

SAMPLE - Quarter 1 Middle School X-Block Course Guide

1st X-Block

Guitar (combined with HS)	Learn guitar! All levels are welcome. Students will learn open chords and scales. Students will also play the guitar in a group setting and individually before a small audience. Instruction will be differentiated for multiple levels.
Yearbook (combined with HS)	Calling all photographers, journalists, historians, publishers, editors, artists and any other creative individuals that want to help us capture the memories of the 2022-2023 School Year! Students will use various skills including photography, journalism, editing, organization, and collaboration. Yearbook requires students that truly are dedicated - that means that <u>you need to be willing to dedicate a minimum of TWO QUARTERS to this X-Block option</u> , in order to help us stay organized and to help us meet our big deadlines throughout the year.
Flag Football (MS Only)	Down, set, HIKE! Fall is football season! Bring your speed and agility to this X-Block as we set out to learn how to throw, catch, defend, and most importantly, play as a team! We will divide into teams, practice together, and play each other on a weekly basis. Bring your "A" Game!
Treads (MS Only)	By tradition, Treads has been an X-Block for those who love to walk! This quarter, Treads 3.0 will be a combination of hiking the Rock on Fridays, lapping the school loop and listening to podcasts, stretching, and playing a weekly game of kickball. If you like to listen with headphones and track your miles, this is the class for you!
Improv (MS Only)	Play games and learn skills used in live theater in which the plot, characters and dialogue of a game, scene or story are made up in the moment.
Girls' Volleyball (MS Only)	Bump, Set, Spike! Whether you just want to learn volleyball skills, or want to be a part of some healthy competition, join us for this active block! We'll have lots of fun, while learning a thing or two in the process.
I Choose You! A Immersive Pokémon Course	In this course we will use the world of Pokémon to dive deeper into concepts of geography, biology, game design, and visual art. Throughout the course we will design our own, new Pokémon world map, design our own Pokémon (with evolutions), create our own Pokémon cards, learn how

(MS Only)	to play the card game, and analyze Pokémon video game development. We will also explore a bit of Japanese history and culture through our exploration of this fascinating world and will examine how these amazing little monsters took the world by storm.
Media and Society (8th grade ONLY; combined with HS)	In this course, we will explore the reciprocal relationship between our society and various media technologies (e.g. radio, film, TV, video games, etc.) over time. We will examine how different types of media transmit ideas and play a role in the way we think and behave, including how different media technologies are used by powerful entities for both good and ill—and what the future may hold. By the end of this course students will have a greater appreciation for the mediated world around them and better critical tools with which to navigate it.

2nd X-Block

Intro to Engineering (MS Only)	Love to build and tinker? Interested in crafting creative solutions to problems? Come explore problems and find creative ways to solve them.
Choir (MS Only)	Choir is open to all students regardless of musical experience or ability. In this class, students will learn the basic skills of singing and reading music, developing listening skills, and experiencing the interrelated nature of music with other cultures and content areas. Students will study a variety of musical styles: including gospel, musical theater, pop, and classical. While learning rehearsal and performance techniques, students analyze compositional elements in cultural and historical contexts. The class will be taught as a performing ensemble with daily rehearsals and students will learn multiple part music as part of a team in preparation for a formal performance/concert.
R³ Renaissance Raptor Runners (Cross Country)	Join the Renaissance Raptor Runners for some fun runs! Open to all runners, the RSS Run Club will help you develop speed, stamina, and mental toughness. We'll lay out a plan to get you to the start line and you can enjoy the spoils of victory, whether that is just crossing the finish line or earning a podium spot! Our training will take us around Castle Rock, including to Rock Park for our weekly "Run to the Rock." We'll have the opportunity to run as a cross country team in the South Metro Conference, if we have enough participants (a fee applies). Or, anyone can sign up for individual races as well! Lace up your shoes and let's get running!
Magic: The Gathering (Combined with HS)	This class will introduce new players to Magic: The Gathering and help seasoned spell-slingers take their skills to the next level while continuing to build the community that has made the game enduringly popular. Learn the basics! Experience different play formats! Develop expert strategies and, of course: "practice," with friends new and old!

Sewing Up Art and Science (Wearable Art/ E-Textiles) (MS Only)	Have you ever wanted to jazz up clothing? Wondered how they make shoes light up? It's called electronic textiles. We will be combining science and art to create soft sculptures that light up! You will be using elements of art & design, hand sewing techniques, and basic circuit designs, sewn with conductive thread and a fabric push button to turn on an LED light. Join us to take your art to the next level!
Stewardship and Student Aide (combined with HS) <i>Limited Availability, Teacher approval required</i>	This course offers an opportunity for a small crew of students to serve the Renaissance campus by maintaining the grounds, being responsible for stewardship in our spaces, and providing teachers with office support (copies, lamination, etc). Join this small crew!
Intro to Video Game Development (8th Grade ONLY - Combined with HS) <i>Limited availability: teacher approval required</i>	8th Grade Only <i>~Limited Availability: teacher approval required~</i> Do you enjoy video games? Have you ever wanted to learn how to create your own? If so, this is the X-Block for you! We will be learning the basics of coding as well as other software development processes that will give you a better understanding of what it could be like to do this sort of work as a profession. By the time you are done with this class, you will have the skills and knowledge to start creating your own web based 2D video games. As this class is only one quarter long, we will be packing as much information as we can into every class, so come prepared to learn a lot in a very short amount of time. Although you can use a Chromebook in this class, we will be installing software that may require you to add additional storage. If you have access to a PC or Mac, that would be preferred although it is not required. No prior coding experience is necessary, so come and join us and let's write some code together!

***Off-Campus X-Blocks**

With approval, students who are participating in a sport or activity at another school, which requires them to leave Renaissance before the end of the school day, may request an "non-Renaissance off-campus X-Block." Sports and activities are approved on a case-by-case basis. There must be an instructor or coach affiliated with the activity who can provide reliable grading and attendance information. Requests should be made using [this process](#).