

2019-2020 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

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

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.

TED Talks for Teens

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!

Pursuing the Pennant

You will be the Owner, General Manager, and Manager of a franchise consisting of All-Time Major League Baseball greats. Do you want Babe Ruth to hit clean up in your batting order? How about Willie Mays roaming your center field and smashing homers against the opposition, or maybe have Ty Cobb terrorize the opposition on the bath paths? You will name or franchise, construct a stadium, design a team logo and uniforms, and draft a 25-player roster under the restriction of a 55 million-dollar salary cap. You will play a season against your fellow owners, keep track of stats, and make the managerial moves so your team can Pursue the Pennant.

Animal Advocates - \$15.00 elective fee

This elective is designed for the civic-minded animal enthusiast. In this elective we will focus on issues that animals face in our community, in our country, and around the globe. We will learn about subjects such as community cats and TNR programs, humane education and encouraging the adoption of pets from shelters, endangered species conservation efforts, wildlife rehabilitation and sanctuaries, and much more. We will then design and implement an animal-related service project to benefit a local animal welfare organization.

Category - SCIENCE AND TECH

Robotics - \$25 elective fee

In 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.

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.

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.

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 - \$25 elective fee (teacher signature required)

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.

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.

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 - \$15 elective fee (YEAR LONG ELECTIVE) (prerequisite required)

Designed to continue to develop students Spanish language and culture, Spanish 1B 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.

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

Designed to continue to develop students Spanish language and culture, Spanish 1C course continues to enhance the spanish grammar, syntax, vocabulary, and spoken language. Students will further 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

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

Choir - \$15 elective fee

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.

Drama - \$15.00 elective fee

In this elective, students will learn skills that will help them become better actors and public speakers. We will focus on stage presence, building characters, and the technical side of acting. All of the students in this class will participate in the production of a fall/winter play (Friday evening and Saturday matinee shows with tech week). The show chosen will depend upon the number of students in the class, and will not be a musical.

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 fall theater production at Challenge to Excellence.

Category - FINE ARTS

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.

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.

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.

Raise Your Voice

“You don’t have to change the world - just change your world.” These words from Joan Trumpauer Mulholland are what the Raise Your Voice Elective is all about! Joan is a civil rights activist who spent her whole life speaking up for the rights of others, even as a teenager. In this elective, you will learn about other young activists and have the opportunity to talk to experts about ways that you can make a change in your community. Using that information, you’ll pick a cause, create an action plan, and make a change! You can work as an individual or with a small group that is interested in the same issue. Join us to show that anyone, anywhere, at any age can raise their voice and make a change in the world.

Americana

Come take a journey back in United States history at some of the major historical and cultural events from the late 1800’s, all the way to recent times in American History. Could you have devised a better strategy to prevent the massacre at Little Big Horn? Why was the space race considered vital to our nation’s security? Why was Elvis an important cultural icon, and what role did Jackie Robinson and Martin Luther King play in the Civil Rights movement of the 1940s, 50s, and 60s. Put your creative problem solving and critical thinking to the test as you dive into these fascinating and important events in US History.

Word Weaving/Storytelling/Creative Writing

Come learn the ancient art of oral storytelling! Feel the thrill of mesmerizing others with fabulous folktales, fairy tales, 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.

Category - SCIENCE AND TECH

Concepts in Action - \$25 elective fee

In Concepts in Action students will complete several classic high school physics projects such as Spaghetti Bridges, Mousetrap Cars, Rockets, and Egg Drop Contraptions. Projects may vary from year to year in order to keep it fresh. If you like hands-on, project-based learning that allows you to design and develop a solution to a challenge then this is the class for you.

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 in Tech Team will become leaders of technology integration in classrooms. They will help other students AND staff learn about technology and how to use it.

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.

Robotics - \$25 elective fee

In 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.

Category - PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Strength and Conditioning - elective fee \$15

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. ***This course requires a pre-requisite signature from Coach Curtis.**

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.**

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.