



2024-2025 Oakwood Middle School Electives

It's time to select electives!

Oakwood offers a wide range of electives allowing students to explore new areas of interest and develop new skills while finding support for success now and in the future. The breadth and depth of these electives are part of what sets Oakwood apart. Every student benefits from working with faculty who are passionate experts and from the opportunity to collaborate with students across all middle school grades.

Unless otherwise indicated, electives are offered on a trimester basis, and offerings may change based on student interest. The elective choices are listed on the following pages alphabetically, by trimester, and by 4th or 8th period offering. Check out our new classes marked with the tag **New Class!**

Required Elective Courses

Completion of one trimester of a public speaking course is required by the end of the 8th grade year. Courses this year that satisfy this requirement are:

- [The Art of Public Speaking](#) (Trimester 2 or 3, Period 4)
- [Debate/Mock Trial](#) (Trimester 3, Period 4)
- [Middle School Play](#) (Trimester 3, Period 8)

Important Middle School Elective Information

Many classes are limited in size, so be sure to make your selections carefully. **Students placed into their first or second choice elective may not transfer out of that class.** Students will enter their choice for each elective using the online form ([personal worksheet](#) available). Elective selection priority is by grade, and date and time of submission. In case of multiple submissions, elective choice and priority will be determined by the last submission. Fees are included in the tuition and will not be billed separately.

Eighth grade students may enroll in French I or Spanish I, a high school level language course that is a full-year commitment (3 trimesters). Parents and students should give this choice careful consideration, as these are higher-level academic level classes requiring additional homework time, which may include weekends.



Elective selection form will open March 30 at noon

Please submit elective choices by

April 5, 2024 at:

oakwoodway.org/ms-elective-selection

2024-2025 Oakwood Middle School Electives Personal Worksheet

*8th grade only

Trimester 1: 4th Period

- ① ② ③ ④ [2-D Art](#)
- ① ② ③ ④ [Actor/Reactor](#)
- ① ② ③ ④ [Forensic Science](#)
- ① ② ③ ④ [French I*](#)
- ① ② ③ ④ [Fútbol!](#)
- ① ② ③ ④ [Intro to Game Theory](#) **New Class!**
- ① ② ③ ④ [Not My Type!](#)
- ① ② ③ ④ [Spanish I*](#)
- ① ② ③ ④ [Study Smart](#)
- ① ② ③ ④ [Welcome to Hogwarts!](#)
- ① ② ③ ④ [Wrestling and Fitness](#) **New Class!**

Trimester 1: 8th Period

- ① ② ③ ④ [2-D Art](#)
- ① ② ③ ④ [Advanced Storytelling](#) **New Class!**
- ① ② ③ ④ [Books into Movies](#) **New Class!**
- ① ② ③ ④ [Intro to French Language and Culture](#)
- ① ② ③ ④ [Intro to Spanish Language and Culture](#)
- ① ② ③ ④ [Rock/Rap/Pop Ensemble](#)
- ① ② ③ ④ [Solution Seekers](#)
- ① ② ③ ④ [Study Smart](#)
- ① ② ③ ④ [Vocal Ensemble - The Harmonics](#)
- ① ② ③ ④ [Yearbook for Middle School](#) **New Class!**

Trimester 2: 4th Period

- ① ② ③ ④ [3-D Art](#)
- ① ② ③ ④ [The Art of Public Speaking](#)
- ① ② ③ ④ [Creating Wealth](#)
- ① ② ③ ④ [Exploring Artificial Intelligence](#) **New Class!**
- ① ② ③ ④ [French I \(continued\)*](#)
- ① ② ③ ④ [Intro to Scratch Programming](#) **New Class!**
- ① ② ③ ④ [Leadership Explor. & Develop.](#) **New Class!**
- ① ② ③ ④ [Picture Perfect Snapshots](#)
- ① ② ③ ④ [Spanish I \(continued\)*](#)
- ① ② ③ ④ [Stagecraft - Behind the Scenes](#)
- ① ② ③ ④ [Study Smart](#)

Trimester 2: 8th Period

- ① ② ③ ④ [3-D Art](#)
- ① ② ③ ④ [Drama - The Musical](#)
- ① ② ③ ④ [Intramural Sports and Games](#) **New Class!**
- ① ② ③ ④ [Intro to French Language and Culture](#)
- ① ② ③ ④ [Intro to Spanish Culture and Language](#)
- ① ② ③ ④ [Percussion Ensemble](#)
- ① ② ③ ④ [Solution Seekers \(continued\)](#)
- ① ② ③ ④ [Study Smart](#)
- ① ② ③ ④ [Yearbook for Middle School \(cont.\)](#)

Trimester 3: 4th Period

- ① ② ③ ④ [AG Lab](#) **New Class!**
- ① ② ③ ④ [Armor and Stage Combat](#)
- ① ② ③ ④ [Art Exploration](#)
- ① ② ③ ④ [The Art of Public Speaking](#)
- ① ② ③ ④ [Debate/Mock Trial](#)
- ① ② ③ ④ [French I \(continued\)*](#)
- ① ② ③ ④ [Intro to Python Programming](#) **New Class!**
- ① ② ③ ④ [Mechatronics](#)
- ① ② ③ ④ [Spanish I \(continued\)*](#)
- ① ② ③ ④ [Spyology](#) **New Class!**
- ① ② ③ ④ [Study Smart](#)
- ① ② ③ ④ [Weight Training and Fitness](#) **New Class!**

Trimester 3: 8th Period

- ① ② ③ ④ [Ace Up Your Sleeve](#)
- ① ② ③ ④ [Art Exploration](#)
- ① ② ③ ④ [Broadcast Journalism](#) **New Class!**
- ① ② ③ ④ [Craftcation!](#)
- ① ② ③ ④ [Digital Photography](#) **New Class!**
- ① ② ③ ④ [Intro to French Language and Culture](#)
- ① ② ③ ④ [Intro to Spanish Culture and Language](#)
- ① ② ③ ④ [Math Magicians](#) **New Class!**
- ① ② ③ ④ [Middle School Play](#)
- ① ② ③ ④ [Study Smart](#)
- ① ② ③ ④ [Ukes and Tunes](#)

Trimester 1: 4th Period

2-D Art

In this class, we explore the many ways that we can create art on a flat surface. We not only learn techniques such as drawing, painting, and printmaking, but we also learn about the meaning of art and find new ways to express our ideas creatively. We incorporate art from both classic and contemporary artists as well as from various cultures. This class is open to anyone who enjoys art!

Actor/Reactor

This course is a basic introduction to acting techniques for the stage. It is designed to develop the ability to play dramatic action honestly and believably, using realistic/naturalistic material. Coursework includes exercises and improvisations exploring awareness, relaxation, observation, the senses, voice, and physical and emotional life. Work in preparation of monologues, scenes, and songs will be introduced. A commitment to regular journal writing in the form of an Observation Notebook will be expected!

Forensic Science

Welcome to a world of crime scene tape, fingerprint powder, and blood types! In this course, we'll explore the fascinating world of crime investigation and scientific analysis. Through hands-on experimenting, students will gain insights into forensic techniques used to solve mysteries. Learn to document a crime scene, take and lift fingerprints, and preserve tire tracks. Join the Oakwood CSI team as we delve into the principles of forensic science and discover its real-world applications.

French I

Discover the beauty and diversity of French culture and language while learning the basics of conversational and written French language skills. Students complete weekly assignments with occasional cultural projects, as well as daily oral practice. The course is a high school course with the associated benefits of gaining high school credit. With that comes added responsibility in the form of high school pacing and workload. Parents and students should give this choice careful consideration, as these are higher-level academic level classes requiring additional homework time, which may include weekends. This course is a prerequisite to high school French II. *Note: This is a full-year course for 8th grade only.*

Fútbol!

"The Beautiful Game" - This course is all about fútbol, and not the one about scoring touchdowns. It's the one where you score goals! This year you will be fortunate enough to engage in a Fantasy Fútbol game where you will draft players from the English Premier League and track their results. Additionally, you will learn about the history of fútbol, some of its best players (past and present), and the strategies of the game. We will explore the careers of fútbol greats like Pele, Messi, Maradona, Ronaldo, Cruyff, and more. Students will research players, analyze statistical data and formations, and provide presentations. Students will hone their skills, learn new techniques, and track their weekly juggling stats. Players of all levels are welcome, including those with no prior experience.

Introduction to Game Theory - **New Class!**

In this class, we will embark on an exciting journey into the world of strategic decision-making through various games. Each week, we will introduce a new game and delve into the fascinating strategies behind it. By the end of this course, students will gain a deeper understanding of decision-making, cooperation, competition, and negotiation. Games we will explore include Rock-Paper-Scissors, Prisoner's Dilemma, Chess, Nim, Settlers of Catan, and others. Throughout the course, students will engage in hands-on activities, discussions, and simulations to reinforce their understanding of game theory concepts. Get ready for an exciting journey into the strategic world of game theory!

Not My Type!

When you type notes in class, are you the one who yells, "Wait, I'm not done!" as you hunt and peck for the keys? Do your essays take twice as long as your friends because you spend all your time typing with two fingers? Would you like to spend less time completing assignments? Do you cringe at the sight of all those red underlines? If so, this class will be a lifesaver! You'll practice typing with all ten fingers for speed, get formatting and other tips for the Google suite, and create exciting digital content to showcase your new skills! You'll also participate in class challenges and hopefully become the first student in your class to finish!

Spanish I

Discover the beauty and diversity of Spanish culture and language while learning the basics of conversational and written Spanish language skills. Students complete weekly assignments with occasional cultural projects, as well as daily oral practice. This is a high school course with associated benefits of gaining high school credit. With that comes added responsibility in the form of high school pacing and workload. Parents and students should give this choice careful consideration, as these are higher-level academic level classes requiring additional homework time, which may include weekends. This course is a prerequisite to high school Spanish II. *Note: This is a full-year course for 8th grade only.*

Study Smart

This quiet, focused study elective serves students who, due to the press of outside activities, need to work independently on homework, projects, etc., students who need extra time to finish their homework and occasionally need assistance from the teacher, or students who are in Study Smart because of academic reasons and need extra time and support. (Please indicate the reason for needing Study Smart on the selection form.) *Note: Students can take either a 4th or 8th Study Smart class in a given trimester.*

Welcome to Hogwarts!

Summoning all muggles, witches, and wizards. Welcome to the official satellite location of Hogwarts at Oakwood. Enter the wizardry world of Pottermania where we bring the legendary books to life. In this class, the possibilities are endless as we experiment with potions, do inspired crafts, do fantastic activities and yummy recipes, character studies, and more. Bringing the mystical Olivander's Wand Shop and the sugary smell of Honeydukes to the classroom just might be foretold in the tea leaves. Don't wait for an owlet. Get on your broom, and let's make some magical memories!

Wrestling and Fitness - **New Class!**

The Wrestling and Fitness class is designed to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of the fundamentals of wrestling, including basic self-defense techniques and exploration as a competitive sport. This course will also focus on physical fitness, incorporating cardio and strength training to improve overall health. Students will learn to use proper form and technique while developing skills that build a foundation for an active lifestyle.

Trimester 1: 8th Period

2-D Art

In this class, we explore the many ways that we can create art on a flat surface. We not only learn techniques such as drawing, painting, and printmaking, but we also learn about the meaning of art and find new ways to express our ideas creatively. We incorporate art from both classic and contemporary artists as well as from various cultures. This class is open to anyone who enjoys art!

Advanced Storytelling - *New Class!*

"When an old man dies, it's as a library burns to the ground." - African proverb

We live in an increasingly complicated world where social media and the "age of influencing" have made it more challenging to stand out in a crowd or lean into our uniqueness. A great way to overcome this challenge is to become a better storyteller. So, what makes a story great, and what makes someone a good storyteller? Storytelling is something we all do naturally at a young age, but there's a difference between good storytelling and amazing storytelling. In this class, you will learn the origins and history of storytelling and the spoken word. You will learn the components and methodology to craft and shape an event into a compelling story that will capture your attention and engage your audience. We will learn the foundations of oral traditions from the indigenous and African communities, and we will delve into Beat Poetry and Slam Poetry from the 1950s to modern times.

Books into Movies - *New Class!*

Which is better - the book or the movie? It's a debate as old as time, and in this class, you get to experience both sides of the argument! First, we'll take a vote to choose the books we'll be diving into, and then it's movie time (popcorn, anyone?). We'll explore why filmmakers make certain changes for the big screen and how it impacts the storyline. Ever imagined the main characters differently than how they were cast? Join us for an exciting blend of literary analysis and cinematic exploration. Get ready for some serious fun with Books into Movies!

Introduction to French Language and Culture

You are invited to come and experience the charms of the French language and culture. This trimester-long course introduces you to the basics of grammar and conversation. The general instruction focuses on developing fundamental vocabulary, writing, and speaking skills through projects done entirely in class, no homework is required! You will participate in cultural activities and sample delicious French cuisine. From art and music to making chocolate truffles, your opinions, likes, and dislikes will be crafted and communicated effectively in French.

Introduction to Spanish Language and Culture

¡Bienvenidos! In this class, you will be introduced to the diversity of the Spanish language and culture through projects, art, music, customs, and food. Students have the opportunity to research topics of their interest while learning about Spanish culture. The traditions that we celebrate in this class might include Dia de los Muertos, 5 de Mayo, Dia del Niño, and many more. Learn about Spanish culture while having fun, watching movies, and doing hands-on projects. You will also learn some conversational Spanish and cultural expressions. The class ends with a fiesta filled with music and food. *Note: open to all grade levels.*

Rock/Rap/Pop Ensemble

Are you ready to rock, pop, and rap your way to musical stardom? Join our exciting Rock/Rap/Pop ensemble class! Students can play guitar, bass, drums, and keyboard, and discover the secrets of their favorite rock and pop songs. Get your groove going with hip hop and R&B, and develop your DJ, rapping, and human beatbox skills to add a funky edge to your music. Students will also develop their skills in singing, playing instruments, and working collaboratively as a group.

Whether you're a complete beginner or an experienced player, this class is designed to challenge and inspire you, and help you unleash your inner rock star!

Solution Seekers

Looking for an exciting way to stretch your brain and have fun with friends? Join us for this two-trimester (both trimesters required) class that explores the exciting world of math through puzzles, games, and challenges. Maybe you'll choose to build your own geodesic dome, participate in the Math Video Challenge, or even compete on Oakwood's MathCounts team. Whether you love to collaborate or compete, this class is perfect for students who love to explore new ideas and put their problem-solving skills to the test. *(On your selection form for Trimesters 1&2 AM, please select Solution Seekers as your first choice, and then select your second, third, and fourth selections, in case this class is full.)*

Study Smart

This quiet, focused study elective serves students who, due to the press of outside activities, need to work independently on homework, projects, etc., students who need extra time to finish their homework and occasionally need assistance from the teacher, or students who are in Study Smart because of academic reasons and need extra time and support. (Please indicate the reason for needing Study Smart on the selection form.) *Note: Students can take either a 4th or 8th Study Smart class in a given trimester.*

Vocal Ensemble - The Harmonics

Come step into the spotlight with the Harmonics, the talented male and female middle school vocal ensemble! You'll learn a variety of songs that will showcase different dance styles and singing techniques. Throughout this course, you will develop greater musicianship, proper use of breath support, phrasing, interpretation, posture, and stage presence. You'll study and perform vocal music in the Jazz, Pop, Swing, Folk, and Broadway styles. At the end of the trimester, you'll perform these songs on stage for family and friends.

Yearbook for Middle School - **New Class!**

Are you ready to become a key player in capturing and preserving our middle school's memories? This course isn't just about creating a yearbook; it's about crafting a legacy that will be cherished for years to come. Throughout this journey, you'll master the art of gathering and analyzing information, conducting interviews that capture the essence of our school community, and snapping photos that tell stories in themselves. But that's just the beginning! Get ready to unleash your creativity as we dive into the world of magazine journalism. From mastering layout techniques to honing your writing and editing skills, you'll be equipped with all the tools you need to produce a yearbook that stands out.

Now, it's important to note that this course isn't confined to the classroom. As part of your grade, you'll have the opportunity to participate in after-school events and work on projects outside of regular school hours. After all, creating something truly special requires dedication and teamwork. So, if you're ready to leave your mark on our school's history, join us in Yearbook for Middle School! Let's turn our memories into masterpieces together!

Trimester 2: 4th Period

3-D Art

In this class, we explore the many ways to create three-dimensional art. This is art that takes up space and has form and includes sculpture and ceramics. We learn some of the many traditional and non-traditional ways that sculpture can be created while exploring ideas from various artists and cultures. Besides learning new and fun building techniques, we also stretch our creative brains, as we learn how to design and solve creative problems. This class is open to anyone who enjoys building and creating!

The Art of Public Speaking

Picture it. You're sitting at an awards ceremony. Your name is called to accept an award. What will you say? How would you deliver your acceptance speech? Are you terrified and anxious, or confident and cool? In this class, students will acquire and practice effective communication skills. They will learn the vital tools to speak more confidently and competently in front of an audience in a friendly setting. Students will also gain a solid foundation by practicing oral communication in a variety of ways, including speech composition and delivery, storytelling, and improvisation speaking activities. Whether you want to perfect and improve your current presentation skills, or the thought of public speaking makes you weak in the knees, the Art of Public Speaking class provides the students with a pathway to successful presentation skills. *Note: This course satisfies the public speaking requirement.*

Creating Wealth

Have you ever wanted to start your own business? Well, now is your chance. Students will come up with their own business plans and simulate their own businesses. They will write their own mission statements, manage various departments (Accounting, Retail, HR, Operations, Marketing, Engineering, etc.), and more. Students will also learn about the stock market and how to manage their own finances.

Exploring Artificial Intelligence - **New Class!**

Welcome to Exploring Artificial Intelligence – a fascinating journey into the creative realms of artificial intelligence! You will learn how to use your words to create music, art, and various types of texts, all without the need for coding expertise. You will also learn what to look for in AI-generated clickbait, videos, and pictures to protect yourself online. So, whether you're a budding artist, a music enthusiast, or simply curious about the future of technology and creativity, join us on this exciting adventure into the realm of AI.

French I (continued)

French, a year-long class for 8th grade students only, continues. On your selection form, select French I for Trimester 2.

Introduction to Scratch Programming - **New Class!**

Welcome to Introduction to Scratch Programming! In this course, students will explore the basics of computer programming through Scratch, a visual programming language designed for beginners. This course will introduce you to the fundamental concepts of programming in a creative and interactive way. Throughout the course, students will engage in hands-on coding projects, challenges, and creative exercises to reinforce their understanding of Scratch programming concepts. By the end of the course, you will have the skills to create your own animations, games, and interactive stories using Scratch

Leadership Exploration and Development - **New Class!**

Do you picture yourself as a future leader of a company, organization, or community? Or are you interested in developing personal traits that will help your confidence level as you work with others? If yes, then this elective might be for you. The class will focus on the different facets of effective leadership and will delve into important aspects of past and present leaders. We'll look at their successes – and failures – as well as how they inspire and make a difference. Guest leader speakers will visit the class to help us as we explore various topics. And then you'll identify and develop leadership traits that will work best for you as you build your own leadership profile. Leadership comes naturally to some, but for most, leadership is learned.

Picture Perfect Snapshots

Are you seeking viral-worthy images for social media? Looking for an outlet to display your creativity and interests? Or perhaps you're in need of a relaxing hobby. Elevate your photos from social media snapshots and selfies to photographs framed thoughtfully with deeper meaning, purpose, and perspective. In this class, you will learn the basic composition of quality photographs through explorative projects and challenges while practicing artistic communication and demonstrating empathy through the lens. After this class, even your selfies will look better!

Spanish I (continued)

Spanish, a year-long class for 8th grade students only, continues. On your selection form, select Spanish I for Trimester 2.

Stagecraft - Behind the Scenes

Do you love being connected with a drama production, but would rather run the technical or backstage end of things than be in the spotlight? Or do you plan to be a star, and realize that all great actors know the ins and outs of all aspects of theater production? Either way, this class is for you! Study the basics of behind-the-scenes stage production supporting the director's vision. Learn stage and set application; design a set for a current or future Oakwood production; learn how to mark a script for backstage production management; learn basic lighting techniques; learn the sound system, costuming, and more!

Study Smart

This quiet, focused study elective serves students who, due to the press of outside activities, need to work independently on homework, projects, etc., students who need extra time to finish their homework and occasionally need assistance from the teacher, or students who are in Study Smart because of academic reasons and need extra time and support. (Please indicate the reason for needing Study Smart on the selection form.) *Note: Students can take either a 4th or 8th Study Smart class in a given trimester.*

Trimester 2: 8th Period

3-D Art

In this class, we explore the many ways to create three-dimensional art. This is art that takes up space and has form and includes sculpture and ceramics. We learn some of the many traditional and non-traditional ways that sculpture can be created while exploring ideas from various artists and cultures. Besides learning new and fun building techniques, we also stretch our creative brains, as we learn how to design and solve creative problems. This class is open to anyone who enjoys building and creating!

Drama - The Musical

Do you have a voice that you would like to showcase? Or do you prefer the “safety” of being one of many voices in the supporting chorus? Either way, this class is for you! In prior years our Oakwood productions have included *Hairspray Jr.*, Disney’s *Moana Jr.*, and Disney’s *Mulan Jr.*, to name a few. Musicals combine choreography, acting, and vocal talents to depict the story. Be a part of the magic!

Intramural Sports and Games - *New Class!*

Intramural Sports and Games provides an opportunity for students to participate in a variety of recreational sports and activities for all skill levels, from those simply looking to learn a new game to those who are looking for a competitive contest. Intramural Sports and Games aims to teach teamwork, fair play, and self-awareness.

Introduction to French Language and Culture

You are invited to come and experience the charms of the French language and culture. This trimester-long course introduces you to the basics of grammar and conversation. The general instruction focuses on developing fundamental vocabulary, writing and speaking skills through projects done entirely in class, no homework is required! You will participate in cultural activities and sample delicious French cuisine. From art and music to making chocolate truffles your opinions, likes and dislikes will be crafted and communicated effectively in French. *Note: open to all grade levels.*

Introduction to Spanish Language and Culture

¡Bienvenidos! In this class you will be introduced to the diversity of the Spanish language and culture through projects, art, music, customs and food. Students have the opportunity to research topics of their interest while learning about Spanish culture. The traditions that we celebrate in this class might include Dia de los Muertos, 5 de Mayo, Dia del Niño and many more. Learn about Spanish culture while having fun, watching movies and doing hands-on projects. You will also learn some conversational Spanish and cultural expressions. The class ends with a fiesta filled with music and food. *Note: open to all grade levels.*

Percussion Ensemble

Welcome to the Percussion Ensemble! Did you know that some people think that the first instrumental music written was percussion music played on logs, rocks, and sticks? In this class, students will learn the rudiments of written percussion notation. Students will listen to and play percussion ensemble music. The final project will consist of writing an original short musical number for our percussion ensemble.

Solution Seekers (continued)

Solution Seekers continues through Trimester 2. On your selection form, select Solution Seekers for Trimester 2; then select second through fourth choices, in case the class is full. (If you have not selected Solution Seekers for Trimester 1, **don't** select it for Trimester 2; this is a two-trimester class.)

Study Smart

This quiet, focused study elective serves students who, due to the press of outside activities, need to work independently on homework, projects, etc., students who need extra time to finish their homework and occasionally need assistance from the teacher, or students who are in Study Smart because of academic reasons and need extra time and support. (Please indicate the reason for needing Study Smart on the selection form.) *Note: Students can take either a 4th or 8th Study Smart class in a given trimester.*

Yearbook for Middle School (cont.)

Yearbook for Middle School continues through Trimester 2. On your selection form, select Yearbook for Middle School for Trimester 2; then select second through fourth choices, in case the class is full. (If you have not selected Yearbook for Middle School for Trimester 1, **don't** select it for Trimester 2; this is a two-trimester class.)

Trimester 3: 4th Period

AG Lab - New Class!

In this class, students will get down and dirty as they develop an understanding of foundational agricultural science. Agriculture science allows students to make tangible connections to the environment, the community around them, and the greater economy through real-world STEM applications. Themes of awareness, health and nutrition, sustainability, critical thinking, and problem-solving will be paramount in our hands-on -learning experience. Students will be engaged in active learning to foster responsibility, including gardening and animal husbandry (hint: peep, peep!).

Armor-Making and Stage Combat

Get ready to immerse yourself in a world of knights, armor, and epic battles with our fantasy and medieval armor-making and stage combat class! In this course, you'll dive deep into the history of armor and medieval weaponry, researching the various types of armor used in the Middle Ages and their functions. You'll also examine how these armors are portrayed in modern fantasy stories and movies.

Using stage costume and cosplay techniques, you'll learn how to craft your own custom armor, working with materials like foam, fabric, leather, and PVC. Once your armor is complete, it's time to learn the art of armed stage combat. You'll study medieval battle techniques and choreograph exciting fight scenes. You'll learn how to use weapons safely and effectively while maintaining a sense of dramatic flair and showmanship. Whether you're a medieval history buff or a fantasy fan, this course is the perfect way to immerse yourself in a world of knights, battles, and adventure.

Art Exploration

In this class, we explore many different forms of art and then use what we learn to create and experiment. This is a chance for you to explore different art materials and processes and have fun while doing it. This is a fun and engaging class for all, whether you have a lot of art experience or none at all.

The Art of Public Speaking

Picture it. You're sitting at an awards ceremony. Your name is called to accept an award. What will you say? How would you deliver your acceptance speech? Are you terrified and anxious, or confident and cool? In this class, students will acquire and practice effective communication skills. They will learn the vital tools to speak more confidently and competently in front of an audience in a friendly setting. Students will also gain a solid foundation by practicing oral communication in a variety of ways, including speech composition and delivery, storytelling, and improvisation speaking activities. Whether you want to perfect and improve your current presentation skills, or the thought of public speaking makes you weak in the knees, the Art of Public Speaking class provides the students with a pathway to successful presentation skills. *Note: This course satisfies the public speaking requirement.*

Debate/Mock Trial

Students learn the art of parliamentary debate through the study of logic, rhetoric, and current events. They also research and analyze topics of importance and debate informally throughout the trimester. Students develop critical thinking and analytical skills through competition, and the course final is a two-week mock trial in which students implement the values of debate through effective performance. They also learn the basics of the law and judicial system and use this knowledge in activities that make their criminal court "come to life." *Note: This course satisfies the public speaking requirement.*

French I (continued)

French, a year-long class for 8th grade students only, continues. On your selection form, select French I for Trimester 3.

Introduction to Python Programming - **New Class!**

Welcome to Introduction to Python Programming! In this course, we explore the world of computer programming using the Python language. Whether you're a complete beginner or have some coding experience, this course is designed to teach you the fundamentals of programming in a fun and engaging way. Throughout the course, students will engage in hands-on coding exercises, projects, and activities to reinforce their understanding of Python programming concepts. By the end of this course, you will have the skills and knowledge to create your own programs and games using Python.

Mechatronics

We'll learn all about mechanical design and robotics in this class. This will be an introduction to computer-aided design (CAD), simple fabrication techniques, and 3D printing, along with basic usage of sensors and motors. Choose this course if you're curious about how engineers solve real-world problems using technology or if you want to learn skills used in robotics competitions. We'll complete some small projects together and then students will complete their own design project with the tools and processes we've learned. What will you build-- a robotic rover, a game controller, or something completely new?

Note: Signing up for a (free) Autodesk account is required. Students should consider bringing an external mouse to this class because using CAD software with a laptop trackpad can be difficult.

Spanish I (continued)

Spanish, a year-long class for 8th grade students only, continues. On your selection form, select Spanish I for Trimester 3.

Spyology - **New Class!**

Welcome to the world of espionage! We'll explore the history of spies and their crafty tricks. From ancient times to today, spies have shaped history with their clever methods. We'll uncover how they gathered information, deceived enemies, and changed events using invisible ink, hidden messages, disguises, code-breaking, and evolving technology. We'll dive into the thrilling world of espionage through interactive activities and engaging discussions. Whether you love history, mysteries, or spy stories, this class is for you! Join us as we unravel secrets and discover the hidden world of spies. Get ready for an unforgettable adventure!

Study Smart

This quiet, focused study elective serves students who, due to the press of outside activities, need to work independently on homework, projects, etc., students who need extra time to finish their homework and occasionally need assistance from the teacher, or students who are in Study Smart because of academic reasons and need extra time and support. (Please indicate the reason for needing Study Smart on the selection form.) *Note: Students can take either a 4th or 8th Study Smart class in a given trimester.*

Weight Training and Fitness

Weight Training & Fitness is designed to introduce students to the fundamental principles of strength training, proper lifting techniques, and the importance of dynamic warm-up exercises. This course aims to help students develop physical strength, improve overall fitness, and build a foundation for a healthy and active lifestyle. Students will learn how to lift weights safely and effectively, with an emphasis on proper form and technique. The class will incorporate dynamic warm-up routines to aid in the prevention of injuries and enhance performance.

Trimester 3: 8th Period

Ace Up Your Sleeve: Unlocking the Secrets of Card Games!

Have you ever wondered what it takes to be good at cards? Well, this is the class for you. This class will teach you how to play games like Rummy, Hearts, Spades, Euchre, Uno, War, and more.....Students will learn various strategies and the basics of each game. They will engage in fun, competitive card games that involve teamwork, and individual play.

Art Exploration

In this class, we explore many different forms of art and then use what we learn to create and experiment. This is a chance for you to explore different art materials and processes and have fun while doing it. This is a fun and engaging class for all, whether you have a lot of art experience or none at all.

Broadcast Journalism - *New Class!*

Unleash your inner reporter and explore the exciting world of journalism and broadcasting! This elective offers hands-on experiences in crafting impactful news stories, mastering microphone use and voiceover techniques, and learning the principles of storytelling and ethical journalism. Students will dive into discussions on journalistic bias and media literacy while showcasing their skills in engaging presentations and projects. Discover how your voice can captivate audiences and shape perspectives in this unprecedented age of information.

Craftcation!

Pull up a chair and get your craftiness on with Craftcation. In this exciting hands-on workshop, we will explore creativity through the world of crafting. Get ready to build your skills through the use of a variety of materials. With gentle encouragement, you will try new things or handcraft with skills you already have while discovering new avenues. We will take it to another level by developing a personal business plan with our crafts. Craft your heart out with Craftcation!

Digital Photography - *New Class!*

Are you prepared to unleash your creativity through the lens of a digital camera? This course is designed for aspiring artists like you, venturing into the captivating realm of photography. Throughout our journey, we'll explore the fundamental elements of art and design principles, using digital photography as our canvas. Plus, you'll have the opportunity to master Adobe Photoshop and Lightroom, enhancing your photographic skills. Whether you're a novice or have some experience in digital photography, this course ensures you feel comfortable with equipment, techniques, and styles. We'll cover everything from different methods to nurturing your unique creative vision. So, are you ready to capture moments, ignite your imagination, and embark on a journey of visual storytelling? Join us in Digital Photography and let's paint the world with pixels!

Introduction to French Language and Culture

You are invited to come and experience the charms of the French language and culture. This trimester-long course introduces you to the basics of grammar and conversation. The general instruction focuses on developing fundamental vocabulary, writing and speaking skills through projects done entirely in class, no homework is required! You will participate in cultural activities and sample delicious French cuisine. From art and music to making chocolate truffles your opinions, likes and dislikes will be crafted and communicated effectively in French. Note: open to all grade levels.

Introduction to Spanish Language and Culture

¡Bienvenidos! In this class you will be introduced to the diversity of the Spanish language and culture through projects, art, music, customs and food. Students have the opportunity to research topics of their interest while learning about Spanish culture. The traditions that we celebrate in this class might include Dia de los Muertos, 5 de Mayo, Dia del Niño and many more. Learn about Spanish culture while having fun, watching movies and doing hands-on projects. You will also learn some conversational Spanish and cultural expressions. The class ends with a fiesta filled with music and food. *Note: open to all grade levels.*

Math Magicians - *New Class!*

This course aims to shift a student's mathematical mindset to cultivate resilience, reduce anxiety, and build confidence. Foundational math skills will be reviewed alongside inspiring students to embrace their innate math spark through creative mathematics. Critical thinking, logic, and problem-solving skills will be intrinsically developed through games, art, and other hands-on activities that allow students the opportunity to experience the application of math outside of textbook computation. This class is perfect for the student who is looking to lay the foundation for mathematical success.

Middle School Play

The course will be a student-designed production put on by the members of the class. Students will assist in the directing and producing of the show as well as design and create the lighting, sets, costumes, and props. All members of the cast will have the opportunity to be actors in the show as well as take on roles in the design or directing team for the show. *Note: This course satisfies the public speaking requirement.*

Study Smart

This quiet, focused study elective serves students who, due to the press of outside activities, need to work independently on homework, projects, etc., students who need extra time to finish their homework and occasionally need assistance from the teacher, or students who are in Study Smart because of academic reasons and need extra time and support. (Please indicate the reason for needing Study Smart on the selection form.) *Note: Students can take either a 4th or 8th Study Smart class in a given trimester.*

Ukes and Tunes

Have you ever wanted to write your own song but don't know how to do so? Well, do we have an elective for you! This new elective is geared toward students who enjoy ukulele, singing, writing their own poetry, or all of the above! Here, we work collectively as a group to learn how to accompany ourselves with a ukulele, write lyrics and melodies, and sing our own creations. Emphasis is placed on individual growth as well as group growth as one collective song will be written throughout the trimester and performed at the end of the trimester for family and friends. No prior experience or ukulele needed!

End of Elective Choices