

Senator Joyce Fairbairn Middle School

2025-2026 Grade 6 Options



General Information for Options:

- The school year is divided into 3 terms and each term has 2 option blocks. This means students could potentially have six different options each year.
- Band is a FULL YEAR option. This means Band will take up 3 of the 6 option blocks.
- Some options have a supplementary fee to cover material and supply costs.
- Students and parents should talk about which options to select ahead of time.

*All Grade 6 Students must choose one music and one arts option.

PLEASE NOTE: Every effort will be made to accommodate your choices, however, be advised that availability of options may change due to space restrictions, staffing changes, and demand. Choices are not guaranteed.



Information on Selecting Options

At Senator Joyce Fairbairn Middle School, we offer a wide variety of option courses. As a grade six student in Alberta, you are required to take one Music option and one Art option. Your remaining selections may be made from all options listed.

The following planning guide is designed to help you select your choices, while assuring you have met the requirements. The planning map has been designed to resemble the format and order in which you will be selecting your options online in PowerSchool. In addition, you will need to note that a few options are multi-term options meaning they occur for longer than one term.

What you need to know and do

1. Read through the attached information.
2. Make sure you have access to PowerSchool, either through the student or parent portal. Your school's administrative assistants can help you with this.

Reminders:

- This process does not prioritize preferred options, nor do we track who selects options or when. Once all selections are entered for all students, our software will populate as many students with their requested options as possible.
- Selecting more options than required is better than selecting fewer. It helps create flexibility if some options fill up before others.
- You will learn what options you will be taking in the fall when PowerSchool opens at the end of August



Step 1: Grade 6 students are required to take an Art option, so please make sure you select ONE of the Arts based options listed below when you are registering in PowerSchool.

Art _____ Art Exploration _____ Art Around the World _____

Culinary Art _____

Step 2: Grade 6 students are required to take a music-based option so please make sure that you select ONE of the Music based options listed below when registering in PowerSchool.

Band (3 terms) _____ Fine Arts Jam _____ Digital Design _____

Intro to Musical Theatre (term 2) _____

Step 3: Now you will be asked to select 3 to 6 additional option choices that you would be interested in taking. Even though you will only have a total of six option periods throughout the year, we will need to have some alternatives just in case.

- | | | |
|----------|-----------------|------------------|
| ♦ Drama | ♦ Active Living | ♦ Digital Design |
| ♦ Dance | ♦ Culinary Art | ♦ Book Club |
| ♦ STEM | ♦ Outdoor Ed | |
| ♦ Sewing | ♦ CTF | |



ACTIVE LIVING

We want to help you activate a passion for health and wellness! Active Living encourages students of all abilities to participate in educational experiences that promote and encourage lifelong active living for years to come. Through a variety of individual and group based physical activities, leadership opportunities, nutrition, and cultural connections – students will experience and develop healthy lifestyle habits.

ART

“Creativity is contagious, pass it on.” – Albert Einstein Come and explore the wonderful world of Art! As an artist, you make others see, think, and feel differently about the visual world around them. Here you will dabble in a variety of drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture, and fabric art techniques. If you love to create and design, this class is for you!

Course Fee: \$15.00 (supplies & materials)

ART AROUND THE WORLD

Discover your inner artist in *Art Exploration*, a creative journey designed for beginners eager to try it all. From drawing and painting to sculpture and mixed media, you'll experiment with a variety of materials and techniques. No experience needed—just a curiosity to create and express yourself. This hands-on course is the perfect place to build confidence and unleash your imagination!

Course Fee: \$15.00 (supplies & materials)

ART EXPLORATION

In this class, artists will create their own handmade sketchbooks and use them to explore and experiment with a variety of tools, techniques, and art media. As an artist, you will learn that skills practice is important in the development of artistic style. You will also use your knowledge to create a variety of finished artworks.

Course Fee: \$15.00 (supplies & materials)



BAND (3 Terms)

This class is designed for students who are either new to or continuing to learn how to play a band instrument. No prior musical experience is necessary—just the will and desire to play an instrument! The instruments offered include Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone (Alto/Tenor), Trumpet, Trombone, Baritone, Tuba, and Percussion.

Students will have the opportunity to perform in public concerts during the year.

Course Fee: \$40, which includes a method book, a folder for the year, and a startup music clinic fee at the beginning of the school year.

Additional Costs:

- Most students will privately rent instruments such as flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, or trombone from a local music store.
- Percussion, bass guitar, and larger wind instruments (e.g., baritone, tuba) are rented from the school for a fee of \$65.

Important Note: Students playing instruments larger than an alto saxophone (e.g., tenor saxophone, baritone, tuba) will need to arrange personal transportation for their instrument, as these cannot be transported on school buses. This will ensure they can practice at home.

Full Year Commitment: Band is a full-year option. Students may take band along with an additional option of their choosing each term. Once enrolled in band, students are expected to remain in the class for the full year.

BOOK CLUB

Find your fellow book lovers here! This option will support multiple book clubs as they choose texts from our extensive collection, set a reading schedule, and develop their literacy, self-advocacy, and decision-making skills.



CTF- INDUSTRIAL ARTS

Industrial Arts (shop) fosters student interest in woodworking and hands-on learning. Students will design and build projects while improving their measuring skills, exploring other trades, working as a team, and learning the safe use of tools and machines. Creativity and problem-solving are emphasized throughout, helping students gain confidence, responsibility, and practical skills that prepare them for future trades and everyday life.

Course Fee \$30.00 (supplies & materials)

CULINARY ART

Like food? Want to learn how to make food? This option will introduce you to all things culinary. Students will work in groups to create culinary delights and complete assignments to gain knowledge about kitchen safety, nutrition, simple meal planning, and food preparation techniques. Additionally, students will look at design and artistic aspects in the culinary world. Students will have the opportunity to design and create layouts, menus, and interior/ exterior design for the food industry. By the end of this option, you will be “bacon” to be in the kitchen and have a greater understanding of the role food plays in our world!

Course Fee \$30.00 (supplies & materials)

DIGITAL DESIGN

Welcome to Digital Design, where imagination meets technology! Led by Mr. Miller, this class invites Grade 6 students to explore the exciting world of design elements using their laptops as creative tools. Through hands-on projects and interactive learning experiences, students will delve into three captivating areas of digital design: E-Music, Minecraft Education, and 3-D Printing. In the E-Music module, students will dive into the realm of digital sound creation, learning the fundamentals of music production and composition using software and digital instruments. In the Minecraft Education segment, students will embark on an educational adventure like no other, using the popular game platform as a canvas for creativity and learning. Finally, in the 3-D Printing module, students will discover the fascinating realm of three-dimensional design and fabrication. Digital Design offers an innovative and dynamic learning experience that empowers students to unleash their creativity, develop critical thinking skills, and explore the boundless possibilities of digital design.

Course Fee: \$20 technological upkeep and purchase of 3D printing materials.



DRAMA

Drama is all about creating and expressing, whether that is through a character or just an exaggeration of oneself. This introductory option will have students learning the basic skills needed to begin a flowering career in the dramatic arts. They will learn elements of acting, movement, stage design, theatre history, and be given multiple opportunities to create and explore. There will also be opportunities to perform in front of an audience of fellow students within this class, to further gain the experiences needed to be a well-rounded thespian.

FINE ARTS JAM

Welcome to Fine Arts Jam, where creativity knows no bounds! This class is designed to introduce Grade 6 students to the vibrant world of musical and performative fine arts. Led by the dynamic duo of Mr. Miller and Mr. Harmon, Fine Arts Jam aims to ignite a passion for artistic expression through a diverse array of mediums. Students will embark on an exciting journey exploring percussion, guitar, physical theatre, improv, acting, puppetry, and more. Through hands-on experiences and collaborative projects, participants will uncover the joy of artistic creation while honing their skills and building confidence in their abilities. Fine Arts Jam is more than just a class; it's a celebration of imagination and creativity. By fostering a supportive and inclusive environment, Mr. Miller and Mr. Harmon aim to inspire students to embrace their artistic talents and discover the endless possibilities within the world of fine arts. Join us as we jam, create, and embark on a transformative artistic adventure!

INTRO TO MUSICAL THEATRE

"In the world of acting it's great to be what's known as a triple threat; singer, dancer and actor. Musical Theatre helps build those triple threat skills. This class will be working on the elements needed to put on a musical production, as well as preparing an audition for one. Students will then be taking part as the chorus (meaning they are involved in the large singing, and dance numbers) for the SJF Spring Musical, as well as preparing a short scene to be used as the pre-show for the production. This class has a performance expectation, whether it be on stage or behind the scenes. Performance dates will be announced later. An option fee of \$20 is attributed to this class so that all cast members can receive a t-shirt commemorating our performance."

Course Fee: \$15 is attributed to this class so that all cast members can receive a t-shirt commemorating our performance."



SEWING

Learn about the world of fashion, fabric, and design! In this option, students will gain basic hand sewing and machine sewing skills while learning how to work with different fabrics, follow pattern instructions, sew basic stitches, and explore garment design

Course Fee: \$20.00 includes consumables such as iron-on adhesive, poly-fill stuffing, thread and fabric used for teaching/practice purposes in addition to their personal projects that they take home, classroom-provided supplies (students do not have to purchase their own tools if finances are a barrier as I have a classroom supply of scissors, seam rippers, measuring tapes, pins, etc,)

STEM

Innovation and creation, that's what STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) is all about. Come help us build, explore, and learn through a plethora of project-based experiments and experiences. Seventy-five percent of jobs in the fastest growing industries require workers with STEM skills. Not only will you learn to solve problems and expand your creativity; you will have a ton of fun learning to code, create a box arcade, and design a business (the food truck comes to visit). In STEM we make the coolest things.

Course Fee: \$10 for materials.

OUTDOOR EDUCATION

Outdoor Education is a student-centered program designed to enhance the participant's knowledge and skill in an outdoor setting, while prompting growth in student learning ability, self-confidence, and self-discipline. This activity centered course will help forge personal connections between course content and future career opportunities through unique challenges, discussions, and exposure to lifelong hobbies.

Course Fee: \$30.00 The course fee for Outdoor Education falls in three streams. Maintenance of equipment (Archery, Disc Golf and fly fishing). Field trips (Bussing, facility entrance fees). Classroom supplies (Paracord, Survival shelters and fire starting).