

**PROGRAM DETAILS  
FOR  
STEAM EXCEL  
2016/2017**

**OVERVIEW OF PROGRAM**

School districts in Trumbull County recognize the importance of providing appropriate programming to those students identified as talented or showing a potential for talent in the visual and performing arts and technology. STEAM Excel is approved as an educational option by the participating school districts and by the Ohio Department of Education.

STEAM Excel is an integrated and interrelated program which provides advanced instruction in STEM and in the visual and performing arts. STEAM Excel balances experiential understanding through exploration and active participation while focusing on an understanding of aesthetics, history, criticism, logical reasoning, creativity and performance.

STEAM Excel provides instructional opportunities to students in Visual Arts, Vocal Music, Dance, Theatre, Coding and Lego Robotics beyond that which is provided in the regular school curriculum. Throughout the school year, this program meets on 15 Wednesdays during the school day and 1 evening for a performance/exhibit. Students may first attend STEAM Excel when they enter 5th grade.

Students are expected to maintain satisfactory grades in home school subjects. STEAM Excel personnel will work cooperatively with home school teachers and administrators to promote a successful learning situation for participating students. *Students participating in the program and their parents should be aware that students will be required to make up missed school work and maintain satisfactory grades. This may result in more time being spent on homework.*

**ELIGIBILITY**

- Students are required to display a high level of participation in *all* activities.
- Students should indicate a high interest in an expanded arts/technology curriculum.
- It is recommended, but not required, that students applying to STEAM Excel have already participated in STEAM Explore.
- Students must satisfactorily complete an audition/interview with STEAM Excel staff to aide in determining their major class selection.

**ACCEPTANCE**

- All new eligible students applying for the STEAM Excel 2016-2017 program must complete an audition/interview.
- Students will be accepted into the program on the basis of the audition/interview, application essay and openings available in the selected major. Please see separate audition flyer.

- Auditions will be held on Tuesday, September 6<sup>th</sup> at the TCESC. **For appointments, call Adrienne Mackey at 505-2800, ext. 136 no later than September 1, 2016.**
- Students from non-participating districts and/or home schooled students will be accepted on the basis of the audition/interview only when additional openings are available.

## **DAILY SCHEDULE**

Students will spend approximately 5 hours at each session of STEAM Excel. Each student will select one major area of study and one minor area of study. Three hours will be spent in the student's major area each week. Minor classes are scheduled for one hour each session. A lunch period of 30 minutes and a performance/sharing assembly rounds out the day's activities.

## **PROGRESS**

Students are expected to make maximum effort so that their talents can be clearly evaluated by artist/instructors. Progress in your area of study at STEAM Excel is affected by your participation. For this reason, **attendance is an important factor in the program.**

Parents and students are urged to contact the program administrator if they become concerned about home school grades. In many instances, this situation can be remedied so that the student does not have to withdraw from STEAM EXCEL.

## **INSTRUCTIONAL APPROACH**

Students in STEAM Excel learn about the arts and technology through active participation. The program emphasizes the students' role as an active learner.

The instruction emphasizes:

- **production** — the creating of things
- **perception** — using the senses to interpret things and form ideas
- **reflection** — evaluating and assessing the thinking and doing processes

Instruction is delivered through a thematic approach and includes multicultural components.

# COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

## VISUAL ART

### *Level I Major (grades 5 & 6)*

This course introduces students to the elements of art and principles of design as they relate to painting, drawing, printmaking, sculpture, and mixed media. Students will explore ways to communicate ideas in art in order to understand its history and role in society.

### *Level II Major (grades 7 & 8)*

This level emphasizes creative and critical thinking skills through a variety of approaches that will include drawing, painting, sculpting, fiber arts and mixed media. Student collaboration will be encouraged through real world artist experiences and discussions. The students will participate in lessons about art history, criticism and aesthetics. *Admission is based on recommendation by the instructor.*

### *Art Minors*

Drawing, painting, graphics, sculpture, and mixed media are introduced and explored. Emphasis is placed on developing a better understanding of art history and art in today's world.

## VOCAL MUSIC

### *Major*

This class introduces the vocal major to the fundamentals of vocal production, music theory and music history. Students will learn to read music as well as create their own compositions. Students will apply these skills to a variety of musical styles.

### *Music Minor*

Students will be introduced to the basic elements of music composition i.e. tempo, rhythm, melody, harmony, and dynamic expression. They will produce original compositions using available instrumentation i.e. voice, basic percussion instruments. This course does not require a student to play an instrument.

## DANCE

### *Major*

Students will receive instruction in a variety of dance techniques which include modern, jazz, ballet, and acrobatics (when equipment is available). Coordination, alignment, flexibility/strength, balance, rhythm, expression, musicality, and versatility will be emphasized. Elementary improvisation will play an important role to reinforce creativity, freedom of movement, and an awareness of the body in relation to space. Improvisation and composition will be introduced and explored through exercises that allow the student to understand the three components of choreography i.e. space, time, and energy. Dance will also be explored as an expression of history, heritage, and culture. Short movement studies will be developed and critiqued. *Admission is based on recommendation by the STEAM Excel instructor.*

### ***Minor***

Modern and jazz techniques will be introduced. Locomotor skills, rhythm, expression, and fluidity are emphasized in this class designed for the student *without* previous dance training. Improvisation and problem solving using choreographic techniques will give the student a broader understanding of contemporary dance.

## **DRAMA**

### ***Level I Major (grades 5 & 6)***

Students will explore creative writing, storytelling, audition process and the basic elements of drama (voice, movement, characterization, improvisation, pantomime). Students will learn to communicate through the use of proper diction, dramatic speech, and performance

### ***Level II Major (grades 7 & 8)***

This course will emphasize acting, directing, audition and performance process. Performances are integral to this course.

### ***Drama Minor***

Students will be introduced to the elements of pantomime, creative drama, and movement. Emphasis will be placed on creativity, expression, and cooperation. Students will be exposed to different forms of drama which may include readers' theater, improvisation, storytelling, and reading dramatic literature i.e., short stories, plays, poetry, etc.

## **STEM COURSES**

### ***Computer Coding***

Students will be introduced to the elements of computer coding. Coders are the architects and builders of the digital age. Coding, in the simplest of terms, is telling a computer what you want it to do, which involves typing in step-by-step commands for the computer to follow. Computers are not clever things, however they are very obedient. They will do exactly what you want them to do, so long as you tell them how to do it correctly. Learning to code has been likened to learning a foreign language, or perhaps more specifically a family of foreign languages. This course will incorporate both computer based and LEGO Robotics based applications to coding.

### ***STEM Minor***

Students will be introduced to aspects of the STEM major with a focus on SketchUp (formerly Google SketchUp), a 3D modeling computer program for a wide range of drawing applications such as architectural, interior design, civil and mechanical engineering, film, and video game design. SketchUp easily allows you to create 2D and 3D models from scratch or you can choose to download one of thousands of premade models from the 3D Warehouse. SketchUp is fun and intuitive and helps reinforce many real life math concepts.

## INSTRUCTORS

**STEAM Excel** instructors are recruited and selected on the basis of:

1. recommendations by the program consultant, the TCESC Director of Curriculum and Instruction, and program supervisors.
2. experience in teaching children at middle school grade level with an emphasis in arts/technology programming.
3. participation in staff development which outlines their responsibilities in instructional delivery.
4. performance/exhibition backgrounds in areas of expertise.
5. educational backgrounds.

NOTE: Some but not all artist instructors hold teaching certificates/licenses. Bachelors and Master's Degrees in the specialty areas are preferred.

## STUDENT INSTRUCTION FEES

The annual instructional fee is \$215. Payment is required by **September 30th** and is *nonrefundable*. A payment plan is available: \$100.00 by September 30<sup>th</sup>, \$65.00 by October 31<sup>st</sup>, and \$60.00 by November 30<sup>th</sup>. (A **\$10.00 administrative fee will be assessed for those choosing a payment plan.**) A limited amount of scholarship money is available through requested application.

**Students from non-participating school or home schooled students are required to pay an additional \$175.00, fee due before the student may attend the first STEAM Excel class. This helps to defray the building use and administration fees that are financially supported by the participating public schools.**

## ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS

Attendance at all STEAM Excel sessions is expected. Parents are contacted by the administrator whenever a student has 2 consecutive absences. Attendance is recorded each day and reported to the home schools. Please try to avoid scheduling appointments on scheduled STEAM Excel dates.

## TRANSPORTATION

Transportation for STEAM Excel is arranged by the individual school district when the school district is in session. **When the home school is not in session or does not provide a bus, transportation is the responsibility of the parent.**

Students will ride their district high school bus either to the Trumbull County Career & Technical Center or directly to STEAM Excel. Students whose districts attend TCTC will then be transported directly to STEAM Excel by shuttle bus. At the end of the day, transportation will be provided back to TCTC in order for students to make appropriate connections to their home school. Some districts provide separate transportation for STEAM Excel students. Parents may also transport their child to and from STEAM Excel.

## **PARENT CONFERENCES**

Parent/Teacher conferences are available upon request from 8:00 a.m. - 8:20 a.m. or 1:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. on scheduled STEAM Excel dates. Please call for an appointment.

## **STUDENT CONDUCT**

Student handbooks are mailed home and reviewed on the first day of instruction. Parents and students are asked to familiarize themselves with the contents.

## **LUNCH**

Students need to provide their own sack lunches and drinks on session dates. On selected dates, students may order pizza to purchase.

## **STUDENT PRODUCTION/EXHIBITIONS**

There will be opportunities for performances and exhibits provided throughout the school year in addition to the weekly performance period. Each student is expected to participate in performances and contribute to exhibitions.

When the evening production is planned, students may be expected to attend extra rehearsals. Parents will be responsible for transportation to and from rehearsals and productions.

## **WITHDRAWAL FROM STEAM EXCEL**

Withdrawal from STEAM Excel is carefully reviewed on an individual basis before returning the student to his/her regular home school schedule. Every effort is made to deal with student concerns. Once a student withdraws, he/she may not return during that school year and must audition for reentry.

## **ADMINISTRATION OF STEAM EXCEL**

STEAM Excel is coordinated by the Trumbull County Educational Service Center, Department of Curriculum & Instruction. The Gifted/Talented supervisor is present each session from 7:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. to coordinate the program's operation and monitor all instructional delivery.