

Class Descriptions



Spanish Music and Movement and Spanish 2

Beginning Spanish is being offered by Ms. Mercedes Margritz. Mercedes is a native speaker from Mexico. She has worked with school age children through her own company as well as several other language institutes in the County. She teaches Spanish through games, songs and dances, as well as through learning about Hispanic countries and their cultures. The class is taught primarily in Spanish and the children are provided opportunities for verbal and written use of the language. Beginner 1 is a one hour class and is open to all students. Beginner 2 requires some basic understanding of Spanish and the approval of the teacher.



Singing

Ms. Elizabeth Podsiadlo, the Opera Singing Chef, is teaching a singing class offered to all grade levels. For the past four years, she has directed a children's choir comprised of local Mira Mesa Children called, the River Rim Children's Choir, with which she has performed and produced recordings to raise money for charity. During this class, she will teach the children many songs that involve challenging rhythms and simple harmonies.



Theater

This course offers an introduction to acting for students from all grade levels. Short comedic plays and theatre games allow students to nurture their creativity, improve their verbal skills, and bolster their self-confidence. The class will culminate in a fun, theatrical performance for family and friends. Ms. Kalin specializes in physical comedy and musical theatre. She holds her degree in theatre from the University of California at San Diego and has studied and performed at the Amercian Conservatory Theatre in San Francisco. She has six years of experience teaching and directing children's theatre.



Art

Andrea Heath, a local artist and teacher, is offering an exciting two-dimensional art course open to all students. This hands on class is structured to provide students a creative outlet using a variety of media (paint, collage, paper, chalk pastels, oil pastels, charcoal, etc.) while teaching the students fundamental art principles and art history. Mrs. Heath has a Bachelor of Fine Art degree from the University of Alaska, Anchorage in painting and sculpture. In addition to making and exhibiting her own art, she has worked as a teacher for nearly fifteen years.



"Funtastic" Sports

Does your child need to burn off some excess energy? Great! During this class, students will actively participate in a wide variety of fun-filled sports activities including but not limited to: ball handling drills, lead up games to football, basketball, soccer, and softball, relay races, obstacle courses, exercise circuits, and cooperative/noncompetitive games. "Funtastic" Sports is being offered to all grade levels by former Sandburg Teacher, Barb Mills. Barb has a BA degree in Recreation Administration and an MA degree in Education. She has five years of experience teaching P.E. and ran her own Field Day company for two years.



"Threads through Time" Fiber Arts

Did you know that you can make an elephant out of a dollar bill...or a heart out of rags...or a basket out of sticks? A hands-on exploration into fun and fantastic "fiber arts" is being offered to students in grades 2 through 5 by Mrs. Ruth French. Having several years of experience teaching education programs in Old Town San Diego, Ruth brings her love of handicrafts and history to the Sandburg after-school program. Students will learn about the use of natural fibers, papers and fabrics throughout history; and they will have the opportunity to create beautiful and useful art pieces for today. Projects will include the use of weaving, braiding, knot tying (macramé), and origami skills.



"Write On!" – Computer Publishing

An introduction to computer publishing is being offered to students in grades 2 through 5 by Mrs. Ruth French. A former computer educator, Ruth has more than 15 years of classroom teaching experience, and is the current editor of the "Poppy Paper" for the nonprofit organization, Boosters of Old Town (BOOT). This course focuses on utilizing basic software tools to create documents for publication. Lessons will include page layout, graphic skills, ClipArt applications, and photo manipulation. A strong emphasis will be placed on keyboarding lessons to assist students with their typing skills. The culmination of the project will be a student-created "newsletter." Ruth's teaching approach is to provide a meaningful connection between computer technology and the students' needs in fun and exciting ways.