



EXPLORATIONS ACADEMY

This document is an overview of our Winter 2022 course offerings. The overview is listed by courses; however, the presentation of this curriculum will be experiential with students involved in activities, projects, and field experiences addressing several course areas at once. While these course descriptions are subject to modification as the curriculum is finalized, they should help students and parents know what to expect.

HIGH SCHOOL CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

RESILIENCE CLUSTER

In what ways do we respond to challenges in our changing world? How can we respond as individuals and--more importantly--as a community? What knowledge and skills will be relevant to our collective future? Following several instances of extreme weather this past year, including the flooding of our lower level, many of us wonder what we will need to ensure a strong, resilient future for ourselves. In this cluster we will use the recovery of our school building as a lens through which we look at our shared future, and how we can shape it together.

All students will enroll in the following courses.

Solar Punk and Eco-Fiction

.25 English

Marley Simmons-Abril

Solar punk is a slice of speculative fiction that optimistically imagines our future as we learn to adapt and respond to contemporary challenges. The best speculative fiction starts as a thought experiment: the author wonders *what if...?* and imagines their way forward from there. Many solar punk stories take place in the near future and combine technological innovation with human stability. This creative writing class will focus on fiction and creative nonfiction as we explore the fantastical, the futuristic, and the forward-thinking.

Architecture

.25 Science

Daniel Rommel

Architecture is described as the process and the product of planning, designing, and constructing buildings or other structures. The field of architecture has always had to respond creatively to changes in environment, materials, or human needs. In this physics and engineering course we will examine the history of architecture through the scope of major breakthroughs in application and design, with an eye to how today's architects are preparing us for the future. Assessments will be heavily focused on project based deliverables where stress and load will be quantified.

Installation Art

.50 Art

Simmons-Abril and Rommel

In this hands-on art class students will get the chance to build, craft, and display their original work. Students can choose from a variety of media to work in including mosaic, mural, fine carpentry, pen and ink, or photography. Each art piece will respond in some way to the theme of "resilience," and will be created as part of our rebuilding efforts at the school. Along the way we'll study the work of artists like Andy Goldsworthy, Liza Lou, and El Anatsui, and interpret how each of them create stunning installations reflecting our theme. Students can work individually or as part of a team on a larger project. As we are able, we will also practice building skills and contribute to the recovery of our downstairs level. Each student will build an art portfolio sharing their work, their inspirations, and a reflection on what they've created.

Personal Health and Wellness**.25 PE****Daniel Rommel**

How do diet, meditation, and physical activity affect the overall well-being of our physical and emotional health? Personal Health & Wellness is a once a week, multi-component class designed to promote personal health and well-being through physical, mental, and dietary expedition. This course will consist of hiking local trail systems located on Chuckanut Mountain and its surrounding areas. Afterwards, there will be a group discussion centering on introspective observations made throughout the course of the trek.

MIDDLE SCHOOL CURRICULUM OVERVIEW**WHO ARE YOU? CLUSTER**

How do I know who I am? How do I know where I fit in? We are so much more than a bunch of cells and strands of DNA. We are complex individuals with personalities, thoughts, and feelings. In this cluster, we will explore how we stand out as individuals as well as connecting with others around us as part of a larger community.

All students will enroll in the following courses.

English**.25 English****Kayla Condos**

Imagine living in a world where there are no colors, no music, and everyone dresses the same. What if your job was chosen for you? What if there were parts of this world that everyone forgot? We will be reading Louis Lowry's *The Giver* and discussing English terminology, as well as developing our critical thinking and analytical skills. We will explore the power of individuality while collectively being a part of this world and how we can make an impact around us.

Personality Theory**.25 Social Studies****Colbi Jensen**

We know people aren't all the same, but why? Personality affects every part of our lives, and yet we infrequently question how these broadscale patterns and individual differences come to be. In this course we will explore the four major theories of personality, and apply them to the characters in *The Giver*.

Collaborative Art**.50 Art****Condos and Jensen**

Together, we will investigate themes of identity in art. Students will learn ways to express who they are, and then build these ideas of self into our collective identity. The course will culminate in a mural within the school, with the intention of taking ownership of the way we shape our community. This will be an adaptive course and student input will help guide our exploration.