



STANLEY BRITISH PRIMARY SCHOOL

Parents and students will be interested to read the various descriptions for a wonderful assortment of Skills Classes offered this fall. Skills classes will take place on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 2:10-3 pm, and they are an opportunity for your children to explore a new part of their curriculum and have some ownership over doing so. Your child will hear more about these offerings at an assembly on Wednesday morning dedicated to teachers speaking about their respective offerings, and they will sign-up directly after the assembly in homeroom. Skills class rosters will be shared with students next week, and the classes will begin on Tuesday, September 4th, the first day of a regular academic schedule after our camping trips. If you have a chance, please read and review these offerings with your child before Wednesday.

Tuesday

Passion Project (6th/7th/8th): What are you passionate about exploring? What puts you into a state of 'flow'? In this class, we will explore topics and areas of study that are most interesting to you and work toward creating a final project that best captures your learning, thinking, and understanding.

Video clips that will definitely make us think and talk (6th/7th/8th) - We will watch thoughtful, educational and timely video clips that will provide us with plenty to discuss as a class. Join this Skills Class to learn more about the world, yourself and to hone your intellectual conversation skills. Students will also be a part of the video topic selection process and will be taught to run viewings and facilitate class post-viewing discussions.

Intro to Podcasting: Fiction (6th/7th/8th) - Narrate an existing short story or write your own! Add sound effects and music to make it more captivating for listeners.

Science Fair (6th/7th/8th) - You will engage in research and application of the scientific method through the completion of a formal science fair project in an area of your choice. This is two-trimester skills class commitment (fall and winter) with the intention of competing in the Denver Metro Science Fair in February.

Geography Bee prep and competition (6th/7th/8th) - Students will spend the first part of the trimester studying geography and practicing for the National Geographic Geography Bee. We will then have the official competitions to qualify for state by the end of the trimester.

Book Club (6th/7th/8th) - We will read the novel The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton and discuss the literary elements and the social aspects of the novel. We will take this story of two rival groups of teenagers and will apply their struggles to groups today and the struggles that teens face. If there's time, we will also watch the classic film at the end of the trimester.

Stanley Middle School Philosophy and Ethics (6th/7th/8th): What is the meaning of life? What is truth? The nature of free will? This Skills Class will examine some of the questions that humans have pondered throughout time through a middle school lens, providing a fun, interactive introduction to philosophy and ethics through simulations, games, and discussions.

Spanish Conversation (7th/8th) - Meet for weekly chats about topics of your choice - some based on what we are learning in class and beyond - all in Spanish! Perfect for improving your Spanish skills and having fun (Must be taking Spanish classes as well).

STAMP (Students Taking Action, Making Progress) Conference (7th/8th) - What does it mean to be inclusive? Or diverse? How do people feel excluded because of finances, skin color, social status, gender and more? This class will investigate these questions plus other wonders we have about racism and bias. The STAMP (Students Taking Action and Making Progress) Conference empowers middle school students with tools to build more inclusive communities in their home schools. The conference, held on October 12th at the History Colorado Museum, is created and led by high school student leaders. Students in this skills class will attend the conference and develop creative ways to bring what they learn back to Stanley.

Spanish Acting (6th) - If you like acting and want to try it in Spanish, this is the class for you! We will do improv games, short skits and even perform at the Cave Show at the end of the trimester. Even if you've never taken Spanish, you are welcomed to join and learn a few phrases and words!

Ciphers, Codes, and Computers (6th) - Explore the history of how we have kept our messages and information secret from the beginning of recorded history to modern times. Learn to use a variety of historical encryption methods and decode secret messages.

7th grade math support (7th) - Receive supplemental math support that will help with the 7th grade content.

8th grade challenge math (8th) - Students will explore more abstract algebra concepts that will not be covered during the year.

Thursday

Plan your own adventure (6th/7th/8th) - Did you leave the summer with the travel bug? Dreaming of visiting the 7 wonders of the world? Think up your own dream vacation in this class where you will research locations, fun activities, accommodations, must-try foods, and practice planning/budgeting to plan the travel experience of your dreams!

Word Power Made Easy (6th/7th/8th): Acquire a treasure trove of new words that even your parents probably don't know! - Take a deep dive into enticing, advanced, powerful vocabulary, including a study of Latin and Greek roots, to develop strategies for unlocking meanings in the most interesting, bizarre, exotic and mysterious of English words. We will incorporate these words into fun creative writing activities, short plays, music, games.... you name it!

3D Printing (6th/7th/8th) - We will learn how to design 3D models digitally on the computer and print them with a 3D printer. No prior experience needed!

Current Events Blog (6th/7th/8th) - We will read and watch daily news pieces, discuss, and debate the ideas and issues of the day. We will create an online blog with our opinions on the issues for all middle schoolers to read and interact with.

The ZINE Project (6th/7th/8th) - We will be working on a Stanley Zine, which is a small magazine that is self published and is often filled with short stories, poetry, artwork, photography and so much more. Join us and bring your creativity.

Forensic Science (6th/7th/8th) - Put your forensic science skills to the test! You will learn how scientists help solve crimes and practice different techniques such as fingerprinting, blood typing, and hair analysis.

Problem Solving and Critical Thinking (6th) - Spend a trimester building up your logical/mathematical problem solving skills. Learn explicit ways to approach challenges and then communicate what you know and how you can prove it.

Advanced Math-Geometry skills class (7th) - This offering is for 7th grade students who would like to continue their study of geometry that was initiated in their sixth grade year. Participants will receive homework and assessments that will mirror those of a regular math class.

Constitutional Law 101 (7th) - Students who are interested in participating in the Constitutional Law program will learn the essential elements of the content and the program through lecture style lessons. Support may also be provided for the paper due after Thanksgiving. This is required if you have are interested in being a member of the travel team in 8th grade.

Constitutional Law Travel Team (8th) - Constitutional Law Students who participated in the 7th grade skills class last year will begin an intensive study building of that knowledge in preparation for the National Competition in Washington, DC.

Costume Skills Class (8th): Do you like to be crafty and creative? Are you hoping that fashion design is in your future? Come help us design and create the costumes for our 8th grade musical. In this class, you will have the opportunity to sort through

our treasure trove of costumes with some of your own design ideas in mind, to help us gather, put together, and organize the visual aspect of the show. No sewing skills required, awesome if you have some though!

ISEE/HSPT Test Prep (8th) - Students will prepare for high school admissions placement tests and learn test taking strategies for the test, including work in math and language arts.

8th grade math support (8th) – Students will receive supplemental math support that will help with the 8th grade content.

Additionally, for those of you who have children in 6th and 7th grade, middle school choir will not be offered as a Skills Class this fall. Instead, please see the note below from Jill Teas, Stanley's middle school choral/musical theatre director.

Dear Middle School Parents,

I am excited to be returning to Stanley as the Middle School choral/musical theatre director for the 2018-2019 school year.

We are looking forward to a fantastic year of Stanley middle school singers and wanted to share what will be available for your student in the area of vocal performance.

For our eighth graders who love to sing, we are offering Fall trimester of "Perfect Pitches", a fun, upbeat vocal ensemble that will focus on vocal performance technique, singing in two part harmony and music reading skills.

This class will meet during our arts elective time on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Fridays. We will transition right into the middle school musical on those same days for the second trimester.

For our sixth and seventh grade singers, we are offering a new option this year. Our 6-7 vocal ensemble, "Treble Makers" will meet on Monday afternoons from 3:15-4:15PM in the music room. Even if your child is participating in a sport, it's okay to do both. Any 6-7 singer will be excused from Monday sports practices at Stanley. If there is a game on a Monday, they will attend the game. We will be working on fun music (pop/rock/Broadway) and continue building vocal skills, performance technique, and singing in two parts.

Both of our choral ensembles will have performance opportunities the first trimester as well as at the holiday program