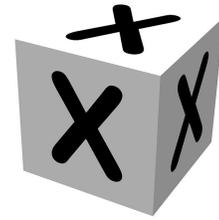
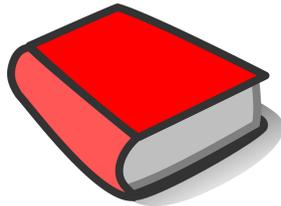


T2 X-Block Classes 2016-17

Classes open to all grade levels unless specified.



Reading



Hooked on Books (8th Grade)

Do you love to read? Are you always looking for opportunities to discuss the books you are reading with other people? If so, then this is the class for you! We will read multiple books and engage in rich, student-facilitated discussions. Our focus will be on books from the genre of realistic fiction. Please join us!

The History of Rock n Roll

Do you like Twenty One Pilots, Green Day, My Chemical Romance, or Blink 182? Want to see how these bands came to be? In "The History of Rock n Roll", we'll study blues, rock n roll, hard rock, punk rock, hardcore, metal, new wave and grunge. We'll look at bands like The Beatles, The Rolling Stones, AC/DC, The Clash, The Ramones, Nirvana, Metallica, and a whole lot more.

Art and Stories

Picture books can be enjoyed at any age! Students will listen to picture book read-alouds and later critique and analyze the books for deeper meaning. We will examine the text and the illustrations and how they work together. There may be opportunities for students to work with younger readers as storytime reading buddies.

Public Speaking

Storytelling

Stories are all around us, in all parts of our lives. In storytelling class we will develop skills to create and tell stories. We will explore different forms of storytelling, from myths and legends to digital storytelling to personal stories we want to share from our own lives.



Comfortably Speaking

This class will utilize improvisational games and public speaking exercises to help students gain confidence and poise in a variety of presentation and public speaking situations.

Daily Video Announcements

This class will use iPad technologies to explore writing and journalism. We will develop daily video announcements about all kinds of school activities and make an online news bulletin/commentary of the creativity taking place in the various X-block classes.

Music

Jazz Band

A small ensemble which explores the understanding and performance of music in the Jazz, Swing, Funk, Rock, and Latin styles. Students will perform at all band concerts. Music reading is required. In addition to band students, those who play guitar and bass may sign up as well. Students may be required to audition.



Chamber Strings

Make music with your friends! Open to all string players with at least two years of playing experience, you will rehearse and perform a variety of music in a small group setting. Opportunities to perform include both school and community events during the school year.

6th Grade Choir

Do you like to sing? 6th Grade Treble Singers will meet during X-Block to prepare for their concerts in November, February and April. We will work on singing technique, reading music, and having fun singing karaoke! We will learn three songs for just 6th Grade Treble Singers, and two songs that we will sing with the 7th and 8th graders at our concerts.

Art



Edible Art

Like making works of art? Want to make works of art that you can eat afterwards? Together we will explore the similarities and differences of culinary and fine arts to create temporal pieces which are completely edible. Projects include bake offs, color theory icing mixing, chopped competitions, and much more!

STEAM

STEM Activities: Buildings, the Brain, and Rollercoasters!

Are you into Design, Science, Technology and Building? In this X-Block class you will participate in a truss building competition, learn about the brain by playing games, use Legos to recreate and learn about famous buildings, and design and build a rollercoaster.

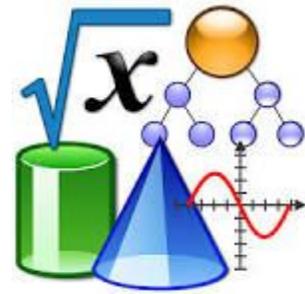


Intro to Psychology

Ever wonder why people do the things they do? Do you ever wonder why you do the things you do? There is a lot of research behind it, come find out how the brain works! We will learn some of the basics of psychology, with a focus on student development and understanding why you do the things you do.

Math Tiling Challenges

In this class you will use critical thinking and math skills as you work your way through a series of tiling task challenges. Whether you consider yourself a math novice or pro, there is a challenge that is right for you. With each challenge completed, you will become a better mathematician!



Project CARE

This class is for advanced math students that are interested in learning about engineering design, robotics and computer programming. Students that have already been part of Project CARE will learn to code in Python.

Future Medical Professionals

Calling all students who are serious about pursuing careers in medicine! Future doctors, nurses, physical therapists, EMT's, researchers, all are welcome! We will find out about the careers you are interested in, discover what skills and abilities you need to achieve your goal, invite guest speakers and learn basic anatomy, physiology and first aid. This will be a fun, but serious, academically focused class. A certain level of work and lots of curiosity will be expected.

Science and Cinema (Grades 7 and 8)

This class will look at good and bad science in popular movies. Students will watch movies or clips from movies and then will investigate the science behind the magic through lab activities.



Creative Engineering



Post-it notes, straws, chopsticks, marshmallows, plastic cups, and toothpicks. What do they all have in common? They can all be used to build (mini) architectural structures... and strong ones too!! If you are creative, like to build things, and have a unique way of visualizing the world, this course is for you. What can we build with these things? Think - mechanical hand extension, mini Eiffel tower, and catapult... to name a few.

Science and Minecraft

Do you enjoy playing Minecraft? Do you enjoy science? This class will explore the scientific concepts presented in the game Minecraft.

Personal Interests

Filmmaking Class (Documentary)



Lights. Camera. Action! One of the beauties of film is how it can capture a moment. This introductory course will cover how to create a documentary film through research, movie makers (such as iMovie), and neat effects. This is an opportunity to embrace your creativity. No experience is required.

Science and Ethics

In this course we will look at science questions and their impacts on society. First we look at The Nobel Prize for science and whether or not Dr. Frankenstein should receive it. Then we will tackle present day issues regarding science, “the good,” and “the right.”

Passion Project

Do you ever wish you could learn more about what truly interests you? Well, here's your chance. In Passion Projects you will be given the opportunity to explore what excites you and share your passions with others in your own unique and creative way.



Social Studies

Hispanic Culture

Do you enjoy learning about other cultures? Do you like to sing? Are you interested in learning how to salsa dance? If so, this class is for you! We will be learning about the Hispanic culture through dance, song and crafts.



CNN Student News/Current Events

There's nothing more important than knowing what's going on in the world, and being able to discuss current events knowledgeably. We will be watching daily episodes of CNN Student News as well as reading articles from a variety of sources to make sure we are all well-informed. Enthusiasm and the ability to discuss facts, opinions and observations are the only prerequisites for this group.

Understanding Our Legal System / So you want to be a lawyer? (Grades 7 and 8)

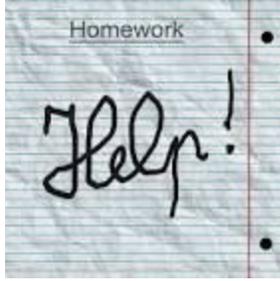
This class will examine how our legal system works. Using both "civil" court (I'm gonna sue you!!) and "criminal" court (You're going to jail!), we will learn the basic processes of our justice system, and debate past/current legal issues.

Invest Your (fake) Money in the Stock Market! (Grades 7 and 8)

Learn how to buy and sell stocks using virtual money. You will learn how people can make a fortune and lose a fortune by investing money in the stock market. You will use basic math skills and learn about economics and historical events like the Stock



Extra Support



Peer Mentoring (8th Grade Mentors/6th Grade Students)

6th graders:

How has this year been going for you? Do you wish you knew another student that knows the school well and can help you along the way? Are you having a hard time keeping up with some of your class work? This might be the place for you! Get to know older students in the building that can help you with questions and with your class work. These are

the kids that have been through it all and can help to guide you this trimester. Students will be placed based on teacher recommendation.

8th graders: Do you like helping others? Do you find yourself helping your friends with class work or homework? Are you a good listener? Can you give a new comer advice on how to navigate through their middle school years? This might be the place for you! We are looking for 8th grade students who want to help and mentor our new 6th graders in the building. 8th graders should have a strength in at least 1 core content class (math, science, social studies or reading/LA). Interested students have already been informed and placed.

Specific Skill Development-SSD (All Grades)

Students will be recommended for SSD X-Block classes to provide specific skill development. X-Block SSD classes will be offered in math, reading, and executive functioning. The math SSD classes will focus on the development of foundational math skills and skills needed to be successful in your math class. The reading SSD classes will focus on developing reading comprehension skills and vocabulary development needed to be successful in all classes. The executive functioning SSD class will focus on developing skills to improve planning, organization, decision making, attention, and regulating behaviors to improve student success.

