Stage vs. Screen – Mrs. Moon
Compare and contrast the differences between a theatrical script versus the movie version. We will read scripts, view the films, and then possibly act and produce scenes from them depending on the number of people in the class. We may also explore the differences in auditioning for the stage versus the screen. Evaluate and discover what really works and is better: live stage or the movie screen.

The Play - Mrs. Moon
This is a complete production of a play from the audition process through performance: usually three evening and several school shows. The show is performed in March at Emerson School. All those in the class will receive a role(s) in the show. The elective requires after-school rehearsals for all involved, from 3:00-4:00, Monday through Friday. In addition, all participants will be required to attend longer rehearsals, which may last until 6:00 pm, for two weeks prior to the opening, when full runs of the show and tech rehearsals take place.

Students will receive a letter grade and homework, consisting of line memorization and character study work. There are costs for scripts and production items of your choice. The number of students is dependent on the script requirements.

The production this year is “My Fair Share of the Sun” You may read about the play on the Theatre Arts website: https://sites.google.com/a/emerson-school.org/theatre-arts/fall-play

The Philosophy of Dr. Who - Victoria Scott
In his travels across space and time, Dr. Who encounters a variety of alien races and sticky situations....but what do his encounters show us about important philosophical concepts? What is the nature of “good?” What is the nature of “evil?” Should history be changed? Is non-interference in history/time more helpful than harmful? Who should determine whether a race lives or dies? Using Dr. Who videos and discussion of what we see (with a little homework), we will explore these issues and more as portrayed in the 50-year-old Dr. Who series.

WEMS TV News - Carol Kelly
This elective will look at both the analysis of media texts, and how to put together our own pieces of media. Once the group has covered some basics of camera work and editing, we will establish a weekly news show to share throughout the middle school. It is possible to be one of the news hosts for WEMS without being in the elective.

Writers’ Workshop - Carol Kelly
Many Emerson students are keen writers, and there simply is not time to get all your ideas down on paper. This class will give you the chance to do just that. In addition, we will look at and discuss examples of great writing, different genres, and the purposes behind writing, whether it is for yourself or a wider audience. Plays, poems, stories, and nonfiction will all be looked at, and there will be many opportunities to work on your own interests. In addition, we will put together a book featuring excerpts from students’ writing.

Model UN - Beth Nazario
In Model UN, students step into the shoes of ambassadors from different countries to debate current global issues. While playing their roles as ambassadors, student "delegates" make speeches, prepare resolutions, negotiate with allies and adversaries, and problem solve— all in the interest of international cooperation. We will learn effective skills in research, public speaking, negotiation, and persuasion. We will study how the international community reacts to issues like peace and security, human rights, the environment, food and hunger, and economics. I promise memorable conversations and lively debate. With any luck, we will be able to attend a wonderful statewide Model UN conference with other area
middle schools at MSU on March 21st, 2015. Save that date! Please note March 21st is also the date of the Regional Science Olympiad tournament.

Yearbook - Sergei Lie & Mrs. Borton
In this, elective students will learn how to use Adobe InDesign, a digital camera and expand on their creative skills by making yearbook pages from scratch. Some experience with photography is helpful, but not mandatory, and students may use their own and/or borrow the school’s digital cameras. Some time out of class may be needed to work on pages and take photographs. Ad templates, sizes and costs for the yearbook are on our website www.emerson-school.org/yearbook

Ceramics – Mrs. Lamson
This elective focuses on techniques necessary to create pottery, including wheel throwing, slab building, extrusion, press mold, and a combination of these techniques. Learn how to throw a pot on the potters’ wheel, creating functional and nonfunctional ceramic pieces. We will use controllable low fire under glazes and traditional potters’ glazes. This class is for beginning, intermediate, or advanced students. This class will be graded but requires no homework. Maximum class size 12 and there is a $30.00 materials fee.

Painting and Drawing - Mrs. Lamson
Have you ever just wanted to paint and paint and paint? Or draw like a professional? Well then, this class is for you. Come and develop or improve your drawing and painting skills. Learn how to draw using pencil, charcoal, and colored pencil. Explore painting with watercolor, acrylic, oils, pastels, and mixed media collage compositions. Paint on canvas and various papers. There is a $20.00 materials fee.

Science Olympiad – Tim Wilson & Michael Wilson
Science Olympiad is a national science competition offered every year. Many schools in Michigan (including Greenhills, Slauson, Forsythe, Chelsea Beach Middle School, Saline, and many others) participate in this event. This is Emerson Middle School’s seventh year of competition in the Science Olympiad. By now, most students are well aware of the competition and the level of commitment that it takes to be a member of a team. If you have questions about Science Olympiad, please see one of the head coaches. By November, you should have already heard a lot about the Science Olympiad and expressed your interest. All those who would like to be on the Varsity team (mostly 7th and 8th graders) should definitely sign up for this elective. We encourage those who will be on junior varsity teams to sign up for the elective as well, particularly if you intend to earn the opportunity to be on the varsity team in the future. During this elective, you will learn as much as you can about your assigned events, and with the help of a coach/mentor, you will prepare for the competitions. This elective is an opportunity to work, not play. Please accept the challenge only if you intend to do your very best and to compete at a high level. Under those conditions, we would love to have you in the elective and on the team!!

Emerson School Newspaper- Madame Jeri
Let’s gather all the news around Emerson and publish our own newspaper. We will conduct interviews, research the facts behind stories, and investigate stories on and off campus. Story ideas will be generated by students and will cover all aspects of life at Emerson and beyond. Students will write and edit extensively. We hope to publish online and on paper. Let’s harness the great writing and great ideas around campus by publishing an outstanding student newspaper.

Middle School Band– Mrs. Borton
The Emerson Middle School Band is open to all 6th – 8th grade students with previous instrumental experience. Please contact Mrs. Borton if you are interested in becoming a new band member. Emphasis is placed on creating expressive music as an ensemble and improving as an individual to meet the demands of the music. Our ensemble focuses on finding our individual strengths and seeing the best in others. This elective is a full-year commitment. Students will receive a letter grade each trimester, being graded on participation at performances and keeping a record of practice time outside of class. Many of our students also receive individual instruction with a local
private lesson teacher. Emerson’s After School Program has a large number of instructors. Please contact Rose Hacker to make these arrangements. Students are given many performance opportunities, including the following: Solo & Ensemble Festival, All State Band, performances in small ensembles, and playing in a full orchestra. We also have many fun events throughout the year, including: Bowling Party, overnight Recognition Retreat in Frankenmuth, and marching at Cedar Point.

**Big Brothers/Big Sisters – Andy Zimmer**
Who is your role model? Would you like to be a role model for others? In this elective, you will be paired up with a lower school class (typically K-2). As a role model/mentor for that class, you will work within the normal schedule and support the teachers with the class. There is a great deal of personal responsibility and motivation required for this course. At times, we will meet as a class to discuss and reflect upon the experiences each mentor has had so far. This elective is open to 7th and 8th grade students only.

**Orchestra (Grades 6-8) – Ms. Capozzoli**
Become a stronger, more confident player! Deepen your friendships and your love of music! Just look at all of the wonderful things that you will do this year as a member of our orchestra crew.
* Enhance your note-reading skills with regular practice during the school day
* Study music theory, key signatures, complex rhythms, intervals, and chord structures
* Learn about the greatest composers and historical periods in music
* Develop various bow strokes and play in different performance styles
* Perform in small ensembles and build your leadership skills
* Participate in outside events such as Solo and Ensemble, the Practice Buddy Program, the Winter Workshop, and the Cedar Point trip
*This elective is a full-year commitment and you will receive a letter grade each trimester.

**Lego Robotics - Mr. Wood**
Explore the world of robotics and engineering using the LEGO NXT kit. In this elective you will learn about robotic programming, behaviors, systems, control, sensors, feedback, and more. We will design most of our bots around common themes and challenges, but there will be free building time as well. Maximum class size 12.

**Crochet Crafts - Leslie Capozzoli**
Come hang out with your friends and crochet the afternoon away! Whether you are a beginner or a pro, you are invited to the Crafting Cottage (also known as the Orchestra Portable) for music, singing, chatting, and crocheting! Groups of crafters have gathered like this for many moons, and it is fun to keep this tradition alive at Emerson. You can relax among friends, make gifts for those you love, and learn new stitches to take your crochet to the next level. Join us this winter and stay cozy with crochet! There is a $15 materials fee for this class.

**Academic Quiz Bowl - Bryan Seymour**
Have you ever wanted to play Jeopardy? Do you like participating in trivia games with your friends? In Quiz Bowl, we will play team-based academic quiz games with questions from a variety of subject areas. You will learn specific skills for successfully answering questions in these types of competitions and you will get plenty of practice in a game show style format. There are also three area-wide competitions from January through early March that we can compete in if we choose to do so!

**Lyrical Studies - Bryan Seymour**
If you love to listen to music and often think about the lyrics, not just the instrumentals, this is a class for you! We will listen to music, analyze the poetry of the song, and then research and discuss meaning within the lyrics with other like-minded classmates. Focusing on songs from yesterday and today that reference historical and cultural events, we will hopefully gain a higher level of appreciation for a wide variety of music.
Hungry History - Justyna Delaj
Food and History. If you have a taste for these topics individually, you will definitely love them as a combo. This elective will serve up all you ever wanted to know about food facts from the past and the true story behind some of your favorite foods. We will taste test our way through various topics including food fads, food fraud, the history of canned food, just to name a few. We’ll also get jiggly with it as we make our way to gelatins, discover how chocolate helped win the war, and identify once forbidden foods. Bring an appetite for knowledge!

Virtual Field Trips - Justyna Delaj
Do you have a passion for travel or experiencing new languages and cultures? Are you constantly dreaming about a foreign adventure? Come along as we travel the world from the comfort of Room 201. We’ll organize virtual field trips according to our travel interests and get lost in some of the most magnificent locales in the world. We’ll also put our tech skills to use and each create our own virtual experience for others. Get ready for departure!

Study Hall
This class will give students an opportunity to have additional time for completing assignments. If all work for the day is complete and there are no outstanding assignments, students will be expected to work quietly on something else, such as reading a good book. This will be a great time to get additional tutoring. Working on homework is a must!!

Road to Independence – Students are placed in this class with a teacher recommendation, parent request, or student request. Please contact Andy Zimmer at azimmer@emerson-school.org if you have any further questions.