

2009 GIFTED INSTITUTE CLASSES

8:45-10:15 A.M. TIME SLOT

Bored Games

If you enjoy board games this is the class for you. Identify the parts of a game in order to create some fun of your own. By the end of the week you'll have a game to take home and play with your family!

Creative Writing: The Graphic Novel

This course deals with the history and practice of graphic novel writing. There will be short lectures on the history of the art form, including consideration of examples that predate the modern conception. Students will study examples of various graphic novels, analyzing issues of form, style, and plot. The course will culminate in production of at least one chapter of a graphic novel.

Nature Writing and Short Stories

This course will teach the aspects of creating short stories and the use of all of the aspects of nature. Student will be creating their own stories.

Numbers

We will use the hit T.V. Show NUMBERS to explore various math concepts. Also covered in the course – probability through card games, math magic and other math trivia!

Our Planet – Plan It!

Oh, give me a home where the animals roam; where pollution is far, far away; to recycle, rebirth all the things on our earth – this class will help show you the way!

Proportional Reasoning: Math for All Seasons

Recognizing when and how to use proportions is crucial to success in mathematics. This class will explore the role of proportions in problem solving. Applications will be investigated in science, business, sports, wildlife management, music and space exploration.

Storytime Yoga

Students learn yoga or hone their yoga practice through activities and discussions based on elements of story and the importance of relaxation techniques. The heroes journey is the human journey. Through the retelling of stories students become the main character, the journey, the obstacle and ultimately recognizing the power and courage within to overcome challenges. Bring a great attitude and sense of fun.

Theatre Games

This class will explore improvisational games, techniques and exercises used in the theatre. It will also explore “American Mime” techniques and how they apply to improvisation in the theatre.

Twilight

We will watch the movie based on Stephenie Meyer's book *Twilight*. We will compare the movie to the book and to other vampire tales.

You Make the Law!

Our nation's Congress and state assemblies and legislature hold a great deal of positive political power. Although the process is complicated, the dialogue that occurs is important to our development as a nation. Students will draft laws, debate their merits, and decide their ultimate fate. We will also experiment with alternative styles, including British-style parliament and French/Italian style parliament.

10:30 A.M.-12:00 P.M. TIME SLOT

Being Creative with Computers

This course will teach the aspects of using computers and creative designs. The students will be using computers to create all types of printed material, not just typing.

Books in Action

We will look at a popular age appropriate book and dissect it into its literary elements. There will be acting out of scenes from the book and at the culmination of the class, we will have a guest speaker who is an expert in literary recommendations.

Fun Playing Chess

This class will include rules of the game, studying the opening and end game, and general chess strategy and tactics.

Geometry All Around Us

We live in a three-dimensional world. Exploring our world involves studying spatial relationships, measuring, and observing our environment. This class will build skills in the analysis of shapes and structures, spatial visualization, and geometric modeling.

Movies, Movies, Movies

We will view movies – old and new. We will compare them, study them, laugh and cry at and with them, and see if we can make any sense out of them. Perhaps we shall be able to apply and relate them to our own lives, and even perchance, learn something from them.

Olympic Trials

Discover the history that surrounds the Olympic Games. Compete for the Gold, Silver, and Bronze medals in both academic and athletic events.

Pencil Power

Come express yourself in the universal language of drawing. We will explore different techniques, tone, texture, contrast, and perspective. Find your creative self in a pencil! **No repeats, please!**

Walt Disney: The Man Behind the Magic

Many people know Walt Disney was the man who brought us Mickey Mouse, Snow White, and the Theme Parks. Few know how he got started, what inspired him to draw Mickey, and how he was able to finance TV shows, movies, and theme parks. We'll learn Walt's history and how animators come up with ideas for movies and create your own animated shorts (cartoons).

Water World

Fish at a local pond stocked with large trout. Identify different fish and waterfowl species. Learn about boating water safety, first aid, and fishing techniques. Design and make your own lures. Come "wet" your appetite!

You know you want one! A History of Advertising...

Billions of dollars are spent every year on advertising everything from diapers to fast food to people of all ages. What is behind all that advertising? Who pays for it? Who believes it? We will dive into history of advertising, from the first newspaper ads to slick, expensively produced television advertising of today.

3:30-5:00 P.M. TIME SLOT

The Art of Argumentation and Persuasion

This session is designed to introduce the student to the principles of argumentation and persuasion as they exist in our society. We will begin with an overview of how to evaluate arguments; as well as how to distinguish between good and bad arguments. Next we will examine how persuasion impacts, aids, or detracts from a strong argument. Finally, students will be given an opportunity to put everything together by presenting their own arguments in the form of mock debates.

Beginning Sign Language

Discover the world of “fingertalk,” a journey into manual communication. This course will introduce you to basic expressive and receptive skills through games and songs – a true “hands-on” learning experience!

Beginning Web Design

Have you always wanted to design your own web site, but don’t know where to begin? We’ll talk about the basics of web design, html, and css. **(First timers only – no repeats.)**

Broadcast Your World!

Constantly evolving computer technology and the development of broadband Internet mean that it is easy to create television and radio broadcasts to easy play or televise over the Internet. We will use technology like portable video camera, digital microphones and other gadgets to record, edit and televise radio and television broadcasts to your iPods and the Internet. Bring your own iPods, Digital Cameras and other equipment and we’ll use it in our production. You are the star!

Chances Are

Mathematical probability will be investigated through simulations, experiments, games, and activities. Students will learn how probability is used to predict weather, outcomes of athletic competition, verdicts in trials, success of marketing campaigns and a variety of other applications.

Fitness-Fitness-Fitness

Fitness is a great career for a young person to be part of. You will learn all about fitness and participate in different fitness related activities. Learn what a personal trainer does. Learn to use fitness equipment and even participate in “Project Health Club.”

A Great Knight

This course would look at aspects of the time during the Knights of the Round Table. We would be looking at living conditions, family crests, and learning about Jeffery Chaucer and his Canterbury Tales.

Introduction to Journalism

This course will provide students with a working knowledge of journalistic terms, writing style, and interview techniques. The course will include brief lectures on these subjects, but will be largely hands-on. Student will work on a deadline to produce content for a humorous newsletter to be printed on the last day of class.

Montana Intents

Join in wildlife identification, tracking and habitat, map reading, camping how to’s, and survival techniques. Make your own lion, bear, wolf or elk tracks. Immerse yourself in the great outdoors!

Sportstacking

Sportstacking, also known as cup stacking, is an individual and team activity that enhances hand-eye coordination and reaction time. In a study conducted by Dr. Melanie Hart in 2005, increased activation of both sides of the brain was mapped while participants performed cup stacking activities. This dual brain function improves ambidexterity as well as quickness and concentration. Besides the fact that it’s fun, cup

stacking is a great physical activity that promotes lifelong enrichment of the brain. Students will participate in individual contests and team relay events.

6:00-7:30 P.M. TIME SLOT

Advanced Web Design

We'll go into more depth of web design, including graphic design, forms, advanced CSS, and video. **(You must have taken *Website Design* previously.)**

Close Encounters with Lewis & Clark

Travel the 1805 route these famous explorers forged through Montana. Discover their historic campsites, and revisit their amazing challenges. Design, build and race your own keelboat. Come join the adventure!

Color My World

This is a creative art class where various projects are created using Kalidoscopes. The students will learn the concept of color usage, working with glass and the concepts of light.

Creative Writing: The Yarn

This course deals with the history of the yarn (or elaborate lie) as a form of story telling. There will be short lectures about the history and function of the form. Students will study short examples and learn to examine not just the content of the story, but what is implied about the person telling it. The course will culminate in production of one well-conceived yarn.

Culinary Experience

Students will learn cooking and baking methods, garnishing techniques and how to handle the tools of the trade. Best of all – Taste Testing required! Students will be hands-on and will prepare edible masterpieces. **It is required to know ALL allergies of class participants.**

Exploring Change Through Mathematics

Students who enjoy mathematics can learn the basic ideas of calculus using manipulatives and ingenuity. Working in small groups, students will investigate rates and areas, sequences, and infinity.

Flash Animation

You've seen the games, you've watched the animations. Now learn how to do simple Flash movies for the web complete with interactivity and sound.

Law and Order!

Nowhere in our government is one process so obscure yet important as the legal process. In this class, we will explore the criminal and civil trials through simulations of the process. Students will serve as judges, lawyers, witnesses, jury members and, of course, the accused.

P.S. I Love You!

P.S. stands for "personal skills," "problem solving," and "potential self." Learn how to love yourself and those around you. We will be discussing grief, stress, values, responsibility, and what is uniquely you! ***No repeats, please!***

Puppetry

Students will explore the world of puppets. They will learn about the different forms from Shadow puppets to marionettes. Each student will make their own puppet and participate in a puppet play.