

Quiet on the Set! Silent Film & The Wild West

Chloë Hood and Jan Lundquist

3, 2, 1... Action! Join us for a week of creativity and investigation, learning about and creating our very own silent film. Students will write, act out, edit, and produce a silent film. Through the lens of the Wild West, students will learn about the elements and origins of film, particularly Westerns. Hone your skills in writing, drawing, acting and directing, and discover your inner cowgirl or cowboy! “Yee Haw!”

Words in Pictures: Explore Printmaking & Book Arts

Maggie McCormick and Tisha Myers

How do pictures tell a story? How are books made?

Explore the world of illustration through printmaking and book design. We will venture out to a working printmaking studio, the Utah Museum of Contemporary Art, and the Rare Books Department at the University of Utah Library to investigate how pictures tell stories. Daily art labs will offer opportunities to learn and practice techniques for printmaking and creating handmade books. Come illustrate your story!

Relying On Rivers

Jayde Prudden and Dave Wood

We will be investigating the different ways people, plants and animals depend on the freshwater ways here in Utah. Students will learn how certain people depend on healthy rivers for their careers, how over hunting certain predators can affect the health of our rivers, and how humans rely on freshwater for survival. Students will explore first hand how our annual snowfall affects our rivers close to home. We will be investigating the aquatic life found on the Provo River, comparing the effects of natural wild trout in this habitat to hatchery fish that are introduced each year. Students will hear from local experts on all of these topics as well as have a small opportunity to do a bit of fly fishing on one of Utah's blue ribbon fisheries.

Travel the World in Your Own Backyard

Heather Novotny and Liz Paige

Curious students, are you interested in getting to know different cultural and religious groups who came to the Salt Lake Valley, settled, and added their unique richness to our community? Would you enjoy cooking, tasting, and sharing the foods that our many neighbors brought with them to our valley? Do you want to go to Greece, China, the Middle East, and Polynesia in four days without getting on a plane? We will learn about our neighbors through the twin lenses of religion and food by visiting museums, houses of worship, restaurants, and markets. Travel the world--in your own backyard!

Games Around the World

Anne Goldberg and Natalie Kaplan

Take a trip around the world within the walls of The McGillis School as we explore different cultures through the games we play. We'll explore active, running and skill games as well as board games from countries spanning from Albania to Zimbabwe. Students will learn about geography, culture, strategy, and sportsmanship. Researching, playing and creating games will be the core of this experience, and students will have the opportunity to expand their own families' game closets and their repertoire for having fun on the McGillis playground.

Wilderness Clinic

Matt Blake and Wyatt Brown

What if...? This course explores the questions and problems we might face if we are out and about in remote settings. What would you do if you needed to spend the night in the woods or care for a twisted ankle? How do you mend or sew torn clothing necessary for survival or navigate during a blizzard? During this course, you will face these challenges, and you'll be given the materials and instructions needed to solve your problem. After completing the class, you will be more confident in your ability to handle any challenging situation you encounter, and you might be surprised how learning these skills can help you face problems in everyday life.

Take A Walk On The Wild Side: Nature Explorers

Cassie Dippe and Suky Stewart

If you enjoy being outside, smelling spring plants, observing nature through a magnifying glass, feeling and touching nature's treasures, hiking, writing, and drawing, then you will love this course. We will study living things in a forest habitat and a stream ecosystem, and we'll take a day trip to The Bean Life Science Museum. Our class time will be spent out in the field tracking animals and making animal casts, writing and drawing in our nature journals, creating art, and exploring Fibonacci's amazing mathematical laws of nature.

Garageband Enthusiasts!

Ben Anisman and John Walker

Want to create a CD of your own personally composed songs? Want to learn about the magic of Garageband and how to record a song? Want to visit a real live sound studio and see how the professionals record music? Come be a part of a music recording session as you learn about the miracle of sound recording, and participate with your voice in the making of a CD of songs we will compose together. We will explore the history of sound recording, the science of sound, and even ask you to lend your artistic talents to create of a CD cover. Rock on!

Designational Theatre Games

Karen Nielsen-Anson and Sean Sweeney

Life is one great big improvisation. Want to learn how to be funny? Whether it's actors making the best of mishaps on stage or students stumbling and recovering during a presentation, the skills acquired during this course will help bolster confidence, creativity and the ability to use one's resources. Discover how to say YES to whatever challenges life hands you by learning the 5 basic rules of improv, playing 20 short form games, and stretching your brain to think of creative solutions that use humor and spontaneity! We'll also meet professional Improv artists in the community and watch these masters perform.

Escape into the World of Puzzles

Melinda Kaufman and Mary-Brook Townsend

Calling all sleuths, pattern hackers, and problem solvers. Do you tend to “think outside the box” and eagerly take on challenges? Then this course is for YOU! We'll explore the history of cryptography, learn about code breakers who have impacted our world (such as the Navajo code talkers and the 1960s female “human computers” of NASA), and work together to solve a variety of tricky logic puzzles! We'll visit an escape room and learn about the creative process that goes into designing the puzzles and experience. Afterward, we'll blend critical thinking skills and technology to create our own unique puzzles.

Design the Play Space of your Dreams

Ariane Green and Cassi Lanie

Have you ever wanted to design your own play space? A great play space encourages children to let their imaginations run wild, as they use their bodies and senses to explore and interact with the natural world. Students will be the “field experts” in this course, and they'll spend the week designing their own play structures and spaces. We'll travel to a variety of parks and play spaces to test out, play on, and take a closer look at what makes a play space fun, inviting, accessible, engaging, and safe. Students will use a variety of materials, such as natural building materials, legos, recycled parts, and we'll also have access to a 3-D printer. We will meet experts in the field who design playspaces and natural learning environments in school settings. This course is a problem-based learning experience where kids will get dirty, play hard, work hard, build with their hands, and collaborate on projects.

Cardboard Arcade

Jennifer Bell and Tom Moyer

Just Build it! Watch “Caine's Arcade” to get inspired, then build something awesome out of cardboard, recycled materials and imagination. Explore physics, game development, and engineering through the collaborative creation of cardboard arcade games.

Student Name

Teacher Name

Using 1-4, rank the courses in order of preference choosing three courses for each rank. 1's being your top choices and 4's your fourth.

Return this page to your homeroom teacher by February 28nd. No list? We will make your selection for you.

- _____ Quiet on the Set
- _____ Words in Pictures
- _____ Relying on Rivers
- _____ Travel the World in Your Own Backyard
- _____ Games around the World
- _____ Wilderness Clinic
- _____ Nature Explorers
- _____ Garageband Enthusiasts
- _____ Improv Theater Games
- _____ World Of Puzzles
- _____ Playspace of Your Dreams
- _____ Cardboard Arcade

Parent Signature

We will do our best to give students one of their top choices, but please be open to new experiences if this isn't possible.

Calling all students in grades 3-5:

It is time for CSI- Curious Student Investigations! This is the chance for you to select from a list of fascinating mini-courses, gather with a small group of interested students led by our passionate teachers, and focus on one exciting topic for four consecutive days. Beginning March 26, guest speakers, hands-on activities, and outings into our community will provide innovative and in-depth learning in an “out-of-the box” experiential learning model to groups of about twelve 3rd-5th graders. These courses are part of the regular school day.

To access this brochure electronically, visit the McGillis School website.



CSI:

Curious Student Investigations

Grades 3-5
March 26-29, 2018

