

FORM 400

CURRICULUM PROPOSAL

Fern Ridge School District 28J

1. Name of Course or Activity Anime
School Fern Ridge Middle Department Elective
2. Check One: ☐ Change in old course ☒ New Course
3. Implementation Dates: Begin Fall 2025 End
(if short term)
4. Target Group: 7th and 8th grade students
5. Course Description: Attach the completed "Planned Course Statement".
6. Rationale: (What problem or need will this proposal resolve? How will this goals be accomplished? Use additional pages if necessary.)

This class will provide students with a new and engaging elective class. We will use the structure/format of Anime to teach students how to create characters and craft a story around that character. Additionally the class will focus on the history of Anime and its impact on Japanese and American culture.

7. Budget Estimate:

	Amount	Explanation
Personnel		
Supplies	<u>\$100</u>	<u>Out of middle school budget for supplies is needed.</u>
Equipment		
Travel		
Other		
Total:		

Initiator(s) Marth Fuentez Position Teacher
School Fern Ridge Middle Date 4-14-25

FORM 401

SIGNATURES REQUIRED FOR A PROPOSED CHANGE IN THE CURRICULUM

Fern Ridge School District

PROPOSAL IDENTIFICATION: _____

INITIATOR: _____

1. Submitted to: _____ Date: _____
(Curriculum Associate)

Signature: _____ Date: _____

2. Submitted to: Olivia Johnson Date: 4-14-25
(Supervising Administrator)

Signature: [Signature] Date: 4-14-25

3. Submitted to: Michelle Marshall Date: 5/12/25
(Curriculum Council Chairperson) Michelle Marshall

Recommendations of the Curriculum Council: Approved pending
Supt. approval & School Board approval

Signature: Michelle Marshall Date: 5/12/25

4. Submitted to: _____
(Superintendent)

Final action taken: _____ Implementation as submitted is authorized

_____ Implementation with specified modification is authorized

_____ Implementation is not authorized

Explanation: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Fern Ridge Middle School

Teacher and Room Number: 28

E-Mail: mfuentez@fernridge.k12.or.us

Phone:

Course Name: Studio Ghibli Storytelling and Anime

Course Description:

In this creative and hands-on course, students will watch and discuss iconic Ghibli films like *Spirited Away*, *My Neighbor Totoro*, and *Ponyo* while exploring themes such as nature, identity, and fantasy. Alongside film analysis, students will bring their own imaginations to life through guided drawing sessions and themed crafts inspired by the characters, settings, and stories.

Content Covered:

Throughout the course, students will explore core themes found in Studio Ghibli films, including relation to the environment, coming-of-age, identity, loss, and fantasy. They will analyze world-building techniques, character development, and visual symbolism unique to Ghibli's storytelling. Students will also learn how visual elements like color, scale, and movement contribute to emotional tone and narrative. These insights will directly inform craft and other writing projects. By combining film analysis with hands-on creativity, students will gain a deeper appreciation for animation as an art form while developing their own artistic voice.

Prioritized Content Standards:

- **6-8.W.3** – Write narratives using effective structure and descriptive details.
- **6-8.L.3** – Use language intentionally for meaning, style, and audience.
- **6-8.VA.CR1.1** – Apply methods to generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work.
- **6-8.VA.CR2.1** – Organize and develop artistic ideas and work using various media and techniques.
- **6-8.VA.RE7.1** – Analyze how visual components contribute to meaning.
- **6-8.VA.RE8.1** – Interpret art through context, subject matter, and themes.

Curriculum Materials:

- Kiki's Delivery Service (G)
- My Neighbor Totoro (G)
- Castle in the Sky (PG)
- Spirited Away (PG)
- Howl's Moving Castle (PG)
- The Tale of Princess Kaguya (PG)
- The Secret World of Arrietty (G)
- Ponyo (G)
- Pom Poko (PG)
- The Boy and The Heron (upon permission slip approval) PG-13
 - While beautifully animated and imaginative, the film contains **mature themes** such as **grief, loss, and war**, as well as **some surreal scenes** that may be emotionally mature and confusing for younger viewers which contribute to its PG-13 rating. This film is more introspective and emotionally complex than many of Ghibli's PG-rated classics. If shown, we will provide context before viewing and offer space for discussion

afterward.

Course Goal(s):

- Develop an appreciation for Studio Ghibli films and storytelling.
- Engage in meaningful conversations about film themes, character development, and visual design.
- Express creativity through hands-on projects inspired by film elements.
- Learn basic crafting skills: sculpting, painting, collage, needle felting, and mixed media.

September/February:

Weeks 1–4: Belonging & Independence

Films: *Kiki's Delivery Service* & *The Secret World of Arrietty*

Focus:

- Building empathy through character development
- Exploring independence, self-doubt, and home

Activities:

- Character journals (as Kiki or Arrietty)
- Design your own “delivery service” or Borrower room diorama
- Mood boards exploring what “home” means

Writing:

- Personal narrative: “A time I had to prove myself”
- Reflection on independence and identity

October/March:

Weeks 5–8: Dreams, Identity, and Transformation

Films: *Howl's Moving Castle* & *The Boy and the Heron*

Focus:

- Metaphor and symbolism in storytelling
- Physical vs. emotional transformation

Activities:

- Build a miniature moving castle from recyclables
- Self-portrait as a magical version of yourself
- Dream collage inspired by Herron's surreal imagery

Writing:

- Reflective piece: “What changes me?”
- Symbolic short story about transformation

November/ April:

Weeks 9–12: Adventure and Discovery

Films: *Castle in the Sky* & *Spirited Away*

Focus:

- World-building in storytelling
- Personal growth through adventure and transformation

Activities:

- Invent your own floating city / bathhouse
- Mixed-media maps of imaginary worlds
- Papercraft masks

Writing:

- “Through the Portal” fantasy story

December/May:

Weeks 13–16: Our Relationship to Nature

Films: *My Neighbor Totoro*, *Ponyo*, & *Pom Poko*

Focus:

- Storytelling through setting and non-human characters
- Environmental awareness and respect for nature

Activities:

- Craft your own fantasy forest creature
- Build a Totoro bus stop scene

Writing:

- Poem or short story from the perspective of a forest creature
- Nature-themed sensory writing

Writing:

- Poem or short story from the POV of a forest spirit
- Nature-themed sensory writing

January/June:

Weeks 17–20: Beauty, Sadness, and Japanese Folklore

Films: *The Tale of the Princess Kaguya*

Focus:

- Visual Storytelling and traditional art
- Folktale structure and emotional tone

Activities:

- Watercolor storytelling
- Retell a folklore using storyboards

Writing:

- Poetic retelling of a personal story
- Adapt a folktale in your own style