



2020/2021 Course Catalog

Humanities

Throughout the 2020-2021 school year, Farm School students will be exploring human communities throughout history in an effort to understand the ways in which humans have advanced in technology and innovation. While students will have the freedom to explore many aspects of each individual Humanities project in which the student participates, the guiding focus for this school year will be on humans' technology, inventions, advancements and what Dr. Montessori called supranature. Students will also regularly make connections between the ways in which humans change society because of these developments and how these technologies likewise change human society.

Early Agriculture + Classical Civilizations: Ancient Sumer and Civilization

This class will explore the fascinating and innovative ancient civilization of Sumer. Located in between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers in Mesopotamia, the Sumerian people developed revolutionary technology in order to create a large and thriving civilization. These technologies include developments in farming, communication, construction and time keeping which allowed the people of this region to settle this land in Mesopotamia. Students will explore these technological advantages of the Sumerian people while inquiring how this technology changed Sumerian society. Students will then outline different aspects of the Sumerian civilization. In this exploration of civilization, students will be able to learn about characteristics of civilization. Students will then take this learning on civilization and have the opportunity to theorize how we can make our current society a more wholesome and equitable society.

Power and Justice: Beginnings of Human Injustice to 2020

This class will explore the historical roots of power in human societies. We will investigate the beginnings of human civilizations and why hierarchies were established and have been the norm in human history for the past 10,000 years, and explore whether all humans have actually lived this way. Students will then engage more modern times by looking at hierarchies of power in our own world today and its implications for our community and world. We will read a novel that explores these themes and finish the unit exploring the world of 2020 by viewing these themes through the current Pandemic and upcoming election. Students will culminate the class by following their own thematic passions and creating a campaign around their own chosen issue of injustice/justice today.

Civics

Election 2020

Dr. Maria Montessori wrote that the mission of education should be "to construct an environment that will allow the child and the adolescent to live an independent, individual life in order to fulfill the goal that all of us are pursuing - the development of personality... and the creation of a better society." In the Election 2020

Humanities Project, students explore what it means to be a responsible and accountable member of the world and how they, as individuals, can contribute to the making of a better society. Students learn about the rights and responsibilities of ethical citizenship and the skills needed to engage in creating and participating in our government structures. Additionally, we will explore the dynamics of the current election both nationally and locally, as well as the various civic uprisings that have been happening in our country. Students will gain experience in civic participation through meeting with activist experts and elected officials in the community and by developing and implementing their own civic action project.

Occupations

Culinary - Fall 2020

Our jobs in culinary class this year are to help safely make food for our community (at home or at school), and learn about some of the fundamental building blocks of our universe and how they work in the kitchen! How is cheese made? Why does dough brown in an oven but not in boiling water? Why do we pickle vegetables? What home recipes can we try at home? Can you build a solar dehydrator at home? The answers may surprise you! We will explore such topics as chemical reactions, cooking techniques, atoms and molecules, and how to create amazing meals! Our group projects will look at preserving ingredients and foods, designing and building a solar dehydrator, planning out some fancy food, and maybe producing goods for sale. We will also have plenty of kitchen time and continue our great reputation of having a strong team of student chefs!

Soapmaking

What is soap and how does it work? How is soap made? What is our microbiome and what is the role of skin in health and hygiene? How was soap first created, and what are culturally specific ways soap is used and made? Is hand sanitizer a helpful substance? How does lotion and moisturizer protect our skin? What other body care products can we make from home? We will explore these questions through investigation of science concepts such as water tension, atoms and molecules, chemical bonding, acids and bases, saponification, and more. Students will create their own soap, hand sanitizer, and a choice group project at home. We will also deeply explore our human connection to soap and other cleansing agents.

Math

Math (*ALL year*)

In consideration of the developmental needs of the adolescent, students continue to develop their “mathematical minds,” building a deeper understanding of the abstract logic inherent in the world in which we live. Using the Montessori Integrated Mathematics® (MIM) curriculum, students achieve higher levels of abstraction through their concurrent work with the head and the hands. All aspects of the math curriculum are aligned with the Common Core Standards.

Electives

***** Within their first two years at the DMHS Farm School (in 7th + 8th grades), students must take *at least one* semester-long elective from each of the following categories: Language, Physical Expression, Micro-Economy, and Creative Self- Expression.**

Language

Spanish Introduction, Spanish I, Spanish II, Advance Spanish (High School students), and Spanish project class

This year, there will be five Spanish classes. Spanish introduction is a class geared towards 7th and 8th that have never taken Spanish, in this class students will get an introduction to the Spanish language and culture. Spanish I, this class is geared more towards 9th graders, students in this class will learn the basic Spanish such as numbers, colors, verbs conjugations, etc; Students that take this class will get high school credits. Spanish II explores the different aspects of the vocabulary and the present tense, preterite tense, and imperfect tense. Advanced Spanish for the high school students, in this class students, practice the language orally for them to improve their oral skills. Students will also explore aspects of the Spanish culture and will focus on developing written, oral, reading, and listening skills. Also, some students will be taking AP Spanish online; in this class, students will prepare for the AP Spanish exam. If students pass the test, they can earn college credits. Last but not least, this year we will be offering the Spanish project class, this class is geared to students that have higher language skills. In this class, students will learn different themes all in Spanish and will be able to practice their speaking, written, and listening skills in the Spanish language.

Creative Self Expression

Art - Artist Voice *(Quarter 1)*

Your artist voice is a unique and recognizable artistic style that is distinctly your own; your inspiration, your materials, techniques, themes and color palette all working together in a way that looks like it comes from you and no one else. The main objective of this course is for students to discover, identify and develop an authentic style as young artists; Design Principles and concepts will be emphasized and students will learn how to utilize these principles and techniques successfully in their artwork. Students will learn a variety of drawing, mixed media and painting techniques and other creative processes.

Art - Exploration in Watercolor *(Quarter 2)*

Let it flow! Unleash your creativity and tackle the unique challenges of water-based media including watercolor, gouache and ink. In this course we learn to use these materials with confidence and understand the differences and qualities of each by creating numerous projects. You'll discover how to control and maximize striking values with permanent India ink, layer translucent washes of watercolors and explore the bold use of opaque colors with gouache. We work both in the studio and, in warmer seasons, outdoors!

Creative Writing *(Quarter 1 or 2)*

Through short poetry and fiction forms, students will explore the basics of good, engaging fiction writing, from setting and world building to dialogue and character conflict. At the end of the quarter, students will select, edit, and peer review their favorite work from the course and submit it to the school Literature and Art Journal for possible publication.

Around the World *(Quarter 1 or 2)*

Want to swim in the oceans of the Caribbean, sample the foods of Southeast Asia, and explore the viking ruins of Northern Europe? Well good news, because now you can travel the world virtually while stuck at home! Each week, students will explore a new country, learning about history, geography, art, politics, food, culture, religion, etc through research and hands-on projects with the aim of cultivating cross-cultural curiosity and interest in global citizenship.

Media Theory and Film Making *(Quarter 1 or 2)*

In this course, students will explore different theories as to how media works. We will learn about and discuss the media's effects on ourselves and our culture. Through this exploration, students will be able to critique media and also make their own. This course will be a mix of theorizing and creation, so that students not only understand how media works but also how they can create quality and meaningful media. Media that will be

explored in this class will be written, film, photography, graphic and digital media. By the end of this course students will have the opportunity to make their own short film or other digital media project!