

TEACHING THE WHOLE CHILD WITH MMES "SPECIALS"

WELLNESS

Mr. Luke Boria is the MMES Wellness Teacher. His goal for the Wellness class is to educate all students and instill a passion for life-long learning and fitness. Students will take part in a variety of different team and individual fitness activities, as well as be challenged in their psychomotor, affective and cognitive domains. Students will be introduced to many fine and gross motor skills to help provide a base knowledge of a wide variety of activities, games, exercises and movements. The major goal here at Memorial is to keep students excited about their overall wellness and challenge them to seek different outlets within the community.

MUSIC

Ms. Fiona Dooley is the MMES Music Teacher and Choral Director. This year will be full of music-making for all of Memorial's students. Students of all ages will sing the songs they already love as well as songs that are new to them. We will use a Kodaly-based curriculum to improve students' sense of pitch and rhythm through singing, movement, and games. All students will play handheld percussion and begin to improvise. Students in 3rd grade and up will also play ukuleles, mallet instruments, and hand bells. At every level, students will place music in its cultural and historical context and use their imaginations to associate music with emotions and ideas. Fifth graders will use those imaginative skills to compose their own melodies. The goal of our music classroom is to instill a love of music in every student. So, finally, music class should be fun!

TECHNOLOGY

Mrs. Jenna Seymour is the MERSD Elementary Technology Teacher. The Technology Program utilizes 21st century skills to promote learning through technology. The goal of our program is to help our students become critical thinkers, effective problem solvers and creative collaborators. Through the use of technology in the technology lab and its integration throughout the school, our students have access to technology in all parts of their curriculum throughout any day. Mrs. Seymour is in the MMES Schoolhouse on M/Tu/W. On Thursdays and Fridays, Mrs. Seymour teaches Technology at Essex Elementary School.

Our technology curriculum includes:

- Learning about Digital Citizenship
- Computer Coding and Robotics
- Google Apps for Education: Google Classroom, Docs, Sheets, Slides
- Utilizing various multimedia production tools: Kidpix, Neighborhood Map Machine, Graph Club
- Gaming to promote learning: Math Blasters, Digital Passport, Cross Country USA
- Integrating multimedia apps into curriculum learning: Book Creator Coding Journals, Animal Chatterpix, Digital Author Study Books, American Revolution Green Screens, Digital Citizens Superhero Comics and more!

Check out https://caughtinthewebmersd.weebly.com/ for more information about Technology class and student work!

LIBRARY

Ms. Samantha Silag is the MERSD Elementary Library Teacher. The school library is a learner-laboratory that supports, extends and differentiates MERSD curriculum with the district-wide goal of developing future-ready graduates. The school library serves as the information hub in our school. Collaboration with all disciplines and full integration of technology is assumed as an integral part of our 21st Century Skills model. Specifically, our 21st Century Skills Curriculum Goals include:

Collection Development - Library materials support and extend the core curriculum; serve the needs and interests of students and staff; stimulate intellectual curiosity; and nurture a love of reading.

Research Skills - Developmentally appropriate, inquiry-based projects move students from guided practice to development of more independent information literacy skills including exploration of resources and ethical use of information.

Organizing Information - Pragmatic library instruction fosters the ability to identify, appreciate and pursue materials based on an understanding of the library's layout & organizational tenets — both physical and philosophical. **Cultural Proficiency** - Diverse cultures, social awareness, global experiences and points of view are introduced and represented via collection development practices, library lessons, storytelling and discussion. Social context and self-awareness are identified as key components of "cultural intelligence."

This year Ms. Silag splits her school days M-F between MMES and EES. Check out https://caughtinthewebmersd.weebly.com/library.html for more information about the Library program.

<u>VISUAL ARTS</u> <u>www.memorialschoolart.weebly.com</u> yutkinsc@mersd.org

Mrs. Claudette Yutkins is the MERSD Visual Arts Teacher for students in Pre-K to 5th grade. Her goal is to continue students' natural curiosity, expressiveness, and joy of creating while creatively instilling a life-long passion for learning both locally and globally. Students acquire age-appropriate skills in drawing, painting, printing, sculpture, etc. through the use of different media and through the basic elements of art and principles of design. Collaboration is a large part of the art curriculum with the classroom teachers as well as with the local museums. Each year a district-wide elementary Art Show takes place in the spring to celebrate the students' yearlong accomplishments.



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