

2018-2019 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

Introduction to 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. This is a prerequisite for several other art courses.

Drawing and Painting - \$15 elective fee (prerequisite required)

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

Band - (YEAR LONG ELECTIVE) - \$15 elective fee

Band includes the basic elements of music playing skills, and introduction to band literature. It is designed to offer students performance skills in preparation for concerts and competitions with emphasis on music theory, interpretation, ensemble experience, and improved technical proficiency. Students in band perform in at least two concerts a year. Although the curriculum is designed for students with one year of playing experience, students with no prior experience are welcome to participate. Instrument choices are: Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone, Trumpet, French Horn, Trombone, Baritone, Tuba, Percussion. Band is a year long course. Students must provide their own instruments through rental or purchase.

Orchestra - (YEAR LONG ELECTIVE) - \$15 elective fee

String Orchestra includes the basic elements of music playing skills, and introduction to orchestra literature. It is designed to offer students performance skills in preparation for concerts and competitions with emphasis on music theory, interpretation, ensemble

experience, and improved technical proficiency. Students in orchestra perform in at least two concerts a year. Although the curriculum is designed for students with one year of playing experience, students with no prior experience are welcome to participate. Instrument choices are: Violin, Viola, Cello and Bass. Orchestra is a year long course. Students must provide their own instruments through rental or purchase.

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.

Modern Musicology

The History of Modern Music will take an in-depth, semester long view at the evolution of modern music from Buddy Holly to Twenty One Pilots. We will look at the relation of popular music and society, and how music reflects a population's attitude, like the songs of protest from the 60s, and Bob Dylan's reception of the Nobel Prize for literature.

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

This course will provide our future journalists an opportunity to stage a 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

Advanced Robotics - \$25 elective fee (prerequisite required)

Advanced Robotics is continues where Beginner's Robotics leaves off and enables students to explore coding through real-life problem solving and hands-on learning experiences. Students are encouraged to expand their knowledge and make their physical creations come to life through code, developing 21st century skills as they program solutions in an accessible real-world environment. To participate students have successfully completed Beginner's Robotics.

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.

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 - \$25 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.

Advanced Strength and Conditioning 1b - \$25 elective fee (prerequisite required)

You must take **Strength and Conditioning 1a** before taking 1b, or get teacher approval. In this course we will be focusing on the development of athletes as pertains to strength and conditioning. We will be working with Kettlebells, Battle ropes, Med-balls, and body weight to workout with. 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.

Writing Workshop

This course is designed to help students become amazing writers! Focus will be on helping writers choose topics and become more comfortable with the writing process. The teacher will help students by offering suggestions to guide the writer's decision-making process. Students will practice the basics of organization, writing with a purpose, voice, writing for a specific audience, and writing to inform and entertain.

Category - SPANISH

Spanish 1A - \$25 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 - \$15 elective fee (YEAR LONG ELECTIVE) (prerequisite required)

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 (prerequisite required)

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 (prerequisite required)

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

Choir - \$15 elective fee (for music)

Singers will develop their musical potential and artistic expression through singing in a choral ensemble. Study includes the ability to read music using the Kodaly technique (solfege). The core curriculum emphasizes the basics of vocal technique, sight-reading, music theory, and music history. A wide variety of songs will be studied. Students perform in a concert at the end of the semester, and learn the importance of artistic expression through performance.

Keyboard Lab - \$15 elective fee

This course is designed for students who wish to develop basic piano playing skills, or expand on their existing skills. Time in class will be spent learning music theory, playing techniques, and ear training, while mastering the fundamentals of playing piano. This course will include an introduction to varying piano literature, chord structure and progressions, improvisation, and sight-reading techniques.

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. Ukulele will perform at an end of semester concert.

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.

Musical Theater - \$40.00 elective fee

This elective will run in conjunction with Friday, after school rehearsals. The students will learn all aspects of putting together a musical from performance to staging and design elements. This elective will consist of Tuesday and Thursday classes with Mrs. John to learn the musical aspects of the show and Friday after school rehearsals with Mrs. Horne for acting coaching, choreography, and the development of the technical aspects of the show. The class will culminate in two performances for family and friends. If you are in this class, you will be a part of the show. The show that has been chosen for this class is *Disney's Jungle Book*.

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.

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

Beginner's Robotics - \$25 elective fee

In Beginner's Robotics we begin preparing students for the digital careers of the future with hands-on learning and problem solving through coding. Students will learn about how software, algorithms and programmers shape the world, but also how

computational thinking, problem solving and debugging a solution can solve a challenge by splitting it into smaller steps. By learning through exploration, creation and play, students will gain a constructive form of thinking that can be applied in all academic areas.

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 A

Intro A will cover Website development and game design. Introduction to Computer Science using Code.org's middle school curriculum, 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.

Intro to Computer Science B (no prerequisite required)

B will cover Apps development and physical computing. A is NOT a prerequisite for B. Introduction to Computer Science using Code.org's middle school curriculum, 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.

Category - PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Intro to Strength and Conditioning 1A - elective fee \$15

In this course we will be going at a slower pace to focus on the techniques for lifts and exercising. You must take this course first before you can take the Monday, Wednesday, Friday S & C class. We will be working with Kettlebells, Battle ropes, Med-balls, and body weight. 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 any students that wants to learn about Strength and Conditioning.

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.

Advanced Thinking and Design (Prerequisite: ALP or teacher recommendation) elective fee \$25

This course offers students identified as Gifted the opportunity to engage in challenging academic work in the company of peers who share their exceptional abilities and love of

learning. Students will have opportunities to participate in several programs and competitions which may include Destination Imagination, Math Counts, CO Math League, Duke TIP, CO Science Olympiad, College in Colorado and/or the CO State Science Fair.

Resource

Resource is a time and place for students to work on goals and skills from their Individual Education Plan (IEP). 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.**