

R.E.A.L. Class Offerings

CSI: Students will learn crime scene analysis techniques like document analysis, fingerprinting, blood typing, chromatography, tire track evaluation, and footprint analysis. Students will attempt to identify unknown substances and fibers as well as tool marks and glass fractures. Students will meet with a crime lab scientist and local police.

Greening GPA: This class focuses on how students here at the Grosse Pointe Academy can help keep our school and community environmentally healthy. Students will tour Nextek Power Systems, a tech company that provides others with the power to save energy. They will meet with local scientists as well as our Building and Grounds Committee to determine the best ways to keep GPA environmentally friendly. Potential areas of study for a "greening GPA" plan include a master plan for preserving our trees, the potential for installing energy efficient ceiling fans in our classrooms, and opportunities for single-stream recycling. From there, they will develop a proposal and present it to the Building and Grounds Committee for possible implementation.

8 Mile Zone (8MZ): This journalism course will expose the students to different kinds of journalism -- written, television, and radio. Students will be introduced to the importance of solid journalism and some of its more basic techniques. Students will discuss journalism in the 21st century and learn about some of the more important times in history in which journalism played a major part. The class will culminate with a visit to WDET, our local public radio station, where the students will have the opportunity to see a working radio station in action and even participate in on-air interviews.

Moot Court: Students will learn the art of debate, rules of presenting arguments, rebuttal, problem-solving and impromptu response. They will debate their own issue and visit a live courthouse.

Travel to Techno: Students will explore music through technology. They will create and record their own "techno" music and have the opportunity to meet with professionals in the recording business.

Near-Space Explorations: Students will learn about lighter-than-air flight, radio and GPS technology, the near-space environment, scientific ballooning and its application to meteorology and other fields. Payloads will be designed and built in class, then launched on our own high-altitude balloon. Students will track the balloon as it soars to near-space and returns to earth by parachute. The class will culminate with a trip to the National Weather Service office in White Lake.

GPA Productions: Students will make individual public service announcements to raise awareness of an issue passionate to them and to display and share at school. They will write, film, and edit videos with the opportunity to publish their finished products. Students will visit Hudson Edit, a local Detroit production house, and meet with creative artists who make films and videos seen worldwide.

GPA Studios: Students will create short narrative films. They will write, film, and direct videos with the opportunity to publish their finished products. Students will visit Ringside Creative and meet with creative artists who make films and videos seen worldwide.

Build Your Brand: This is a REAL class where students will come up with a business or service they are interested in and create a website to promote this entrepreneurial adventure utilizing Weebly. We will start the class by taking a field trip to Airfoil, “A Holmes Report Tech Agency of The Year and an Advertising Age Best Place To Work.” Students will be learning how to market and keep their website current and maintain and spark interest in their product.

Cryptography: Students will learn how to send and receive secret messages using both historical and modern methods. Rotation and substitution ciphers, one-time pads, symmetric-key, public-key, and steganographic systems will all be explored. In addition, students will learn the basics of code-breaking with hands-on activities. A live video-conferencing session with a cryptographer from the U.S. intelligence community is planned as a final activity.

Intro. To Fabric Design: Students will develop skills and cultivate conceptual ideas related to the fibers medium, specifically pertaining to structural forms (such as clothing) and embellished or manipulated surfaces. Traditional and experimental materials will be used to explore such techniques in fabric dyeing, sewing, and weaving. A field trip will also be included in this REAL experience.

Graphic Arts: Students will learn about Graphic Design and have a chance to meet professionals who work within this creative process. Through a visit to the College For Creative Studies in Detroit, students will see how graphic designers use art, design, and technology to communicate something meaningful to others. This class will introduce students to the Adobe Creative Suite, which is the program they will use to build a portfolio of work. In this class, students will have the opportunity to focus on things like digital photography, editorial design, computer graphics, advertising design, and more!

Farm to Table: Students will plan the Middle School gardens, visit an urban organic farm, have lunch at a Farm to Table restaurant, take part in a cooking experience at a local market, and plan, create, and serve a Farm to Table lunch to guests with the proceeds benefiting a local charity.

Theme Park Design: Students will design and build a theme park or themed attraction. They will experience a live Skype session with a Disney Imagineer and visit themed environments in person. The designing and building process will include drawing, model building, and digital rendering.

Experiential Learning

Friendship Bracelets 101 String friendship bracelets are the original way to make fun accessories for yourself and your friends. a variety of patterns for friendship bracelets out of string. All you need is a positive attitude (and a little bit of patience).

Yoga build your strength, flexibility, positivity, and coordination through yoga. Learn how to breathe better, play visualization games, practice poses, and explore all of the wonderful ways things in nature work in harmony with one another.

Scrapbooking a great way to capture memories and create unique family and friend albums to keep and share!

Card Games: enhance your math, memorization, and strategic thinking skills: crazy eights, rummy, solitaire, golf, spoons, and 31

Walking Photography: take photos, edit using various graphic design tools, create community themed greeting cards and other photography products.

Pinterest: Let's see if we can turn some popsicle sticks into art. Truthfully, the possibilities are endless. Each week we will attempt to turn the ordinary into extraordinary. \

Spike Ball/Tennis The goal of this class is having fun while playing a competitive sport. We will focus on some basic strategies and also stress good sportsmanship.

Land/Environmental Art We will be going outside and creating art made from elements of nature: leaves, sticks, and rocks.

Classic Gaming Play a different classic video game each session: Pacman, Galaga, Paperboy, etc. There will be a daily high score leaderboard and overall champion. We will also discuss the history and development of each game.

Knitting Introduction to knitting is an experiential learning class that will give you the basics of knitting: cast on stitches, knit, purl, cable and follow beginner patterns. Fundamentals like gauge, needle size/type, and yarn care will also be taught.

Cardio Drumming: mixes **drumming** and full-body **cardio**. If you can keep a beat, enjoy music, and don't mind breaking a sweat, this is the class for you!

Electives Classes

The Arts:

Ceramics (*Trimester 1*) - This course introduces ceramics: forming and shaping clay using various methods; different glazing/decorating techniques, firing the clay, and how to safely use the kiln. in-depth look at the history behind ceramics.

Glee (*Trimester 2*) - This course is a performance-based class where students will have fun singing many different types of music; choreography and props into our performances; perform on and off campus.

Printmaking (*Trimester 3*) - This course introduces students to the contemporary term "Print Media." Monoprints, block printing, image transfers & screen printing. Project-based and give students an opportunity to practice art fundamentals while learning technical skills in printmaking.

Business Explorations:

Business Explorations (*Trimesters 1, 2, and 3*) - Introduce students to the world of business. Step-by-step process of starting and running a business: create a business plan project which will include all operations of running the GPA School Store, beginning accounting principles, marketing, and management & investment and personal finance instruction and project.

Life Skills:

Farm to Table (*Trimester 1*) - Utilize the GPA Garden Classroom, local organic markets, to prepare a wide variety of nutritious foods made from scratch. Cooking process.

Fashion and Fabrics (*Trimester 2*) - Fashion and Fabrics is designed to teach students beginning sewing skills, including hand and machine sewing. Students will choose and create a fashion project as a culminating experience in this course.

Foods and Nutrition (*Trimester 3*) - Foods and Nutrition is a course which will focus on creating healthy food options. Students will plan and plant an organic garden, demonstrate consumer skills, and discover the effects of making healthy food choices. The course will also focus on multicultural cuisines.

Technology Education:

Tech Ed (*Trimesters 1, 2, and 3*) - This course is designed to teach students all aspects of Google Suite, coding, app design, and other real world technological applications. Students will also create the program, Academy Weekly, discovering the process of filming, editing, and finalizing a video production which will highlight GPA current events.

