



# The Leelanau School Course Catalog 2024-2025

## Graduation Requirements

To graduate from The Leelanau School, students are required to complete a minimum number of semester credits in core and elective content areas. In addition, students are required to take 2 semester credits of coursework during Winter Term, 2 semester credits of Activities (8th Hour), and 2 semester credits of Learning Skills each year of attendance.

<i>English</i>	8 Semester credits	<i>Science</i>	6 semester credits
<i>History</i>	6 semester credits	<i>Math</i>	6 semester credits, 2 of which must be Algebra 2
<i>World Languages</i>	4 semester credits	<i>Fine Arts</i>	4 semester credits
<i>Government</i>	1 semester credit	<i>Senior Seminar</i>	1 semester credit
<i>Elective Courses</i>	6 semester credits	<i>Health/PE</i>	2 semester credits
<i>8th Hour</i>	2 semester credits each year enrolled		
<i>Winter Term</i>	2 semester credits each year enrolled		
<i>Learning Skills</i>	2 semester credits each year enrolled		

## Honors Courses

Students who have demonstrated a readiness for greater curricular depth and challenge may choose to or be recommended for Honors designation in one or more courses. These courses are weighted (0.3). Students who have attended Leelanau for at least one term and have established a strong academic record are eligible to advocate for Honors designation.

Honors Designation Process:

1. Student advocates for Honors designation or accepts a teacher's recommendation.
2. The student's past performance is considered by the teacher, department chair, and provost.  
If the Honors designation is recommended, then
3. Student, teacher, and department chair meet to determine benchmarks for honors work.
4. If the student meets all of the established benchmarks for the Honors curriculum, their course will receive Honors designation.

## The Humanities

The History and Literature courses offered in the Humanities Department are paired during the 9th, 10th, & 11th grades. Students are required to successfully complete 8 semester credits in English and 6 semester credits in history for graduation. Additionally, all students are required to complete one semester of American Government.

### 9th Grade

#### **Ancient World Literature**

What does it mean to be a hero? To live in community? To be a good person? What leads people to conflict and war? The stories we tell ourselves teach us about how to relate to each other, our world, and a higher power if we believe in one. In this class we will be studying the themes, values, and curiosities common to humankind in both the ancient past and today. Our ancestors were not so different from ourselves. They had the same hopes, fears, and questions we do and they thought about them through stories, just like we do. In this class we will be reading two epics from two very different cultures: *The Iliad* from ancient Greece and *The Mahabharata* from ancient India. We'll learn about heroes and choices and how things that seem foreign and long ago still have relevance for us today. We will reflect on themes like conflict and humanity, honor, leadership, tragedy, self-doubt, fear, community, love, and identity.

*This is a full year course worth 2 semester credits.*

#### **Ancient World History**

Is it important to study the history of the ancients? Do we have anything to learn from their discoveries and ideas? Yes! Students will explore these discoveries and ideas by looking at the events, the culture and societies beginning with the dawn of human life. Aligned with Literature of the Ancients, this course investigates the great civilizations of the past found in Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greece, Rome, China, India and the Americas.

*This is a full year course worth 2 semester credits.*

### 10th Grade

#### **Modern World Literature**

Aligned with The Creation of Modern World Civilizations in either chronology or theme, this course explores texts, both fiction and nonfiction, that shed light on the realities of some of the major events in world history during the past 500 years. We will not only study the motivations, conflicts, and choices of the characters in the literature we read, but we will also compare them to real world events and people. At the same time, students will be asked to question their own perceptions of reality, truth, and self awareness, thus maintaining a theme of personal relevance to the literature while also highlighting its connection to history. In addition to reading, writing, and discussing, students will study poetry, literary terms, and the Great Books Shared Inquiry Method.

*This is a full year course worth 2 semester credits.*

#### **Modern World Civilizations**

Aligned with Modern World Literature, this course explores important world events and interactions between cultures from 1500 to the present. In other words, we will explore how the modern world was created and why today's map looks the way it does. Students will gain awareness of how literature, art, music, philosophy, new inventions and ideas, and popular culture of the time period influence the present. At the same time, students are encouraged to develop their own opinions beyond the textbook by focusing on group work, projects, writing, class discussion, primary sources, personal research, and introspection. We will also keep up to date with current events by watching CNN 10 (daily news geared toward student interests) at the beginning of every class. *This is a full year course worth 2 semester credits.*

## **11th Grade**

### ***American Literature***

American Literature is as wide and varied as any other literature. Some of it explores distinctly American identities, some explores themes that people all over the world deal with in different ways. We'll be reading two works in the Fall semester – a play dealing with the aftermath of WWII, and a novel from the fantasy/historical fiction genre. Each of them gives us a different lens through which to view the world. This is also the semester that begins the Junior Thesis, a persuasive research paper that we will work on together throughout the semester. In the Spring semester we will really buckle down and finish the Junior Thesis, while continuing our literature studies in a parallel track. First, we will take a look at the ways stories shift from one culture to another by studying the migration of the Godzilla story from Japan to America and how American culture and politics molded the shape and meaning of the story. Our second unit will focus on the American Gothic and horror genres and explore the ways in which folk and fictional monsters reveal the deeper anxieties and fears of a society.

*This is a full year course worth 2 semester credits.*

### ***American History***

American History is a one-year course for students who are (or maybe aren't) interested in learning about, reading and writing about, thinking about, and discussing the history of the United States. It looks at history from the perspective of the other, while also studying the vast knowledge of the great thinkers of the last 500+ years. In this course, we read the words of those who lived the history and “get into their heads” so that students can relate to the past and feel a sense of interconnectedness with the people who came before us. Questioning basic assumptions of history is encouraged, and discussing and writing about these assumptions is required. Many tools are used to achieve these goals including quotes, books, movies, letters and diaries, student research, field trips, and of course, students' minds.

*This is a full year course worth 2 semester credits.*

## **12th Grade**

### ***The Search for Meaning***

In this course we will be studying different ways humans have attempted to understand and interact with the universe and each other. Incorporating history, science, philosophy, literature, and film, our overarching theme for the first semester will be the twin forces of destruction and rebirth. From the splitting of the atom to Hindu metaphysics, and from ancient Greek theater to modern Hollywood, we will look at how these two forces have shaped our world and our understanding of it. In the second semester we shift to studying personal identity and how it is both shaped and expressed through culture, story, and experience. We begin by looking at a coming of age story from the South Pacific, exploring the ways the intersections of myth, tradition, and modern society influence who we become. We then tackle extremism and fundamentalist ideologies. Our text for this section is the true story of two people initially on opposite sides of a hate inspired mass shooting who eventually come together. Along the way we grapple with questions about why people are attracted to extreme ideologies, the ways in which promises of identity and community call to people, and how some have overcome and healed from the destructive cycles extremism creates.

*This is a full year course worth 2 semester credits.*

## **American Government**

This class is a one-semester course, usually for twelfth graders. It will attempt to give the student an understanding of how the American political system works from the federal perspective, as well as from the perspective of political parties and voters. During the semester, students will be asked to think about the role of the United States in the world, what effective leadership looks like in government, and how they can show leadership, integrity, and courage in their own communities. Various methods will be used in class to learn and digest the information, including tests and quizzes, reading, writing, discussing, debating, presenting, role playing, working in small groups, and going on field trips.

*This is a 1 semester course worth 1 semester credit.*

## **Senior Seminar**

Senior Seminar consists of two components, the Senior Project and Senior Mysteries. Both are intended to show off your strengths and to challenge you as independent and creative learners. One of our goals is to support you in your growth in time management and organization of a long term project. The Senior Project will consist of a thesis paper and a product which you will complete in Senior Seminar. Another goal of this course is to plan, prepare, practice, and execute a formal presentation of your research and product. Senior Mysteries will involve various activities and assignments that will encourage your transition from a high school student to a self-directed, young adult. This class is an exercise in resilience, courage, and interconnectedness as students learn about themselves and their classmates in the final few months of their high school experience.

*This is a 1 semester course worth 1 semester credit.*

## **Humanities Electives**

These courses are offered on a rotating basis and may not be available every term.

## **Astronomy and Literature**

This class combines science and the humanities to discover how humans have sought to understand the cosmos and our place in it. Astronomy was the first science, and yet it is also one of the most fresh, with new discoveries being made all the time. It belongs to the family of sciences that tell us about who we are and how we got here. What it reveals adds to our understanding of evolution, biology, chemistry, and physics. But astronomy has also inspired storytellers, poets, religions, and philosophers. When we look up at the night sky, we cannot help but tell stories about what we see. Every culture has told stories about the stars, Sun, Moon, and planets, and humans haven't always drawn strict lines between categories of knowledge. In this class we will explore the intimate ties between the hard science of astronomy and the powerful world of story. Students will read modern science fiction, speculative literature, and ancient myth with an eye to how these stories have inspired and been inspired by our progressively complex understanding of the universe. Parallel to this literature, we will also be doing astronomy ourselves, using the observatory to examine planets, stars, nebulae, and galaxies, and doing experiments to understand how scientists from ancient Babylon to modern astronauts and the James Webb Telescope map and explore the heavens. By learning about astronomy and literature side by side, students will participate in two of the oldest and most moving of human endeavors: the attempt to understand and experience the awe and wonder of our universe.

*This is a 1 semester course worth 1 semester credit.*

## **Creative Writing**

This class is a hands-on exploration of creativity. We will practice writing in several different genres, including poetry, short stories, vignettes, and scripts or screenplays. We will also employ multiple techniques, such as surrealism games, dialect writing, stream of consciousness, world building, voice, and character development. Our units will include nature writing, writing the Other, ballads, and screenwriting. Students will begin to gather a portfolio of writing and will learn about opportunities for publication of their work. Students will also practice deadline management and independent self-disciplined writing.

*This is a one semester course worth 1 semester credit. A student can earn either an Arts or an English credit.*

## Mathematics

A minimum of 6 semester credits of college preparatory mathematics courses are required for Graduation. All students are required to purchase a TI-84 Graphing Calculator

### **Math Fundamentals**

This foundational math course is designed to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of essential mathematical concepts and skills. Through a combination of direct instruction and practical application, students will develop proficiency in arithmetic, pre-algebra skills, basic geometry, and data analysis. Emphasis will be placed on problem-solving techniques, critical thinking, and mathematical reasoning, empowering students to confidently tackle real-world challenges. This course aims to build a solid mathematical foundation for future academic and real-world endeavors.

*This is a full year course worth 2 semester credits.*

### **Algebra I**

Algebra is the branch of math that studies the properties of numbers and the rules that govern their interactions. Algebra class has students working with these rules to solve and graph equations, mostly in the abstract; applications (story problems) of algebra are shifted into the second year. This class focuses on establishing rules for number and operations properties, mathematical communication, expressions and equations; solving linear and nonlinear equations, systems of equations and inequalities. Graphical, tabular, analytical, and tactile (manipulatives) methods will be used to demonstrate these properties of rules.

*This is a full year course worth 2 semester credits.*

### **Geometry and Logic**

*Prerequisite: Algebra I*

Geometry and Logic is the study of the shape, size, and properties of movement and position in space. Logic is the study of formal and informal reasoning. The two are combined in this class to use geometry as a vehicle for developing formal and symbolic logical thinking, and to use logic as a way to evaluate spatial objects and relationships. Students will use both formal and informal geometric proofs as a way to communicate mathematical thinking, and they will develop a deeper understanding of the laws of geometric reasoning as a way to model real-world concepts of space and motion for the purpose of developing abstract reasoning.

*This is a full year course worth 2 semester credits.*

### **Algebra II**

*Prerequisite: Algebra I*

Algebra 2 is the last of the three required math courses for high school graduation. This course will extend the topics learned during the prior two courses, combining them to describe new ideas. Previous topics are raised to a new level of complexity. Students will be introduced to a variety of new types of functions. This course is taught with the SAT and ACT in mind. Since the majority of students will be taking this class in their Junior year, these tests are close to home. To that end the class will be taught with the goal of mastery of recognition and application of material. We will also become familiar with graphing calculators allowed on these tests. This class was formerly Functions, Statistics, and Modeling. We will continue to model topics with hands-on experience when possible. There will be periodic use and discussion of statistics to increase fluency helpful in real life. *This is a full year course worth 2 semester credits.*

### **Personal Finance**

*Prerequisites: Algebra I, Geometry and Algebra II*

This class is designed as a fourth year math option. It covers topics such as budgeting, credit, credit cards, stocks, and setting and fulfilling goals. It will explore software and technology that exist to aid in these pursuits. Both of these facets will pair to model standard and unexpected financial stresses and how to cope/plan for them. We will discover non-typical money making and saving ideas and compare different lifestyles based on income and their advantages and disadvantages. Students will also learn to utilize different math tools such as graphing calculators. *This is a full year course worth 2 semester credits.*

### **Trig/Pre-Calculus**

*Prerequisites: Algebra I, Geometry and Algebra II*

Pre-Calculus teaches students the more formal mathematics of functional algebraic manipulation and analysis in preparation for Calculus. Topics include polynomial, trigonometric, logarithmic and exponential functions, as well as statistics and limits. The Trigonometry portion of the class connects with what students have already learned in Geometry and Algebra. Sine and cosine functions are introduced and operated in a variety of ways. Students will be working on their own and in groups, both with and without technology, in order to gain a thorough fundamental understanding of the math that will be required for success in Calculus.

*This is a full year course worth 2 semester credits.*

### **Calculus**

*Prerequisites: Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II and Trig/Pre-Calculus*

This class covers the mathematics of change. The three main topics are limits, derivatives, and integrals. Students will work with these analytically, numerically, graphically, and verbally, showing how they both interrelate and apply to real world situations. In addition, students will be working on improving mathematical communication and modeling.

*This is a full year course worth 2 semester credits.*

## The Sciences

A minimum of 6 semester credits of Science courses are required for Graduation, 4 of which must be Lab or Field Sciences

### **Biology 1**

As an introduction to the sciences at Leelanau, the first year Biology course is designed to teach both content and skills. Learning how to think like a scientist and to communicate like a scientist is essential as students immerse themselves in studying the biology of the world around us. The first semester is spent studying the evolution, structure and function of plants. Second semester is dedicated to the study of vertebrates through comparisons in evolution, species identification and observation.

*This is a full year course worth 2 semester credits.*

### **Chemistry**

*Prerequisite: Biology 1*

This course emphasizes the relationship between the science of chemistry and the world the student encounters everyday. In doing so, they construct a greater understanding of the fundamental operations of the universe. The course begins by establishing students in the role of a scientist. On this foundation, observation, and discovery techniques are used to guide students through the content areas of atomic structure, characteristics of elements, formation of compounds, behaviors of chemical reactions, concepts of equilibrium, classification of organics, and a survey of the chemistry of nutrition and toxicology. Frequent hands-on activities assist the student in bridging the gap between the abstract world of atoms and molecules and the familiar world of ordinary substances, the environment, and health. As a science course, in addition to the focus on chemical processes, students will also learn to apply critical thinking to emerging issues in scientific discovery.

*This is a full year course worth 2 semester credits.*

### **Environmental Science and Sustainability**

*Prerequisite: Biology 1*

Environmental Science is a combination of Ecology (how ecosystems function, how nutrients cycle, who eats who, the interactions between biotic and abiotic factors, etc.) and how humans fit into the puzzle (introduction of invasive species, extraction of resources, GMO's, etc.). We will be creating our own textbook over the course of the year. As we visit different ecosystems around campus, we will be taking notes and asking questions about what we observe. We will choose some of those questions and design experiments around them. We will visit the ecosystems at different times of the year to observe some of the following: What lives there? Do the animals stay in the winter? What do the food chains look like? How much of this ecosystem is there? How have humans impacted? Why is this ecosystem important? What rare species live there? What defines this ecosystem?

*This is a full year course worth 2 semester credits.*

### **Physics**

*Prerequisites: Biology 1 & Chemistry*

Physics at Leelanau is a combination of hands-on experiences and small group activities. We use Hewitt's Conceptual physics to give students a strong understanding of the major concepts of physics without the major emphasis on math. We make sure that we cover all kinematics concepts but move through them fairly quickly to make sure that we get to topics that help students make connections with their lives and the concepts of the physics world. We use Conceptual physics not because math is de-emphasized but to emphasize students' connection to the world and to tap the knowledge they already have of their surroundings. Many students



enjoy this class not because it is easy, but because they can easily comprehend material they previously thought to be beyond their reach. Rather than using physics to teach math, we use it to serve a higher purpose; to teach students to think.

*This is a full year course worth 2 semester credits.*

## World Language

*A minimum of two years of a world language are required for graduation.*

### Spanish 1

Spanish 1 introduces students to the culture and language of the Spanish-speaking world. Students will acquire language by comprehending and processing language input in the form of listening and reading, and allowing speech and writing to emerge at the Novice to Intermediate levels (based on ACTFL- American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages descriptions), which is to say at the level of one-word or phrase-length utterances and then to the Intermediate level, which is to say beginning to use connected strings of sentences.

*This is a full year course worth 2 semester credits. There are no Prerequisites.*

### Spanish 2

Spanish 2 is designed for students to “go ahead” by reviewing and building upon material presented in Spanish 1. The spiraling format (returning to previous knowledge and adding more vocabulary and grammar) allows students to continue to improve accuracy and expand communication and written skills. Students will continue to acquire language by comprehending and processing language input in the form of listening and reading, and allowing speech and writing to emerge from Advanced Novice through Intermediate levels (based on ACTFL- American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages descriptions), which is to say at the level of phrase-length utterances and progressing through Intermediate levels, which is to say using connected strings of sentences.

*This is a full year course worth 2 semester credits. Prerequisite: Spanish 1*

### Spanish 3

Spanish 3 is a course designed for a student who wishes to continue their knowledge and understanding of Spanish language and culture from Spanish speaking countries. In Spanish 3, students will continue to develop communicative competence both orally and in writing. They will communicate on a variety of topics using more complex structures in Spanish and moving from concrete to more abstract concepts. The majority of class will be conducted in Spanish. A variety of mediums and technology will be used for cultural studies including film, music, art, dance, authentic internet sources and literature to enhance student interest. Themes are scaffolded throughout the year to increase student linguistic growth and confidence.

*This is a full year course worth 2 semester credits. Prerequisite: Spanish 1, 2*

### Advanced Spanish

Spanish 4/Advanced Spanish is a course intended for serious Spanish students who wish to improve the accuracy of their Spanish in all areas of language learning (listening, speaking, reading, and writing). Review of grammar will be interspersed with study of culture, literature, geography, and current events. The class will be conducted in Spanish. A variety of mediums and technology will be used for cultural studies including film, music, art, dance, authentic internet sources and literature to enhance student interest. Students will advance through the ACTFL (American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages) Advanced Proficiency Levels. Themes throughout the year are scaffolded to assure linguistic growth and confidence.

*This is a full year course worth 2 semester credits. Prerequisite: Spanish 1, 2, 3*

## The Arts

*A Minimum of 4 semester credits in the Arts is required for Graduation.*

### Visual Arts

*Visual Arts course fee: \$100*

#### **2D Art**

This course is designed to foster creativity and skill development in 2D Art. Through a variety of hands-on activities, students will engage in techniques such as drawing, painting, printing, and collage. Emphasis will be placed on understanding line, color, and composition, essential elements for creating impactful artwork. Students will also learn the basics of perspective and color theory, gaining valuable insights into how these principles enhance their artistic expression. Central to the course is cultivating observational skills and the ability to be present. Throughout the course, students will be encouraged to maintain a curious mindset as they experiment with new materials and methods. No previous experience is required—only a willingness and curiosity to explore and develop their artistic techniques.

*This is a semester-long course worth 1 semester credit.*

#### **Metals and Enameling I**

In this course, students will receive an introduction to basic metalsmithing skills and Vitreous Enamel techniques. Initially focusing on copper, with the option to progress to brass and silver, participants will learn Jewelers saw techniques for metal piercing, cold connection methods involving hammers and drilling, hard soldering with torches, and fundamental hammering skills for shaping metal. They will also use finishing techniques such as filing and sanding to refine their creations. Projects may range from jewelry to functional items and small sculptures, with a strong emphasis on color exploration in enamel. Students will explore enamel techniques including sgraffito, layering, graphite, etching, torch firing, and liquid enamel. As students gain confidence in both metals and enameling, they will work with more focus on design and composition. Students who enjoy working with tools, problem solving, and experimentation will enjoy this course. Those sensitive to noise will want to consider ear protection.

*This is a full year course worth 2 semester credits.*

#### **Metals and Enameling II**

Prerequisite: Metals and Enameling I

In this course, students will apply the skills and concepts of Metals and Enameling I at a deeper and more advanced level. Techniques such as Cloisonne, forging, and casting will be explored in addition to practicing the core techniques they have learned. In this advanced class, students are expected to draw on their own experience and inspiration for project ideas and will be given opportunities to guide the progression of their projects based on their own ideas and skill development. Students are expected to have a level of patience and independence in their working methods that will aid them in taking on more complex design challenges and give them the opportunity to develop a personal aesthetic.

*This is a full year course worth 2 semester credits.*

## **Ceramics**

This course combines the tactile experience of hand building and the precision of wheel throwing to explore the versatility of clay as a medium. Students will create both functional and sculptural forms through hand building and wheel throwing methods learning how to manipulate clay in a variety of ways. Emphasis will be placed on developing unique surface textures using the clay's natural propensity to take on impressions. Surface design will be a key focus, with students exploring various glazing techniques to enhance details and achieve various color effects across their creations. Projects will encourage experimentation and personal expression, offering opportunities to refine techniques and develop individual artistic styles. This course is designed for students comfortable with hands-on work and eager to embrace the messy, tactile nature of ceramics. Students with prior experience in wheel throwing will be able to continue to develop their skills on or off the wheel.

*This is a full year course worth 2 semester credits.*

## **Advanced Digital Photography**

Grab your camera and enjoy Michigan outdoors with your digital camera! Learn how to use your digital camera, become a more proficient photographer, and manually operate your camera to reproduce your mind's eye on the camera sensor. Students will create a thematic portfolio and publish it online. Advanced Digital Photography is a class designed for students who have a functional understanding of digital photography (capture and imaging) but wish to become more proficient in the technical aspects of digital photography capture and image output. We will be in the field most days, applying the concepts and techniques learned in class for the capture process in the following areas: action photography, night photography, astrophotography, still life photography, portrait photography, street photography, studio/product, landscape photography. Students in this class will learn image optimization via Adobe Photoshop Creative suite, and image management through Adobe Lightroom. Although we will have DSLR's available for students in this class, students are encouraged to have their own digital cameras so they can become more proficient with their own particular camera.

*This is a full year course worth 2 semester credits.*

## **Performing Arts**

### **Beginning Music**

This full year course is for the student that has never played the guitar before or has very limited knowledge of the guitar. We will be covering basic guitar skills including; reading chord charts, right hand strums in several different meters, reading basic tablature, playing and singing familiar songs and learning some of the basic vocabulary of music. Our text will be a collection of songs put together by Mrs. Hood, songs from the internet and YouTube videos. Students will also explore the context of the music they learn, and how musicians like Woody Guthrie, Bob Dylan and The Beatles have changed the course of folk and pop music. There will be informal performance opportunities for this class, including community gatherings and evening coffeehouses.

*This is a full year course worth 2 semester credits.*

### **Advanced Music**

*Prerequisite: Beginning Music*

This year long course is for the student that has taken Beginning Guitar, or who comes in with a solid background in the guitar. We will continue to learn chords in more difficult keys, read more advanced tablature, work with bar and movable chord forms, and begin to understand the entire neck of the guitar. We will also work with several different scales, lead guitar solos and more complex fingerpicking patterns. We will explore music of different traditions including; rock, blues, fingerstyle, traditional, and folk and students will gain the understanding of the vocabulary that is necessary to discuss these varying styles. Students will also have the opportunity to develop skills on other instruments, such as the bass, piano, ukulele and mandolin. There will be more opportunities for performance, such as our fall Arts Collaboration, Parents' Weekend, quiet period and Leelanau School coffeehouses.

*This is a full year course worth 2 semester credits.*

### **Ensemble**

*Students are eligible for this course by recommendation or audition only.*

Students interested in being a part of this Leelanau School performing ensemble must be recommended by Mrs. Hood, or have a solid background in music from their previous school. Students may be asked to audition to join this class. Mighty Snappy is a musical ensemble that plays music of many different styles; rock, jazz, folk, traditional and classical music. This ensemble typically includes a rhythm section, a wind and string section and several vocalists. Students will be working with standard notation, lead sheets, original music and the basic concepts in music theory. In this class, students work together to create arrangements of the chosen songs that will challenge and highlight each of the members of the ensemble. As a member of Mighty Snappy, students are expected to prepare music for performances and be positive ambassadors for the Leelanau School. Mighty Snappy has many opportunities for performance inside and outside of our school community; touring to schools in the area and playing for community events as well as performing for our Leelanau School gatherings.

*This is a full year course worth 2 semester credits.*

### **Music Theory**

Music theory is a one semester course designed for those who wish to continue their musical studies in college. This is a course to prepare our more serious musicians for the challenges of college music theory courses. We will be covering standard notation, scales, key signatures, rhythms, chords and harmonization. All of the concepts we cover will be played on the student's main instrument as well as on the piano. We will also be doing written work as well as using our composition software called Sibelius. Sight singing, ear training and rhythmic and melodic dictation are also part of this course.

*This is a 1 semester course worth 1 semester credit.*

### **Improvisational Theater**

This course introduces students to the art of improvisational theater, focusing on spontaneity, creativity, and teamwork. Students will develop fundamental skills in improvisation through a variety of exercises, games, and scene work. Emphasis will be placed on building confidence, listening and responding in the moment, and developing characters and narratives without scripts. Throughout the semester, students will explore different improv formats such as short-form games and long-form scenes, learning to think quickly, adapt to unexpected situations, and collaborate effectively with peers. Additionally, students will study the history and evolution of improvisational theater, examining its impact on contemporary comedy and theater. By the end of the course, students will have gained practical performance experience and a deeper appreciation for the art of improvisation. This course is open to all levels of experience and encourages creativity in a supportive and inclusive environment.

*This is a semester course worth 1 semester credit.*

### **Art Electives**

#### **Creative Writing**

This class is a hands-on exploration of creativity. We will practice writing in several different genres, including poetry, short stories, vignettes, and scripts or screenplays. We will also employ multiple techniques, such as surrealism games, dialect writing, stream of consciousness, world building, voice, and character development. Our units will include nature writing, writing the Other, ballads, and screenwriting. Students will begin to gather a portfolio of writing and will learn about opportunities for publication of their work. Students will also practice deadline management and independent self-disciplined writing.

*This is a one semester course worth 1 semester credit. A student can earn either an Arts or an English credit.*

#### **Senior Arts Portfolio - Independent Study**

*Seniors with the recommendation of Ms. Coleman and Ms. Dymond*

This course is for Seniors intending to pursue Visual Arts beyond graduation who are looking to prepare portfolios and develop what their mission as an artist is. Students must be prepared to build a body of work that is independently driven by their own interests, to engage in research and consider the bigger questions. As a class students will learn both how to present their work and critique each other using a common language to describe visual elements and styles. This course will include a writing and research component where students will create an Artist statement to set intentional goals about what they are trying to communicate and achieve through their artwork. Students will develop these ideas and be intentional throughout the design process in order to create a body of work that is comprehensive and professional. The research portion of the class will look at artists, current and throughout history to build an awareness of the context that they are creating work within as young artists.

*This is a full year course worth 2 semester credits.*

## Health and Wellness

### **Human Health and Physiology**

During this course, we will explore many dimensions of health and wellness, including mental health, physical fitness, relationships, nutrition, and mindsets, with a focused exploration on human anatomy as a foundational aspect. Through research, practice, exercise, and co-learning, students will delve into the intricate connections between these elements to cultivate a holistic understanding of personal well-being. Emphasis will be placed on how knowledge of human anatomy enhances physical fitness goals, mental resilience, and overall health strategies. In the spring semester, alongside our pursuit of holistic wellness, we will work towards finishing a local 5K as a culminating class project, applying our understanding of anatomy and wellness principles to practical, achievable fitness milestones. This course encourages students to integrate anatomy knowledge into everyday life practices, promoting lifelong habits that support healthy, balanced living.

*This is a full year course worth 2 semester credits.*

## Learning Skills

Learning Skills classes are designed to help students develop academic skills and strategies that will enhance their classes at Leelanau and prepare them for college. The learning specialists work closely with the classroom teachers and residential faculty to ensure that students are transferring their acquired skills into their subject based classrooms and residential houses. Learning skills classes are grouped by grade level in order to target specific, age appropriate skills and to allow the learning specialists to work as a team with those grade level teachers and residential faculty. Outside of whole group skills lessons, the learning specialists work with each of their individual students to develop their unique learning profiles as well as goals for academic and personal growth. They use class time each day to work with those students on their individual needs and goals.

*This is a full year course worth 2 semester credits.*