Media Class Description

Course Description: Multimedia is the integration of pictures, video, sound, and text to express emotions, communicate thoughts, and demonstrate creativity. In this year long course, students will explore several different ways of expressing themselves digitally by developing and utilizing the elements and principles of visual arts in a world that craves digital media in all career pathways.

This course provides the tools and skills needed to:

- Create digital photography displays by taking pictures with Digital SLR cameras and editing the photos in Photoshop/Lightroom
- Create simple videos with video cameras, DSLRs, and other recording devices using iMovie.
- Participate in a careers unit where students explore the possibilities of technology/media careers

The course is split into different sections based on each six weeks.

1st Six Weeks: Photography - introduces students to the basic principles and applications of digital photography as a medium, a skill-set, and an integral part of today's digital literacy needs. Topics covered include capturing images using digital cameras while emphasizing the manipulation of camera controls, exposure, lighting, on-and-off camera flash, essential imaging tactics, digital workflow for photography, print, web and image storage and archival. Students are encouraged to have a digital camera (point and shoot or DSLR) to complete assignment.

2nd Six Weeks: Lightroom - Students learn how to manage large volumes of digital photographs, work in a non-destructive environment to allow for fearless experimentation, and perform sophisticated image processing tasks to easily produce good-looking pictures and polished presentations for both web and print. The newly expanded version of this software offers accelerated speed with refined, powerful performance. Students will use Lightroom 4 to complete assignments in class.

3rd Six Weeks: Photoshop - students will be familiarized with basic Photoshop post-production techniques and its relationship with digital photography as a business, design, and communication tool. The goal of this industry-based approach is to facilitate the integration of technical ability and visual problem solving skills in order to strengthen visual communication with the medium of digital photography. Students will use Photoshop CS5 to complete assignments in class.

4th/5th Six Weeks: Film – Students will have hands-on experience with demos, lectures, screenings (we watch movies), readings, and discussions to introduce students to the tools, techniques, and terminology used in filmmaking. By integrating the skills and knowledge students will develop an understanding of the Creative Process, Screenwriting and Producing. Students will work both in front of and behind the camera to produce several short films and

exercises. Students work both independently and collaboratively in a high-pressure creative environment that simulates professional filmmaking. By this point the fundamental use of equipment used in film making has been covered in class and students will be knowledgeable on the use of cameras equipment and editing.

6th Six Weeks: Film Project: With instructor guidance students form production teams with each team taking a pre-selected film script or project, which they will then produce: from rewrites to pre-production, production, post-production, completion and delivery.

Yearbook Course Description

Members of the yearbook staff are the leaders and decision-makers of *"The Chieftain,"* Hamilton Middle School's yearbook. In yearbook class students will learn a number of journalism skills and complete the many required tasks to create a high-quality yearbook that reflects the pictorial and written history of the campus activities and the lives of Hamilton students for the year. The following list of yearbook tasks is extensive, but not inclusive.

- Develop a theme
- Design cover, end sheets and title page that reflect the theme
- Create master designs for each section
- Create a detail ladder (page content list)
- Set up type specs and graphic elements for each section
- Learn and apply journalistic style and rules
- Learn and apply journalism law and ethics
- Write practice articles and complete other training assignments
- Generate story and photo ideas
- Set up story and photo assignments
- Conduct interviews and report stories
- Post stories to Google docs, servers and other document sharing sites
- Peer edit work for publication
- Edit pages and ensure completeness and high quality
- Take high quality candid photos of a variety of people and situations
- Create and regularly update the yearbook index
- Organize sale and distribution of book
- Sell advertising and create ads
- Finalize completed computer pages
- Attend required work nights (at least two per semester)
- **Establish and meet publication deadlines**
- Learn and use computers programs such as Photoshop and inDesign page creating program

Exploratory Science Course Description

This full-year course serves as an introduction to studies in horticulture and animal sciences. Study will include leadership, agricultural careers, record keeping, basic animal and plant science, aquaculture, natural resources, biotechnology and basic carpentry. Students will be tasked with the care of the garden and outdoor classrooms, recycling programs, compost piles, and the use and care of gardening tools. Biweekly students will also discuss nutrition and learn basic food preparation with a Master Chef.