

ACADEMIC EXTENSION PROGRAMS

Academic Advisement Program (AAP)

Grades: 8th

Instructor: Yvette Hicks

This Course is designed to meet the needs of our future leaders as they transition through life's challenges. It is facilitated by the school social worker. The topics covered help students understand their strengths and weaknesses in order to be prepared for challenges they may encounter at school, home or in the community. Groups will address topics such as self-esteem, bullying, media literacy, study habits, personality clashes, puberty issues, self-identity and character development. Grades are based on class participation, reading assignments, journal entries, presentations and other projects. Please know that parents are always welcome to preview any books and videos utilized for this class. The main focus of the class is to help our children understand and deal with the realities of day-to-day life.

Accelerated Reading

Grades: 3rd – 8th

Julie Kirkland

The Accelerated Reading program is an independent reading/comprehension curriculum that is a portion of your student's reading or literature grade. Your child's teacher will determine the reading level and then students review a listing of books at level that they can choose from and then take a comprehension test to earn points. Each grade level is designated a points level they are expected to reach and are graded on the points achieved each quarter. Total points are tracked by the library and levels of achievement are rewarded. Please visit the school's website and the library web page for more details.

Art

Grades: K – 8th

Instructor: George Wilkerson

Art curriculum at High Mount uses Disciplined Based Art Education (D.B.A.E) as its foundation. D.B.A.E. includes art history, art criticism, aesthetics and production. The curriculum also includes writing, daily sketchbooks (5th – 8th), multi-cultural lessons, interdisciplinary studies and pop/youth cultural projects. Kindergarten through Grade 4 meet once a week, while 5th through 8th grades meet twice a week. There is a K – 8 Art Show at the end of the school year, as well as various art exhibitions and contests held outside the school throughout the year.

HMS Art Club is an elite group of 7th and 8th grade students who participate on accelerated art projects, visit museums and galleries, study art history, with introductions to various art occupations and work as the curators of the school's annual art show. In the past these students have had various works displayed at Belleville's Art On The Square and other venues.

Junior Achievement

Grades: K – 8th

Sponsor: Marsha Ernst

The elementary school programs include six sequential themes for kindergarten through fifth-grade students and two capstone experiences. Students learn the basic concepts of business and economics and how education is relevant to the workplace. The sequential activities build on studies from each preceding grade and prepare students for secondary school and lifelong learning. Activities are facilitated by volunteers from our local business community.

K.A.T.A.

K.A.T.A. (Kids-Adults-Teachers-Administrators) is a confidential student assistance program supporting existing programs within the school and extending to the family community. Staff and students cooperate confidentially to create a safe environment offering hope to students by taking proactive measures to intervene with and prevent self-destructive behaviors.

Land of Learning Grade: 6th

(Formerly Touch of Nature)

Sponsor: Jim Robben

Sixth grade students are invited to attend this 3 day camping excursion to learn and experience natural surroundings, wildlife conservation and ecology. Team activities focus on helping others, sharing ideas, risk taking and goal setting. Along with Mr. Robben and Mr. Loepker, sixth grade parents are invited to attend as chaperones for the group. Fees for the program are discussed at the beginning of the school year. The trip takes place during the month of September.

Latchkey

Contact: Julie Burns

All Day Latchkey Program is available for children ages 3 – 5 not currently enrolled in Pre-Kindergarten or Kindergarten. Pre-Kindergarten educational services are provided by certified staff from 8:20am to 11:00am on regular school days. Latchkey services begin at 6:00am and end no later than 6:00pm. Current rates are listed on the following page.

Before and After School Instructional Care (B.A.S.I.C.) is available for children ages 3 – 12. B.A.S.I.C. program services begin the first day of school and continue each day school is in session. Morning services begin at 6:00am and end at 8:00am. Evening services begin after school and end at 6:00pm.

Summer Latchkey is also offered during the months of June, July and August while school is not in session. It is a summer camp atmosphere with breakfast and lunch included. Service times are from 6:00am to 6:00pm. Additional information about the summer program is usually sent home in April.

Library Pre-K – 8th

Instructor: Julie Kirkland Laura Wolf

All students in grades K-8 attend library classes once per week. The classes include time to check out books, learn information literacy, basic computer instruction, and reading time. Pre-K students also visit the library once per week for story time and to check out books. The computer lab is available for students attending library class or for individual classroom teachers to use with their students. The lab consists of 28 computers and a Smartboard.

Life Skills Grades: 8th

Instructor: Officer Katie Stein

Life Skills is an elective class that is offered to students in grade 8. The class meets every Tuesday and is moderated by Swansea Police Officer Katie Stein (School Resource Officer). These sessions deal with pertinent topics such as drug/alcohol dependency, safety, current issues, community resources, etc. These sessions are designed to be a proactive way to address complex teen issues and to help the students establish a positive relationship with our local police department.

Mad Science Grades: 1st -6th

Contact: Darin Loepker

Mad Science is an after-school enrichment program for students in grades 1-6. The students participate in 8 lessons that feature hands-on experiments. This program is geared towards making science fun while learning at the same time. The sessions are held in the Science Lab and they take place during the first semester of each school year.

Music Grades: K – 8th

Instructor: Corynn Wheelan

General Music Classes are taught once per week to students in grades K-6. The classes are designed to teach the students about the history of music and to establish an appreciation and interest for music. The classes are also designed to help prepare the students for band and choir. The students have the opportunity to perform at various concerts, assemblies, and performances throughout the year.

Beginning Band is offered to 5th grade students. Rehearsals take place twice weekly with each student receiving a 15 minute private lesson weekly. Concert participation is required. Grades are based on lesson, rehearsal and concert participation.

Concert Band is offered to 6th, 7th and 8th grade students. Beginning Band or the equivalent is a prerequisite. The group meets daily for rehearsals and once a week for a sectional. Concert participation is required. Grades are based on sectional attendance, rehearsal and concert participation.

Chorus is an elective class offered to 7th and 8th grade students. Participation is for one semester and students do receive a grade for this course. Grades are based on lesson, rehearsal and concert participation.

District Solo & Ensemble Contest takes place in the spring of each school year. Participation is mandatory for 5th and 6th grade band students. All music students are encouraged to participate.

National Junior Honor Society Grades: 7th & 8th

Sponsor: Stephanie Bontemps

The National Junior Honor Society was established at High Mount School in 2006 and is sponsored by Mrs. Stephanie Bontemps. The NJHS is offered to students in grades 7 and 8. High Mount's chapter is named for Terry Pensoneau, who was a student and a teacher at our school. Mr. Pensoneau died in 1968 in Vietnam. Our local chapter was named in his honor at the request of our students.

Students who aspire to become members of the NJHS must meet criteria in the areas of academics, citizenship, and volunteer hours.

Physical Education Grades: K – 8th

Instructor: Tim Becherer

Each homeroom participates in Physical Education class two times per week. The classes are set up to teach skill-based activities in the lower grades and more competitive activities for the upper grades. Healthy lifestyle and life-long activities are also emphasized in the physical education classes.

Pre-Kindergarten

Instructor: Tonna Smith

Pre-kindergarten services are available to children ages 3 -5. Prescreening takes place in the Spring for the following Fall. The purpose of this program is to harvest a child's social, physical, emotional and cognitive development in preparation for kindergarten while assessing and addressing each child's individual needs. Classes meet 2.5 hours each school day during a morning or afternoon session.

Red Ribbon Week

Sponsor: Joan Mentzer Student Council

Red Ribbon Week occurs each year during October. Student Council members meet and plan a week of activities for the student body in an effort to raise awareness of the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse. Student Council members end the week by attending the annual Red Ribbon Rally held at SWIC. Activities are aligned with the campaign promoted by the News Democrat and our area high schools.

Self-Expression Grades: 8th

Sponsor: Yvette Hicks

Self Expression is a weekly group session offered to 8th grade students during study hall. Student attendance is voluntary. Girls and boys meet separately on different days of the week. The purpose of the program is to provide an environment in which students can freely express themselves while communicating with same gender peers. In addition, the program is designed to promote character development in the following areas: natural charisma, leadership, cooperation with and support of others, open-minded thinking – speaking – listening techniques, freedom to express individual thinking without doubt, embarrassment or self-consciousness, while also appreciating and respecting others views and opinions.

Spelling Bee Grade: 7th – 8th

Contact: Darin Loepker

The Belle-Fair Conference Spelling Bee is held each March. High Mount School has been host to the Bee for the past 5 years. All schools in the conference are invited to send a team of four students to participate. Awards are based on team performance, as well as individual accomplishment.

Study Skills Grades: 7th – 8th

Instructor: Julie Kirkland

Study Skills classes are offered as elective classes to students in grades 7 and 8. These classes focus on computer skills, appropriate study habits and techniques, research methods, etc. The Study Skills classes meet once per week in the library.

Title I Math & Reading Grades: K – 8th

High Mount School offers remediation help for students who are struggling in the areas of reading and math. The students are chosen for these programs based on standardized test scores, grades, and teacher recommendations. Class sizes are limited to 6 students per session to ensure individual needs are being addressed. The following is a breakdown of services currently offered:

Janet Bauer	Grades K-2 reading and math
Marsha Ernst	Grades 3-8 reading
Karen Hand	Grades 3-8 math