, axles, pulleys, gears, motors and more to build a variety of models. Bricks 4 Kidz will explore engineering and architectural principles, math and science concepts and will engage in STEM activities. Helps meet science and math standards for various grade levels.	Kat Lugo
Beginning IEW (Writing) - 4-7 (Year-long class) - Tues. 10:45-11:55	Students will develop their informational writing skills as they write on a variety of enjoyable, functional, non-fiction topics. Perfect course to start with for the new or reluctant writer. This course is very interactive and strives to make writing fun. The instructor will correct/edit all work and give detailed feedback on each assignment. Helps meet language arts requirements for these grade levels. This is a year-long class and students have to enroll in the fall term.	Linda Connolly
Independent Study - 2-8 - Tues. 10:45-11:55	REQUIRES THE APPROVAL OF DCS GUIDE - Students in independent study will work on curriculum assigned by their parent educator, an online course of study, or a Book Mountain reading program.	
Handwriting - 1-3 - Tues. 12:30-1:25	Lots of fun activities to practice writing in print and cursive handwriting. This class would benefit all of the kids in this age group!	Meredith Rich
Sports Math - 3-5 - Tues. 12:30-1:25	There is a lot of math in sports! From strange scoring systems to measurements, calculations, statistics, charts, graphs, records, and more, we will be looking at different mathematical aspects of all sorts of sports (especially the favorite sports of the students who are in the class)!	Andy Johnson
Advanced IEW (Writing) - 5-8 (Year-long class) - Tues. 12:30-1:25	This class is for students who have completed Beginning IEW, however, confident 7th and 8th grade writers may enroll even if they have not completed Beginning IEW. This course will reinforce what was learned in Beginning IEW with plenty of writing practice. Students will also learn new models and techniques to bring their writing to the next level. This will be a fun, interactive, year-long class and will prepare students for Middle School and High School level writing projects. Helps meet state standards for language arts for these grade levels. Year-long class.	Linda Connolly
Independent Study - 2-8 - Tues. 12:30-1:25	REQUIRES THE APPROVAL OF DCS GUIDE - Students in independent study will work on curriculum assigned by their parent educator, an online course of study, or a Book Mountain reading program.	
Personal Financial Math (Repeat from first term) - 5-8 - Tues. 1:30-2:25	Making financial decisions and discovering the consequences are the focuses of this simulation. Students will learn to make daily decisions concerning wise money management using checking and savings accounts and financial tools such as ATM/debit and credit cards. Some activities include writing a check, completing a job application, earning a paycheck, and determining the cost of a loan. THIS IS A REPEAT OF THE SAME CLASS FROM FALL TERM.	Andy Johnson
Mathemagicians - 1-3 - Tues. 1:30-2:25	We will work on single and double digit addition and subtraction. We will begin to understand how numbers relate to each other, including grouping in tens and ones. Students will develop an understanding of linear measurements and length units. We will begin to understand the attributes of shapes and how to create them; as well as understand how to put some shapes together to create a new shape, or how to recognize shapes at different orientations. We will expand our number base to 100. Skills required: should be able to recognize, write and count numbers 0-50.	Meredith Rich

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Ceramics (Ancient Civilizations' Clay Projects) - 4-6 - Tues. 1:30-3:25 (Two hours)	Continuing with our winter term Ancient Civilizations theme, students will learn about how clay and ceramics were used in various ancient cultures, and will make some similar items / replicas of clay tablets, bowls, pots, sculptures, vases, and other projects which they will glaze and take home at the end of the term.	Karen Mahoney
Interval Training - 2-5 (OFFSITE) T/Th - 1:45-2:45	Students will experience functional fitness classes based on their own strength and fitness levels. They will be challenged to learn safety in agility, strength and functional movement skills. These skills will help them grow in physical and mental health throughout their lives. Helps meet PE standards.	Lisa Preston - Iron Jungle
Weather Patterns & Civilization - 6-8 - Tues. 2:30-3:25	How weather affects where we live and how we live. We will be studying weather patterns in the U.S., climates of the world, working on lab projects using current weather measurements and observations, and studying how our homes, cities, and cultures are affected by weather.	Andy Johnson
Health and the Human Body - 1-4 - Tues. 2:30-3:25	Health education for elementary students focusing on what we can do to promote good health and well-being, from what we eat, how we move, and how our body works. We will be making clear connections to our immediate environment and healthy behaviors.	Meredith Rich
Interval Training - 6-8 (OFFSITE) T/Th - 2:45-3:45	Students will experience functional fitness classes based on their own strength and fitness levels. They will be challenged to learn safety in agility, strength and functional movement skills. These skills will help them grow in physical and mental health throughout their lives. Helps meet PE standards.	Lisa Preston - Iron Jungle
WEDNESDAYS		
Ready Readers M/W - K-3 - M & W 8:30-10:10	Twice weekly class. Two instructors will work with different groups of students to develop reading skills at each child's reading level. Through games, manipulatives, and other engaging ways, very early readers will be learning letters, phonemic awareness & phonics, while more developed readers will work on improving reading fluency, sight words, and vocabulary. From awareness/exploration stage to emergent readers to early reading & writing stages. Please speak with your Guide if your child can not attend twice per week.	Meredith Rich
Ancient Civilizations - 3-5 - Wed. 8:30-10:10	Study of ancient civilizations (Norse, Egyptian, Greek, Roman, Pueblo, and Chinese) during their prominent time in history, including geography, culture, technology, mythology, and politics.	Stasey Norstrom
Ancient Civilizations Model UN - 6-8 - Wed. 8:30-10:10	Students will learn about and become an ambassador of an ancient civilization (Norse, Egyptian, Greek, Roman, Pueblo, and Chinese). They will need to debate and cooperate to write treaties and agreements about issues like slavery, trade, and children's rights.	Andy Johnson
You've Got Mail -Writing to Pen Pals - 4-8 - Wed. 10:45-11:55	Students will each be able to choose two pen pals to write to - one by real mail and one by email. They will be developing writing skills as they are learning about their pen pals' cultures, reading and writing letters, and sharing information that they know or research about our community, state, and country.	Cheri Reinke
Spelling City & Typing - 3-6 - Wed. 10:45-11:55	We will be using spellingcity.com to develop spelling and vocabulary, and TypingTutor.com to develop typing skills.	Emily Blanton
Creative Builders - K-4 - Wed. 10:45-11:55	Calling all inventors, builders, and designers; come and build some awesome creations with us! We will create our own designs and make structures using building blocks, recyclable materials, and many other interesting items. Skills necessary: none! Skills gained: communication, problem solving, reasoning, developing creativity, and teamwork.	Meredith Rich
Penmanship - 1-3 - Wed. 12:30-1:25	<i>Penmanship, with particular importance placed on proper pencil/pen grip, is still an important skill. This will apply to both right and left-handed students. While it may seem forward-thinking to give kids the freedom to hold a writing instrument however they want, there are disadvantages. Fine motor skill coordination is vital when learning how to draw, paint, or write legibly and improper grip hampers these abilities and restricts dexterity. We will provide grips and other aids for teaching handwriting and correcting grip.</i>	Jo Dhoooghe
Drama - 1-4 - Wed. 12:30-1:25	Using various types of scripts and improvisational activities, students will learn presentation and performance skills, gain confidence, and work collaboratively to create short plays. Mostly student-directed.	Meredith Rich
Sports Math - 5-8 - Wed. 12:30-1:25	There is a lot of math in sports! From strange scoring systems to measurements, calculations, statistics, charts, graphs, records, and more, we will be looking at different mathematical aspects of all sorts of sports (especially the favorite sports of the students who are in the class)!	Andy Johnson
Ballet I - K-4 (OFFSITE) - Wed. 12:45-1:45	Beginning ballet for grades K-4 taught at the Dallas Ballet and Dance Academy - Our Vagonova curriculum comprises exercises done at the barre, in the centre and across the floor.	Michael Rentz

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Clocks & Coins - 1-4 - Wed. 1:30-2:25	This is a hands-on course with many manipulatives and games that will help us work on strategies to support identifying coins and money values, and counting mixed coins systematically. Students will learn to tell time to the hour, half-hour and minute as well as word problem applications for both time and money.	Meredith Rich
Zombie Geography - 5-8 - Wed. 1:30-2:25	Geography skills can save you from the zombie apocalypse! Uses students' natural desire to survive zombie assaults to motivate study of a complete curriculum based on the 2012 National Geography Standards, and then to apply those skills in a series of scenarios, like where should we run, where to regroup, and where to rebuild our lives.	Andy Johnson
Advanced STEM through Art - 5-8 (Two Hours) - Wed. 1:30-3:25	<i>This two-hour class is designed to develop technical art skills and will include "seeing" exercises - activities and practices that will help develop right brain skills, such as spatial differentiation and proportion perception. This will include an introduction to perspective drawing and other projects that emphasize realistic or representational art, (vs. modern, abstract, contemporary art). Math skills and beginning physical sciences will be surreptitiously covered in the process through multiple media. Perfection is not the end goal. Improvement of skills is. To that end, there will be recommended at-home practices for most of the exercises. Former first or second term students from last school year are welcome to repeat this class this term if they wish. This class builds on art skills already taught and developed in first term STEM Through Art class. New students are welcome but should understand and have practiced some of the above art skills.</i>	Jo Dhooghe
World Mythology - 1-3 - Wed. 2:30-3:25	Reading short mythological stories from many ancient cultures and doing arts and crafts activities based on the myths. Students will gain valuable cultural knowledge that will help them in many, many future social interactions, improve their reading comprehension, and encourage an interest in myths and legends.	Andy Johnson
Drama 3-6 - Wed. 2:30-3:25	Through fun acting and improv exercises and reading short scripts, students in this drama class will learn (practically) professional-level acting skills, voice projection, and stage presence. We will try to go on a field trip to watch a theater production practice or play, and will present a short play for parents on the last day of term.	Chris Scadden
Kicks for Kids (Martial Arts) 2-8 (OFFSITE) M/W. 2:45-3:45		Parkside Self-Defense
Swimming - K-8 (OFFSITE) Wed. 3:00-3:30	In the first class, students will be divided into small groups of three according to their swimming level (ability) and age. Depending on the level, students will be learning various swimming skills. Parents must stay at the pool while their child(ren) are in the lesson.	Dallas Aquatic Center
Swimming - K-8 (OFFSITE) Wed. 3:30-4:00	In the first class, students will be divided into small groups of three according to their swimming level (ability) and age. Depending on the level, students will be learning various swimming skills. Parents must stay at the pool while their child(ren) are in the lesson.	Dallas Aquatic Center
Beginning Ukulele - 2-8 (OFFSITE - SALEM) - Wed. 3:00-4:00		Susan Wiley
THURSDAYS		
Ready Readers - K-3 - T/Th 8:30-10:10	Twice weekly class. Two instructors will work with different groups of students to develop reading skills at each child's reading level. Through games, manipulatives, and other engaging ways, very early readers will be learning letters, phonemic awareness & phonics, while more developed readers will work on improving reading fluency, sight words, and vocabulary. From awareness/exploration stage to emergent readers to early reading & writing stages. Please speak with your Guide if your child can not attend twice per week.	Meredith Rich
Architecture - 3-6 - Thurs. 8:30-10:10	In conjunction with the Architecture Foundation of Oregon (AFO) the Architects in Schools (AiS) program partners local architects with educators to teach students an awareness and understanding of the designed and built environment and our responsibility for it. Students will also be learning about past and present architects and their contributions to the world. Subjects: Math, Social Studies.	Stasey Norstrom
Literature & Creative Writing 6-8	<i>This Term we will be reading a novel (probably "To Kill a Mockingbird"), analyzing the writing techniques, learning vocabulary, and discussing ideas from the story. The emphasis of the creative writing part of the class will be imagination and ideas. Students will be using the novel as inspiration for their own writing, and will use Chromebooks so that refinements can easily be made, improving grammar, spelling, sentence and paragraph structure, word usage, and vocabulary.</i>	Jo Dhooghe
Guitar - 3-8 - Thurs. 10:45-11:55	Students will be grouped based on their level (beginning to intermediate) and will have 25 minutes of direct instruction and 25 minutes of music theory / online learning about music and guitar planing with independent practice.	Andy Johnson

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Creative Writing - 3-6 - Thurs. 10:45-11:55	<i>In this age group, everyone will have penmanship instruction, which could be a review or refinement in skill level. However, emphasis for these grades will be on creative writing. They will each have a journal where they can explore different aspects and styles of writing. Refinements such as grammar, spelling, sentence and paragraph structure, word usage and vocabulary will be secondary to imagination and ideas.</i>	Jo Dhooghe
Calendar, Seasons & Weather - K-3 - Thurs. 10:45-11:55	Students will practice using calendars and measuring and learning about weather and the seasons in this fun, project-based class.	Meredith Rich
Independent Study - 2-8 - Thurs. 10:45-11:55	REQUIRES THE APPROVAL OF DCS GUIDE - Students in independent study will work on curriculum assigned by their parent educator, an online course of study, or a Book Mountain reading program.	
Book Mountain - 4-7 - Thurs. 12:30-1:25	Self-paced reading program exploring different genres of books, which each student will pick out for themselves. Students will work on vocabulary and writing development for each book they read.	Stasey Norstrom
Yoga -5-8 - Thurs. 12:30-1:25	Advanced yoga skills, balancing and partner work, will be taught, with an emphasis on strength, flexibility and mindfulness (focus and relaxation).	Dawn Spires
Circuits & Electricity - 1-4 - Thurs. 12:30-1:25	Shockingly fun! Using circuit-building kits, we'll be doing a lot of hands-on explorations of circuits and electricity, and will be learning about the history of electricity and its importance in today's world.	Andy Johnson
Poetry Is - 5-8 - Thurs. 1:30-2:25	This class is for students who enjoy writing and are motivated to put forth effort in creative writing. We will explore some basics of poetry, including cadence, rhythm, stanza, tone, and verse. Then we will move into some fun exploration of poetry in the modern world. These lessons will explore song lyrics as poetry, slam poetry as a vehicle for social commentary, and much more. Students will have short homework assignments and will be asked to keep a poetry journal.	Dawn Adams
A "Play" in the Life of Shakespeare - 3-5 - Thurs. 1:30-2:25	We will explore the stories of Midsummer Night's Dream and Romeo and Juliet. Students will also explore the history of Shakespeare, the Globe theater, and the culture of England in the time of Shakespeare. Students will also participate in learning and reciting monologues. Subjects: reading, theater, social studies, history. Requires fairly advanced reading skills. Grade 2 and grade 6 students accepted upon approval from guides.	Stasey Norstrom
Yoga - 1-4 - Thurs. 1:30-2:25	A playful, beginning yoga and mindfulness class, with an emphasis on fun, focus, balance, strength and flexibility.	Dawn Spires
Interval Training - 2-5 (OFFSITE) T/Th - 1:45-2:45		Lisa Preston - Iron Jungle
Interval Training - 6-8 (OFFSITE) T/Th - 2:45-3:45		Lisa Preston - Iron Jungle
FRIDAYS		
Beginning Piano 1-4 - Fri. 2:00-3:00 - SALEM		Susan Wiley