

The logo for Chocate Summer Programs 2025. The word "Chocate" is in a blue serif font with a sun icon over the 'o'. "SUMMER" is in a bold, yellow, sans-serif font. "PROGRAMS" is in a white, spaced-out, sans-serif font.

**Chocate**  
**SUMMER**  
PROGRAMS

2025

A background image of a group of diverse students sitting on the grass in a park-like setting, engaged in an activity. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent yellow filter.

Academic Enrichment Programs for  
High School and Middle School Students

**course**  
descriptions

# APPLYING TO CHOATE SUMMER PROGRAMS

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis at [www.choate.edu/summer/apply](http://www.choate.edu/summer/apply)

A completed application must include:

- Application
- Personal Statement
- Teacher Recommendation
- School Official Recommendation
- Current school transcript, which includes **current academic year courses and grades**
- A \$100 non-refundable application fee
- Optional supplemental recommendation

## DEPOSIT

**For Summer Programs:** Within two weeks of acceptance, students who wish to secure a spot must pay the non-refundable \$1,500 deposit and have parents sign the enrollment contract. The final balance due must be paid no later than May 1. Summer

Program fees include tuition, books, field trips, recreational activities, health and safety fee, laundry facilities meals, and housing (as applicable for boarding students).

Students accepted after May 1 must submit their payment in full including the non-refundable deposit.

## FINANCIAL AID

Choate Rosemary Hall seeks the best qualified students from a variety of backgrounds and offers need-based financial aid to students who could not otherwise attend. Because of limited funds, Financial Aid is primarily available only for on-campus programs and to U.S. residents filing IRS income tax returns. Financial Aid can help cover the on-campus program fee (which includes tuition, books, field trips, recreational activities, meals, and housing for boarding students), but does not cover travel expenses, health insurance, or test prep courses. Please note that priority in awarding of aid is given to qualified first-time applicants, and that receiving aid for one summer does not guarantee additional funding

for subsequent summers. Financial aid applicants should supply all supporting IRS documents including a copy of the 1040 form and any other income tax forms by the deadline indicated on [www.choate.edu/summer](http://www.choate.edu/summer). Materials that arrive after the deadline will be considered on a rolling basis for any remaining funds.

## INTERNATIONAL APPLICANTS

Please note that a TOEFL, TOEFL Junior Test, or Duolingo is strongly recommended for the English Language Institute and required for all other programs.

## DAY STUDENTS

Summer Programs welcomes day students who live close enough to commute to campus to take up to 3 courses or any of our immersive programs and workshops. Day students may participate in all aspects of the academic program they enroll in — including evening commitments and field trips — and are encouraged to participate in sports and recreational activities.

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*Course listing and descriptions are accurate as of February 27, 2025. For the most current course information, please visit [www.choate.edu/summer](http://www.choate.edu/summer).*

A young man is focused on working on a large, complex mechanical assembly in a workshop. He is wearing a light-colored t-shirt and is leaning over his work. The background shows shelves filled with various tools and equipment, suggesting a well-equipped technical or vocational classroom. The entire image has a blue tint.

**high  
school  
offerings:**

# ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT

## 5-WEEK COURSES

### ARTS

#### Acting +

In this dynamic and interactive course, students explore the art of acting by understanding the choices that actors make when preparing for a role. Through theater games, improvisation, monologues, and scene work, participants develop essential skills for portraying diverse characters on stage. This course is designed for all experience levels, and no prior acting background is required. Students engage in both individual and group exercises that foster creativity, collaboration, and confidence in performance. By the end of the course, participants gain a deeper appreciation for the craft of acting and the techniques that bring characters to life. *Fulfills a diploma requirement in the arts.*

#### Digital Filmmaking +

The ability to effectively communicate using images and sound is a vital skill in contemporary media. This course takes students through the pre-production, production, and post-production steps in the creation of video projects. Students plan, script, and storyboard their ideas in pre-production and learn how to use a digital video camera to effectively collect images that communicate a story to an audience. Students have the opportunity to experiment with various camera techniques, sound capture, and reproduction while mastering the basics of good composition. In post-production,

students edit footage using Adobe Premiere Pro, transforming rough video into polished final products. This course provides a comprehensive introduction to digital video production, equipping students with the skills to create engaging visual narratives. *Fulfills a diploma requirement in the arts.*

#### Drawing +

This course introduces students to the basic elements of drawing from direct observation — line, value, texture, perspective, composition, and space — and promotes the investigation of drafting materials through the practice of various drawing techniques. Students learn the rudiments of composition using foundational black and white media including pencil and charcoal. These basic drawing elements, materials, and techniques work in dynamic combination with each student's emerging concepts of self-expression. The course culminates with a show of student work at the Paul Mellon Arts Center Gallery. *Fulfills diploma requirement in the arts.*

#### Oil Painting +

This course introduces students to the foundational techniques of oil painting. Students explore the key elements of observational painting through still life, portraiture, and landscape. Students learn how to see and mix color, modulate values, and develop form. Assignments are based on traditional and contemporary painting techniques and are designed to develop technical skill while fostering each student's concepts of creative expression. The course culminates in an art show of students' works at the Paul Mellon Arts Center Gallery. *Fulfills a diploma requirement in the arts.*

#### Studio Art through the Ages

This hands-on studio course offers a practical exploration of Modern art and its diverse styles and movements. Each class focuses on a different artistic trend, inspiring students to create their own works of art in response. Students experiment with various media and techniques, including painting, drawing, collage, and sculpture, to express their unique vision. Topics covered include Impressionism and color perception, Cubism and object reconstruction, Expressionism and emotional expression, Surrealism and dream imagery, and Pop Art's influence on commercial culture. This course encourages creativity and personal expression while deepening students' understanding of Modern art. The course culminates in an art show of students' works at the Paul Mellon Arts Center Gallery.

### ENGLISH

#### Advanced Essay Writing

Virginia Woolf once wrote that “a good essay must have this permanent quality about it; it must draw its curtain round us, but it must be a curtain that shuts us in—not out.” As a master of her craft, Woolf understood the art of shaping language to create essays that are not only beautiful but also inspiring and deeply meaningful. This course is designed to help students achieve similar mastery by exploring various essay genres and producing powerful, informative prose. Students compose three distinct types of essays—personal, analytical, and expository—guiding each piece through the writing and editing processes. The course emphasizes the importance of peer review and revision, allowing students to refine their work based on constructive feedback. In addition

to writing, participants engage in the reading and analysis of essays from a variety of sources, examining their merits in terms of style, substance, and craft. Through these activities, students develop a deeper understanding of essay writing and hone their skills to create compelling works of their own. *Note: Open to students who will have completed the U.S. equivalent of grades 9, 10, or 11 by the start of Summer Programs.*

### Creative Writing

Designed for students with a passion for writing, this course encourages participants to explore various genres, including poetry, short stories, and personal essays. Through engaging prompts, interactive workshops, and peer feedback sessions, students hone their writing skills while discovering their unique voices. Each week, students focus on different elements of craft, such as character development, setting, dialogue, and imagery. Students read and analyze works from established authors to inspire their own creativity and gain insight into diverse writing styles. By the end of the course, students will have developed a portfolio of original pieces.

### Intermediate Writing Skills

This popular course provides preparation for many higher-level English classes and emphasizes the understanding of a writer's purpose and tone. Students receive instruction in writing clear, coherent, and balanced sentences and constructing unified paragraphs. They also review basic grammar and usage, work on vocabulary development, and learn academic conventions such as citation methods and how to avoid plagiarism. Readings include short stories, essays, news articles, and poems.

### Introduction to Literature

This course serves as an introduction to the study of literature, designed to engage students with a diverse array of literary forms, including poetry, prose, drama, and fiction. Students delve into various literary genres within these forms, such as horror, comedy, romance, and realism, fostering a comprehensive understanding of the rich landscape of literature. Throughout the course, students develop close reading skills, learning to pay careful attention to language, structure, and thematic elements. They explore multiple reading strategies that enhance their ability to appreciate, interpret, analyze, and make sense of the texts they encounter. By engaging in discussions and written assignments, students reflect on how different approaches to reading can deepen their comprehension of literary works.

### Reading Fiction: Short Story, Short Novel

Do you enjoy reading stories that are short but powerful? In this course, students engage in the close reading and analysis of short stories and short novels by classic and contemporary authors such as Ernest Hemingway, Jhumpa Lahiri, Giacomo Leopardi, and Margaret Atwood. Through detailed examination of select texts, students discuss how writers from various cultures address similar themes, conflicts, and characterizations. Close reading will be a central focus, allowing students to delve into the nuances of language, structure, and style. In collaborative discussions, students share insights and interpretations, fostering a deeper understanding of the texts. Additionally, students enhance their analytical writing skills, learning to articulate their ideas effectively

and support their arguments with textual evidence. By the end of the course, students will have developed a richer appreciation for the power of short narratives and the diverse perspectives they offer.

### Public Speaking & Debate

Building a speaker's confidence is the main goal of this course. Students are introduced to various genres of speeches, methods of delivery, and effective qualities in a speaker. They have ample practice in both prepared and extemporaneous speaking, as well as instruction in debate. Students learn to be objective and analytical, to research and organize arguments, to overcome shyness and handle criticism, to reach an audience, and to prepare both on their own and as part of a team. Beginning with simple extemporaneous debates, (e.g. "winter is better than summer"), students work up to prepared group debates on substantive and nuanced issues of public policy, morality, history, and science.

### Reading & Study Skills

This course emphasizes active reading and study skills to help achieve success across disciplines. Students learn strategies for notetaking, annotating and summarizing texts, mapping concepts, and varying their reading rate. Students practice "reading for the conversation" and learn strategies to determine the primary audience and significance of a text. By the end of the course, students are prepared to navigate and interpret challenging texts with confidence. Students also prepare mini essay writing assignments to practice their new reading strategies and study skills.

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## **HISTORY, PHILOSOPHY, RELIGION, & SOCIAL SCIENCES**

*Please note: Students with a special interest in politics should consider the John F. Kennedy '35 Institute in Government. See description on p. 10.*

### **Contemporary Issues** ⊕

This course introduces students to major contemporary issues facing the U.S. and the world, helping students to develop fundamental research, writing, and public speaking skills. The course typically focuses on three major issues, utilizing a range of materials and providing historical context and a variety of perspectives on each issue. Sample topics include nuclear proliferation, the Israel-Palestine conflict, modern Cuba, the Syrian refugee crisis, and climate change. This course pays particular attention to the development of critical writing, reading, note-taking, and research skills. *Note: Open to students who will have completed the U.S. equivalent of grades 8 or 9 by the start of Summer Programs. Fulfills a diploma requirement in contemporary global studies.*

### **Economic Principles**

This course presents a carefully-paced study of important economic concepts. How much money should be in circulation? Should the government tell business owners and consumers how to behave? Why do we have inflation? How do presidents determine economic policy? The concepts of supply and demand, opportunity cost, scarcity, national debt, and international trade are discussed to gain a greater understanding of the U.S. economy and its links to the global economy.

### **FBI: Finance, Banking, & Investment**

Successful people don't build their wealth or a business by accident or overnight — they leverage key financial concepts to strengthen and expand their investing/business IQ. This course clarifies why understanding financial literacy is critical for budgeting, investing, starting a business, money management, and financial well-being. This activity and project-based class engages students in inhabiting an entrepreneurial mindset, creating a business plan, and developing a proposal for a personal finance case study.

### **Introduction to Psychology** ⊕

Focusing on recent developments in psychology and self-understanding, this course covers several theories of personality, neuroscience, and human behavior. A developmental approach to various psychological theories (e.g. those of Freud, Horney, Skinner, Erikson, and Rogers) creates a framework for the study of identity and self-image, family and peer relationships, and conformity and prejudice. *Note: Open to students who will have completed the U.S. equivalent of grades 9, 10, or 11 by the start of Summer Programs. Serves as prerequisite for Choate's upper-level psychology courses.*

### **Leadership in Action: What History Teaches about Leading**

In this course, students explore what it means to be a leader through an engaging blend of history and leadership development. This course introduces participants to influential leaders throughout history—spanning various cultures, time periods, and fields—from political visionaries and civil rights activists to trailblazing innovators and military strategists. Each lesson focuses on how these

individuals shaped the world around them and overcame the challenges of their time. Beyond historical study, students actively connect historical insights to modern leadership skills, developing the tools they need to lead effectively in their own communities. Through interactive activities, case studies, and group discussions, students break down the strategies, traits, and decision-making skills of famous leaders. They then apply these lessons to their own lives, reflecting on how they can cultivate resilience, collaboration, empathy, and ethical decision-making. By the end of the course, students have developed a personal leadership framework, grounded in the lessons of history but tailored to their unique strengths and values. Whether leading in the classroom, on the sports field, or in their neighborhoods, students leave the course better prepared to navigate leadership challenges with confidence, critical thinking, and a deeper understanding of how the past can inform the future. This course is ideal for students interested in history, leadership, or those simply curious about how they can make a positive impact in their world.

### **Moral Reasoning** ⊕

This introductory ethics course invites students to explore the fundamental principles of moral reasoning and ethical decision-making. Throughout the semester, students engage with a diverse array of classical and contemporary ethical theories, including utilitarianism, deontology, virtue ethics, and care ethics. By examining these frameworks, students gain the tools to analyze and assess complex moral dilemmas. Key topics may include capital punishment, stem cell research, environmental ethics,



and issues related to social justice and personal responsibility. Each topic will be approached through a lens that encourages critical thinking and respectful dialogue, allowing students to consider various perspectives and the implications of their choices.

*Note: Open to students who will have completed the U.S. equivalent of grades 10 or 11 by the start of Summer Programs. Fulfills a diploma requirement in philosophy/religion.*

### Wall Street

Though only a mile long, Wall Street may be the most celebrated street in the world. This course emphasizes basic microeconomics, an understanding of the current stock market, a history of the stock market in the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries, and an overall investigation of the financial world and the decision-making processes of corporations. Students develop and track their own portfolio in this course while gaining an understanding of the stock market and financial terminology.

### World Religions

This course exposes students to the beliefs, practices, ethics, and histories of five major world religions: Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism. Students study each of the religions in order to gain an understanding of its meaning to individual believers and its impact on human history. *Note: Open to students who will have completed the U.S. equivalent of grades 8 or 9 by the start of Summer Programs. Fulfills a diploma requirement in philosophy/religion.*

## LANGUAGES

### French in a Global Context

Embark on an exhilarating journey into the vibrant world of the French language! More than just a tool for communication, French serves as a gateway to the rich tapestry of cultures found across francophone regions worldwide. In this dynamic course, students explore the fascinating history of the French language and the diverse countries where it thrives. Through engaging activities, students immerse themselves in the realms of art, music, cuisine, and literature, all while building language skills. Prior study of French language is encouraged but not required.

### Introduction to Latin

This course is designed for students with no prior Latin background who wish to gain an advantage in their future language studies. Latin is the fundamental root of all Romance languages (French, Spanish, Italian) as well as English. This course explores the structure of language, with students mastering parts of speech and basic syntax (the formation of phrases, clauses, and sentences) using Latin vocabulary. Students read short stories in Latin and focus on sentence structure, original Latin quotes, and etymology.

### Spanish in a Global Context

Dive into the vibrant world of the Spanish language, spoken by over 490 million native speakers across the globe! This course invites students to explore how Spanish shapes identities and cultures in diverse regions. Through captivating films, enchanting folklore, delectable cuisine, and rich literature, students uncover the fascinating history of the language and the countries where it thrives.

This course promises an engaging and immersive experience that will ignite students' passion for Spanish and its incredible cultural tapestry. Prior study of Spanish language is encouraged but not required.

### Word Power: Vocabulary Building

Word Power: Vocabulary Building is an engaging course designed to enhance students' vocabulary through the study of etymology. Students explore the origins of words, focusing on how ancient Greek, Latin, and Old French have shaped modern English vocabulary. Through interactive lessons and activities, participants uncover the roots and prefixes of words, gaining insights into their meanings and usage. Lessons emphasize the connections between language and culture, illustrating how historical contexts have influenced the evolution of vocabulary. Students also engage in practical exercises to apply their knowledge, enhancing their reading comprehension and communication skills. By the end of the course, students will have developed a richer vocabulary and a deeper understanding of the linguistic foundations of English, empowering them to express themselves more effectively in both written and spoken contexts.

## MATHEMATICS, COMPUTER SCIENCE, AND ROBOTICS

### Introduction to Algebra I

This course is intended for students who are comfortable with pre-algebra topics but would like additional preparation before enrolling in Algebra I in the fall. Students are expected to have a basic understanding of signed numbers as well as the concept of a variable. Students review basic equation-solving techniques and explore additional topics, including

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systems of linear equations and inequalities, rates of change, and the graphing of linear equations. Additional topics may be included as time permits.

### Introduction to Algebra II

This course provides an introduction to the concepts covered in an Algebra II class. Students are first introduced to the various families of functions and their properties, including linear, absolute value, quadratic, exponential, logarithmic, and rational functions. Emphasis is then placed on polynomial functions — specifically quadratics — and the various techniques for finding their roots. Students explore factoring techniques, the quadratic equation, and polynomial division. Time permitting, students may also examine exponential and logarithmic functions, conic sections, and systems of linear equations, as well as various applications. *Prerequisite: Algebra I.*  
*Note: This course is not intended to replace a full year study of Algebra II.*

### Introduction to Computer Programming

This course provides students with a solid foundation in programming. Concepts such as program design and control, looping, Boolean logic, variables, arrays, and basic object-oriented programming are covered. By the end of the course, students have a portfolio of artistic projects including a generative art program and a game. This course does not require a background in formal computer programming, but a laptop is required. *Prerequisite: Algebra I required.*

### Introduction to Game Theory

Game Theory is the mathematical study of competition, collaboration, and conflict. In this applied-mathematics course, students explore classic game theory games including Prisoner's Dilemma, Chicken, Tragedy of the

Commons, and Stag Hunt. Topics covered include payoff matrices, the Nash Equilibrium, zero-sum games, and various types of strategies. Armed with a newfound understanding of strategy and decision-making, students challenge each other to popular games such as poker, Settlers of Catan, Battleship, Stratego, and Connect Four, as well as mathematical games like Nim and Hex. *Prerequisite: Algebra II or instructor permission.*

### Introduction to Geometry

This course provides an introduction to the concepts covered in a Geometry class. Topics include work with triangle identities, angle relationships, properties of parallel lines, polygon angles, the Pythagorean Theorem, and tessellations. Students also encounter the idea of a mathematical proof and work with various computer-based geometry tools to enhance their understanding of the concepts covered. *Note: This course is not intended to replace a full year study of Geometry.*

### Introduction to Precalculus

This course introduces the concepts covered in a typical high school precalculus class, specifically trigonometry. Students are lead through the fundamentals of radian measurements and the unit circle before developing their understanding of the six trigonometric functions and their inverses. Students work through methods of solving trigonometric equations, study the domain and range of trig functions, and look to understand in depth ideas like the Law of Sines and Law of Cosines. Time permitting, students examine applications of trigonometry to the areas of physics, architecture, and navigation. *Prerequisite: Algebra II or the equivalent. Note: This course is not intended to replace a full year study of Precalculus.*

### Introduction to Robotics +

This course introduces students to the fundamentals of robotics using the VEX platform. Students learn to design and build robots, program autonomous behaviors, and use sensors to improve a robot's ability to interact with its environment. Robots compete in challenges, including racing and navigating over and around a variety of obstacles. This course also serves as an introduction to some aspects of computer programming, including program design and control, looping, and Boolean logic. Prior programming experience is not necessary. *Serves as supplementary prerequisite in applying to the Advanced Robotics Signature Program. Note: Applying to the ARC program does not guarantee admission.*

## SCIENCE

### Introduction to Biology

Designed for students planning to study biology in the fall, this course is an introductory overview that explores fundamental themes in biology ranging from cell structure and function to the evolutionary history of biodiversity. In addition to content knowledge, students develop critical science literacy skills, such as basic data analysis, reading both scientific and popular science literature, and composing concise scientific articles. This course aims to equip students with the tools necessary for further studies in the biological sciences.

### Introduction to Chemistry

This course stresses the conceptual understanding and problem-solving skills necessary for successful work in chemistry, emphasizing how macroscopic observations lead to the understanding of microscopic phenomena. The use of video, virtual laboratory experiments, and data



analysis helps increase student understanding of chemistry concepts. Topics include understanding the periodic table, the structure of the atom, chemical reactions, chemical equations, the mole, and stoichiometry.

### Introduction to Physics

Designed for students planning to begin the study of physics in the fall, this course stresses laboratory work, report writing, and problem-solving skills necessary for success in physics. Topics include mechanics, vectors, optics, motion, force, and waves. Students practice solving problems and gaining familiarity with several fundamental principles. They also experience the excitement of laboratory work and drawing conclusions from experiments.

*Prerequisite: Algebra I required.*

### Topics in Human Anatomy & Physiology

In this upper-level biology course, students explore the intricate systems of the human body and their interactions through a combination of class discussions, dissections, and comprehensive readings. Laboratory activities include the dissection of mammalian organs, such as the heart and eye, as well as the measurement of muscular, circulatory, and respiratory responses to both resting and exercise conditions. This hands-on approach enhances students' understanding of human anatomy and physiology, fostering critical analytical skills essential for further studies in the biological sciences. *Prerequisite: A course in biology is required.*

### Science and Society

This non-laboratory course investigates various scientific problems confronting the human species on our fragile planet and also examines ideas for combating these problems. What

sources of energy will best serve humankind in the future, while doing the least harm? How can we best employ water for personal use and irrigation without leading to health problems and soil degradation? What are the causes and effects of global warming, and how can Earth's temperatures be stabilized? What measures have proven effective, and what innovations may be employed in the future, in controlling AIDS, malaria, and pandemics? How will the growing populations of the world obtain adequate nutrition and shelter? These questions call upon students to consider various viewpoints as they seek ways to achieve sustainability for the human species. The course includes oral presentations and debates as well as writing and assessments. *Note: Fulfills a diploma requirement in contemporary global studies.*

### Sustainability and the Environment

Sustainability and the Environment integrates principles of environmental science, public policy, and advancements in sustainable technologies to enhance students' understanding of human impact on the environment and its diverse ecosystems, including human communities. This understanding is crucial for anyone pursuing interests in science or public policy. Key topics covered in the course include climate change, soils and substrates, nutrient cycling, land use planning, water management and hydrology, atmospheric processes, and energy resources. Through this comprehensive exploration, students gain valuable insights into the complex interactions that define our environment and the strategies for promoting sustainability.

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## COLLEGE BOUND

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The following online test prep course is open to students who will have completed the U.S. equivalent of grades 8, 9, 10, 11, or 12. Test prep courses meet twice a week for 5 weeks in the early evening and have an additional fee.

### SAT Test Preparation

The In Person SAT course, offered by Pillars of Learning, provides a unique data-driven approach which has produced the most efficient score-improvement model to date. Unlike most test preparation, which is built on pre-packaged strategies doled out to any student taking the course, our courses are adaptive and tailored around the unique data from each particular class. The results speak for themselves: over the past five years, our students averaged 210 points improvement, with 120 points improvement in math and 90 points improvement in reading/writing. The course itself consists of 8 classes of instructional lecture and group work along with two opportunities for practice tests taken asynchronously. While the first week of classes introduces critical information before the first practice test, the remaining classes are customized for the remaining weeks around each class's test data, identifying how students can more efficiently focus their efforts rather than generalized drilling. Parents and students receive all test results and tailored recommendations when the course concludes. Students receive all requisite test materials including practice tests and customized worksheets. The in-person class includes 2 opportunities to take a practice test with the option to self-proctor. Test prep classes average 60-90 minutes of homework per week.

The Online SAT course, offered by Pillars of Learning, provides a unique data-driven approach which has produced the most efficient score-improvement model to date. Unlike most test preparation which is built on pre-packaged strategies doled out to any student taking the course, our courses are adaptive and tailored around the unique data from each particular class. The results speak for themselves: over the past five years, our students averaged 210 points improvement, with 120 points improvement in math and 90 points improvement in reading/writing. The course itself consists of 8 classes of instructional lecture and group work along with two opportunities for practice tests taken asynchronously. While the first week of classes introduces critical information before the first practice test, the remaining classes are customized for the remaining weeks around each class's test data, identifying how students can more efficiently focus their efforts rather than generalized drilling. Parents and students receive all test results and tailored recommendations when the course concludes. Students receive all requisite test materials including practice tests and customized worksheets. The remote class includes 2 opportunities to take a practice test with the option to self-proctor. Test prep classes average 60-90 minutes of homework per week.

*\* See SSAT Preparation on p. 21*

# HIGH SCHOOL SIGNATURE PROGRAMS

In addition to Academic Enrichment courses, we offer unique and distinctive Signature Programs that allow students the opportunity to advance in a particular area of study.

## 5-WEEK PROGRAMS

### ENGLISH LANGUAGE INSTITUTE (For Non-Native English Speakers)

The English Language Institute (ELI) attracts talented students from around the world who have studied English for at least three years and who seek to enhance their English language skills in a supportive and rigorous five-week program. Through the use of a wide variety of language learning strategies, ELI courses in reading and writing drive substantive changes in each student's ability to read, write, speak, and understand spoken English. Every ELI student is enrolled three courses, Expository and Creative Writing, Reading Skills, and a third elective course of their choosing from the Academic Enrichment catalog of ELI-eligible courses. Course placement is determined by a diagnostic test administered on the first day of classes. Several trips and activities within New England are included in the program and enable students both to practice their language skills and to experience American culture in a variety of settings.

### ELI Expository and Creative Writing

This course invites students to explore the art of writing in expository and creative forms. Focusing on clear, concise expression, students develop their skills in crafting well-organized essays, including expository, persuasive, and analytical pieces. At the same time, the course encourages creative experimentation through fiction, poetry, and dramatic writing. Through a combination of structured assignments, open-ended creative prompts, and peer workshops, students refine their writing style, voice, and technique. Interactive discussions, grammar exercises, and text analysis reinforce students' understanding of structure and narrative flow. Personalized feedback from the instructor guides students as they navigate the process of drafting, revising, and polishing their work.

### ELI Reading Skills

This course focuses on developing and refining students' reading skills in English, helping them navigate various genres, including novels, short stories, poetry, news articles, and historical documents. Through the study of these diverse materials, students learn to analyze key literary elements, such as theme, character development, and literary devices. The course encourages critical thinking and reflection, guiding students to become more engaged readers and active participants in class discussions. By the end of the course, students will have strengthened their reading comprehension and analytical abilities, equipping them with the tools to approach texts with confidence and insight.

### THE JOHN F. KENNEDY '35 INSTITUTE IN GOVERNMENT

Established to honor the memory of President Kennedy — a member of Choate's Class of 1935 — The John F. Kennedy '35 Institute in Government is designed to stimulate curiosity about public policy and the desire to serve the public interest. As Kennedy Institute participants, students take three KI classes on campus over the course of four and half weeks and experience government in action during a multi-day trip to Washington, D.C. where they watch House and Senate debates, observe committee hearings on Capitol Hill, and spend time with officials in The White House and the Supreme Court. In D.C., students build on what they have learned in the classroom and get a real insider's feel for politics in meetings with representatives of interest groups, national political parties, and the media. *Prerequisite: While knowledge of politics is not necessary for the program, the desire and willingness to learn about politics, economics, U.S. history, and international affairs both in class and in D.C. is essential.*

### American Government & Politics

In this foundational course, students explore the Constitution and federalism through the lens of contemporary politics, providing a comprehensive understanding of their relevance in today's political landscape. The course begins with an in-depth examination of the structure and principles of the U.S. Constitution, including the roles and powers of the federal government as established by this foundational document. Students investigate how the offices of the President, Congress, and the Supreme Court function in both theory and practice, analyzing key case studies that highlight their

interactions and conflicts. Through discussions and analyses of landmark Supreme Court decisions, legislative actions, and executive orders, students gain insight into the complexities of governance and the impact of these branches on American society. Additionally, the course focuses on current political issues and debates, examining the platforms of major political candidates and their parties. Students engage in critical discussions about pressing topics such as healthcare, immigration, civil rights, and climate policy, assessing how these issues shape and are shaped by the political landscape. By the end of the course, students will have developed a nuanced understanding of the interplay between the Constitution, federalism, and contemporary politics, equipping them with the analytical skills to engage thoughtfully with current events and the broader democratic process.

### **Foundations of Political Thought** +

This course explores the foundations of Western political philosophy, introducing key thinkers such as Plato, Aristotle, Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, and Mill. Students engage with essential texts to understand governance, justice, and individual rights. The course also examines modern economics, focusing on how economic principles influence public policy and vice versa, covering concepts like supply and demand, market structures, and government roles. Students moreover explore the meanings of conservatism and liberalism in the context of current political debates, assessing their historical evolution and implications for policy in areas like healthcare and education. When applicable, students compare Western political and economic systems

with alternatives such as socialism and communism through case studies and analyses. By the end of the course, students will have developed a nuanced understanding of the interplay between political philosophy, economics, and public policy, enhancing their critical thinking skills for contemporary political discourse. *Fulfills the PS430HO political ideologies requirement for the JFK Signature Program.*

### **Topics in Public Policy**

In this course, students engage in critical analysis of how national and international newspapers, particularly *The New York Times*, serve as a lens to examine the dynamics of influence on American public policy. Through a combination of reading assignments, discussions, and research projects, students explore the role of media in shaping public opinion and political discourse. The course covers key topics such as the relationship between journalism and power, the impact of various interest groups—such as political organizations, corporations, and social movements—on policy formation, and the ways in which different narratives are constructed in the media. Students analyze specific case studies, tracking how coverage of issues like healthcare, immigration, and climate change reflects and influences legislative outcomes. This multifaceted approach aims to equip students with the tools necessary to navigate the complex landscape of media influence in contemporary American politics.

### **IMMERSION GEOMETRY** +

This intensive course covers the standard year-long geometry curriculum. At a brisk pace, students explore the fundamentals of Euclidean geometry as well as various applications of these concepts in the real world. As time permits, algebra is incorporated to help students review and strengthen their problem-solving skills. After gaining experience making conjectures and testing hypotheses, students progress to writing formal deductive proofs, using paragraphs as well as the two-column format. In order to complete this year-long course in the summer, students attend class for the full academic day and may not enroll in additional in-person courses. This course is appropriate for highly motivated students who have completed Algebra I. *Fulfills diploma requirement in geometry. Note: Returning and matriculating students entering the fourth form who have not yet completed a geometry course may choose this course for that purpose. Students entering the third form are generally not approved to take Immersion Geometry.*

## 4-WEEK PROGRAMS

### THEATER ARTS INSTITUTE

The Theater Arts Institute offers students a total theater immersion experience. Students learn the process of theater through daily classes in acting, singing, dance, set and costume design, and playwriting. In addition, students attend nightly laboratory sessions to work together on performance and design projects and attend master classes in movement, voice and diction, improvisation, lighting design, children's theater, and stage management. All aspects of the dramatic experience are highlighted, with opportunities to grow in many areas. Throughout the summer, students complete scene work in classical and modern drama, rehearse and perform numbers from a variety of musicals, and design set and costume pieces for different periods. Weekly field trips to professional theater and artistic performances throughout New York and New England inform our work and inspire our students. This program is designed for young people who are serious about expanding their knowledge and willing to take risks in all areas of theater.

#### Acting

This acting course delves into the intricate process of character preparation and the essential skills needed to bring diverse roles to life on stage. Together, students explore a range of techniques and methodologies that enhance both individual and ensemble performance. Students engage in theater games and improvisational exercises to foster creativity, spontaneity, and collaboration. These activities build a strong foundation in basic acting principles, including voice

modulation, body language, and emotional authenticity. Through focused exercises, students learn to develop a character's backstory, motivations, and relationships with other characters. Central to the curriculum is the practice of monologues and scene work, where students select and rehearse pieces from a variety of genres and styles. Individual and group performances provide opportunities for constructive feedback and reflection, enabling students to refine their craft.

#### Dance

In this course, students explore the fundamentals of dance, choreography, and vocal projection while in motion, culminating in the performance of at least two polished group routines. Through a combination of structured lessons and creative exploration, students develop their technical skills and enhance their ability to express themselves through movement. The course begins with an introduction to various dance styles, emphasizing technique, rhythm, and body awareness. Students learn essential choreography skills, including how to memorize sequences quickly and accurately, as well as how to interpret and embody the emotions behind the movements. As part of the curriculum, students also engage in vocal training exercises designed to improve projection, clarity, and expression while dancing. This integration of voice and movement helps students develop a holistic approach to performance. Collaborative group work fosters teamwork, communication, and creativity, as students will be required to dance in unison, enhancing their ability to synchronize movements and perform cohesively.

#### Design

In this hands-on course, students are guided through the essential principles and techniques of set design, exploring how to create immersive environments that enhance theatrical productions. Beginning with an overview of the history and role of set design in theater, students learn about the elements that contribute to a compelling visual narrative. Utilizing techniques such as faux batik, students experiment with various materials and methods to develop original design concepts. Throughout the course, they engage in brainstorming sessions and sketching exercises to translate their ideas into visual plans. Students gain practical skills in color theory, texture application, and spatial awareness, which are crucial for effective set design. As the course progresses, students work collaboratively on several projects, culminating in the design and execution of set pieces for the final Theater Arts Institute performance.

#### Production Studies

Production Studies offers a comprehensive exploration of the various components that contribute to creating a successful staged production. In this course, students begin by developing their own original script, allowing them to weave together narrative and dialogue while considering the technical aspects of theater, including scenery, lighting, properties, costuming, and sound design. Once the script is completed, students transition into the production phase, where they actively participate in all facets of bringing their work to life on stage. This hands-on experience includes collaborating on set design, selecting and creating props, and coordinating lighting

✦ This course may fulfill a Choate Rosemary Hall diploma or prerequisite requirement. Matriculating and current Choate students who wish to fulfill a diploma credit must notify the Registrar, Nancy Mattack (nmattack@choate.edu), as part of the application and enrollment process. Prerequisites must be approved by the appropriate department head. Final eligibility for credit is based upon the student's successful completion of the course.

and sound cues to enhance the storytelling. Students learn about the significance of each technical element and how it contributes to the overall atmosphere and emotional impact of a performance. Throughout the course, students engage in practical exercises that involve scene changes and costume transitions, ensuring they develop the skills necessary for seamless execution during performances. Emphasis is placed on teamwork and communication, as students work in groups to solve challenges that arise during rehearsals and performances.

### Text & Script

In this immersive course, students delve into the art of reading and analyzing scripts from live performances they attend, fostering a deeper appreciation for theatrical storytelling. Through a structured approach, students learn the critical vocabulary and analytical techniques necessary to unpack the layers of meaning that playwrights convey through their work. The course begins with an introduction to script analysis, exploring key elements such as character development, themes, dialogue, and structure. Students engage in discussions about the social, cultural, and historical contexts of the plays, encouraging them to connect the writers' intentions to contemporary issues and personal experiences. Collaborative learning plays a central role in this course, as students will work both as a whole group and in smaller teams to dissect scripts. They practice techniques such as textual analysis, thematic exploration, and character mapping, ultimately equipping themselves with the skills to create an original script in the Production Studies course.

### Voice

In this engaging course, students embark on a journey through the rich history of musical theater repertoire, exploring its evolution and significance in the performing arts. Through a combination of research, discussion, and practical exercises, students gain a comprehensive understanding of key musicals, iconic composers, and the cultural contexts that shaped this dynamic art form. Daily vocal exercises are an integral part of the curriculum, focusing on essential techniques to develop a strong, versatile singing voice. Students learn proper breath control, vocal placement, and projection, preparing them for the demands of musical performance. The course also emphasizes the importance of storytelling in musical theater. Students participate in improvisational exercises that encourage creativity and spontaneity, allowing them to experiment with character development and emotional expression. By the end of the course, students have a deeper appreciation for the art of musical theater and the tools to deliver compelling performances.

## 2-WEEK WORKSHOPS

Combine 2-week offerings from Session I and Session II to create an individualized 4-week program.

### ENGLISH

#### Academic Writing Workshop Sessions I & II | All Class Day

This 2-week workshop explores various forms of academic, expository, and research-based writing with a focus on drafting, revising, and final polish. Students receive instruction in all stages of the planning and writing process: from seed idea, research, and analysis to making decisions about genre, structure, and voice. Students produce multiple pieces of work and write about topics that interest them, with an emphasis on understanding a writer's purpose, tone, and audience. Students engage in analytical, expository, persuasive, and argumentative writing and fine-tune skills which will help them in any classroom setting: writing clear, balanced sentences, constructing unified paragraphs, and incorporating and citing evidence. Instruction in basic grammar and usage, specific academic conventions, and vocabulary is also included. Readings, which complement the varied writing assignments, may include journalism, short stories, essays, and poems.

#### Creative Writing Workshop Sessions I & II | All Class Day

This 2-week workshop explores multiple forms of creative writing and allows young writers to find their inner poet, memoirist, playwright, or storyteller. With a focus on drafting, revising, and final polish, students explore various genres through fun and creative exercises, inspiring mentor texts, and in-class activities



aimed at producing and sharing work frequently. Along the way, teachers provide guidance in making decisions about genre, structure, language, and voice. Workshop sessions focus on the importance of word choice, sentence type, detail and description, plot, conflict, character, and figurative language. Students receive one-on-one guidance, work closely alongside their peers, and showcase their writing in a final reading and portfolio of their best work. Individual freedom, artistic vision, and purposeful revision are some of the pillars of this course, as students find their voice and learn how best to put pen to page to express their ideas. Readings, which complement the varied writing assignments, may include journalism, short stories, essays, and poems. *Serves as a prerequisite for EN490: Advanced Creative Writing: Literature, Process, and Craft.*


offers an academically reflective service experience with examples of real-world application and engagement. *Note: Fulfills community service credit hours for the academic year.*

## **HISTORY, PHILOSOPHY, RELIGION, & SOCIAL SCIENCES**

### **Service as Social Justice**

#### **Sessions I & II | All Class Day**

What can we learn about systemic inequities and, thus, injustice in the face of the ever-growing disparities of wealth and access throughout the world? How can we grow understanding and empathy to work with, help, heal, and support vulnerable communities to implement sustainable change? Through current events, class discussions, workshops, and excursions to nearby community organizations, students in Service as Social Justice learn about the interconnectedness of race, gender, socioeconomics, the global refugee and migrant crisis, and the subsequent impact on the environment, communities, and individuals. This 2-week program

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**middle  
school  
offerings:**

# ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT

## 5-WEEK COURSES

### ARTS

#### Dance

Welcome to all students regardless of level or prior experience, this course explores various genres of modern dance such as jazz and hip hop while introducing students to the rudiments of choreography. Students build physical awareness, articulation, strength, and flexibility through guided exercises while gaining appreciation for dance as an art form.

#### Digital Photography & Imaging

This course teaches emerging photographers the fundamentals of storytelling through photography and imaging. Students learn the principles of good composition and how to find the most effective ways to frame a shot. The subjects for projects range from the selfie and the portrait to more abstract concepts such as light and patterns. While a dedicated digital camera may be preferred and can provide more options for control over the pictures, a camera phone is an acceptable tool for this class. The course culminates in an art show of students' works at the Paul Mellon Arts Center Gallery.

#### Drawing

This studio course provides students with an introduction to working with traditional materials, such as graphite, charcoal, and ink, to create imagery based on direct observation of objects, as well as eventual experiments in imaginative design. Through the introduction of still life objects, both solid and transparent, students explore modeling with light

and shadow, surface tension and reflection. The course culminates in an art show of students' works at the Paul Mellon Arts Center Gallery.

#### Studio Art through the Ages

This hands-on studio course is a practical exploration of Modern art and its various styles and movements. In each class, students learn about a different artistic trend and create their own works of art inspired by it. Students use different media and methods, such as painting, drawing, collage, and sculpture, to express their personal vision. Some of the topics covered include Impressionism and color perception, Cubism and the reconstruction of objects, Expressionism and emotional content, Surrealism and the power of dream imagery, Pop Art and the influences of commercial culture. The course culminates in an art show of students' works at the Paul Mellon Arts Center Gallery.

#### Watercolor Painting

This course introduces students to the foundational techniques of watercolor painting. Students explore the key elements of observational painting through still life, portraiture, and landscape. Students learn how to see and mix color and develop form. Assignments are based on traditional and contemporary painting techniques and are designed to develop technical skill while fostering each student's concepts of creative expression. The course culminates in an art show of students' works at the Paul Mellon Arts Center Gallery.

### ENGLISH

#### Creative Writing

In this course, students learn how to write creatively in different genres and forms, exploring various elements

of creative writing, such as plot, character development, setting, dialogue, and point of view. Students participate in fun and engaging writing activities that help generate ideas, overcome writer's block, and develop personal style. By the end of this course, students will have a portfolio of original peer-edited creative writing pieces. This course is designed for students who love to write and want to challenge themselves creatively.

#### Introduction to Academic Writing

This course introduces students to the art of academic writing. In this course, students focus on the mechanics of academic writing while expanding their skills in rhetoric and argumentation. Beyond writing, students learn how to brainstorm, organize, outline, and compose a five-paragraph essay. Students also learn to edit and revise their work, as well as to give and receive feedback through a variety of interactive partner and class work. This course prepares students for the kinds of writing that are necessary to excel in high school and beyond.

#### Language of Literature: Critical Reading & Critical Writing

This course emphasizes the dual skills of reading literature and engaging in critical writing, which are essential for students throughout their academic journeys. Participants explore a diverse selection of significant literary works, encouraging thoughtful analysis and discussion. Through guided readings and collaborative dialogues, students deepen their understanding of themes, contexts, and styles. The course also focuses on developing robust critical reading strategies and honing writing techniques, equipping students with the tools necessary for crafting compelling analytical essays.

By the end of the course, students will be able to articulate their insights clearly and confidently, enhancing both their literary appreciation and writing proficiency.

### **Mythology: Legends in Literature**

Mythology has profoundly influenced art, literature, and culture throughout history, serving as a foundational element of Western civilization. In this course, students embark on an in-depth exploration of major mythological cycles from various cultures, including Greek, Roman, Norse, and others. Through a combination of reading, discussion, and analysis, participants examine shared themes such as creation, heroism, and the nature of good and evil across different mythologies. Additionally, students delve into the significance of key mythological figures—such as gods, heroes, and mythical creatures—recognizing their enduring impact on contemporary culture, literature, and popular media. By the end of the course, students not only gain a richer understanding of mythology’s role in shaping human thought and creativity but also develop critical analytical skills applicable to various texts and works of art.

### **Public Speaking & Debate**

Oral presentation is an essential component of communication, and the ability to organize one’s thoughts and present them effectively are vital skills to navigate life within and beyond the classroom. In this course, students learn to express themselves with greater confidence in small and large groups, utilizing prepared debates and crafting extemporaneous speeches in informal and formal settings.

### **Reading & Study Skills**

This course emphasizes active reading and study skills to help achieve success across disciplines. Students learn strategies for note-taking, annotating and summarizing texts, mapping concepts, and varying their reading rate. Students practice “reading for the conversation” and learn strategies to determine the primary audience and significance of a text. By the end of the course, students are prepared to navigate and interpret challenging texts with confidence. Students will also prepare mini-essay writing assignments to practice their new reading strategies and study skills.

## **HISTORY, PHILOSOPHY, RELIGION, & SOCIAL SCIENCES**

### **Democracy in Action**

First imagined in ancient Greek city-states, democracy has evolved over the centuries into one of the most important and polarizing political ideals in the history of civilization. This course explores the earliest seeds of democracy and their development into modern systems of government. Students examine the mechanics of representation in democracy and democratic approaches to political life with a special focus on ancient Athens, Rome, modern Britain, and the US. Students also practice essential skills in the study of history, including reading, researching, and writing.

### **Everyday Economics**

Why do fruits and vegetables cost more in the winter? What market forces determine the price of gas at the pump? Understanding economics is essential for navigating today’s global economy. In this course, students explore fundamental concepts such as supply and

demand, opportunity costs, and trade through real-world examples and demonstrations. This engaging approach equips them with the knowledge necessary to make informed decisions in their economic lives.

### **Global Topics**

This course introduces students to current international events, helping students to develop fundamental research, writing, and public speaking skills. The course typically focuses on two-three major issues, utilizing a range of materials and providing historical context and a variety of perspectives on each issue. This course pays particular attention to the development of critical writing, reading, note-taking, and research skills.

### **Hands-On History: Introduction to Research Methods**

In this course, students embark on an engaging exploration of historical research techniques, emphasizing the importance of primary sources. Utilizing the rich collection of primary source documents from the Choate Rosemary Hall Archive, students learn how to analyze, interpret, and contextualize historical materials. Through hands-on activities, they develop essential research skills, including source evaluation, critical thinking, and effective communication. By diving into the past and working directly with original documents, students gain a deeper understanding of history while honing their ability to conduct meaningful research. This course invites aspiring historians and curious learners alike to uncover stories from the archive and bring history to life!

### History: Completing the Narrative

In this course, students investigate historical narratives and examine how historians and journalists have presented different stories of past and current events, particularly those centered upon race, gender, and class. Students evaluate primary and secondary sources and build research skills to help inform their analyses of these events. As part of their studies, students read about current events and look for their antecedents in history. Students also analyze works by prominent Black writers that illuminate the time periods being studied, such as Frederick Douglass, Harriet Jacobs, and Richard Wright.

### Model UN

This course introduces students to the world of international diplomacy. Beginning with a brief history of the United Nations, students explore the purpose and structure of the organization while learning how to write resolutions and conduct effective research for debating. Students develop a better understanding of the diverse perspectives of participating countries while conducting simulations on various topics of debate such as climate change, extreme poverty, gender and science, and pandemics.

### Psychology and the Brain

Have you ever wondered why people behave the way they do? Do you want to learn more about yourself and others? In this course, students explore the fascinating world of psychology, the scientific study of human mind and behavior. Students learn about various topics and concepts in psychology, such as personality, intelligence, memory, emotions, motivation, social influence, and mental health. Students also learn how to apply psychological principles and methods to everyday situations and

problems. *Note: Completion of Choate Summer Programs' Science of the Brain: The Teen Brain is highly recommended as a prerequisite for this course.*

## LANGUAGES

### French in a Global Context

Embark on an exhilarating journey into the vibrant world of the French language! More than just a tool for communication, French serves as a gateway to the rich tapestry of cultures found across francophone regions worldwide. In this dynamic course, students explore the fascinating history of the French language and the diverse countries where it thrives. Through engaging activities, students immerse themselves in the realms of art, music, cuisine, and literature, all while building language skills. Prior study of French language is encouraged but not required.

### Introduction to Latin

This course is designed for students with no prior Latin background who wish to gain an advantage in their future language studies. Latin is the fundamental root of all Romance languages (French, Spanish, Italian) as well as English. This course explores the structure of language, with students mastering parts of speech and basic syntax (the formation of phrases, clauses, and sentences) using Latin vocabulary. Students read short stories in Latin and focus on sentence structure, original Latin quotes, and etymology.

### Spanish in a Global Context

Dive into the vibrant world of the Spanish language, spoken by over 490 million native speakers across the globe! This course invites students to explore how Spanish shapes identities and cultures in diverse regions. Through captivating films, enchanting

folklore, delectable cuisine, and rich literature, students uncover the fascinating history of the language and the countries where it thrives. This course promises an engaging and immersive experience that will ignite students' passion for Spanish and its incredible cultural tapestry. Prior study of Spanish language is encouraged but not required.

### Word Power: Vocabulary Building

Word Power: Vocabulary Building is an engaging course designed to enhance students' vocabulary through the study of etymology. Students explore the origins of words, focusing on how ancient Greek, Latin, and Old French have shaped modern English vocabulary. Through interactive lessons and activities, participants uncover the roots and prefixes of words, gaining insights into their meanings and usage. Lessons emphasize the connections between language and culture, illustrating how historical contexts have influenced the evolution of vocabulary. Students also engage in practical exercises to apply their knowledge, enhancing their reading comprehension and communication skills. By the end of the course, students will have developed a richer vocabulary and a deeper understanding of the linguistic foundations of English, empowering them to express themselves more effectively in both written and spoken contexts.

## MATH, COMPUTER PROGRAMMING, & ROBOTICS

### Games & Strategy

Games & Strategy introduces students to over twenty pencil-and-paper math games and the theories that underpin them. Through competitive play and diligent note taking, students are introduced to mathematical topics

including combinatorics, probability, Number Theory, Computation Theory, fractals, and more! Drawing on mathematical classics including Nim and Hex, students learn and compete in a new game almost every day. This class emphasizes the practice of clear and precise notetaking by asking students to write down the rules of each game alongside their winning strategies in a game journal that they can take with them at the end of the summer. Nightly homework assignments include a variety of articles and videos that students read and watch and then reflect upon in their journals.

### Introduction to Algebra I

This course is intended for students who are comfortable with pre-algebra topics but would like additional preparation before enrolling in Algebra I in the fall. Students are expected to have a basic understanding of signed numbers as well as the concept of a variable. Students review basic equation-solving techniques and explore additional topics, including systems of linear equations and inequalities, rates of change, and the graphing of linear equations. Additional topics may be included as time permits.

*Note: This course is not intended to replace a full year study of Algebra I.*

### Introduction to Algebra II

This course provides an introduction to the concepts covered in an Algebra II class. Students are first introduced to the various families of functions and their properties, including linear, absolute value, quadratic, exponential, logarithmic, and rational functions. Emphasis is then placed on polynomial functions — specifically quadratics — and the various techniques for finding their roots. Students explore factoring techniques, the quadratic equation,

and polynomial division. Time permitting, students may also examine exponential and logarithmic functions, conic sections, and systems of linear equations, as well as various applications.

*Prerequisite: Algebra I. Note: This course is not intended to replace a full year study of Algebra II.*

### Introduction to Computer Programming

This course introduces students to programming concepts such as variables, loops, events, logic, arrays, program design and control, and basic object-oriented programming. Students undertake this exploration of code in p5.js, a JavaScript framework used to teach computer programming fundamentals within a visual context. The course does not require a background in formal computer programming, but students should have had some prior computer experience. *Note: A laptop is required.*

### Introduction to Geometry

This course provides an introduction to the concepts covered in a Geometry class. Topics include work with triangle identities, angle relationships, properties of parallel lines, polygon angles, the Pythagorean Theorem, and tessellations. Students also encounter the idea of a mathematical proof and work with various computer-based geometry tools to enhance their understanding of the concepts covered.

*Note: This course is not intended to replace a full year study of Geometry.*

### Introduction to Robotics

This course introduces students to the fundamentals of robotics using the VEX platform. Students learn to design and build robots, program autonomous behaviors, and use sensors to improve a robot's ability to interact with its environment. Robots compete in challenges, including

racing and navigating over and around a variety of obstacles. This course also serves as an introduction to some aspects of computer programming, including program design and control, looping, and Boolean logic. Prior programming experience is not necessary.

### Math and Art

Mathematical concepts are present in many art forms, whether intentionally incorporated by the artist or simply because they are visually appealing. In this course, students explore a variety of mathematical ideas, including geometric constructions, the golden ratio, similarity, transformations, compositions, vectors, fractals, and the Fibonacci sequence. Math-based art projects may include mandalas, friezes, tessellations, optical art, and quilting. Our toolkit comprises both traditional math instruments—compasses, rulers, and protractors—and modern technology like Desmos, 3-D printers, and laser cutters.

### Pre-Algebra

This course is designed for students who have not yet studied any algebra and would like to gain experience with algebraic concepts prior to enrolling in an Algebra I course. Beginning with a brief review of arithmetic skills, students are introduced to early Algebra I topics, including signed numbers and variables and their use in problem solving. Students also learn basic equation-solving techniques, as well as additional algebra concepts as time permits. *Note: This course is not intended to replace a full year study of Pre-Algebra.*

### Puzzles & Logic

Learning how to solve puzzles and win strategy games is not only fun, but it also strengthens critical thinking and reasoning skills. By exploring some of the classic riddles, problems,



and strategy games of mathematics history, students develop oral and written communication skills as they are asked to defend their thinking and explain their solution strategies. Students also explore multiple ways to approach logic problems, with an emphasis on clear organization of work and given information.

## SCIENCE

### Culinary Chemistry

This course invites students to explore the fascinating chemical reactions that occur in the kitchen that are fundamental to the foods we enjoy. Through hands-on experiments and engaging activities, students learn about the properties of ingredients, the role of heat in cooking, and how different cooking techniques affect flavor and texture. Key topics include the chemistry of baking, the science behind emulsions and foams, food safety, and the transformation of food through chemical changes. Students engage in group projects, recipe modifications, and taste tests, all while gaining a deeper understanding of the scientific principles that underpin everyday cooking.

### Introduction to Engineering

Engineering is the application of science, mathematics, and creativity to tackle real-world challenges. This engaging introductory course offers students a comprehensive overview of the engineering design and prototyping process. Through a variety of interactive, hands-on activities—such as launching bottle rockets to explore principles of aerodynamics and constructing popsicle bridges to understand structural integrity—students learn fundamental engineering concepts. Participants work collaboratively

to identify problems, brainstorm solutions, and iterate designs, gaining practical experience in critical thinking and teamwork. By the end of the course, students will not only have a deeper appreciation for the engineering field but also the skills to approach challenges with a problem-solving mindset.

### Introduction to Marine Biology

In this comprehensive course, students delve into the rich diversity of marine life and the biological principles that govern ocean ecosystems. Focusing on the intricate relationships among organisms, their environments, and ecological processes, students gain a deeper understanding of how marine systems function. Utilizing local resources such as Long Island Sound, the course incorporates hands-on field studies, laboratory experiments, and interactive discussions. Key topics include marine biodiversity, the physiology of marine organisms, oceanic food webs, and the impact of human activity on marine environments. Students learn about various marine habitats, including estuaries, coral reefs, and open ocean ecosystems, while studying the adaptations of organisms that allow them to thrive in these environments.

### Phenomenal Physics

What makes a baseball curve? How do eyeglasses help you see? In this engaging and hands-on course, students explore the fundamental principles of physics that shape our everyday experiences. The course covers essential topics including force, motion, energy, and the laws of physics that govern the natural world through a variety of laboratory experiments designed to illustrate these concepts in action. Activities

include analyzing projectile motion, examining the effects of friction and gravity, and exploring the principles of energy transfer through interactive demonstrations. In addition to laboratory work, students engage in group discussions, problem-solving exercises, and real-world applications of physics concepts. By the end of the course, participants will have developed a strong understanding of the fundamental principles of physics and their relevance to daily life, preparing them for further studies in the sciences.

### Science of the Brain: The Teen Brain

This interdisciplinary, multimedia course allows students to understand and explore the inner workings of the human brain. Students use research-based approaches to study brain systems and their function, such as memory and dreaming, neurological disorders, adolescent development and decision making, and the mind-gut connection. The second half of the course builds upon these methods and concepts as students delve deeper into the link between the subconscious and behavior, neuroplasticity, and the impact of certain experiences on the brain, such as trauma, mindfulness, language, music, and screen time. During the course, students conduct and present their own research relating to a connected topic of their choice.

## PREP SCHOOL BOUND

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The following online test prep courses are open to students who will have completed the U.S. equivalent of grades 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, or 12. Test prep courses meet twice a week for 5 weeks in the early evening and have an additional fee.

### SSAT Test Preparation

The In Person SSAT (upper level) course, offered by Pillars of Learning, provides a unique data-driven approach which has produced the most efficient score-improvement model to date. Unlike most test preparation, which is built on pre-packaged strategies doled out to any student taking the course, our courses are adaptive and tailored around the unique data from each particular class. The results speak for themselves: over the past four years, our students have had a 32 percentile point increase on the quantitative section, 15 percentile point increase in reading, and 10 percentile point jump in vocabulary. The course consists of 8 classes of instructional lecture and group work along with two opportunities for practice tests taken asynchronously. While the first week of classes introduces critical information before the first practice test, the remaining classes are entirely customized around each class's test data identifying how students can better retain the material, rather than drilling content. Parents and students receive all test results and tailored recommendations when the course concludes. The in person class includes 2 opportunities to take a practice test with the option to self-proctor. Students receive all requisite test materials including practice tests and customized worksheets. Test prep classes average 60-90 minutes of homework per week.

The Online SSAT (upper level) course, offered by Pillars of Learning, provides a unique data-driven approach which has produced the most efficient score-improvement model to date. Unlike most test preparation which is built on pre-packaged strategies doled out to any student taking the course, our courses are adaptive and tailored around the unique data from each particular class. The results speak for themselves: over the past four years, our students have had a 32 percentile point increase on the quantitative section, 15 percentile point increase in reading, and 10 percentile point jump in vocabulary. The course consists of 8 classes of instructional lecture and group work along with two opportunities for practice tests taken asynchronously. While the first week of classes introduces critical information before the first practice test, the remaining classes are entirely customized around each class's test data identifying how students can better retain the material, rather than drilling content. Parents and students receive all test results and tailored recommendations when the course concludes. The remote class includes 2 opportunities to take a practice test with the option to self-proctor. Students receive all requisite test materials including practice tests and customized worksheets. Test prep classes average 60-90 minutes of homework per week.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL SIGNATURE PROGRAMS

In addition to Academic Enrichment courses, we offer unique and distinctive Signature Programs that allow Middle School students the opportunity to advance in a particular area of study.

### 5-WEEK PROGRAM

#### **THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE INSTITUTE (For Non-Native English Speakers)**

The English Language Institute (ELI) attracts talented students from around the world who have studied English for at least three years and who seek to enhance their English language skills in a supportive and rigorous five-week program. Through the use of a wide variety of language learning strategies, ELI courses in reading and writing drive substantive changes in each student's ability to read, write, speak, and understand spoken English. Every ELI student is enrolled three courses, Expository and Creative Writing, Reading Skills, and a third elective course of their choosing from the Academic Enrichment catalog of ELI-eligible courses. Course placement is determined by a diagnostic test administered on the first day of classes. Several trips and activities within New England are included in the program and enable students both to practice their language skills and to experience American culture in a variety of settings.

*\*Please check the online course catalog for up-to-date listings of ELI-eligible courses.*

#### **ELI Expository and Creative Writing**

This course invites students to explore the art of writing in expository and creative forms. Focusing on clear, concise expression, students develop their skills in crafting well-organized essays, including expository, persuasive, and analytical pieces. At the same time, the course encourages creative experimentation through fiction, poetry, and dramatic writing. Through a combination of structured assignments, open-ended creative prompts, and peer workshops, students refine their writing style, voice, and technique. Interactive discussions, grammar exercises, and text analysis reinforce students' understanding of structure and narrative flow. Personalized feedback from the instructor guides students as they navigate the process of drafting, revising, and polishing their work.

#### **ELI Reading Skills**

This course focuses on developing and refining students' reading skills in English, helping them navigate various genres, including novels, short stories, poetry, news articles, and historical documents. Through the study of these diverse materials, students learn to analyze key literary elements, such as theme, character development, and literary devices. The course encourages critical thinking and reflection, guiding students to become more engaged readers and active participants in class discussions. By the end of the course, students will have strengthened their reading comprehension and analytical abilities, equipping them with the tools to approach texts with confidence and insight.

### 4-WEEK PROGRAM

#### **THEATER ARTS INSTITUTE**

The Theater Arts Institute offers students a total theater immersion experience. Students learn the process of theater through daily classes in acting, singing, dance, set and costume design, and playwriting. In addition, students attend nightly laboratory sessions to work together on performance and design projects and attend master classes in movement, voice and diction, improvisation, lighting design, children's theater, and stage management. All aspects of the dramatic experience are highlighted, with opportunities to grow in many areas. Throughout the summer, students complete scene work in classical and modern drama, rehearse and perform numbers from a variety of musicals, and design set and costume pieces for different periods. Weekly field trips to professional theater and artistic performances throughout New York and New England inform our work and inspire our students. This program is designed for young people who are serious about expanding their knowledge and willing to take risks in all areas of theater.

#### **Acting**

This acting course delves into the intricate process of character preparation and the essential skills needed to bring diverse roles to life on stage. Together, students explore a range of techniques and methodologies that enhance both individual and ensemble performance. Students engage in theater games and improvisational exercises to foster creativity, spontaneity, and collaboration. These activities build a strong foundation in basic acting principles, including

voice modulation, body language, and emotional authenticity. Through focused exercises, students learn to develop a character's backstory, motivations, and relationships with other characters. Central to the curriculum is the practice of monologues and scene work, where students select and rehearse pieces from a variety of genres and styles. Individual and group performances provide opportunities for constructive feedback and reflection, enabling students to refine their craft.

### Dance

In this course, students explore the fundamentals of dance, choreography, and vocal projection while in motion, culminating in the performance of at least two polished group routines. Through a combination of structured lessons and creative exploration, students develop their technical skills and enhance their ability to express themselves through movement. The course begins with an introduction to various dance styles, emphasizing technique, rhythm, and body awareness. Students learn essential choreography skills, including how to memorize sequences quickly and accurately, as well as how to interpret and embody the emotions behind the movements. As part of the curriculum, students also engage in vocal training exercises designed to improve projection, clarity, and expression while dancing. This integration of voice and movement helps students develop a holistic approach to performance. Collaborative group work fosters teamwork, communication, and creativity, as students will be required to dance in unison, enhancing their ability to synchronize movements and perform cohesively.

### Design

In this hands-on course, students are guided through the essential principles and techniques of set design, exploring how to create immersive environments that enhance theatrical productions. Beginning with an overview of the history and role of set design in theater, students learn about the elements that contribute to a compelling visual narrative. Utilizing techniques such as faux batik, students experiment with various materials and methods to develop original design concepts. Throughout the course, they engage in brainstorming sessions and sketching exercises to translate their ideas into visual plans. Students gain practical skills in color theory, texture application, and spatial awareness, which are crucial for effective set design. As the course progresses, students work collaboratively on several projects, culminating in the design and execution of set pieces for the final Theater Arts Institute performance.

### Production Studies

Production Studies offers a comprehensive exploration of the various components that contribute to creating a successful staged production. In this course, students begin by developing their own original script, allowing them to weave together narrative and dialogue while considering the technical aspects of theater, including scenery, lighting, properties, costuming, and sound design. Once the script is completed, students transition into the production phase, where they actively participate in all facets of bringing their work to life on stage. This hands-on experience includes collaborating on set design, selecting and creating props, and coordinating lighting and sound cues to enhance the storytelling. Students learn about the

significance of each technical element and how it contributes to the overall atmosphere and emotional impact of a performance. Throughout the course, students engage in practical exercises that involve scene changes and costume transitions, ensuring they develop the skills necessary for seamless execution during performances. Emphasis is placed on teamwork and communication, as students work in groups to solve challenges that arise during rehearsals and performances.

### Text & Script

In this immersive course, students delve into the art of reading and analyzing scripts from live performances they attend, fostering a deeper appreciation for theatrical storytelling. Through a structured approach, students learn the critical vocabulary and analytical techniques necessary to unpack the layers of meaning that playwrights convey through their work. The course begins with an introduction to script analysis, exploring key elements such as character development, themes, dialogue, and structure. Students engage in discussions about the social, cultural, and historical contexts of the plays, encouraging them to connect the writers' intentions to contemporary issues and personal experiences. Collaborative learning plays a central role in this course, as students work both as a whole group and in smaller teams to dissect scripts. They practice techniques such as textual analysis, thematic exploration, and character mapping, ultimately equipping themselves with the skills to create an original script in the Production Studies course.

## Voice

In this engaging course, students embark on a journey through the rich history of musical theater repertoire, exploring its evolution and significance in the performing arts. Through a combination of research, discussion, and practical exercises, students gain a comprehensive understanding of key musicals, iconic composers, and the cultural contexts that shaped this dynamic art form. Daily vocal exercises are an integral part of the curriculum, focusing on essential techniques to develop a strong, versatile singing voice. Students learn proper breath control, vocal placement, and projection, preparing them for the demands of musical performance. The course also emphasizes the importance of storytelling in musical theater. Students participate in improvisational exercises that encourage creativity and spontaneity, allowing them to experiment with character development and emotional expression. By the end of the course, students will have a deeper appreciation for the art of musical theater and the tools to deliver compelling performances.

## 2-WEEK WORKSHOPS

Combine the 2-week offerings from Session I and Session II to create an individualized 4-week program.

### Writing Workshop

#### Sessions I & II | All Class Day

This 2-week workshop focuses on the development of personal creativity, critical thinking, and independent analysis through the reading and writing of both fiction and nonfiction. Students try their hand at a variety of creative and academic genres, read and discuss model texts for inspiration, and form a community of supportive, working writers.

## A Biologist's World

#### Session I | All Class Day

This 2-week workshop provides middle school students with a hands-on laboratory and field-based approach to the fundamental topics of biology, ranging from a study of cells and the molecules that make up cells to the study of organisms, populations, and ecosystems. Students learn how energy flows through ecosystems and how populations change over time due to evolution, reproduction, and genetics. Students set up and conduct experiments in the classroom and explore aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems on campus and on field trips. A Biologist's World provides a solid background for future life science and environmental studies.

### KEC Environmental Science Workshop

#### Session II | All Class Day

This 2-week workshop educates and inspires middle school students who are interested in environmental science. Choate's USGBC LEED-Platinum certified and net-zero energy Kohler Environmental Center (KEC) is home to the program during the class day, giving students access to KEC classrooms and laboratory facilities. Study of the interrelationships between human activities and the environment concentrates on three areas: the generation and use of energy, climate change and biogeochemical cycles, and patterns of resource use. The course emphasizes the challenges of contemporary environmental issues and considers science-based solutions. Ecological principles as well as relevant concepts from biology, chemistry, and physics are integrated throughout the program. In addition to examining regional or global examples, students are guided to investigate topics within their home communities.









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