

## **Elective/ Exploratory Classes 2009-2010**

At Hamilton we believe in the whole child. In addition to core classes that include: Science, Social Studies, Language Arts, (Foreign Language), and Math, students have the privilege of exploring their talents through hands-on, interactive classes called Exploratory and/or Elective classes.

Sixth and seventh grade students rotate through exploratory classes every nine weeks. This introduces them to all possible skill sets and allows them to decide which appeals to them the most. At the end of seventh grade, students choose which two, semester-long elective classes they will attend during their eighth grade year.

We have a few classes that last throughout the school year and do not rotate. If your student has elected to take Instrumental Music; band or orchestra, they are yearlong classes and they do not rotate to another class during the school year. In eighth grade, students may apply to be on the Yearbook/Journalism Staff, which is also a yearlong commitment.

This year we have several opportunities for students to explore their talents. First, students were given the opportunity to try out for the Performance Choir, which takes place four days a week during Accelerated Reader time. Students are expected to read and take tests in addition to being in the Choir. Mrs. Eva Bridgeforth is the choir director and held tryouts the first and second week of school.

Mr. Glenn Nitta is the band and orchestra director. He serves over 250 students during the school day and keeps music alive at Hamilton Middle School.

Ms. Nancy Nyhus is our drama teacher. Sixth and seventh grade students rotate every nine weeks throughout the year and she has an eighth grade semester class. Students learn the fundamentals of acting. Additionally, she is the Yearbook/Journalism advisor. Ms. Nyhus also directs several plays during the school year. She is currently directing the fall play which will be performed November 18, 2009, at 7:00pm.

Mr. Olin Morrow and Mrs. Linda Count are Hamilton's technology teachers. It is important for us to prepare our students for 21<sup>st</sup> Century learning; therefore, as part of TEAM-C (Technology Exploration in Art, music and Computers) Program. Students are provided the opportunity to become familiar with many of the high-end computer software packages installed in our two upgraded technology classrooms.

Art is also a class that students will rotate through and can choose to take as an eighth grade semester class. Students create a variety of works and use several art mediums. It is always fascinating to see what appears from Mrs. Katrina Bria's classroom. You can often find artwork displayed throughout the building in display cases, outside the auditorium, and in the hall outside her classroom.

Healthy minds and bodies are important to learning; therefore, we offer two Physical Education rotations at Hamilton. Ms. Carol Phillip's curriculum engages students in team sports and Mr. Lee Lampert heads up the fitness portion of P.E. Your child may rotate into P.E. twice in one year with two different P. E. focuses.

Who doesn't enjoy eating? Food and Nutrition are the focus in Ms. May Washington's Consumer Family Studies class. "Foods" is also a class that students will rotate through and can choose to take as an eighth grade semester class. Students will learn kitchen skills and basic food preparation techniques.

For those students who are struggling with core classes we also offer support classes throughout the year. Ms. Deanna Owens is the Language Arts skills teacher and Mr. Mason is our Math skills teacher. Currently, Mr. Ken Mason is teaching a 6<sup>th</sup> grade P.E. class for this quarter.

We have added a new class this year in the sixth grade rotation called Action Learning. Students are collectively working on projects focused on enhancing their learning strengths through multiple intelligences. This class is taught by Ms. Sharon Dacotah.