# Media Lab, Grade 6 -- Stoller Middle School
## 2016-2017 School Year

**Teacher**
Mrs. Blattner

**Email Address:**
sarah_blattner@beaverton.k12.or.us

**Web Site:**
discoverplaycreate.edublogs.org

**Stoller Mission Statement**

Stoller Middle School is committed to promoting a safe, supportive learning community that fosters high academic achievement and lifelong learning.

**District Goal**

We empower all students to achieve post high school success

**Welcome to the 2016-2017 school year and to Media Lab 6!**  This will be a semester of creating, making, tinkering, and iterative prototyping.  Please use this syllabus as a guide for your child's learning journey in Media Lab 6.

**Academic Learning Targets (ALT) for Middle School Media Lab**
Learning Targets reflect what we will be learning and how I will evaluate your student's progress. These targets are consistent across the Beaverton School District. Media Lab learning targets are comprised of both Visual Arts and Media Arts learning targets.

### *STUDENTS CAN...*

**CREATE**
VA-1. Demonstrate technical competence and skill with materials and media.
VA-2. Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work.
VA-3. Organize and develop ideas and work.
VA-4. Refine and complete artistic work.
MA-1. Identify and solve problems using the design process to create original, technological solutions.

**PRESENT**
VA-5. Interpret and share artistic work.
MA-2. Communicate and express ideas effectively and creatively for a variety of purposes using appropriate digital media.

**RESPOND/CONNECT**
VA-6. Understand and evaluate how art conveys meaning and relate artistic ideas with external context.
MA-3. Use digital tools to broaden perspectives and enhance learning by collaborating with others, locally and globally.

**DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP**
VA-7. Demonstrate appropriate lab practices.
MA-4. Recognize the rights, responsibilities and opportunities of an interconnected digital world, and act in ways that are safe, legal and ethical.

*VA=Visual Arts*
*MA=Media Arts*

**Course Materials and Resources:**  Students will access all project resources and tutorials through our BSD course platform, Canvas.  Learning is self-paced and resources are available online.  Some of our projects will require **Chromebooks** and other projects will utilize technology in the lab, like iPads and mixed media materials. Students will greatly benefit from bringing their own **headsets** to class.  While we do provide extra headsets for students to use in class, they are shared school-wide, and I find that students are more comfortable with their own.

**Projects:** Media Lab is a project-based visual and digital media arts course. Students will integrate design thinking in producing a variety of multimedia projects. The process of design, creating, and making will be emphasized in all we do, including the use of storyboards, the examination of relevant works, and reflection on our work.

*Projects may include (but are not limited to):*
- **Design an original Google Slide theme** - Students will rely on Google Drawings, public domain images, and the elements of visual and digital design to create an original graphic theme for use in Google Slides. This first project will introduce students to the principles of visual design and specific considerations for digital media. Slide themes will be shared across our school community for use by teachers and students.
- **Digital Storytelling** - Students will use a multimedia tool to tell a story with images, music, voice and animation. Stories may be based on poetry, personal experiences, original stories or short stories.
- **Stop Motion Animation** - Students will use props, student-created backgrounds, and a stop motion animation iPad app to create movie shorts.
- **Animation** - Students will use an iPad app to illustrate and animate a colorful phrase of text.
- **Paper Circuitry** - Students will explore the basics of LEDS/diodes and how simple electronic circuits work to illuminate a unique paper construction.
- **Student Blog** - Ongoing, students will reflect and publish their creative works on their own blog, which will serve as a digital media art portfolio for this class. (Learn more about the Student Blog below.)

**Student Digital Art Portfolios -- Blogs:** Students will create their own digital art journals using the tool edublogs.org. Each student's blog will be tied to the teacher class blog at **discoverplaycreate.edublogs.org**. The first post will occur after the completion of our Google Slides Themes project. Details about blog content and student expectations will be communicated in a Parent Permission Student Blog letter. Keeping a blog is a wonderful opportunity for students to practice real-world habits of digital citizens, to learn how to respectfully comment on others' creative works, and to enjoy an authentic audience for their own work.

**Rubrics:** A checklist and rubric will be provided for each project. Checklists help students meet project expectations, chunk the work into smaller steps, and attend to details. A rubric is one tool we use to assess students' progress on the learning targets and provide feedback to students on what must be done to improve their proficiency or mastery of the learning. In addition, students will reflect on their own work and offer feedback to peers for each project in this class.

**Behavior Learning Targets (BLT):** We believe that the following behaviors are critical to academic success. I will teach and give feedback on some of the behaviors listed below during this semester.

*I can manage my responsibilities as a student.*
- I turn in work on time.
- I turn in completed work.
- I break down large tasks into smaller, manageable parts.
- I use my class time appropriately.
- I prepare for class with necessary materials and am ready to learn.
- I complete my makeup work in a timely manner.
- I use a system for tracking my assignments.
- I use strategies regularly to prepare for assessments.
- I follow directions accurately.
- I demonstrate quality craftsmanship in my work.

### *I can self-direct my learning.*
- I can use rubrics to accurately assess my progress toward learning targets.
- I can identify my current academic strengths and areas where growth is needed.
- I can set and achieve goals.
- I can develop a plan to achieve my goals.
- I can implement and adjust as necessary.
- I can persist with a task that takes a great deal of effort.
- I can persist with a task over an extended period of time.
- I can persist with tasks where the answer is not apparent.
- I can utilize a variety of sources to find help or to make up for absences.
- I can articulate specific areas in which I need help.
- I can advocate for myself.

### *I can communicate and work effectively within a team or group.*
- I show my commitment to the group goals through my active participation/engagement.
- I listen respectfully and acknowledge the contributions of others.
- I share my ideas honestly and clearly.
- I contribute to creating a safe learning environment for all.
- I respect points of view that differ from my own.
- I work within my team to break down large tasks into smaller, manageable parts.
- I work with my group to identify when changes are necessary.
- I adapt to changes in the group process with a positive attitude.◻

**Homework Expectations:** In general, there will be very few homework assignments in Media Lab. Mostly, students will be asked to gather supplies or images at home for projects. Students are responsible for checking our Canvas course page and making up missed class time.

**Assessment/Grading Policies:**
The purpose of grading is to communicate with students and parents how well a student is progressing. Meida Lab is a project-based class, where students will create approximately (5) projects throughout the semester.

**Grading:** We use the Standards Based Learning System for reporting students' progress.
Go to the district website for more details
https://www.beaverton.k12.or.us/depts/tchlrn/grdrpt/Pages/default.aspx

Although what is most important is the 1-4 score for each summary judgment for the learning targets taught, we know some parents like to know an overall grade. The summary judgments of all Academic Learning Targets will be averaged and the following scale will be used to determine the grade:
A: 3.4 - 4.0 **|** B: 2.7 - 3.3 **|** C: 2.0 - 2.6 **|** D: 1.6 - 1.9 **|** F: <1.6

**Communication:** Ask your child to log into Canvas to show you our works in progress and project resources. Also, use ParentVue for updates on student progress. Middle School is a time when students are learning how to advocate for themselves. To that end, please encourage your child to approach me with any questions or concerns. You may also reach me using the above contact information. I look forward to a wonderful semester of creating!