



Wednesday Offerings
First Semester
2025 - 2026

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Period 3

Note: During Period 3, Middle Schoolers take two required Wednesday classes over the course of the year. Middle Schoolers are randomly assigned to take one of the courses required for their grade level first semester and the other course required for their grade level during the second semester. Thus, Middle Schoolers do not choose their Period 3 classes on Wednesdays. Below, you will find descriptions of the courses you are required to take during Period 3 for the duration of your current Middle School year. Periods 4-7 are up to you, though!

Class	Instructor	Eligible Grades
Shabbat Table	Halper/Rotenberg	6 (required)

Sing along in this *ruach*-filled simulation of a joyous Shabbat Table. You will learn the music and lyrics of the canonical DJDS songbook, from classic Shabbat *zemirot* to classic rock-n'-roll and folk tunes from the 20th century. This sixth-grade Wednesday class will fully induct our newest Middle Schoolers into a time-honored tradition of both our people and our school.

Class	Instructor	Eligible Grades
Tech Skills	Merkes	6 (required)

This course will teach sixth-graders to properly touch type and understand how to use their laptops from a technical perspective. We will also produce a series of projects using multiple apps in the Google suite and Canva. Additional topics of discussion may include ethical use of social media and AI and becoming aware of your social media footprint.

Class	Instructor	Eligible Grades
<i>Words</i>	TBD	7 (required)

This course immerses seventh-graders in the wonderful world of wordplay, word games, and word roots (etymology). We will use popular online and tabletop games (think Wordle, Connections, Spelling Bee, Boggle, and Balderdash) to create a culture of play and inquiry around words. And beginning with the premise that there is a “story behind every word,” we will experience the delight of uncovering the stories behind acronyms, idioms, animal names, surnames, medical terminology, and more. We will dip our toes into the complicated history of the English language, exploring how a wealth of German, Latin, and Greek words or roots all lurk within the words we use every day. Students who are up for the extra challenge will have a chance to learn how to read Greek.

Class	Instructor	Eligible Grades
<i>Drawing</i>	Zitron	7th Grade (required)

This course teaches the basics of drawing and sketching through lessons, demonstrations, and practice. We will learn about the elements of art, such as shape, perspective, form and value and build skills through direct observation. There will be many opportunities for students to express their style and interests.

Class	Instructor	Eligible Grades
<i>Civics</i>	Salniker	8th Grade (required)

This course examines the nature of our government from the institutions to the philosophical framework upon which those institutions sit. It will further discuss the relationship between the three federal branches of government, as well as state and local governments. Finally, the class will provide students extensive practical experience in the essential civic skill of participating constructively in difficult conversations about matters of public concern.

Class	Instructor	Eligible Grades
<i>Thinking with AI</i>	TBD	8th Grade (required)

This course is intended to give students practical experience and guidance in interacting with AI chatbots such as ChatGPT, Claude, and Gemini. The idea is to show students how to use these apps as thought- and conversation-partners to deepen their understanding of a topic or sharpen their ideas, rather than using AI simply as a search engine or ghost writer.

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Period 4

Class	Instructor	Eligible Grades
<i>Math Counts</i>	Gruber	6-8

Do you like competition, sports, and math? Then you might be the mathlete we're looking for! Join the Math Team as we sharpen our skills, learn new strategies, and tackle challenging problems and puzzles to get ready for the MATHCOUNTS competition in February.

Class	Instructor	Eligible Grades
<i>Denver Jewish Flag Football League</i>	Lake	6-7

Students will learn the beautiful intricacies of Flag Football. We will learn plays, and how to utilize play progression; the art of flag pulling as a key to success and how to do this properly; and, of course, how to communicate productively with teammates and coaches. We will scrimmage and learn real plays used in the NFL flag football league. This class will be active, and we will play in all weather!

Class	Instructor	Eligible Grades
<i>Woodshop</i>	Rozansky	6-8

Learn the basics of using a variety of hand tools and equipment while building a functional and beautiful piece of furniture from start to finish. Note that we are limiting class size to four or five students per section and offering multiple sections for both HS and MS. If you would very much like to take Woodshop, please consider ranking it as a top choice during both of the periods when it is open to your grade level.

Class	Instructor	Eligible Grades
<i>Israeli Culture</i>	Alma (<i>Shinshinit</i>)	6-8

We will experience Israeli Culture through two main units: Israeli Television and Israeli Sports. Haven't you always wanted to watch some Israeli show and understand the humor and slang? When was the last time you had Yoga while listening to Israeli music? You will learn in this course through short videos, interactive presentations, dancing, and so much more!

Class	Instructor	Eligible Grades
<i>Photography</i>	V. Reimer/ M. Raphaely	6-9

Learn how to take a photograph and not just a picture. How do our photographs tell our story and the story of the image? Student leadership will be an important part of this course, as our photography veterans become peer mentors and advisors to less experienced photographers. This course will be led by student instructors, under the supervision of Mr. Halper.

Class	Instructor	Eligible Grades
<i>Quilting/Sewing</i>	Greenfeld	6-12

Students will learn the basics of designing, piecing, and quilting. Students will create their own designs, choose fabric, and follow all the steps to create a quilt from start to finish.

Class	Instructor	Eligible Grades
<i>Zemirot and Song Circle</i>	H. Demain/E. Benel	6-12

Do you love DJDS singing and can't get enough of it? Or do you barely know how to stumble through the songs? Either way, this class is perfect for you! Together, we're going to learn, practice, and sing both Hebrew Zemirot and English songs for the DJDS Song Circle. By the end of the class, you will have an appreciation and love for the singing that makes this school special.

Class	Instructor	Eligible Grades
<i>Writing Lab</i>	Salniker	6-9

Writing is a struggle, even for accomplished writers. But you don't have to struggle alone! In this class, we'll work through a different writing challenge each week. How do you engage an audience? How do you establish your own voice? How do you make your sentences varied and interesting? How do you make sure you have something to say? How do you break down a complex argument into different steps? How do you use examples effectively to make your point? At the end of the course, writing will still be a struggle -- it always is -- but at least you'll have a sense of how to struggle productively toward a product that you're proud of.

Class	Instructor	Eligible Grades
<i>Beginner Violin</i>	E. Broome	6-12

In this class, you'll learn the fundamentals of playing the violin, starting with simple songs and potentially progressing to more advanced pieces. Whether you're a complete beginner or already have some experience, this class is open to all skill levels—perfect for learning or practicing. **Note that if you do not have a violin, you can [rent one for \\$25/month from Von's Violin shop](#).** Violins are not provided by the school. **Note also that the instructor for this course is a senior at DJDS.**

Class	Instructor	Eligible Grades
<i>Tae Kwan Do</i>	Kidder	6-12

Students will learn an introductory form (pattern of movements involving basic techniques) as well as basic kicks, punches, and blocks. Emphasis on physical fitness, Eastern philosophies, self-confidence, self-discipline, self-defense, and having fun.

Class	Instructor	Eligible Grades
<i>Engineering Club</i>	I. Barter/ E. Alperstein	8-12

This class will focus on engineering skills such as 3D design and Arduino programming and teach students valuable skills such as how to use Fusion360, practical programming, and building working mechanical systems. The class will culminate in a mildly competitive design/build challenge.

Class	Instructor	Eligible Grades
<i>Farmette</i>	Klavin/Eden	6-12

This year will focus on hydroponics and animal husbandry, along with all other farm responsibilities. Baby goats will be arriving in October which will give us goat milk to make products from, along with proper care to the new goats. New indoor hydroponic grow towers will be constructed and maintained by students, with all produce going into the school kitchen for lunches. Consistent farm maintenance such as greenhouse growing, farm harvesting and cooking, and some building projects will also be included.

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Period 5

Class	Instructor	Eligible Grades
<i>Wilderness Trailblazers</i>	Eden/Kivlin	6-8

This course is for the new and experienced outdoor explorers. This is intended to be a yearlong course to cover a variety of wilderness experiences, so please sign up only if you are expecting to make a yearlong commitment. There will be two off-campus outings each semester, and one overnight trip each semester (so far, we are planning on a camping trip Sept 15-17, hiking excursion Nov 12, and snowshoeing excursion mid-Jan TBD). In the fall semester we will cover wilderness first aid, practice fire building, learn about gear, DIY backpacking items, amongst other outdoor skills. The winter/spring semester brings on shelter building, cold weather camping practice, setting up a camp kitchen, a hike, and a camping overnight. **A fee of \$150 per semester is required.** Most gear provided, transportation and rentals provided. Skill levels are flexible and must have the willingness, and excitement, to be outdoors and resilient.

Class	Instructor	Eligible Grades
<i>Escape Crates</i>	Kidder	6-8

Students can explore three "Escape the Crate" scenarios where they get to use their logic skills to solve the mystery and escape the crate!

Class	Instructor	Eligible Grades
<i>Study Hall</i>	Hoesly	6-8

Students enrolled in this class will have the opportunity to work on school assignments in a quiet environment, to meet with teachers as needed (depending on teacher availability), and to receive academic interventions. If you are a Middle Schooler with a Differentiated Learning Plan, you must enroll in ONE Study Hall unless you've received a waiver from Ms. Salniker.

Class	Instructor	Eligible Grades
<i>Baking</i>	H. Lutz/ S. Gitler	6-10

Baking Club is a fun, creative space where students can unwind and express themselves through food. We make a variety of delicious pastries and desserts--both healthier options and sweet treats--while learning decorating techniques and experimenting with our own recipes. With friendly competitions and themed baking challenges, the club encourages creativity, collaboration, and stress relief. Whether you're a beginner or a seasoned baker, Baking Club is the perfect place to enjoy tasty creations and even better company.

Class	Instructor	Eligible Grades
<i>Stop-motion Animation</i>	Z. Levy /D. Levy/ E.R.Raderman	6-9

We will learn the basics of stop-motion animation, and learn different techniques and styles of animating. Students can make their own creative videos to share with friends. Note: Owning an iPad is not required, but it is preferable.

Class	Instructor	Eligible Grades
<i>Denver Jewish Flag Football League</i>	Lake	7-9

Students will learn the beautiful intricacies of Flag Football. We will learn plays, and how to utilize play progression; the art of flag pulling as a key to success and how to do this properly; and, of course, how to communicate productively with teammates and coaches. We will scrimmage and learn real plays used in the NFL flag football league. This class will be active, and we will play in all weather!

Class	Instructor	Eligible Grades
<i>Rock Climbing</i>	Levy	6-12

Under the guidance of climbing enthusiast Mr. Levy, this club will head to Movement Climbing and Fitness for an hour of climbing each week. Climbers at all levels (including total beginners) are welcome. Note that this club requires students to sign up for a double-period (Periods 5 AND 6) and that students may be asked to leave for the climbing gym prior to the start of Period 5 (i.e., during the last 15 minutes or so of lunch). **Participation in this club requires families to purchase a “student membership” at Movement (good for unlimited climbing) of \$89/month for each month of the semester.**

Class	Instructor	Eligible Grades
<i>Painting</i>	Zitron	6-12

This course is designed for students who have a serious interest in painting and a desire to contribute works of art for display in our school that reflect creativity and talent. We will have the opportunity to learn about various artists, different painting techniques, and use different media.

Class	Instructor	Eligible Grades
<i>Rock Band</i>	Halper/Halzel	6-12

Have you been taking the school's guitar or keyboard classes and want to start playing in a band? Are you a talented solo musician looking for others to play with? Do you like to sing? Do you already jam with others in the music room at lunch? Select this class as an option, send Mr. Halper an email about what you would like to contribute to the ensemble, and see if you are selected to be a part of the DJDS Rock Band where we will look to learn entire sets and perform at various functions inside the school and out. Note that enrollment in this course may be contingent on an audition or invitation.

Class	Instructor	Eligible Grades
<i>Beginner Guitar</i>	Welling	6-12

This course is for beginner and early intermediate guitarists eager to learn the instrument or develop their skills. Throughout this course, we will focus on three essential guitar skills: strumming, finger picking, and basic scales. By the end of this course you will know the fundamental chords and scales to begin to improvise melodies or just jam some of your favorite songs. If you are an advanced guitarist and would like to be a “TA” (“Teaching Assistant”) for this course, please contact Mr. Welling.

Class	Instructor	Eligible Grades
<i>Tanakh Quest</i>	Gibor	6-8

Are you passionate about the stories, wars, prophets, kings, and miracles of the Tanach? Join our Tanach Quest Club and immerse yourself in the biblical world while preparing for the prestigious Global Chidon HaTanach competition! Our club offers in-depth study of biblical texts and training for the regional quiz, with opportunities to compete at both national and international levels. The United States National Chidon Hatanach, coordinated by the Jewish Agency, brings together students from across the country, with top performers advancing to national finals in New York. National champions can win college scholarships and the chance to represent the US in the worldwide contest in Israel.

Class	Instructor	Eligible Grades
<i>Play Production</i>	Woods	6-12

We will be putting on a play! This club will select a play together, and we will put up a production. The play will be a non-musical, and the choices will depend on the number of people in the class. If you are interested in the backstage elements of a production, there will be a chance to learn that as well. Come put on a play!

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Period 6

Class	Instructor	Eligible Grades
<i>All Levels Yoga</i>	Sodos	6-8

Explore the fundamentals of yoga through mindful movement and focused breathwork designed to build strength, flexibility, and inner calm. The instructor is our school's new Engagement Manager, but she used to own, manage, and teach in yoga studios.

Class	Instructor	Eligible Grades
<i>Shakespeare</i>	Hoesly	6-8

Students will explore history and language as they act out scenes and discuss the continued relevance of themes.

Class	Instructor	Eligible Grades
<i>Fantasy Sports & Statistics</i>	Gruber	6-8

In the Fantasy Sports & Stats Club, we'll kick off the year with a fantasy football league where we'll be drafting teams, setting lineups, and battling it out all season long. Along the way, we'll dive into player stats, matchup trends, and strategies for smart roster management. It's the perfect mix of competition, sports talk, and data-driven decision making.

Class	Instructor	Eligible Grades
<i>MS Speech and Debate</i>	Merenstein/Raphaely	6-8

This course will give you opportunities to develop your public speaking skills. Practice will include both informal formats and tournament-style debates.

Class	Instructor	Eligible Grades
<i>Geography Bee</i>	Bell	6-8

This is a club for geography buffs! We'll use a collection of National Geographic's official Geography Bee questions to run our own internal bee. The club will include in-depth study of the geography of regions that may be less familiar to students.

Class	Instructor	Eligible Grades
<i>Printmaking</i>	Markenson	6-8

Printmaking is the process of transferring images from one surface to another. In this class you will create your own unique prints using a variety of techniques. You can use everyday materials, swirling paint, or you can carve your own images and make prints from those.

Class	Instructor	Eligible Grades
<i>Woodshop</i>	Rozansky	6-8

Learn the basics of using a variety of hand tools and equipment while building a functional and beautiful piece of furniture from start to finish. Note that we are limiting class size to four or five students per section and offering multiple sections for both HS and MS. If you would very much like to take Woodshop, please consider ranking it as a top choice during both of the periods when it is open to your grade level.

Class	Instructor	Eligible Grades
<i>Study Hall</i>	Kurela	6-8

Students enrolled in this class will have the opportunity to work on school assignments in a quiet environment, to meet with teachers as needed (depending on teacher availability), and to receive academic interventions. If you are a Middle Schooler with a Differentiated Learning Plan, you must enroll in ONE Study Hall unless you've received a waiver from Ms. Salniker.

Class	Instructor	Eligible Grades
<i>Intro to Cosmetology</i>	Jultak	7-12

This class will teach participants how to do basic hair styling, including braids, heat styles, and updos at a professional (or nearly professional) level.

Class	Instructor	Eligible Grades
<i>Rock Climbing</i>	Levy	6-12

Under the guidance of climbing enthusiast Mr. Levy, this club will head to Movement Climbing and Fitness for an hour of climbing each week. Climbers at all levels (including total beginners) are welcome. Note that this club requires students to sign up for a double-period (Periods 5 AND 6) and that students may be asked to leave for the climbing gym prior to the start of Period 5 (i.e., during the last 15 minutes or so of lunch). **Participation in this club requires families to purchase a "student membership" at Movement (good for unlimited climbing) of \$89/month for each month of the semester.**

Class	Instructor	Eligible Grades
<i>Knitting</i>	Knowles	6-12

Join us! Learn a new skill or expand your areas of expertise. Knitting can be a relaxing change of pace or an artistic expression. It can be chill and mindless or focused and mindful. Come explore what knitting is all about! All skill levels are welcome. Experience the miracle of creating new dimensions from a strand of yarn.

Class	Instructor	Eligible Grades
<i>Intermediate Guitar</i>	Kidder	6-12

This course is for students who have spent at least some time learning the basics of strumming, finger-picking, and guitar scales/chords. If you're ready to start learning some easy songs, join us! If you are an advanced guitarist interested in TA'ing for this course, please contact Ms. Kidder.

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Period 7

Class	Instructor	Eligible Grades
<i>Improv</i>	Young	6-8

In improv, we will learn to think on our feet and collaborate with others in a lighthearted environment! We will play games, take part in group activities, and create short-form scenes together. Improv is a fun way to develop skills such as teamwork, public speaking, and creative self expression!

Class	Instructor	Eligible Grades
<i>Number Sense</i>	Sapiens	6-8

If you ever worked with her before, you know that “Morah Danielle” is capable of making math fun and enjoyable for *anyone*. This course focuses on making you more comfortable with mental math through puzzles and games. It is for any middle schooler who wants to boost their confidence in understanding what numbers mean and performing calculations in their head.

Class	Instructor	Eligible Grades
<i>Poetry</i>	Hoesly	6-8

Students will have a chance to both read and write poetry as they explore various forms, from sonnets and haikus to free verse and spoken word poetry.

Class	Instructor	Eligible Grades
<i>Science News</i>	Markenson	6-8

So much is happening in science right now: pig organs transplanted into humans, gene therapy to CURE sickle cell anemia, giant squids and so much more. Each week we will pick one or two science breakthroughs to learn about. You will all have the opportunity to share news in your area of interest - I promise it won't be limited to biology!

Class	Instructor	Eligible Grades
<i>Mogy's Tales</i>	Schweid	6-8

Continue the legacy of Mogy's Passover (Student Council's first children's book) by writing children's books about Mogy's holiday adventures beginning with Rosh Hashanah! Students will visit DJDS's pre-K to read the books to students.

Class	Instructor	Eligible Grades
<i>Study Hall</i>	Greenfeld	6-8

Baking Club is a fun, creative space where students can unwind and express themselves through food. We make a variety of delicious pastries and desserts both healthier options and sweet treats while learning decorating techniques and experimenting with our own recipes. With friendly competitions and themed baking challenges, the club encourages creativity, collaboration, and stress relief. Whether you're a beginner or a seasoned baker, Baking Club is the perfect place to enjoy tasty creations and even better company.

Class	Instructor	Eligible Grades
<i>Modena</i>	Opatowski	6-12

Are you someone who thrives on making meaningful connections and enjoys the company of wise and experienced individuals? Then join us for an unforgettable journey at the nearby senior living facility, right next to the school. Spend quality time engaging in various activities with our senior friends, from games and arts and crafts to storytelling sessions and much more. You'll not only be a companion but also a source of joy and inspiration for our elderly community members. Share your interests and hobbies by organizing activities that both you and our senior friends can enjoy together—whether it's a music jam, a book club, or a gardening project. Discover the joy of connecting across generations while having a blast. (Priority will be given to Middle School students.)

Class	Instructor	Eligible Grades
<i>Chess Club</i>	Gruber	6-12

Join us weekly for Chess where we develop gameplay, strategy, and skill-building and have fun while we're at it. We'll cover key concepts like opening moves, tactics, and endgame theory, with plenty of time for matches and puzzles. Whether you're new to chess or looking to improve, the goal is to grow as players and compete against other schools.

Class	Instructor	Eligible Grades
<i>Denver Jewish Wiffleball League</i>	Lake/S. Demain/J. Rojhani	6-9

Let's step up to the plate to explore the world of wiffleball. We will learn pitches, defence, and even have a league with a world series.

Class	Instructor	Eligible Grades
<i>Piano</i>	Halper	6-12

Learn piano basics, starting with notes and chords and the way they combine. This class will give you the foundational skills to pursue piano as a lifetime practice.

Class	Instructor	Eligible Grades
<i>Hacky Sack Club</i>	Lake	6-12

Join DJDS' first Hacky Sack Club where we will build our footbag skills, learn new tricks, and enjoy casual games, blending elements of freestyle, athleticism, and teamwork. All skill levels are welcome—no experience or equipment needed. Just show up, join in, and kick it around as a DJDS Sacker. Contact Ari Greher if you have questions!

Class	Instructor	Eligible Grades
<i>Science Research/Competitions</i>	Knowles	6-12

This course will focus on preparation for the Denver Metropolitan Regional Science and Engineering Fair during the first semester. Students participating in other science competitions will also be supported to the extent possible. None of these competitions line up with our scheduled semester breaks and students interested in any of them may sign up for either or both semesters of this course. Contact Ms. Knowles for more information. [Top](#)

