

# 2017-2018 Middle School Elective Catalog

Students will choose 4 electives each semester! Be sure to choose from a variety of categories and include a PE choice every year.

## MONDAY / WEDNESDAY / FRIDAY ELECTIVES

### Category - ART

#### **The Art of Design - \$15 elective fee**

This course is for students of all ability levels who are interested in a variety of art experiences and media. For example; drawing and painting, sculpture, printmaking, and mixed-media.

#### **Drawing and Painting \$15 elective fee**

Visual Arts—Drawing/Painting courses provide a foundation in drawing and painting using a variety of media and techniques, emphasizing observation and interpretation of the visual environment. These courses typically include applying the elements of art and principles of design, along with a study of art and artists from a worldwide perspective, and instruction in the critique process.

### Category - PERFORMING ARTS

#### **Drama**

The drama elective enables students to express themselves through dramatic play and storytelling. Course content typically includes the use of movement, language, character, plot, and spectacle to portray imaginary or real experiences. As appropriate, students may focus on acting techniques and traditions, other aspects of drama staging, lighting, costuming, or both. Specific course content conforms to any existing state standards for grades 6-8.

### Category - FINE ARTS

#### **World War II**

This elective will examine all parts of WWII including: causes, events that occurred within the war, battles, the people involved in the conflict, and the lasting impact.

Students will learn about and analyze the time period through games, discussions, and video clips.

### **Mammoth News (Newcasting/Journalism) - \$15 elective fee**

This course will provide our future journalists an opportunity to stage a weekly school wide Newspaper/Newscast. Students will write and report news stories at the school and will broadcast stories for students and families to know what is going on at the school as well as upcoming events.

### **TED Talking**

Great communicators can change the world! TED stands for Technology, Entertainment, and Design. The challenge of each TED talk speaker is to present their ideas in the most innovative and engaging way they can. In this class we'll not only view and discuss TED Talks (beginning with selections from TED Under 20, created by innovators under the age of 20), but we'll also create and film some TED Talks of our own. Come explore how others, and how we can change the world through spreading ideas!

### **Category - SCIENCE AND TECH**

#### **Introduction to Astronomy**

Introduction to Astronomy offers students the opportunity to study the solar system, stars, galaxies, and interstellar bodies. These courses usually introduce and use astronomic instruments and typically explore theories regarding the origin and evolution of the universe, space, and time.

#### **Tech Overview (Required for all new Middle School Students)**

Technology Overview introduces students to computers, including peripheral and mobile devices; the functions and uses of computer technology; the language used in the industry; possible applications of various computer-based technologies; and occupations related to computer technology hardware and software industries. Students will explore the basic tools used in middle school classrooms. This course will also explore legal and ethical issues associated with computer technology use, as well school and district usage policies. Students may also be required to perform some computer technology operations.

### **Digital Creation - \$15 elective fee**

This Digital Creation course emphasizes applying the elements of art and principles of design to various types of media and video production. These courses provide students with the opportunity to develop foundational skills and knowledge while they also become more adept in cinema, video, digital live production, and time-based media.

### **Programming and Coding -\$15 elective fee**

In this course, students will learn how to use a microcomputer along with Scratch, Python, and Raspberry pi and mix those skills to create creative projects

### **STEAM for Girls - \$15 elective fee**

This interdisciplinary (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) course will bring social relevance and purpose to science and math by utilizing projects aimed towards female students. Topics may include 3D printed art, jewelry/fashion, and interior design.

## **Category - PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

### **Team Sports - \$15 elective fee.**

Team Sports courses provides the student the opportunity to compete in a wide range of team sports. They will be given direction and strategies important to these sports. They will also have the opportunity to develop teamwork, problem solving, and leadership skills important in becoming young adults. We will play a variety of sports as well as the common football, basketball, volleyball, and soccer. This will be a high energy, action packed activity class.

### **Strength and Conditioning - \$15 elective fee**

In this course we will be focusing on the development of athletes as pertains to athletic development. We will discuss and implement the principles of training. Like overload, progression, specificity, regularity, and individuality. We will be using the physical best activities and apply the FITT guidelines to improve health and overall fitness. This class is intended for students that compete in sport activities to help them improve their overall athletic ability.

## **Category - ACADEMIC SUPPORT**

### **Math Enrichment**

Math Enrichment is a **staff-recommended course** for students needing instructional reinforcement in math concepts. Students receive small group instruction or individual web-based instruction.

## **Resource MWF**

Resource is a time and place for students to work on goals and skills from their Individual Education Plan. Students will work with learning specialists in small group or individual settings. All students in middle school **on an IEP** are required to take this course.

## **Category - SPANISH**

### **Spanish 1A - \$20 elective fee (YEAR LONG ELECTIVE)**

Designed to introduce students to Spanish language and culture, Spanish 1A courses emphasize basic grammar, syntax, simple vocabulary, and spoken language. Students will be exposed to reading, writing, speaking, and understanding the language at a basic level using customary courtesies and conventions. Spanish culture is introduced through the art, literature, customs, and history of Spanish-speaking people.

### **Spanish 1B/1C - \$20 elective fee (YEAR LONG ELECTIVE)**

Designed to continue to develop students Spanish language and culture, Spanish 1B/1C course continues to enhance the Spanish grammar, syntax, vocabulary, and spoken language. Students will develop their reading, writing, and speaking skills at a primary level within predictable areas of need, using customary courtesies and conventions. Spanish culture is introduced through the art, literature, customs, and history of Spanish-speaking people. Students who have taken Spanish continuously for 2-3 years should have developed enough understanding to be recommended to take Spanish 2 when entering high school. To get a recommendation for Spanish 2 in HS students will need to have Spanish in their 8th grade year.

## **Category - LEADERSHIP (YEAR LONG ELECTIVE) 8th grade only**

Leadership courses are designed to strengthen students' personal and group leadership skills. These courses may cover such topics as public speaking, effective communication, human relations, community service, school culture, organization and management, and group dynamics. **\*Students are appointed to this elective through peer/staff nomination and election.**

## **TUESDAY / THURSDAY ELECTIVES**

### **Category - ART**

#### **Drawing and Painting - \$15 elective fee**

Visual Arts—Drawing/Painting courses provide a foundation in drawing and painting using a variety of media and techniques, emphasizing observation and interpretation of the visual environment. These courses typically include applying the elements of art and principles of design, along with a study of art and artists from a worldwide perspective, and instruction in the critique process.

#### **Sculpture - \$15 elective fee**

Visual Arts—Sculpture courses promote creative expression through three-dimensional works. These courses explore real and abstract sculpture through subtractive (carving), additive (modeling), and assemblage techniques in one or more media. Visual Arts—Sculpture courses typically include the production of real and abstract sculptures while incorporating elements of art and principles of design, along with a study of historical and contemporary sculpture and sculptors from a worldwide perspective. These courses also provide instruction in the critique process.

### **Category - PERFORMING ARTS**

#### **Bucket Drumming**

Bucket drumming, also called street drumming, is a style of music which involves drumming on plastic buckets and other objects to create melodies. The most common object used by bucket drummers are five-gallon plastic buckets, but other objects can be used, including glass bottles, pots, and pans. Students will learn rhythmic grooves, simple patterns and drumming rudiments. We will also learn to play along to pop music, and create our own melodies and music using different sized drums.

#### **Ukulele Lab**

Ukulele lab is for those who have never played a ukulele before and would love to learn how to play. Basic theory such as rhythmic values (whole, half, quarter, eighth notes), time signatures, etc. will be introduced. Students will be able to play several different basic strumming styles, read and understand ukulele chord charts, transpose songs into

other keys, and play along to a selection of songs, including Hawaiian, traditional folk, and others.

### **Technical Theater**

This elective will teach the students about the technical aspects of putting on a theater production. This course will cover stage craft activities such as set design, costume design, and props creation. It will also teach students about lighting and sound design. The students will put their skills to use by creating and building the set, props, sound, and light design for the yearly theater production at Challenge to Excellence.

## **Category - FINE ARTS**

### **Word Weaving/Storytelling/Creative Writing**

Come learn the ancient art of oral storytelling! Feel the thrill of mesmerizing others with fabulous folktales, fairytales, fables, myths and legends. Learn the power of gesture, vocal control and some secrets for quelling forever those annoying nervous butterflies. Discover your own storytelling style and how to maximize your talents. Experience the power of holding an audience in the palm of your hand.

### **Yearbook**

Charged with the production of the school yearbook, students will incorporate photojournalism with digital technology skills, and to apply their art to journalistic endeavors.

### **Fantasy Football**

Fantasy Football Probability and Statistics. First semester elective only due to NFL schedule. The purpose of this course is to explore the meaning of statistics encountered in everyday life. The emphasis will be on understanding and interpreting, rather than computing, through exploration of real - life situations that involve statistical concepts. Students are also exposed to topics and problems that involve probability rules. Real world situations will be presented.

### **Civics (Current Events)**

Our Civics course takes on the aspects of Current Events, enabling students to study political, economic, and social issues facing the world. These courses may focus on current issues, examine selected issues throughout the 20th century, and look at historical causes or possible solutions.

## **Category - SCIENCE AND TECH**

**Tech Team** Tech Team will strengthen students' personal and group skills in media production and technology tools. Skills include customer service, technology, and general use of multimedia. Students will learn how to do basic troubleshooting and repairs and be trained to serve the school as a tech team helping with sound system, help tickets, and other functions.

### **Intro to Computer Science**

Introduction to Computer Science using Scratch, Google's CS First Program, Code.org, and other tools to get a basic introduction to computer science principles. While these courses include programming, the focus is on the computational practices associated with doing computer science, rather than just a narrow focus on coding, syntax, or tools.

### **Robotics - \$15 elective fee**

Robotics courses help students develop and expand their skills and knowledge of robotics and related scientific and engineering topics. Course topics may include principles of mechanics, electronics, hydraulics, pneumatics, programmable logic controllers. These courses may emphasize the use of engineering principles to design and build robots, construct and connect sensors, and program robots in the programming language.

## **Category - PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

### **Team Sports \$10 fee.**

Team Sports courses provides the student the opportunity to compete in a wide range of team sports. They will be given direction and strategies important to these sports. They will also have the opportunity to develop teamwork, problem solving, and leadership skills important in becoming young adults. We will play a variety of sports as well as the common football, basketball, volleyball, and soccer. This will be a high energy, action packed activity class.

### **General Physical Education**

Physical Education courses provide students with knowledge, experience, and an opportunity to develop skills in more than one of the following sports or activities: team sports, individual/dual sports, recreational sports, and fitness/conditioning activities.

### **Health**

Topics covered within Health Education courses may vary widely, but typically include personal health (nutrition, mental health and stress management, drug/alcohol abuse prevention, disease prevention, and first aid) and consumer health issues. The courses may also include brief studies of environmental health, personal development, and/or community resources.

## **Category - ACADEMIC SUPPORT**

### **Old Dogs - New Tricks - Study Skills**

Is your backpack a disaster area? Are your class binders a mess? Do you have a busy afternoon or evening schedule? Need more time for reading or studying during the school day? If you answered “yes” to any of these questions, then this is the class for you! In this elective, not only will you have time to do your homework, but you will also have access to a teacher who can support you in getting it done and sticking with it! Lighten your load and get yourself organized.

### **Math Enrichment**

Math Enrichment is a **staff-recommended course** for students needing instructional reinforcement in math concepts. Students receive small group instruction or individual web-based instruction.

### **English Enrichment**

English Enrichment is a **staff-recommended course** for students needing instructional reinforcement in Language Arts/fluency concepts. Students receive small group instruction or individual web-based instruction.

### **Gifted Resource**

Prerequisite: ALP or teacher recommendation

All students on an ALP are required to take this course. Throughout the year, students will begin with their ALP plan and goals for the year. Completing projects that align with those goals and engaging with “Big-Idea Projects” for our school and community.

### **Resource TUES/THURS**

Resource is a time and place for students to work on goals and skills from their Individual Education Plan. Students will work with learning specialists in small group or individual settings. **All students in middle school on an IEP are required to take this course.**