

Proposed new high school courses

To be voted on by the Brookline School Committee, January 19th, 2023

PERFORMING ARTS DEPARTMENT

Guitar, Ukulele, and Bass through Songs & Songwriting (Level 1 & Level 2)

0.5 Credit

Would you like to learn to play or advance your skills on guitar, ukulele, and/or bass through playing your favorite songs? Would you like to bring your own creative ideas to life and learn to write original songs while developing skills on an instrument? If you answered yes to either of these questions, this is the class for you. In level one of this class, students with little or no experience on guitar, ukulele or bass learn the basics of playing chords, melodies and bass lines, learn to read chord charts and standard notation, basic chord voicing, strumming patterns and fingerstyle techniques, and will the basics of soloing over different song forms. Students get to choose the songs they want to learn and learn to write their own original songs.

WELLNESS DEPARTMENT

Integrated Wellness Affinity Group (Grades 10-12)

0.25 Credit

This course will meet two days a week and incorporate skills-based health education practice and physical education activities with a focus on discussing the issues relevant to the LGBTQIA+ community. Through an inclusive lens, and specific to the needs of the LGBTQIA+ community, students will engage in pragmatic skills-based health education. This curriculum will be aligned with the National Standards for Health Education and enhance health and reduce risk behaviors. Students will learn how to analyze influences on health behaviors and access valid and reliable information, products, and services. Through skills such as decision-making, communication, advocacy, and goal-setting, students will apply current content knowledge that affirms their identity and leads to lifelong positive wellness outcomes. The integrated approach will provide opportunities for students to engage in fitness and physical education that supports their overall wellness.

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

Responding to Literature/Humanities (Unleveled) Pilot - 9th grade, Unleveled

1 Credit

This English course will coordinate with 9th Grade Social Studies (WHISP) to explore the themes of power, identity, and community in literature. All of our students will expand their interests by reading a wide range of literary genres (mystery, science fiction, fantasy, poetry, memoir) and writing in a wide range of literary forms. This course places a strong value on building community between students and will be centered on seminar discussions, small group projects, and the writing through a drafting and revision process that includes peer feedback. Students in this course will take trips off-campus to connect our learning to the rich arts community (theater, museums, historical sites, and author talks) of Greater Boston. This course will provide a more personalized approach to learning by offering a menu of options for unit assessments and opportunities for self-designed projects, so that students have a wide range of choice and challenge. Course texts may include: *The Odyssey*, *American Born Chinese*, *Messy Roots*, *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*, *Much Ado About Nothing* and *The Poet X*, in addition to weekly independent reading based on students' interests. This course is strongly recommended for students who enjoy finding the connections between topics and courses, collaborating with peers, and thinking creatively.

Asian American Literature (11th & 12th grades) - Honors

1 Credit

Often underrepresented in media and in public spaces, Asian Americans often struggle to be seen and heard, with many stories and works of art going unnoticed. This course brings forth and celebrates stories from all around the Asian American diaspora. Students will read from a variety of authors, including but not limited to: Jhumpa Lahiri, Amy Tan, Chang Rae Lee Mohsin Hamid, Celeste Ng, Ocean Vuong, Julie Otsuka, Tom Lin, and others. With all texts, there is a focus on distinguishing between what it means to be Asian-American and how that fits with the dominant narrative in America. Students will read between 30-40 pages a night and draft 8-12 papers throughout the year.