6<u>th</u> Grade Elective Course Descriptions

<u>Robotics I</u> puts students into teams of various abilities to inventory robot kits, learn and explore the programming software, and design/program EV3 Lego robots. Engineering skills and the design process will be cornerstone skills. This course is a pre-requisite for **Robotics II,** a group that travels to robotics competitions.

<u>Choir</u> is for boys and girls in 6th grade interested in singing and performing. Students will learn basic singing techniques and the basics of reading music. Students will perform in a concert at the end of each semester.

<u>Beginning Band</u> is open to all 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students who have **never** been in band before. The course will include learning about the various instruments, choosing an instrument, understanding basic musical symbols, and increasing one's personal ability on his/her instrument. This band will perform in at least two concerts per school year.

<u>Intermediate Band</u> is for those 6th – 8th grade students who have at least 1 year of prior band experience (either at Sherwood or at a previous school). The course will focus on increased understanding of musical symbols and notation, concert music, and increasing one's personal ability on his/her instrument. This group travels to regional and national band festivals and competitions.

<u>Beginning Orchestra</u> is for students who haven't been in an orchestra program, or who haven't had a lot of experience playing stringed instruments. The focus of this class is to teach basic rhythms and string techniques. Students will learn to read music notes and rhythms.

<u>Intermediate Orchestra</u> is for students that have been in an orchestra class before. Students will review basic rhythms and techniques, while learning more complex skills. Reading music will be a focus in the class.

<u>Computer Science</u> will help students learn to operate computers and related technologies efficiently. They become familiar with how computers operate, how to use hardware, software and the Internet, as well as digital citizenship skills and an introduction to coding. This course is a required pre-requisite for **Game and Application Design and Web Design**, which is a 7th and 8th grade course.

<u>Beginning Art</u> is focused on exploring the basic elements of art: line, shape, form, value, texture, and color. Much of the focus is on basic drawing, shading, and color mixing. Students will create projects using a variety of mediums including pencil, pen, oil pastel, charcoal, and paint, with the possibility of some 3-D design.

<u>Drama</u> offers a thorough introduction to acting in a fun and supportive atmosphere. Ideal for those with little or no acting experience, providing the chance to explore acting techniques in a playful, unintimidating and practical way.

<u>Movement and Dance A</u> will work on strength, flexibility and balance through a series of warm ups, floor and barre work. Basic Modern, Hip Hop, Jazz and Multicultural dance styles will be covered. Students can also expect to learn control and connectivity of steps, turns, jumps and the dance vocabulary necessary to continue their studies in the dance arts. These classes require a motivated learner, and a performance level attitude from all students as these classes can be challenging.

<u>Ballet</u> will help students learn basic beginner steps and techniques of ballet, along with vocabulary and a brief history of ballet figures. This class requires a motivated learner, a performance level attitude from all students as this class can be challenging.

<u>Piano</u> combines learning music fundamentals and beginning piano playing techniques in a dynamic group setting.

<u>Video Editing</u> will explore the creation, editing, and publishing of videos, pictures and other types of media utilizing many types of software and tools.

<u>Desktop Publishing</u> will teach skills in advanced desktop publishing including Microsoft Suite and various other web 2.0 multimedia presentation tools. Students will learn to type 35 accurate words per minute or better. This course is a required pre-requisite for **Game and Application Design and Web Design**, which is a 7th and 8th grade course.

<u>Forensic Science I</u> is an introduction to the science of solving crimes and mysteries. Students will learn the basics of crime scene investigations through hands-on learning and active participation. Each child will become a detective as they analyze fingerprints, dental records, bones, and many other types of evidence throughout this semester long course.

<u>Marine Science</u> exposes students to science grade concepts related to the water planet we live on. The marine science elective supports Sherwood's advanced science curriculum as it reinforces concepts in physical, life and earth sciences as they relate to water. Overall, marine science is a good fit for any student who enjoys science and who has a curiosity about our water planet.