

Gray Matter Fall 2018 - Course Catalog

Thursday Only

Robotics

Teacher: Laura Woolley

Grades: 9,10,11,12

Class Schedule: Thursdays Only

Class Time: 9:30 – 12:15 pm

Duration: 2.75 hours per week, 32 wks

Fee(s):

Full Tuition

Supply Fee

\$1152.00

\$0 – class supply fee is included in tuition

Description:

Robotics is a hands-on, lab-based course that introduces the basic concepts of robotics. Students focus on the construction and programming of robots. Course information is tied to lab experiments. Students work in groups to build and test increasingly more complex robots. At the end of each semester, students participate in a robot contest to see which design is the most robust and demonstrates good design. We are using a robotic design system as our platform; this eliminates the need to build parts from raw materials or the need to have access to a machine shop. Students are divided into groups to complete a variety of robot construction and programming activities.

In this course, students will:

- Explore different robotic applications
- Learn the basic components and building blocks of robots
- Develop robot design and fabrication skills
- Learn how to program robots

Prerequisites: None

Homework: None

Class Materials: None. All supplies and materials are provided by the teacher.

Payment Options:

1. Full tuition of \$1152.00 due at time of registration.
2. Semester tuition of \$576 due at time of registration and second semester payment of \$576 due by January 15th
3. Monthly payments of \$128. First month is due at time of registration. Subsequent monthly payments of \$128 on 9/1, 10/1, 11/1, 12/1, 1/1, 2/1, 3/1, 4/1. No tuition is due in May.

Speech and Debate

Teacher: Ian Seamans

Grades: 9,10,11,12

Class Schedule: Thursdays Only

Class Time: 1:00 - 2:30 pm

Duration: 1.5 hours per week, 32 wks

Fee(s):

Full Tuition

Supply Fee

\$450.00

\$30

Description:

This class fulfills the speech credit required for high school. Equally important, it prepares students for those many situations in careers, community service, college courses, and even high school classes where they will be expected to speak in front of people.

This class will focus equally on debate and public speaking. In-class debates will be held, and we will learn both the informal and formal rules of debate. We will also learn some of the principles of effective public speaking, analyze some great speeches, gain some tools to deal with anxiety, and have frequent opportunities for impromptu speaking.

Prerequisites: None

Homework: Students can expect to spend 1 hour per week.

Class Materials: Internet access
A three-ring binder
Notebook paper
Writing utensils

No textbook required
The supply fee of \$30 allows the instructor to provide resources and materials.

Payment Options:

1. Full tuition of \$450.00 due at time of registration.
2. Semester tuition of \$225 due at time of registration and second semester payment of \$225 due by January 15th
3. Monthly payments of \$50. First month is due at time of registration. Subsequent monthly payments of \$50 on 9/1, 10/1, 11/1, 12/1, 1/1, 2/1, 3/1, 4/1. No tuition is due in May.

Creative Problem Solving

Teacher: Mary Arme

Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

Class Schedule: Thursdays Only

Class Time: 1:00 – 2:30 pm

Duration: 1.5 hours per week, 32 wks

Fee(s): **Full Tuition** **Supply Fee**

\$603.00 \$30

Description: Learn to redefine the problems and opportunities that you encounter, generate ideas using divergent thinking techniques, and build a portfolio of soft skills that are relevant to success in work, school, and life!

Loosely based on the concepts of the Odyssey of the Mind program, this class is designed to help give students the tools to transform their inner creativity into solutions for the types of problems and opportunities encountered in real life. Class members will work in groups in class to solve quick spontaneous problems as well as more detailed long-term problems. Through fun puzzles and challenges, we will explore creative problem solving and divergent thinking techniques, learn about convergent thinking processes and idea evaluation methods, and build important skills, such as teamwork, communication, problem solving, time management, and more.

We will work on developing/enhancing the following skills:

- Defining a problem/opportunity (e.g. determining objectives, framing criteria, etc.)
- Idea generation techniques (e.g. brainstorming, SCAMPER, reverse thinking, etc.)
- Idea analysis techniques (e.g. checklists, decision matrix, paired comparison, etc.)
- Creative methods (e.g. observation, making connections, thinking hats, etc.)
- Teamwork (e.g. collaboration, adaptation, “yes and...”, group communication, etc.)
- Project management and time management

Prerequisites: None

Homework: None

Class Materials: No textbook required
Supply fee of \$30 allows the instructor to provide resources.

Payment Options:

1. Full tuition of \$603.00 due at time of registration.
2. Semester tuition of \$302 due at time of registration and second semester payment of \$302 due by January 15th
3. Monthly payments of \$67. First month is due at time of registration. Subsequent monthly payments of \$67 on 9/1, 10/1, 11/1, 12/1, 1/1, 2/1, 3/1, 4/1. No tuition is due in May.

Fall Improv (Thursday)

Teacher: Valarie Atwood (Arts & Minds)

Grades: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12

Class Schedule: Thursday Only

Class Time: 2:45 - 4:00 pm

Duration: 1.25 hour per week, 16 wks

Fee(s):

Full Tuition

Supply Fee

\$300.00

\$30

Description:

This class will meet for the Fall semester and may continue in the Spring.

This class can serve as a high school elective.

Act without preparation, practice flexibility, react creatively and learn off-the-top-of-your-head techniques. We improvise every day. Plans change without warning, requiring us to be spontaneous problem solvers. Working within boundaries while still generating lots of ideas and having fun, students will gain the ability to tap into their creative potential, building self-confidence and developing skills that can be utilized for a lifetime.

Students will showcase their newly found skills at the end of this class for family and friends.

Performance Date: Dec. 13, 2018

Performance Time: 6:30pm – 7:30pm

Location: The Stage Door (2637 Summit Ave., Suite 305 Plano, Tx 75074)

Prerequisites:

None

Homework:

None

Class Materials:

The supply fee of \$30 allows the instructor to provide resources and materials.

Payment Options:

1. Full tuition of \$300.00 due at time of Fall registration, since this is only a Fall semester class.
 2. Monthly payments of \$75. First month is due at time of registration. Subsequent monthly payments of \$75 on 9/1, 10/1, 11/1. No tuition is due in December.
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