



KELLY STEAM
Magnet Middle School

UNIFIED ARTS

NEWSLETTER

Winter 2019

Coding & Robotics

Hello families,

Mr. Mackie here, teaching your students to be computer coders, and engineers. The course is designed for beginners who are learning to code by creating programs in Scratch. You can see some of their work now if you ask your child to sign in to

<https://scratch.mit.edu/>. Students will eventually be able to design games or an animation project.

Students are also able to use their hands to build; using mBots, Lego Mindstorms, or littleBits. The mBots are robots that students build with a partner and program to move about the room, light up, play music, and avoid obstacles in block coding similar to that in Scratch.



Littlebits are small circuit boards that students can snap together to have them do specific tasks like lighting up, making sound, using the inputs and outputs, or coding an LED display to make a picture.



Lastly, students will be able to do some 3-D designing in a CAD program called TinkerCAD. Toward the end of the course you can see your child's 3-D designs in <https://www.tinkercad.com/>. I look forward to working with your child!

Music Technology

In Music Technology students are using Digital Audio Workstations to create original compositions and remixes of popular songs. We will be learning how to create movie soundtracks, record our voices and change them with special effects, and use MIDI pianos to enhance our songs.

Check out these websites if you want to work on your music technology skills at home:

soundation.com

looplabs.com

ujam-studio.com

splice.com/sounds/beatmaker

drumbot.com/projects/sequence/

KSMMS BAND

Our Kelly STEAM Band students have been working hard in class preparing for our Winter Concert.

WINTER CONCERT
Wednesday, January 23rd
6:00 P.M.

Please be on the look-out for details that will be coming home with band students.

Students should be bringing their instruments home and practicing at least sixty minutes a week. You can access practicing resources and extra band activities on my website, which can be found under the Norwich Public Schools staff directory.



PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Throughout the winter months in physical education, the students will have the opportunity to choose between pickleball, volleyball, badminton, team handball, and working out in the fitness room. In addition, the students will be taking the fitness test after the holiday break to check for growth and progress.

The students have been working on their core body and muscular strength and endurance at the beginning of every class during the warm-ups.

Students will be starting to learn health concepts during physical education class. There will be a variety of informative and active lessons centered around middle school health required by the state which will be appropriate for each grade level.

As a friendly reminder, it is a requirement for students to be prepared for class by changing out of their school uniform and into appropriate physical education attire. If you have any questions about anything always feel free to contact us via email or phone @ 860.823.4211.

FINE ARTS

Students in 6th grade have been learning about the process of traditional mosaic making. Students are creating their own mosaic landscapes using painted papers, glue and construction paper. Student will soon be learning about Greek clay pots and the process of how to make them using the coil technique. Did you know that the line separating the ground and the sky, is the horizon line?

Seventh grade students are learning about perspective and how to draw things that look real. Students are using proportion, size, and scale to create realistic drawings. Students have the choice to choose between drawing their name, a city, a bedroom, or the classroom. To become better at drawing from life, practice drawing different spaces and rooms. Your own bedroom is a great space to practice drawing.

Eighth grade students are completing a color wheel. Students have chosen an image to draw inside their color wheel. Students are to color the color wheel in the correct order. The purpose of this lesson is for students to understand colors and how to mix them to create other colors. This skill can be used to create realistic drawings or paintings.



MEDIA ARTS

Students in Media Arts are involved in a variety of digital art making projects. Expect your 6th grade students to learn how to create a digital drawing in the digital drawing program Krita. Ask your student how they created their Superhero drawing to learn more about this cool program. Sixth graders are also finishing up their photography unit where they learned how to use basic functions on an advanced point & shoot camera and how to do basic edits in Adobe Photoshop Elements.

Seventh graders are finishing up their photography unit as well. Ask them about their funny face composite :) You will sure get a kick out of these images! After winter break, students will be learning about animation and will create a basic animation using Google Slides.

8A students are finishing their stop motion animations. The Kelly Photo Studio was busy with all kinds of sets the students were creating for their animations. 8B students are finishing up their poster designs or album cover designs. Students learned some basic graphic design concepts to help them create their own work.

Ask your student to show you their digital portfolio to see what they have been up to.

Programs we use in class that can be accessed at home:

Online programs= Piskelapp.com, Pixilart.com, Tinkercad.com, Weavesilk.com

Downloadable programs= Krita (by donation), Photoshop Elements (\$\$)

Drama

In KSMMS' introduction to theater class, students have been using various creative drama techniques such as improvisational games, movement and vocal activities, as well as character and scene studies, to learn the foundations of acting, build confidence and concentration, stimulate imagination, and establish ensemble. Students are showcasing their learning as well as practicing audience etiquette through participating in and watching group performances.

