

Prairie Middle School Access Course Catalog 2016-2017 (New Students)

Dear Prairie Students and Parents,

Access is a daily 45-minute class that provides either support or enrichment opportunities for our students. **Students will have the option of selecting 1 year long, 2 semester, 4 quarter or a combination of 1 semester/2 quarter long classes.**

We will do our best to honor your prioritized choices but acknowledge that some classes may have more student interest than allocated seats. Students who are identified as needing additional support in the areas of math and/or Language Arts will be placed in ACCESS intervention courses.

After reading through the course descriptions below, mark your choices on the back of your registration card. Please direct any additional questions to your counselor.

QUARTER CLASSES

A Better World One Step at a Time: One of Major League Baseball's hardest throwing and fastball pitchers, Bob Feller, of the 1948 World Champion Cleveland Indians once said, "I try to be a good human being and keep up with what's going on in the world by reading and staying in touch with the current events." How well do you stay informed of the issues, vocabulary, and actions that are shaping our world on a daily basis? In this Access class, we will watch Prairie Network News (PNN), CNN Student News, and examine other stories through the internet and print media that report the events of the day. Come learn, share and experience current events that make A BETTER WORLD - ONE STEP AT A TIME.

Art History /Appreciation: Art history is an arts based literacy class that is teacher guided. This is not a drawing or painting class. Students will do research about a variety of different eras in art, and movements in art. Students will keep a digital portfolio of their research. Finally students will create their own piece of art that shows influences from other artists they have learned about.

Creative Writing Through Story Boarding: Do you love to read comic books? Did you ever wonder how those stories are created? In Creative Writing Through Story Boarding you will learn all the necessary tools for not only telling great stories, but for doing so in the comics medium.

Current World Events: This class is designed to engage students in 21st century thinking. Reading materials are non-fiction including newspapers, upfront events and Scholastic Magazine. We will create projects that look at world events in real time and demonstrate that even though our students cannot control world events, they can understand that they are influenced by these events.

Engineering Our World: Do you, or did you, enjoy playing with Legos? Lincoln Logs? Building forts? Then you will be interested in Civil Engineering. Engineering is the science concerned with applying scientific knowledge to practical use. Doesn't mean much to you? How about this? Engineering is what people use in order to build just about anything, and then test it to see how well it works. In Engineering Our World, we will be working in the area called Civil Engineering which deals with city planning and building. We will learn how to build a better bridge and possibly other buildings to see what makes the best design and why.

Prairie Middle School Access Course Catalog 2016-2017 (New Students)

Everyone Has a Story: Everyone loves a great story! Storytelling is the sharing of events in words, images and gestures. This can be done in an oral tradition or in writing. The stories can be made exciting by improvisation and embellishment. Stories, also known as narratives, have been part of every culture as a way of connecting and educating people. Storytelling is powerful in preserving ways of life, teaching values and remembering special moments. Our goal in this class is to develop, create, and share wonderful stories with Prairie teammates and the community.

Great Mysteries of Science: Have you ever wanted to design your own science experiment? Or maybe perform chemical reactions in a lab like a real scientist? Then you should come take this class! We will do lots of fun experiments and engineering type projects covering a wide variety of areas of science, while making scientific discoveries. Have fun learning about science through the art of experimenting and engineering.

Healthy Habits: There are many things that humans can do to make them feel better, healthier, and stronger. This class explores ways that you can help your body feel better by exploring topics such as diet, muscle function and building, injury care and prevention, and how sleep affects your body. Take this class to better understand your body and how it works best.

Money, Money, Money: Have you ever wondered how the economy works, and what the stock market is? Do you know what it means to invest and maintain a budget? If you would like to have these questions answered, as well as, to develop a better understanding of how to use money wisely, this is the class for you.

Puzzled: Through critical thinking, students will solve puzzles such as Sudoku, Kakuro, and other number puzzles. Logic and reasoning will be the central focus of the class. A final project will be incorporated where students will create their own puzzle for others to solve.

Science Busters: Ever wanted to launch an egg 300 feet into the air with just a 2 liter bottle? Build a bridge with toothpicks to support 100 text books? Build a car out of a mouse trap or learn a little bit about Quantum Mechanics? Learn about the things that are falling down on me, those heavy things you cannot see! Join us in Science Busters where you will explore the laws of physics in a fun and interesting way through the engineering process of designing, creating, and testing your projects.

Tech Computer Foundations: This course is designed to help you master the basics of computers and technology apps! We will cover everything from basic typing skills, keyboard controls and formatting, how to make an awesome slideshow presentation with photos, videos and animations. These skills will help you all through your middle school, high school and college career and also in your future jobs.

Things That Make You Go Hmmm...: Within this quarter class students will examine various domestic issues facing the United States. Students will research a specific domestic issue and create a presentation giving in-depth coverage and personal analysis of the issue. Students will complete two projects within the quarter.

World Cultures: Do you speak another language and/or love learning about different cultures? In this course we will discover a variety of cultures through food, music, games, language, and media/film. Let this course be your passport as you journey around the world and explore different perspectives of the world.

Prairie Middle School Access Course Catalog 2016-2017 (New Students)

SEMESTER CLASSES

Comparative Anatomy: Have you ever wondered why some animals look so “human”? What about why researchers sometimes use animals as models to make medicines for humans to use? If you are interested in learning more about your body and the bodies of other animals, including what a heart looks like and a brain...maybe this class is for you! In this class, you will have the opportunity to dissect a fetal pig, study its organs, and get to know how they work and how animal bodies are similar to and different from our bodies.

Designing Our World: Have you ever wanted to design a poster for your favorite band? Have you ever looked at your favorite book and thought that you could create a better cover? If so, then Designing Our World is the Access class for you! We will look at and learn about Graphic Design and its important role in our world. We will learn design techniques to creatively communicate ideas to the world!

Fitness through Academics: Every student will increase their fitness levels and reading levels. They will do this by 20 minutes of reading and 20 minutes of fitness most of every Access class.

Nature’s Design: This course is a survey of the animal kingdom. We will look at the characteristics all animals share, how biologists classify animals, and how animals get food and escape predators

Robotics Engineering (Advanced Robotics): Are you ready to explore with a whole new kind of robot? In this class, we will expand on your knowledge of LEGO Mindstorms by upgrading to a new kind of robot: EV3. We will learn how to build different designs, program using a different kind of language and face off in all new challenges. If you enjoyed and excelled in robotics as an elective, this class is for you!

Science Marine Biology: The Ocean? We live in a landlocked state a mile high and a thousand miles from the ocean! How can we possibly be connected to the ocean? Take this class if you’ve ever been to, or wanted to go to the ocean. You’ll learn about how we are connected to this amazing world and its creatures, even from a mile high and how what we do impacts the ocean from all of these miles away. You will be a part of the Prairie Teens4Oceans (T4O) chapter and we’ll do as many T4O activities as possible. During the first quarter you will learn about the animals that live in the ocean and then do a research project on a marine animal of your choice. During the second quarter your learning will focus more on taking care of the ocean environment and your project will be based upon you choosing an area that interests you and then taking action to improve or protect it.

Web and Digital Design: This course introduces students to basic web design using HTML (Hypertext Markup Language) and CSS (Cascading Style Sheets). The course does not require any prior knowledge of HTML or web design. Throughout the course students are introduced to planning and designing effective web pages; implementing web pages by writing HTML and CSS code; enhancing web pages with the use of page layout techniques, text formatting, graphics, images, and multimedia; and producing functional, multi-page websites.

World History through Movies: Compare important events from exploration to the Civil War with “Hollywood History”. What did Hollywood get right?

Prairie Middle School Access Course Catalog 2016-2017 (New Students)

YEARLONG CLASS

Yearlong Arabic: Arabic 1 introduces students to the Arabic language and culture. This course is an introduction to the basic language skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. This course is for students who have not taken Arabic before. Students must take Arabic 1 at Prairie to be able to continue to Arabic 2.

**Prairie Middle School
Access Course Catalog
2016-2017 (New Students)**
