THE KINKAID SCHOOL

INTERIM TERM

JANUARY 6 - 23, 2026

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General Information

Term Duration: January 6 - 23, 2026

All Interim Term work must be completed before the first day of the spring semester.

Philosophy of the Interim Term Program

Interim Term is a separate curriculum that runs during the first three school weeks in January. The primary purpose is enrichment through experience, affording students opportunities to study in areas and situations unavailable during the regular curriculum. To that end, Kinkaid Upper School faculty design and implement a variety of course offerings and programs involving subjects not offered elsewhere or delving in greater depth into subjects addressed only in survey courses in the regular curriculum. Students may choose to pursue particular interests during Interim Term. They are encouraged as well to explore new fields of study and develop new academic interests during this special term.

Grades and Credits

All Interim Term offerings are graded. The specific methods of evaluation are noted in the descriptions of the offerings in the succeeding pages of this catalog. Interim Term grades are computed in students' overall grade averages: the average of grades a student earns during one Interim Term is equivalent to one semester grade in one course in the regular curriculum. Credits earned during Interim Term, however, do not replace credits for graduation and may not be substituted for requirements.

Course Fees and Texts

Courses that list "text" as the fee require a book, and the books are ordered by the school. Courses that list fees require supplies beyond what is customarily supplied by the school. The cost of books and fees is charged to the student's KOA/Blackbaud account in February. Though the school makes every effort for transparency of fees at the time of the release of this catalog, fees are subject to change. Students who receive financial aid also receive financial aid for Interim Term course fees, and any questions related to financial aid can be directed to the Coordinator of Financial Aid.

Conduct

All rules of conduct denoted in the Upper School Handbook are in effect during Interim Term. Students engaged in off-campus Interim Term programs are expected to abide by the following additional regulations; failure to do so will result in their exclusion from off-campus activities:

1. Students participating in Career Development, as part of learning the demands of the professional world and in appreciation of the service provided by internship sponsors, should be respectful, punctual, and appropriately dressed for all internship activities. Only illness or family emergency would be an acceptable reason for failing to appear at specified internship hours, and students are expected to notify sponsors promptly if such occurs. Following the term, students should send written thanks to sponsors as instructed by the Director of Career Development.
2. Students participating in International Travel must sign their agreement to abide by the instructions of trip chaperones at the time of registration. Specific regulations are designed by the chaperones to protect student and chaperone safety, to maintain the dignity and good name of The Kinkaid School, and to ensure that all trip participants benefit as much as possible from the extraordinary educational experience.
3. Students engaged in field trips as part of the Campus Program should abide by instructions from teachers and chaperones accompanying them, dress appropriately, and behave in a manner maintaining the dignity and the good name of The Kinkaid School.

Career Development

OPEN ONLY TO 12th GRADERS

Director: Mrs. Martha Kirkwood

This practical course offers an opportunity through an individually structured three-week internship to explore potential career inclinations. Through workday exposure to the organizational world of making a living—coupled with related reading and research—student interns reinforce skills such as leadership, accountability, analysis, and planning. Students and parents will sign a document agreeing to Kinkaid's Expectations for Interns prior to the start of the January internship program. Internships span a broad spectrum of industries. Though the majority of students remain in Houston, some assume national and international responsibilities.

Prerequisites for consideration of internships out-of-state/outside of the greater Houston area will require:

1) Students reside with a parent or relative during the duration of the internship experience.
2) A unique or compelling internship that warrants a venue out-of-state/outside of the greater Houston area.
3) Internships outside of the Houston area will be planned by the student/family

Students' work assignments, research, related readings, and daily schedule are under the supervision of their individual sponsors. Since daily schedules generally conform to the operational hours of the sponsoring company, students intending to participate in a winter season sport or the Upper School musical should inform their sponsor so that internship hours can accommodate practice times.

Sponsors for Career Development internships supervise students' work, including research and reading, enabling them to experience a profession as fully as possible in the limited term. They also evaluate the performance and products completed by students. Many professionals in Houston and beyond have established relationships with Kinkaid as Career Development sponsors and willingly accept applications from Kinkaid seniors each year for Interim Term internships. To relieve parents of any potential conflicts of interest, particularly regarding evaluation of interns, Kinkaid does not place seniors in positions that report to their own parent, but does allow placement in an organization in which their own parent works or owns. Kinkaid parents willing to act as sponsors for other students are welcome to contact the Program Director. Housing and transportation for out of town placements are the responsibility of the students and their families.

At the completion of the internship, students write papers or prepare projects detailing the results of their research and reading, describing their experience, and recording what they have learned about the joys and demands of the career they investigated. Sponsors complete an evaluation of the students' work. The Career Development grade is based on the paper or project, the evaluation, and other manifestations of student responsibility and learning.

*Individual sponsors will determine if seniors are expected to work on the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday.

Interim Term Travel Courses

OPEN TO ALL GRADE LEVELS

Kinkaid's Interim Term program provides unique travel opportunities. In recent years, we have committed to the following: one cultural tour, two homestay/language programs, and one science exploration. The academic focus of each excursion varies according to the destination and to the goals of the trip leaders.

Planning for Interim Term trips begins two years in advance. Tentative destinations for the subsequent year's trips may be announced in this publication. Chaperones and itineraries are determined in the upcoming spring and summer. Information about the planned trips is communicated to every Upper School family in April. In early May, organizational meetings are held at which families register for trips and pay deposits.

This travel program is open to students at all levels of Upper School. Since demand is often greater than the trips can accommodate, selection of participants is based upon seniority.

Like all Interim Term offerings, the travel programs are graded courses. Students will read books and articles appropriate to the destination and subjects of focus. Evaluation may include quizzes, tests, reflections, papers, projects, and oral presentations. Grades for the course are based upon such examinations and other manifestations of students' responsibility and learning.

Interim Term Trips, Varsity Sports, and Physical Education Classes: It is Athletic Department policy that students who elect to participate in out-of-town Interim Term programs will not be eligible for winter season varsity athletics. Participation on a varsity squad requires a commitment to the entire season, including the three weeks of Interim Term. Therefore, students who intend to play varsity sports in the winter should not enroll for the Interim Term Trips. In addition, students going on an Interim Term Trip are ineligible to take a PE course during the winter season.

Interim Term Trips and Fine Arts: Participation in the spring musical is compatible with Interim Term Trips. However, being in the core cast of a show may preclude travel during January. Such decisions will be made by the Visual and Performing Arts Department on a show-by-show basis and can be determined once the season is announced.

Interim Term Trips and Scholarships: Two grants are available to students on Financial Aid. In memory of their son Steven, Bonnie and Terry Hetrick established *The Steven Hetrick Interim Term Scholarship* in 2001. This gift provides students on financial aid the opportunity to take full advantage of Interim Term trips, including travel for the *Network* program. In 2018, an anonymous donor created *The Cali's See The World Endowment* to support all international travel, including trips during Interim Term. Interested families are asked to contact our Financial Aid Coordinator, Meredith Van Ryder, at meredith.vanryder@kinkaid.org.

South Africa

Faculty Facilitators: Ms. Baker, Ms. Martinez, and Mr. Rovell
Size Limit: 30 students
Travel Dates: January 6-21, 2026

Students will embark on an unforgettable 16-day journey across South Africa, exploring the country's vibrant cities, rich history, and breathtaking natural landscapes. The adventure begins in Johannesburg and Soweto, where students will walk in the footsteps of Nelson Mandela, visit the Apartheid Museum, and learn about the struggle for freedom and equality. In Durban, they'll experience Zulu culture in the Valley of 1000 Hills, take part in a Bunny Chow cooking class, and explore the lively Victoria Street Market. Traveling to Gqeberha and the Kariega Game Reserve, the group will participate in penguin conservation at SANCCOB and embark on unforgettable wildlife safaris, learning about sustainability and community empowerment along the way. The journey concludes in Cape Town and the Cape Winelands, where students will visit Robben Island with Mandela's former prison guard, Christo Brand, explore the colorful Bo-Kaap neighborhood, ascend Table Mountain, and engage in cultural workshops that highlight South Africa's art, food, and resilience. This immersive experience blends education, service, and cultural exploration, inspiring students to think critically about history, global citizenship, and their place in the world.

Eastern Europe: Germany, Czech Republic, Hungary, and Poland

Faculty Facilitators: Ms. Fayard, Dr. Glynn, and Dr. Parr
Size Limit: 30
Travel Dates: January 6-20, 2026

We will explore the capitals of Eastern Europe as we learn about the impact World War II and Communism had on these historic cities; in each city we will visit multiple sites to gain more understanding. We will start in Berlin with trips to the Berlin Wall Museum, Allied Museum, DDR museum and Checkpoint Charlie amongst other places. Then we will visit Prague, touring the old city, visiting the castle, the museum of Communism, and the National Museum. We will also learn to make traditional kolaches! Bratislava is next with a day filled with discovering the old city churches and its castle. In Budapest we will tour the famous Hungarian Parliament, tour the atom bunkers, and visit the Great Synagogue. We will then head to Poland to visit Krakow and Warsaw where we will tour Auschwitz, the salt mines, the Warsaw zoo, and take a tour of Communist Warsaw. We will also learn to make Polish pierogies. Students will keep a journal, take quizzes on information we learn from our guides, and will give a presentation when we return home.

Homestay: Sevilla, Spain

Faculty Facilitators: Sr. Narbona, Ms. Ngo, and Ms. Madison
Size limit: 10-18 students
Travel Dates: January 7-22, 2006

Students enrolled in Spanish III or above can experience a full immersion into the culture of Spain. After spending three nights in beautiful Madrid getting acquainted with the country, our travel partner, WorldStrides, will place pairs of Kinkaid students with host families in Seville. Some cities have personality, and others have beauty. Those lucky enough to visit Seville will discover that it has both. This Andalusian capital is vibrant, colorful, and filled to the brim with historic palaces, churches, museums, and a passion for tradition. Through this truly immersive adventure, students will experience everyday life with a Spanish host family and gain a general understanding of the local culture. Students will also enjoy an educational balance of language classes and

cultural activities including cooking classes, Flamenco-dance lessons, tile-decorating workshops, etc. In addition, participants will discover distinctive destinations such as Madrid, Toledo, Granada, Córdoba, and the Roman ruins of Itálica. Seville awaits! Come discover it!

Homestay: Antibes, France

Faculty Facilitators: Sr. Longoria and Mme. Irshad
Size limit: 10-18 students
Travel Dates: January 6-22, 2026

Students enrolled in French III or above at the time of travel can experience true cultural immersion in France! After spending four magical nights in Paris visiting iconic landmarks—the Eiffel Tower, Louvre Museum, Sacré-Cœur, Notre Dame, and the magnificent Palace of Versailles—we'll journey south to the sun-drenched Côte d'Azur and the charming walled city of Antibes, where students will stay in pairs with welcoming host families. This picturesque Mediterranean town serves as the perfect base for an unforgettable exploration of the French Riviera. Through daily French classes, authentic homestay experiences, and exciting excursions to Cannes, Nice, Grasse, Monaco, and Saint Paul de Vence, students will achieve genuine cultural and linguistic immersion. This 16-day French adventure is sure to inspire the Francophile in every student!

Independent Study

Open to 10th, 11th and 12th grade

Students may apply to engage in an independent study project during Interim Term. Independent study projects must meet with the following conditions:

1. Independent Study projects should involve applied fine arts (drama, writing, painting, photography, sculpture, etc.) or research/application in an academic subject (history, science, etc.). NOTE: Internships with business or professional establishments, community service, and school exchanges do NOT qualify as Independent Study projects.
2. By their nature, such projects are presumably individual. Only in rare cases where collaboration is shown to be necessary to the completion of the project will partnerships be permitted.
3. Interim ISPs will comprise one or, at the most, two periods. Students who are doing an Interim ISP will need to go through the registration process for Interim Term in order to fill out the rest of their schedules for the remainder of the four required periods of study.
4. Only a Kinkaid Upper School teacher who is qualified in the area of study and prepared to oversee the ongoing progress, evaluate the project, assess a grade, and write a report card for the student may sponsor a proposed study.
5. Students must bear all costs involved in the proposed study.
6. Interim ISPs are on-campus projects. Off-campus, out-of-town, out-of-state, and international projects are not allowed.

Applications for independent studies occurring during Interim Term are typically due in early October just before or after the Fall Break, with acceptance notifications going out by the end of October. Questions and requests for the appropriate application form should be directed to the coordinator of independent studies, Dr. Charlie Scott: charlie.scott@kinkaid.org.

ACT/SAT Test Prep During Interim Term

The Upper School will offer ACT and SAT preparation for current 11th-grade students through Advantage Testing of Houston. For the ACT, Advantage offers Interim Term preparation outside the school day (from 7:50 - 8:45 am each day) to preserve time for students to take Interim Term classes. For the SAT, Advantage will offer a Kinkaid-specific class on Sundays at Advantage Testing's Houston office. All classes are in-person and led by master instructors with more than 10 years of full-time experience teaching standardized tests. Each class includes an SAT or ACT materials binder with additional content provided in class, targeted homework assignments, optional weekly tutorials, 3 in-person proctored practice exams with score reports, and final review sessions led by the director, Dejan Krunic.

Students interested in registering for a class should email or call the Program Manager, Taylor Alderson, at pm@advantage-houston.com or (713) 520-6188. Email is preferred.

ACT Class (Interim 2026)
Cost: $915*
Includes: 13 55-minute instruction sessions, materials, and 3 proctored practice exams
Location: Kinkaid campus
Class schedule (total of 13 sessions, 7:50 am - 8:45 am each weekday): January 6-23

- No class on Monday, January 19 in observance of MLK Day
- Additional class section after-school also possible if there is enough interest

Official ACT Exam: February 14, 2026
.**Last Day to Register:** Monday, December 29, 2025 (although space is available on a first-come, first-served basis)

SAT Class
Cost: $800
Includes: 16 hours of instruction, materials, and 3 proctored practice exams
Location: Advantage Houston office (1455 W Loop S, Ste. 650, Houston, TX 77027)
Class schedule (total of 8 sessions, Sundays 5-7 pm): January 4, 11, and 25; February 1, 8, and 22; and March 1 and 8
Official SAT Exam: March 14, 2026
Last Day to Register: Monday, December 29, 2025 (although space is available on a first-come, first-served basis)

* The price difference is accommodating transportation costs for the tutors traveling to Kinkaid for three weeks.

Campus Program

Open to all grade levels

Daily Schedule

Period 1	9:00 am – 10:10 am
Period 2	10:25am – 11:35 am
Period 3	11:45 am – 12:55 pm
Lunch	12:55 pm – 1:55 pm
Period 4	1:55 pm – 3:05 pm

Interim Term courses are described in the succeeding pages. They are grouped according to the following types:

Type A courses meet for **three** periods each day
Type B courses meet for **two** periods each day
Type C courses meet for **one** period each day

Important Considerations:

- Certain courses may require books or may assess fees. Books will be ordered on the student's behalf and may not be sold back at the end of the term. Students' KOA accounts will be charged for fees and books for their classes. The fees listed are as accurate as possible at the time of publication, but they are subject to change.
- Students must register for classes at each period of the day. There are no free periods during Interim Term.
- Students may not register for a class they have taken in a previous year.
- Due to the short duration and the particular scheduling of Interim Term, students typically stay in the courses to which they have been assigned. However, if specific circumstances warrant the changing of a student's schedule, such changes must be made by the end of the first day of Interim Term.

Course Descriptions

Type A Courses

Courses meet three periods each day

The Art of Looking and Making

Instructor: Ms. McEntire
Fee: $200 (for lunches and entry fees)

Our main goal is art around the world, using the city of Houston as our open classroom. We will learn about various visual art media and methods (painting, sculpture, video, craft, murals, etc.) as well as the artists that make them. There will be a special emphasis on the public art of Houston. The class will include field trips to Houston's art pieces, murals, and established art showcases. Students will spend time exploring and experiencing artwork, listening to artists speak about their work, and sketching and generating art about what they are seeing. The students will take approximately six field trips, with catered lunches and food outings. During on-campus class days, students will create, discuss, and make in response to their off campus experiences and research. Each student will be expected to keep a journal and write about each art experience. They will create a final project showcasing their learning. Sites planned include Project Row Houses, The Orange Show, University of Houston Downtown, Houston Museum of African American Culture, Texas Southern University, The Menil Collection, Contemporary Arts Museum, The Museum of Fine Arts Houston, The Art League of Houston, The Center for Contemporary Craft, artist studios, and public art. **Periods 2-4**

Be a Tourist in Your Hometown

Instructor: Mrs. Carr, Dr. Riehl, Mr. Vranderic
Fee: $250 (for lunches and entry fees)

Do you enjoy museums? Do you like to learn about new cities when you visit them? Are you the person on a tour that asks lots of questions? If so, this class is for you! In this class, we get the opportunity to play tourist in our very own town, visiting exciting Houston-area locations. Some are popular tourist haunts; some are off-the-beaten-path and ready for exploration. We'll visit sites such as The Heritage Society, the Museum of Funeral History, the Museum of Fine Arts, the Holocaust Museum, the Arboretum, and even get a behind-the-scenes tour of Minute Maid Park. We may even ask for your help in planning one of our destinations. Come ready to explore with your curiosity and questions! We'll take 3-4 field trips each week, and on the in-class days, we'll work on our culminating project. By the end, we will be ready to be the tour guides and our projects will reflect our newfound expertise of our beloved city. **Periods 2-4**

CLEF: Principles of Investing

in the Gordy Center for Leadership, Entrepreneurship, and Finance
Instructor: Mr. Keen Butcher (Butcher Financial, LLC), Dr. Harris, and Dr. Watson
Fee: none
Prerequisites: Fundamentals of Business and Finance class and 11th or 12th grade standing
This course is a prerequisite for applying to the Kinkaid Student Investment Managers committee.

This innovative course combines practical instruction on investing and finance with hands-on business experience in investment, consulting, and wealth management. It will run as a three-period course that includes both classroom instruction and an investing practicum. During the first two periods we will cover numerous topics related to investing and finance, including market sectors, asset classes, private and public equity models, assessing and valuing publicly–traded companies, debt and fixed income markets, venture capital and IPOs, and other important topics. We may also spend some time examining important market crashes, risk management, and the opportunities and pitfalls of investing "fads" (examples include meme coins, meme stocks, NFTs, and fractional share ownership). During the third-period practicum session, students will apply the class lessons and develop important practical skills as they research and analyze the financial condition, operations, and management of publicly-traded companies. Students learn how to use the Securities and Exchange Commission's EDGAR database to access companies' public filings, and they will learn how to read and analyze those documents. Finally, students will develop practical presentation, reporting, and writing skills related to business communication. The class culminates in students giving formal pitch presentations on the advisability of investing in various publicly-traded equities. The class will be taught by CLEF faculty and a professional financial advisor. Students will also work with members of Kinkaid's Endowment Board and Kinkaid's financial advisors from Goldman Sachs. After completing this course, students who want to continue in the CLEF Finance Program may apply to be on the Kinkaid Student Investment Managers committee. Enrollment limited. **Periods 1-3**

Decisions for Healthy Living and Leadership

Instructor: Ms. Kehler, Ms. Haynes, Ms. Mitchell, and Mr. Engstrom
Fee: book

Required for 9th-grade students who did not complete the course in the fall semester and who have seven classes in the spring semester, the primary goal of this course is to provide students with a foundation of knowledge for physical, social, and emotional well-being and an understanding of how they can harness their strengths and interests as leaders at Kinkaid and beyond. The essential question throughout the course for students to explore is "Who am I?". Students learn about and practice healthy coping mechanisms to protect their overall social, emotional, and physical health and wellbeing. The course material focuses on research based information about keeping healthy high school students healthy. Threaded throughout the course is personal leadership development and execution: the significance of self-awareness, an understanding of group dynamics, and leading a team. Through class discussions, activities, readings, projects, and lectures, each student has the opportunity to practice mindfulness, develop interpersonal communication skills, locate sources of support on campus, and identify and articulate their own values, goals, and strengths. **Periods 1, 3-4 or 2-4**

History of Houston

Instructor: Mr. Curry
Fee: $250 (for lunches and entry fees)

From the banks of a bayou to men on the moon, Houston's history spans 190 years of growth and development. From its simple beginning as 6,642 acres of land on the banks of Buffalo Bayou, Houston has grown to become the fourth largest U. S. city encompassing 581 square miles with more than 2.4 million people. This class will trace the evolution of Houston from its origins as a tiny village of the early 1800s to an agriculturally supported community, to an oil boomtown, to a center of diversified commerce and industry. Students will examine and explore Houston's legacy, her great citizens, historical landmarks, and listen to the voices of our community. Like any other city of similar size, Houston has problems as well as advantages, and blights as well as beauties. Students will have the opportunity to look into these as well. In this class a premium is put on experiencing the history of Houston in an up close way. Many class sessions will involve travelling to various locations in and around the Bayou City: Allen's Landing, the San Jacinto Battlefield, the Houston Ship Channel, NASA, Riverside, Telephone Road, Glenwood Cemetery, Bayou Bend, Freedman's Town, the Downtown Tunnels, Market Square, City Hall, the newly remodeled Courthouse and the Astrodome (maybe!) to name a few. Frequently, tours will end with lunch at one of Houston's restaurants. **Periods 2-4**

Type B Courses

Courses meet two periods each day

'80s and '90s Culture, Trends, and Roller Skating!

Instructor: Ms. Le Grange and Mr. McCrink
Fee: $150 (for lunches and entry fees)

Step back in time and explore the iconic world of the 1980s and early 1990s! This class will dive into '80's/90's culture, trends, and lifestyles that defined the two decades. We'll explore everything from neon fashion and groundbreaking music to the rise of video games and genre-defining films. Beyond these trends, we'll examine how the entertainment and well-being movements of the '80s/'90s continue to shape modern life. But the best part? We'll bring this history to life with hands-on-learning, including one field trip per week to local roller rinks to experience a quintessential '80s and '90s pastime firsthand! **Periods 2-3**

Animal Heroes

Instructor: Ms. Reza and Dr. Wheeler
Fee: $50 plus book

Have you ever thought about becoming a veterinarian? Are you a true believer that a dog is man's best friend? Do you see a horse as a valued partner in farming, ranching, and sporting events? If you're passionate about animals and eager to learn more about their role in our world, then this is the class for you! In this exciting course, we will dive deep into the important role animals play in our lives—and the critical responsibility we have in their care. Central to our learning will be regular reading assignments and assessments designed to deepen your understanding. You'll gain a unique perspective through presentations from professionals in the field, including veterinarians, officers from the canine unit of Customs and Border Patrol and the local constables K-9 unit, and trainers of emotional support animals. Field trip opportunities will enrich these presentations. Along the way, we'll watch and discuss captivating movies and documentaries that tell the stories of heroic animals—dogs, horses, and other species—who have shaped history and inspired us all. You'll also explore the special care these animal heroes require, comparing the unique needs of different species like dogs and horses. A cornerstone of this course will be our in-depth study of Joe Camp's *The Soul of a Horse*, a heartwarming and insightful book that delves into the connection between humans and animals. This required text will guide much of our classroom discussion and analysis throughout the semester. To ensure you're actively engaging with all course materials—including the book, films, and guest presentations—quizzes will be held twice a week. These regular assessments are essential for reinforcing your understanding and will form a significant portion of your grade. Come prepared to read, discuss, and demonstrate your growing knowledge of the incredible world of human-animal relationships! **Periods 1-2**

Dungeons and Dragons

Instructor: Mr. Gillentine and Dr. Humphries
Fee: $30

Over the years, Role Playing Games have existed as an immersive cooperative storytelling/gaming experience. Starting in 1974 with the original *Dungeons and Dragons*, tabletop RPGs have held a strong place in American culture, attracting both acclaim and controversy. In this class, we will explore the 5th edition of the *Dungeons and Dragons* game. Students will explore fantasy worlds that are rich with history and lore. Storytelling will be a

driving topic, and students will collaborate to develop their own module or campaign. The will also explore the use of math and statistics in these games, discovering how chance and numbers play an integral part in RPGs. **Periods 2-3**

From Likes to Luxuries: Creating Jewelry in the Digital Era

Instructor: Ms. Connell
Fee: $185

Students will be introduced to the basics of making jewelry and will create multiple beaded necklaces, bracelets, and earrings. The class will learn to use round nose pliers, flat nose pliers, cutting pliers, and knotting tweezers. Students can expect to master the skills of wire wrapping, stringing beads, and knotting necklaces. We will discuss the best types of metals to use for findings. The class will take a field trip where students can select their own beads that they would like to use for their individual projects. We will share designers that we are interested in from Instagram and Pinterest as inspiration for creating our own unique pieces of jewelry. **Periods 2-3**

Melting Pot or Stir Fry? Houston's Diasporic Communities

Instructor: Dr. Howell and Ms. Wainright
Fee: $250

We often hear that Houston is the most diverse city in the world, but how much do you really know about all the peoples, cultures, cuisines, and languages that our city contains? In this class, we will investigate the multi-ethnic communities around us by reading articles, investigating our city's history of immigration, and taking field trips that enable us to encounter these cultures firsthand. For homework, students will be assigned reading and journaling; in class, they will be required to reflect, discuss, and participate in class activities. For the final group project, students will create a multimedia presentation that reports on an "out of comfort zone" experience regarding a Houston diasporic community that they have chosen. This class is designed for adventurous students who like to leave their "bubbles" and who are open to trying new cuisines. **Periods 2-3**

Traditional to Contemporary Jewelry

Instructor: Ms. Grandchamp and Ms. Frank
Fee: $120

In this course, participants will explore the art of jewelry making through both traditional and modern techniques. They will work with sterling silver precious metal clay, practice chain-making methods, and design fashion-inspired pieces. Along the way, learners will study stone setting, experiment with nontraditional materials, and build a strong foundation in the history of contemporary jewelry. The experience will also include visits to museums and collections, along with opportunities to connect with visiting artists for real-world insights. By the end of the course, each participant will create original jewelry that reflects both craftsmanship and creativity. **Periods 1 and 4** (Students must register for both periods).

Type C Courses

Courses meet one period each day

Acting & Directing for the Camera

Instructor: Mr. Gillentine and Mr. Buck
Fee: none

Students will learn techniques and subtleties of working on both sides of the camera for the purpose of filmmaking. Actors and directors will learn to communicate with one another effectively, to develop a strong working relationship on set, and to tell a clear story. Active scene work, editing, and critiques in multiple projects will solidify the skills developed in class. **Period 4**

Aliens and UFOs: Are They Real, and Are They Here?

Instructor: Ms. Cross and Mr. Rambow
Fee: none

Since 2023, several high-ranking defense and intelligence officials have testified under oath before Congress that UFOs—now officially called UAPs (Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena)—are real, and that the U.S. government may have recovered and even attempted to reverse-engineer "technological craft of non-human origin." These extraordinary claims have come from an Army colonel, an Air Force major, a retired Navy admiral, and other military and intelligence personnel. A bipartisan Senate bill even referenced "non-human intelligence" (NHI) and "technologies of unknown origin" (TUO) more than two dozen times—though the bill ultimately failed in the House. Are these claims credible? If not, why is Congress taking them seriously? Could this be a disinformation campaign aimed at rival nations? Or are we finally confronting a truth that challenges everything we thought we knew? In this course, we'll explore these recent events through a critical, interdisciplinary lens. Students will learn how to evaluate sources, assess testimony, and understand the science—especially physics and astronomy—underpinning claims about alien life and advanced technology. We'll also examine the psychological and cultural factors that shape human experiences and beliefs about UFOs and extraterrestrials. This is not a course about accepting or rejecting alien theories—it's about asking good questions, weighing evidence, and thinking clearly in the face of the extraordinary. **Periods 1 or 2**

Are You Auto Aware?

Instructor: Dr. Nelson
Fee: $20

Have you ever wondered why you put gas in a car? Do you struggle to understand why the engine light keeps coming on? How does my car know it is time to change the oil? If you are interested in cars and want to explore these topics the Auto Aware class is for you! The Auto Aware course will explore the inner workings of automobiles while learning how to perform hands-on maintenance on a car. The classroom portion of the class will investigate how the engine, drivetrain, and suspension work together to make a vehicle a high-performance machine. The applied portion of the class will familiarize students with common maintenance and repair tasks that are performed on an automobile. This includes checking and changing the oil, changing air filters, and rotating and repairing tires. Students should expect to get a little dirty during the garage part of the class. **Periods 2 or 3**

Art and Plunder of the Third Reich

Instructor: Ms. Chambers
Fee: none

This class will explore the Nazi systematic pillaging of art treasures during the Third Reich. As Hitler and his armies were expanding their power throughout Europe, they were also amassing a large collection of stolen artworks. In our study of the methodical pillaging of private collections and galleries, students will learn about Hitler's obsession with shaping an aesthetic ideal and his desire to create a superior art museum in Linz - the Führermuseum. We will take a close look at prominent Jewish families whose collections were stolen, several high-ranking Nazi officials who took advantage of military conquests to build massive personal collections of their own, and members of the art community who tirelessly worked to hide and protect art works from the Nazis. We will watch clips from several films including *The Rape of Europa* and *The Woman in Gold*. Major course components include reading and discussions, with grades based on participation and short assignments. **Period 1**

The Art and Science of Inner Peace

Instructor: Ms. Forster and Ms. Horton
Fee: $10 plus book

Want to feel calmer, think clearer, and make school less stressful? Step into a course where you'll learn knowledge and skills that can transform not just your day, but your whole upper school experience.
What You'll Do:

- Practice mindfulness meditations, including walking, journaling, forest-bathing, mindful music listening, and gentle yoga.
- Explore the neuroscience of mindfulness and see how these practices can boost focus, improve mood, and lower stress.
- Track your energy, attention, and stress levels as you go. Compare results with classmates, discuss what you notice, and discover small tweaks that make a big difference in daily life.

You'll leave the course with a personalized "inner peace toolkit" you can use anytime to feel more focused, grounded, and ready for what's next. **Period 3**

The Art of Cookie Decorating

Instructor: Ms. Moore
Fee: $25

Unlock the secrets of cookie decorating in this comprehensive course, which takes you on a delectable journey from the very basics to the fine artistry of advanced cookie decorating techniques. Starting with an understanding of icing consistencies and coloring methods, we'll examine carefully outlining and flooding cookies for a beautiful base layer. Delve deeper into wet-on-wet decorating, learn the precision of writing with icing, and master the technique of transferring images to make your designs truly stand out. This course offers a gamut of skills aimed to equip you with the expertise to create exquisite, bakery-style cookies at home. The final challenge is a showstopper–a project where you will create a dozen cookies, each reflecting the wide range of techniques learned during the course. Whether you're an amateur baker looking to skill up or an experienced artist exploring new mediums, 'The Art of Cookie Decorating' is your step into the sweet world of culinary creativity. Be prepared for homework involving the kitchen and reflections on skills learned. **Period 2 or 3**

Authoring Videogames for the Playdate Handheld Console

Instructor: Mr. Howe
Fee: none

The "Playdate" (https://play.date) is a portable video game console, a little bit like a Nintendo GameBoy. Yes, it comes with some games, but you can also write games for it yourself! In this class, we'll learn to do just that. (Amaze your friends!) We'll explore old-school graphics and sounds as we plan and construct original video games for this system that is both retro and modern. Programming will take place in a simple web-based editor, but experienced students can take things further with the Lua programming language. The software for this class is all free, including a simulator of the device, and we'll have a few school-owned consoles available, so there is no class fee. However, interested students might wish to purchase a Playdate (~$200) ahead of time for themselves. It is not required, but probably more fun, and certainly will still be enjoyable after the course is over. **Period 2**

Bayou Baddies: Houston’s Notorious Crimes

Instructor: Ms. Ghosn and Ms. Wainright
Fee: none

This isn't your average history class. In this 13-day intensive course, we’ll pull back the curtain on the most shocking crimes that have shaped Houston's history. We'll go beyond the headlines to explore the criminal minds, flawed investigations, and legal battles that have defined the city for generations. From the chilling saga of the "Houston Mass Murders" to the intricate corporate web of the Enron scandal, each case study serves as a window into a different lens of crime. Students will analyze real cases, legal strategies, and confront the ethical dilemmas that captivated a city and a nation. This course is designed for curious minds eager to understand the darker side of human nature and the complex legal system. Be prepared for a compelling journey into the heart of some of Houston's most infamous moments. Note: This course contains mature content and discussions that may be disturbing to some students. **Period 1**

Be Well, Knit!

Instructor: Ms. T. Ellis and Ms. Peterson
Fee: $40

Humans have made clothing and adorned themselves for tens of thousands of years. While there is no longer a necessity for handwork, it flourishes now in online communities. People young and old enjoy making tangible and useful products in addition to enjoying the health benefits of a relaxing and calming hobby. In this class, we will specifically develop handcrafted textile works of knitting. Students should be able to display proficiency in knitting techniques and relevant terminology as well as to plan and execute a final small project. Novices and non-beginners are equally encouraged to take the class, and if a student is already proficient in another form of stitchery, they may enroll in the class and complete a final project in another form (e.g., crochet or embroidery). **Period 2 or 3**

The Best of All Possible Worlds

Instructor: Dr. Humphries
Fee: none

What does your perfect world look like? Where is it located? Who lives there? How do they live? Who rules? From Plato's *Republic* to James Cameron's *Avatar*, countless writers, artists, philosophers, and filmmakers have labored to answer these questions as they became the architects of the perfect worlds— or "utopias"—they envisioned for humanity. In this class, we'll consider text excerpts and films in order to study the architecture of a handful of history's utopias, and as a final project, students will be asked to design a utopia of their own. **Period 1**

Birds of a Feather

Instructor: Mr. Call and Mr. Chastain
Fee: none

Come, fellow Falcons, and join us as we consider the birds: their fascinating biology and their unique existence in the sky. While ours is essentially a bird-watching course, we will also strive to investigate how birds have become significant to humankind. We'll appreciate birds as the important objects of the Romantic poets and other artists. We'll examine various kinds of nature-writing, such as Darwin's scientific investigation of his finches and Jonathan Franzen's essays on bird-watching. Of course, we'll learn the essential skills of birding—and we'll master those skills in our very own Backyard as we identify and study and admire our local birds. We'll also hopefully have a few bird visitors! **Period 1**

Books with Friends

Instructor: Ms. Lambert
Fee: book

Do you ever wish you had more time to read? Do you like talking about books with friends and classmates? If so, join us for Book with Friends where you and at least one other classmate will choose a book to read and discuss together. Our class periods will include reading, journaling, and swapping opinions about our books. Additionally, I am hoping to spread our love of stories to our lower school friends, who might then want to read more as well. During this exchange, you will share a favorite childhood book with them, and then they will share a favorite book with you. Assessments will include regular journal entries and a final project. So if you once loved reading but now feel too often buried in other demands, consider joining Books with Friends to rediscover that lost joy—and to spread it to others. **Periods 1 or 4**

Brain on Trial: Cases in Neuroscience

Instructor: Dr. Hardie
Fee: none

Why do our brains sometimes betray us, and what can those failures teach us about who we are? In this course, we'll explore the mysteries of the mind through real case studies—from patients who can see without sight, to those who forget every new moment, to athletes who suffer the long-term effects of concussion. Alongside classic stories in neuroscience, we'll investigate current issues such as concussions in sports, addiction, and the ethics of genetic testing. Students will step into the role of neurologists, ethicists, and storytellers: diagnosing puzzling cases, debating questions about identity, and experimenting with illusions and demonstrations that reveal the brain's inner workings. Along the way, you'll connect science to the world around you—asking what

neuroscience means for medicine, technology, and daily life. The course culminates in a project where you choose how to share what you've learned: a case portfolio, a podcast, a creative work, or a mock clinical presentation. This course is designed to spark curiosity, encourage reflection, and empower you to see how your learning can shape the way you think about yourself and the world. **Period 1**

Building the Upper School with Brandt Bowden

Instructor: Mr. Bowden
Fee: none

Are you interested in construction, architecture, or finance? What about community outreach, fundraising, or business management? When you look around the newly transformed Kinkaid campus, do you wonder how it all happened? This course will present the story as well as the process behind the transformation of Kinkaid's campus, specifically the construction of our new Bowden Upper School building. We'll study the design beginnings and their evolution into actual architectural plans. From Board presentations and permitting to fundraising, construction schedules, and risk management, we'll journey through the process that brought our new campus buildings to life. Not only that, you'll see what it takes to tackle your own monumental project and make a positive impact on the community. **Period 1**

The Chronicles of the Ubiquitous Tomato

Instructor: Dr. Clayton
Fee: none

Ever wonder why Europeans thought tomatoes were deadly poison for 200 years, or how a single fruit from ancient Mexico ended up revolutionizing pizza, pasta, and salsa forever? Join me for a 13-day adventure where you'll grow your own tomato plant, create art inspired by nature, cook authentic dishes from scratch, and uncover conspiracy theories about "killer" vegetables. This isn't your typical classroom course. You'll get your hands dirty while planting and painting, conducting real scientific experiments, filming your own food documentaries, and diving deep into the surprising ways one little red fruit changed world history and sparked international trade wars. By the end, you'll present your discoveries through a portfolio that showcases your growth as a scientist, artist, historian, chef, and storyteller – plus, you'll never look at a tomato the same way again. Ready to discover how something as simple as a tomato can unlock the secrets of chemistry, culture, creativity, and cuisine? **Period 1**

Consciousness: Nature's Deepest Mystery

Instructor: Mr. Albán and Mr. Rambow
Fee: book

When you kick a puppy, it feels pain. At least, we *assume* it does, and that's why puppy-kicking is frowned upon as a sport. But puppies are made of atoms, just like soccer balls. So, what is it about the way a puppy's atoms are arranged that makes us sure they can experience pain, pleasure, or *anything at all*? In other words, what makes them *conscious*? What makes *any* organism conscious? This so-called "hard problem of consciousness" is one of the deepest mysteries ever pondered, and it looms over us more urgently than ever as scientists forge ahead in the following areas:

- growing human brains in labs
- restoring electrical activity in the brains of slaughtered pigs
- creating AI that seems able to *think*

Are such brains conscious? Is ChatGPT? *How would we even know?* In this course, we will explore these and other deep questions through the lenses of science, philosophy, and information theory. No puppies will be harmed. **Period 4**

Conspiracy Theories

Instructor: Ms. Hawkes
Fee: none

Welcome to "Unveiling the Truth: Exploring Conspiracy Theories!" In this class, we'll dive into the world of conspiracy theories where mystery, secrets, and hidden agendas come to life. From the moon landing hoax to the assassination of JFK, we'll investigate some of the most famous and controversial conspiracies in history. You'll learn why people believe these theories, how they spread, and what evidence supports or debunks them. Along the way, we'll sharpen our critical thinking skills and uncover the truth behind the rumors. Get ready for a thrilling journey into the unknown! **Period 1**

Cooking 101: Essential Kitchen Skills

Instructor: Dr. Das and Mr. Johnson
Fee: $150

Are you a foodie who has always wanted to learn how to cook? Do you enjoy trying different types of cuisine? Are you ready to take your love of food to the next level in the kitchen? Then this class is for you! In Cooking 101, future gastronomes will be introduced to the fundamentals of cooking and flavor. Over this three-week course, you will learn a multitude of kitchen techniques and cooking styles, from slicing and dicing to sauteing, frying, and poaching. In tandem, you will also explore what makes food taste delicious through a tour of the basic tastes: sweet, sour, salty, bitter, umami, and the newly defined 6th taste, oleogustus. Students of all levels are welcome, but all future chefs must be willing to sample their creations and approach cultural foods with respect and with an open mind. Bring your brave palette, and get your knives and aprons ready for our culinary adventure through the kitchen! **Period 2 or 3**

Cracking the Code: An Introduction to Cryptography

Instructor: Mr. Lopez
Fee: book

Ever wanted to learn the secrets behind secret codes? X marks the spot where your cryptographic adventure begins! Through this course, you'll explore ancient techniques, like the Caesar Cipher, and discover modern marvels such as the Enigma machine and even quantum encryption.

Ready to dive deeper? Alongside gripping historical tales from "The Code Book," you'll create your own ciphers, crack encrypted messages, and see how cryptography shapes our world today.

Prepare for hands-on activities where you'll become a master codebreaker. Over the next 13 days, you'll build skills that can lead to exciting careers in cybersecurity or digital forensics. Interested in taking on a challenge? Nothing is more thrilling than decoding a hidden message. Think you can find it?

Period 1 or 4

Design to Print - 3D

Instructor: Mr. Howe
Fee: none

Come join us in the Upper School's new Makerspace as we learn how to design, scan and sculpt 3-d models to print with our bank of printers! We'll be learning Fusion 360 and other software to design objects and the Bambu software to take those designs and convert them to instructions for the printers. Projects will include a simple keychain, multicolor objects, hinges, and more — culminating in a project of your choosing. Over Interim Term, you'll build a portfolio of your pieces, a collection to show off in the Interim Term Showcase. And you'll be invited to continue using the printers beyond the end of class, if desired. Recommended: A three-button mouse. There will also be some (free) software to install before the class begins so that we can get started quickly on the first day. (Note: Fusion 360 is a fairly resource-intensive program for your computer. Make sure your computer meets Kinkaid's minimum BYOD requirements @ https://bit.ly/BYOD2526.) **Period 3**

DIY Projectile Launchers

Instructor: Dr. Capitano
Fee: $25

Lacking claws, fangs, or any significant defense, humans have had to learn to apply science and technology for defense. Without the invention of weapons, survival in an often hostile world is uncertain. In this class, we will explore ways in which people have created kinetic launchers to defend themselves. We will build a series of devices such as catapults, vacuum canons, and sling launchers. In each case, we examine the science of how these devices work and use basic engineering to improve designs. Throughout the course, we will hold friendly competitions to test accuracy and distance. **Period 3**

Documentary Film

Instructor: Dr. Scott
Fee: $10

No genre of film has seen as much of an increase in popularity in recent decades as the documentary. And with celluloid works such as Michael Moore's *Fahrenheit 9-11* raking in well over 200 million dollars in profits and the late Morgan Spurlock's *Super-Size Me* being screened nationwide in mainstream movie houses, there is probably not going to be a let up in this burgeoning field anytime soon. This class will explore the history and remarkable variety of the documentary film genre; and during the three weeks, we will view and discuss and write on at least 10 feature-length documentaries and docudramas that run the gamut from high comedy to gut-wrenching tragedy to the exposé of great acts of injustice and outrage. At the end of the term, Documentary Film students will create a poster display, extolling the virtues and memorable moments from all the films studied. **Period 2 or 3**

Dune, the Desert Planet

Instructor: Mr. Ayres
Fee: book + $15

Travel to the desert planet Arrakis, more commonly known as Dune! In this class, we explore the cultural impact of Frank Herbert's *Dune* and its impact on pop culture. We'll discuss the impacts of Middle Eastern culture and the Arabic language on the story. We'll learn about water purification used in our modern society. We'll explore

the different adaptations of the story by watching portions of the films, comparing the various interpretations of the story. While we won't read the entire book, we will discuss portions of the original novel to better understand other topics we explore. **Period 4**

Falcon Tank

Instructor: Ms. McDonald
Fee: none

This entrepreneurship class is a play on the popular television show *Shark Tank*, which shows entrepreneurs making business presentations to a panel of six investors or "sharks," who decide whether to invest in their companies. Students will learn the foundations of building a business including what makes a good business idea, how to create a business deck, and how to recruit investors. We will have local business owners come in to speak about their personal experiences in creating their companies. Then the students will embark on this journey in groups, working to create a deck for a potential business idea. At the end of the class, students will pitch these ideas to the 'falcons,' who will make the decision whether to 'invest.' The falcons will include Mrs. McDonald, accompanied by the previous business owners who came in to speak about their experiences. **Period 4**

Fast Food

Instructor: Dr. Scott
Fee: $10

Meet the Idaho multi-billionaire who supplied the world with McDonalds' French fries; find out which fast food chains are the cleanest and kindest to their employees and which are exactly the opposite; uncover whether threats like E-coli and Mad Cow Disease are a reality or the scare tactics of radical, left-wing extremists; peel away the layers of public relations stuff and find out what really is required to satiate our culture's love and demand for "fast food." This course will examine the ways in which the rise of international corporate giants like McDonalds, KFC, Coca-Cola, and even Disney have dramatically altered the way the world and especially the United States looks, eats, does business, and sells itself. We will read portions of the groundbreaking book, Eric Schlosser's *Fast Food Nation*, as well as Malcolm Gladwell's entertaining history of ketchup; we'll look at lots of video footage, including the award winning documentary *Food Inc* as well as the late Anthony Bourdain's *Parts Unknown* episode on our own Houston; and we will discuss the difficulties and possible answers to all kinds of questions regarding our country and its economic and nutritional future. Is there a better way than having it "your way"? Fast Food students will celebrate the class on the last day by hosting a "fast food cavalcade" of vital info for visitors and guests to take with them to the grocery store, to the fast food storefronts, to the local farmers' market, and beyond. **Period 4**

Fiction Writing 101

Instructor: Ms. Bird
Fee: book

Do you imagine stories as you navigate through the real world? Have you ever dreamed of seeing your name on a finished creative project? This class offers an introduction to writing short stories, video games, novels, or any other kind of fiction. We will explore how to outline, how to develop characters, how to effectively use plot, and the various structures a story might take. We'll also spend some time learning about the industry (such as working with agents and editors), listening to how professional writers get words on the page, and talking about how imprints function at publishing houses. This class will celebrate and cultivate the creativity necessary to

write a story as well as help us better understand the variety of ways to make money in the publishing industry. We will also have plenty of writing time, so you can work on your manuscript. You might not finish writing your fiction in three weeks, but you'll be well on your way! **Period 1 or 4**

Fixer Upper

Instructor: Mr. Sell
Fee: $250

So, what will you do when you're on your own and something breaks in your dorm room or apartment? Will you know what to do? This course will be a hands-on course that teaches household skills that young people often struggle with since they are usually not taught in a formal way. Students will learn all kinds of skills they can use to impress their future roommates(and maybe even your parents!): how to patch a hole in drywall, change an electrical socket, wire a light fixture, install a sink faucet and drain assembly, and install and repair a toilet. What more do you need to learn? The fee includes tools in a tool bag that you get to keep for future projects! **Period 1**

Future Health Heroes: HOSA Competitive Prep & Healthcare Foundations

Instructor: Ms. Norman
Fee: none

Get ready to step into the world of healthcare! This course is designed for students interested in pursuing medical careers and preparing for HOSA–Future Health Professionals competitions. Students will explore a variety of healthcare fields, practice foundational skills, and build the confidence and professionalism needed to succeed in competitive events. From medical terminology and basic clinical procedures to teamwork and leadership, this course provides a hands-on introduction to health science pathways while actively preparing students for upcoming HOSA regional and state events. **Period 4**

Girl Squads: Powerful Alliances throughout History

Instructor: Ms. Kuhleman
Fee: none

This course will examine the historical and cultural significance of "girl squads"— groups of women who came together to achieve a common goal, challenge the status quo, or wield influence. From ancient priestesses to infamous lady pirates to popular girl groups/bands of the 90's and early 2000's, we will explore how these alliances have shaped history, art, and society. We will analyze the reasons behind their formation, the challenges they faced, and their lasting legacies. The course is structured to be engaging and thought-provoking, encouraging students to consider the power of female-led communities in both the past and present. Squad up and join the fun while learning HERstory the way it was meant to be told! **Period 1**

Global Plates: Cooking Through Cultures and History

Instructor: Ms. Reza and Dr. Wheeler
Fee: $150

Have you ever wanted to experience different cultures or step into a different time period? Now you can—with nothing more than a hot plate! In this exciting, hands-on class, you'll learn to cook a variety of dishes from cultures around the world and from different historical eras. A key component of this course will be your independent research into different countries and their culinary traditions. Each student will be responsible for

thoroughly researching an assigned country's food culture, history, and cooking techniques. In addition to learning valuable cooking skills, you'll become cultural ambassadors as you dive deep into the stories behind each dish. As part of your research project, you'll be required to find and bring in an authentic recipe from your assigned country to share with the class. This recipe will become part of our cooking repertoire, and you'll have the opportunity to teach your classmates about your country's unique ingredients, cooking methods, and the cultural significance of the dish. We will ensure engagement through weekly quizzes to deepen your understanding. There will be readings that will enhance your appreciation for the historical and cultural significance of the dishes you'll be preparing. Your research presentations and recipe contributions will be essential elements of the class, allowing everyone to learn from each other's discoveries and expand our global culinary knowledge together. Plus, this class will help you get ready for college life by teaching you how to make delicious, budget-friendly meals in your dorm, using just a hot plate. Whether you're looking to expand your culinary horizons, conduct meaningful cultural research, prepare for dorm living, or simply have fun cooking, this class is for you! Don't miss out on this unique opportunity to travel the world through food—sign up today!
Period 3

The Glory of Sports

Instructor: Dr. Capitano and Mr. Buitrago
Fee: none

Since the dawn of civilization, people have used sports to hone their skills, learn teamwork, and express their prowess. The games have changed, but the idea of sport has always been a part of us. In this class, we will examine sports throughout history. We will look at how the games were played and how they were celebrated. We will reenact game styles from various parts of history. While doing so, we will try to capture the spirit of the times in both how we play the sport and the heraldry used to appreciate sports heroes. This class will often meet outside, since we will be playing the sports, not just talking about them. Course evaluations will focus on understanding the rules of the sports and how different societies were influenced by their sports. Winning competitions is simply about gaining glory, which is what all athletes have ever dreamed of getting. Do you hear the call of glory? **Period 1 or 2**

Hip Hop and 1960's Music as Culture and Protest

Instructor: Ms. Flowers
Fee: none

What do 60's activists and 90's rap icons have in common? The music of protest. The 60's Anti-war and Anti-poverty movements, along with Women's rights and racial equity, all embraced music as a galvanizing tool for change. Activism and art merged to form a powerful coalition; songs lifted the zeitgeist of the people. (You will learn what zeitgeist is, too!) Artists such as Bob Dylan, Sam Cooke, and Marvin Gaye stood hand-in-hand with activists and civil right leaders, forming an undeniable coalition; their songs became the rallying call for change. What about hip hop? Beyond the bravado and glorification of excess, which hip hop pioneers shed light on inequity and instigated cultural progress? We will deep dive into the formative period of hip hop culture in NYC. Particular attention will be given to the lyrics of hip hop artists Tupac, The Fugees, and Common. We will also bring in other genres from your musical play list. 80's punk, international protest music, and current musicians bringing their brand of protest to modern music will all be food for discussion and intellectual examination. Through the close examination of lyrics as poetry, we will listen, analyze, think, and write.

Documentaries, news footage, and concerts from the 60's and the 90's will anchor our course. Readings will include articles and from music critics, along with close-reading of the lyrics as text and poetry. **Period 1 or 4**

The History of Video Gaming: From *Pong* to the Console Wars to Mobile Gaming

Instructor: Mr. Johnson and Dr. Nelson
Fee: none

From its modest beginnings, the video game industry has captured the hearts and minds of millions while also becoming a sore spot for parents worldwide. How have video games transformed from their earliest derivations to their now memory-heavy, high-powered processor forms? How have the console wars shaped our culture? Will gamers eventually supplant traditional athletes, garnering fans and filling stadiums? And with the ubiquity of mobile technology, where is the gaming industry headed in the future? We have all been told that video games will rot our brains, but this multi-billion dollar industry just keeps growing every year. This course will explore how the gaming industry has captured our attention--and our dollars--and will help us speculate about what to expect from it in the future. **Period 4**

How to be a Big Fish: Dream, Discover, and Dive into the College Process

Instructor: Mr. Friday and Ms. Salinas
Fee: none

Ready to dream big and figure out where you'll thrive? "How to Be a Big Fish" is your guide to discovering who you are and how that shapes your college journey. You'll explore your strengths, values, and goals while learning how to research schools, reflect on what matters most, and make confident choices. This course isn't just about getting in—it's about finding the place where you'll make waves. Whether you're just starting to think about college or already deep in the process, this course will help you dive in with purpose and clarity. **Period 1 or 2**

Human Agency in the AI Era: Navigating Ethics, Purpose, and Problem Solving

Instructor: Mr. Vrotny
Fee: $40 plus a book

Artificial intelligence is changing what it means to create, to work, and even to be human. In this course, students will go beyond learning how to use AI tools. We will explore essential questions: What value do humans bring in the age of AI? How can we use AI responsibly? How might we channel our creativity toward solving problems that matter? Students will gain advanced skills in AI prompting and research while grappling with the ethical and social implications of these technologies. The course culminates in a "Moral Ambition Challenge" where students identify a real problem—in their own lives or inspired by global issues—and design an AI-powered solution to address it. At the end of Interim term, students will be capable AI users and thoughtful innovators ready to make a difference. No prior coding experience required, but intellectual curiosity and commitment to positive change are essential. **Period 1**

I Just Scored Tix to <Insert Favorite Artist>!

Instructor: Mr. Vischak
Fee: none

Imagine this: your parents surprise you with tickets to see your favorite artist in concert next week. You're thrilled that your best friend is going to go with you, but they don't really know the music as well as you do. With only a

week to prepare, you can't expect them to listen to every song and album, so you decide to craft the perfect 15–20 track playlist. The goal? Capture the essence of the artist and get your friend just as excited as you are. This class takes that idea and expands it. Each student will select a piece of media they love, like a musician or band, a television series, or a book series, and take on the role of curator. In the first half of Interim Term, you'll explore how to sift through an entire catalogue of songs, a full season of episodes, or a shelf of novels to decide what truly represents the heart of the work. In the second half, you'll shift from curator to promoter, presenting your chosen media to classmates in a way that might win over brand-new fans. Throughout the course, you'll keep a reflective journal documenting your decision-making process: What did you include, what did you leave out, and why? At the end, you'll share both your final curated product and your reasoning with the class. Evaluation will be based on a combination of your journal and your presentation, using rubrics provided in advance. **Period 4**

Improv Acting

Instructor: Mr. Buck
Fee: none

Seeking fans of *Whose Line Is It Anyway* and comedy improv! Are you interested in telling great stories? Do you want to gain confidence on stage or at bougie cocktail parties? Come join Mr. Buck, a faculty member with over 150 improv shows to his credit. We will learn strategies, practice games, and even dabble in long-form improv in this fun and ensemble-based class. Expect to be on your feet and participating in nearly every class. We will perform a short show for family and friends at the end of the term. An ideal class for writers, actors, and creative minds. **Period 3**

Insight & Ink: The Science and Practice of Journaling

Instructor: Ms. Forster
Fee: book

Do you want to journal, but never find the time? This course gives you both the space and the science—why journaling works and how it can fuel focus, balance, and imagination. You'll experiment with how writing by hand sharpens memory, eases stress, and sparks creativity. You'll write freely without grades or judgment, then polish a few entries into something new—a poem, essay, story, reflection, or even something experimental—for your grade. Along the way, we'll share glimpses of our words in circles that build trust and connection. **Period 1 or 4**

Inspired Choreography

Instructor: Ms. Thakkar
Fee: none

Where do contemporary choreographers find inspiration? Is it from a piece of music, from a text, from a specific movement, from a concept or idea, from a particular group of people? In this class, we will create choreographic works that start from varying sources of inspiration. We will also analyze major works of contemporary dance companies and choreographers and discuss how those pieces came to be. A prerequisite of at least one year of experience in any sort of movement class as well as comfort performing in front of your peers is highly recommended. Evaluation will be based upon participation in the process, writing assignments, and a final showcase presentation. **Period 1 or 4**

International Relations and *Diplomacy*, the Board Game

Instructor: Mr. Emerson
Fee: $6

This course will offer an introduction to international relations theory and a survey of foreign affairs through the board game *Diplomacy*. The goal of the game is to conquer Europe through diplomacy, strategic negotiations, and complex power politics. The class will be divided and formed into teams consisting of two or three students. Students are expected to be able to work as teams. Each team represents one of the seven "Great Powers of Europe" in the years prior to World War I. These Great Powers include England, Germany, Russia, Turkey, Italy, France, and Austria-Hungary. In addition, students will be asked to read about and discuss issues relating to current events and how states operate in complex international systems. Students will make presentations on the current foreign policies of the countries they play in the game. **Period 1**

Into the Dollyverse

Instructor: Ms. Bird
Fee: none

Dolly Parton has been a cultural icon since the 1960s, and today her music and her image are recognized across the world, uniting fans of all backgrounds. In this course, we'll explore all things Dolly, from her music to her films to her wardrobe to her entrepreneurial spirit. Our primary texts will be her songs and films as well as the popular podcast *Dolly Parton's America* In each class we'll spend time discussing her ongoing influence by learning about her personal life, her performances, and her public persona, all while exploring the colorful butterfly that is Dolly Parton. For our culminating project, we will work in small groups to present an era of Dolly's life and the ripple effect she's had on American society from the 1960s until today–all while discussing what she still wants to accomplish. **Period 2**

Introduction to Music Theory

Instructor: Mr. Harrison
Fee: book

"Let's start at the very beginning, a very good place to start. When you read, you begin with A-B-C; when you sing, you begin with Do-Re-Me..." *The Sound of Music* isn't just a beloved musical; but Rogers and Hammerstein brilliantly penned a song that explains how musicians use intervals to imagine and produce a melody. But this class is not just for singers; it's for any musician looking to deepen their understanding of how music is constructed. "Intro to Music Theory" will help performers from all disciplines form a strong foundation by learning intervals, rhythm, key signatures, major and minor scales, basic ear training, and sight reading. More importantly, this class is a great prerequisite for those interested in taking AP Music Theory. **Period 3**

Jazz Brothas: Hip and Philosophical Examinations into Jazz and Pop Culture

Instructor: Mr. Onwuachi and Dr. Epps
Fee: none

American Pop Culture may have never been cool if it were not for the creation of jazz. True story: Jazz is credited with popularizing the word *cool*. In this class, you will learn about key moments in jazz, including hallmark albums and artists that turned films into classics, popular TV shows into family heirlooms, and albums into soundtracks for our lives. There will be mini in-class projects served like appetizers with a chill glass of research

in class. One-page essay gems to make your intellect go bling. Screen time to blow your mind. And have you ever made rap jazz tunes with your homegirls/homeboys? This will be a structured and cultured learning experience that will last a lifetime. **Period 4**

Kdrama Binges and Bites

Instructor: Ms. Peterson
Fee: $30

Why are K-dramas so impossible to stop watching? And why is food such a key part of the characters' lives? In this class we will watch scenes from the most iconic K-dramas, breaking down the storytelling tropes and elements of suspense that keep us clicking "next episode." We will also partake in some of the Korean snacks that match our character's moods and feelings. Feeling blue? Cheer up with some spicy tteokbokki. Stressed out about an exam? Get focused with the ever present Koppiko. You will watch a K-drama of your own choosing for homework, and for your final project pitch a K-drama show *Shark-Tank* style! **Period 4**

Latino Americans

Instructor: Ms. Zamudio-Lara
Fee: $80

As the demographics of the United States change dramatically, it is now more essential than ever to understand the rich and diverse history and experiences of Latinos, who have played a significant role in shaping North America for over 500 years. With more than 50 million people, Latinos are the largest minority group in the U.S. This course, based on the PBS documentaries *Latino Americans* as well as related articles, book excerpts (*When I Was Puerto Rican* by Esmeralda Santiago, *How the García Girls Lost Their Accents* by Julia Álvarez), and films (*In the Heights, West Side Story, The Walkout*), will explore the history of Latino Americans and their contributions to the United States in areas such as sports, culture, and art, along with their ongoing pursuit of social justice. Grades will be based on short quizzes, class discussions and activities, student presentations, and a possible field trip (and respective reflection) to MFAH. **Period 1 or 4**

Let's Play Cards

Instructor: Mr. Vischak
Fee: none

In this Interim Term class, we will play *Hearts*, *Spades*, and *Euchre* during our three weeks together. Card games are shown to improve memory, attention, problem solving skills and strategic thinking. Moreover, while games like chess are also good for building cognitive skills, card games are inherently social, especially when playing with a partner. There will be a little bit of math, but grades will be determined by students demonstrating that they understand the rules of the game and the best strategies for play. **Period 2 or 3**

Literature and Film

Instructor: Ms. Flowers
Fee: none

Who did it best, the mind or the movie? Would you prefer to imagine the worlds of literature in your own mind's eye or view the interpretation as a film? Is it possible for the film to be better than the book? From nontraditional Shakespeare adaptations, classic horror films, and examinations of crime and punishment, we will examine master filmmakers whose interpretations bring something new or different to the written text. Excerpts from the

original novels and plays will be examined along with the film as text. We will experience new takes on Shakespeare with *10 Things I Hate about You*, a romcom take on Shakespeare's *Taming of the Shrew* and Baz Lurman's adaptation of *Romeo and Juliet*. Academy Award-winning fright films, *Jaws* and *Misery* will be studied along with the coming-of-age story *Stand By Me*, *The Help, The Green Mile*, and *Dead Man Walking*. **Period 3**

Living Your Best Life!

Instructor: Ms. Terrill and Ms. Ghosn
Fee: none

In this class we will explore the science behind living a healthy and happy life. We will focus on developing lifelong habits that support a healthy brain and body. We will dive into the importance and practice of developing healthy sleep habits, incorporating exercise into your daily routines, and eating healthy, and we will explore numerous ways to naturally boost your dopamine levels and introduce some habits (i.e. reading for pleasure) that will support overall cognition over time. Most importantly, we will learn that it is imperative to take care of yourself first in order to be the best student, friend, athlete, artist, person you can be. We will not only be talking about developing these habits, we will actually do them–every day! **Period 2 or 3**

Monster Mash: A Horrific Experience

Instructor: Mr. Call and Mr. Chastain
Fee: none

Is Halloween your favorite holiday? Do you crave salty snacks, a comfortable blanket, and a creature feature playing on your screen? Do you sometimes wish to try writing your own monster story? If you answered "yes" to any of those questions, then this terribly scary interim class is for you. Over the course of the term, we'll investigate the concept of 'the monster,' and how such a concept timelessly inspires us humans and reflects our own fears and anxieties. We will primarily examine how 'the monster' is portrayed on the silver screen, but we'll also uncover ancient origins of 'the monster,' as depicted through oral tradition, myth, and folklore, and literature. Films we'll watch include—but are not limited to—*Frankenstein*, *Jaws*, *Jurassic Park*, and many more! You'll even have the chance to create your own monster. *It's alive!!!!!* **Period 2 or 3**

Monsters Inside Me

Instructor: Ms. Norman
Fee: none

Inspired by the thrilling medical investigation series *Monsters Inside Me*, this course takes students on a deep dive into the hidden world of pathophysiology. We will be exploring how parasites, pathogens, and rare diseases invade the human body, wreak havoc on our systems, and sometimes change lives forever. Students will become "medical detectives," piecing together symptoms, test results, and patient histories to uncover the monsters behind mysterious illnesses. **Period 1 or 2**

Music From Before You Were Born that Everyone Ought to Know (Classic Rock Edition)

Instructor: Mr. Conner
Fee: none

Have you ever heard an old song that your parents like, and then you realized with astonishment that you liked it, too? This class is about songs like that, some you have heard before and others that might become one of your new favorites! Have you ever heard of Pink Floyd, Boston, Journey, or Led Zeppelin? What about Nirvana, Pearl Jam, Guns N' Roses, or Eric Clapton? Maybe even some Rolling Stones, Tom Petty, or Ozzy Osbourne.
We are going to nominate, discuss, and debate about great songs from before the year 2000 with the goal of YOU putting together a list of "25 Songs my generation should know" and we'll drop the list on Spotify! There will be some writing work and/or listening to songs outside of class time and some projects along the way! (If you took the "Classic Songs that Transcend Time" class last year, you can't take this one again!) **Period 2 or 3**

Musical Theatre Movement for Men

Instructor: Ms. Williams
Fee: none

Does the word "Dance" make you a little nervous? No worries — this class isn't about wearing tights and fancy spins. It's about learning how to move, build strength, and gain confidence in how your body works. Ever wanted to try out for the Upper School musical but felt unsure about the dance audition? Or maybe you're an athlete who wants better footwork, balance, and coordination. (Trust me — dance can seriously help with that). We'll work on body control, rhythm, and some fun musical numbers that highlight strong, powerful movement — especially for the guys. You might even surprise yourself and find out you've actually *got some moves*. You don't have to be a *Jersey Boy* — just meet me on the *West Side*, and let's *Rock Through the Ages* together. **Period 3**

Mysteries and Forensics: The Science of Crime

Instructor: Ms. Lavalley
Fee: none

From crime scenes to the courtroom, forensic science is where biology, chemistry, and history meet detective work. In this course, students will explore famous cases—both solved and unsolved—to see how evidence has shaped the pursuit of justice. Each week, students will build hands-on skills in the lab by practicing techniques used by real investigators: fingerprinting, DNA analysis, blood spatter examination, trace evidence study, and more. Along the way, they'll learn to think critically about evidence, sharpen their observation skills, and gain insight into the history of forensic methods. The class will conclude with a culminating investigation, where students apply their skills to solve a mystery. **Period 2**

Needle Felting: Creating, Reflecting, and Showcasing

Instructor: Ms. Lin
Fee: $50

In this beginner-friendly course, students will discover the calming art of needle felting as a way to de-stress and practice mindfulness. Students will learn how to transform wool into handcrafted creatures and creations while exploring the therapeutic benefits of creativity. Through hands-on projects, reflection, and journaling, students will build both skills and self-awareness. At the end of the course, each student will present their work in a final exhibit, showcasing both their felted creations and the thinking process behind them. **Period 2 or 3**

Old School Hip Hop Dance

Instructor: Ms. Hawkes and Ms. Williams
Fee: none

Do you love to dance but weren't able to fit a dance class into your busy schedule? Now's your chance!! History teacher and cheer coach, Ms. Hawkes, and dance instructor, Ms. Williams, are collaborating during Interim to introduce you to the versatile and fun world of hip-hop dancing. Every hip-hop move you see today stems from the classic hip-hop style of the early 1990s. The class will focus on old-school hip-hop and will not only teach choreography but also challenge you to choreograph your own hip-hop dances. Besides just learning awesome dance moves, this class will also examine the origin of hip-hop culture and how that culture is expressed through dance. Do you know the difference between breaking, locking, and popping? If you've ever wondered how to do the cabbage patch or the buttery, this is the class for you. All we ask is you come with an open mind and a passion to learn and be ready for a good time! **Period 2**

Physics of Space Flight: Modeling Rockets with Kerbal Space Program

Instructor: Dr. Robinson
Fee: none

Kerbal Space Program is a space flight simulation video game. Learn the basic physics of space flight and apply it by designing spacecraft and flying them around the solar system. Historic missions, such as the Apollo missions or the deployment of the James Webb space telescope, can be recreated and analyzed within the simulation. Or carry out a landing on Ganymede with a rocket of your own design. Just don't forget to bring enough fuel for the return trip! For the final project, you will create a short film of a space mission you choose to simulate. **Period 1 or 4**

Pickleball and Math

Instructor: Ms. Fain and Dr. Baltrip
Fee: none

This course blends physical activity with academic exploration by pairing the fast-growing sport of pickleball with key mathematical concepts. Students will spend time on the court learning and playing pickleball while also stepping into the classroom to uncover the mathematics behind the game. Topics include geometry, probability and statistics, and algebra. Through hands-on play and data collection from live games, students will see how math is not just abstract but a powerful tool for strategy, improvement, and deeper appreciation of sports. Whether you're new to pickleball, math, or both, this course offers a unique way to move, think, and learn. The culmination will be a pickleball tournament where you will be able to show off your skills and knowledge of how pickleball and math intertwine. **Period 2**

Pilates 101

Instructor: Ms. Dagnall
Fee: $36

Ready to discover why celebrities, athletes, and millions of people worldwide swear by this 100-year-old fitness method? This course combines the fascinating history and philosophy of Pilates with hands-on practice that will transform how you think about movement, strength, and body awareness. You'll start by exploring the origins of Pilates, while learning the differences between classical Pilates, modern variations like Solidcore, and the core

principles that make this method so effective. You'll master foundational exercises that build core strength, improve posture, increase flexibility, and develop the mind-body connection that makes Pilates unique. No previous experience required, just your body, a mat, and willingness to challenge yourself in new ways. You will experience a pilates class to see how traditional Pilates has evolved into today's boutique fitness phenomenon, and by the end of the interim term, you will have a deep understanding of Pilates principles and a genuine appreciation for this transformative movement method. **Period 3**

Plant Yourself Here

Instructor: Dr. Baltrip
Fee: $30

Succulents aren't just trendy — they're tough, beautiful, and surprisingly fun to work with. In this hands-on course, students will explore how these desert plants store water and why they've become icons of modern design. We'll learn the basics of succulent care and propagation, then put our knowledge to work in creative projects when students design and build their own succulent terrariums and mini living wall frames. Everyone will finish the course with unique living creations and the know-how to keep them thriving. Take root in this class to make plant art that can spruce up any space. No green thumb required. **Period 1 or 4**

Poetry Workshop

Instructor: Mr. McCrink
Fee: none

In this poetry workshop, you will develop your voice and style as a practicing writer. You will experiment with tone, rhythm, and perspective, and we will delve into the works of poets from diverse backgrounds, gaining insights into the evolution of poetry and, of course, drawing inspiration from them. We will engage in in-class writing exercises, workshopping, and discussions on composition, process, and expression. Throughout the course, you will work on a creative project, culminating in a portfolio that displays your growth and talent as a writer. Experience writing poetry is not required; however, interest in doing so is. **Period 4**

Pointillism and Stippling

Instructor: Ms. Gárciga
Fee: $35

To stipple is to make small short touches (as of paint or ink) that together produce an even or softly graded shadow. In this course we will have a look at simple stippling examples and amazing stippled works of art. We will spend most of our time creating different images as we practice with this technique. **Period 3**

Pop Music Today

Instructor: Dr. Howell
Fee: none

Did you stay up until midnight to listen to *The Life of a Showgirl*? Does your heart jump whenever Benson Boone does a backflip? Are you dying for another #bratsummer? Would you kill to be at a music festival with Gracie Abrams and Paul Mescal? Do you enjoy discovering new music by Conan Grey, Lola Young, Olivia Dean, or Jade? Then join us in "Pop Music Today," where we'll celebrate and study what's currently happening in the music

industry. Of course we'll talk about the music itself, studying song structure and analyzing sound, but we'll also discuss how artists today create public personas, provoke controversies, and inspire deep commitment from their fans. Throughout the course, students will select one aspect of a current artist's career and research it from a variety of angles, crafting a final project that brings a new understanding of their music, media presence, and/or style. So, put on your mint green and orange and backflip into "Pop Music Today"! **Period 1**

The Queen's Gambit Accepted: The Culture, Theory, and Practice of Chess

Instructor: Mr. Albán
Fee: none

Chess is more than just a game—it's a global phenomenon that blends strategy, creativity, and history. With its roots stretching back over a thousand years, chess has evolved into a symbol of intellectual challenge and artistic expression. Today, thanks to online streaming platforms and popular shows like *The Queen's Gambit*, chess continues to experience an exciting boom in popularity. In this course, you'll explore the rich cultural history of chess, from its origins to its role in uniting people across the world. We'll examine how modern technology—like powerful chess engines—has revolutionized the game, and we'll break down the fascinating science behind these engines that can now defeat even the greatest human players with ease. Most importantly, you'll sharpen your own chess skills through hands-on practice, analyzing classic games and human 'chess theory,' and solving strategic puzzles that will enhance your problem-solving abilities. Throughout the course, you'll engage in thought-provoking discussions, tackle real chess challenges, and reflect on how chess can be a mirror for decision-making in life. Whether you're a beginner or a seasoned player, this course will deepen your appreciation for the complexity and beauty hidden beneath the surface of the chessboard. **Period 2 or 3**

Reading for Fun and Profit

Instructor: Ms. Jamail
Fee: $50 for art supplies, plus a choice read book purchased by the student

Do you wish you had more time for "pleasure reading" during the school year? Or do you wish you enjoyed it more and could do better in your English classes as a result? "Reading for Fun and Profit" might be the class for you! In this course, each student selects his or her own text: a book of fiction (a novel or a collection of short stories) which is between 250 and 500 pages. Through reading, journaling, and chatting, students will develop their reading stamina in a low-stakes grades environment and gain more comfort with reading and thinking about books. This course is partially self-paced and therefore appropriate for those who love to read and for those who struggle with it, too. All students should come to class the first day with a recommendation of a book they've completed reading in the last five years just for fun (not one assigned for school). Students will need a book to read (either physical or on a Kindle/Nook) and a bound journal of some sort for a Writer's Notebook. (Reading on phones and laptops will not be permitted.) Most grades will be based on the earnest completion of the activities and will include Writer's Notebook entries, class participation, and a physical arts and crafts project. **Period 1**

Real Talk: Skills for Life!

Instructor: Ms. Higginbotham
Fee: none

Ever freeze up or blow up in a challenging conversation? Here's your chance to practice the skills that make dialogue easier—and more effective. In this class, we'll take the moments that usually feel awkward, stressful, or overwhelming and turn them into opportunities for growth. Together, we'll explore how to tackle high stakes

conversations in ways that build trust instead of tension. Through active role-plays, discussion challenges, and structured debates, students will learn & practice speaking up with clarity while also learning how to listen truly. Unlike traditional debate, where the goal is to win, this course emphasizes how to build mutual understanding and find solutions that respect everyone at the table. The skills gained here aren't just for school; they'll serve students for a lifetime in leadership, relationships, and beyond. For their final project, students will design and lead a real or pretend high-stakes conversation of their choice. They may pull it from a personal scenario (friendship, family, school, or sports team), a structured debate topic, or a leadership context. **Period 1**

Sabores Latinos

Instructor: Ms. Cepeda and Ms. Zamudio-Lara
Fee: $200

This course will provide students the opportunity to explore Latin American culture through one of its most exuberant and ancient elements, its wonderful and delicious cuisine! We will explore and learn important facts of how Latin American people see food not only as a necessity but rather as an integral part of many gatherings and celebrations. We will use a variety of sources such as documentaries, classic pieces of Latin American literature, and short excerpts of movies to learn and celebrate the richness of Latin American gastronomy and culture. Of course, food will be a vital part of this class, so eating, preparing, and visiting a variety of restaurants will be a must! Grades will be based on short quizzes, class discussions, short presentations, and a final project. **Period 3**

Secrets of Mental Math

Instructor: Mr. Buitrago
Fee: book

In this class we will explore secrets and tricks that will help you do any calculation fast in your head, regardless of how complex these calculations seem to be. You will be able to quickly multiply and divide triple digit numbers, do fraction operations in your head, and determine squares, cubes, and roots without blinking an eye. You will also learn how to create some mathematical games to challenge your friends and family and figure out quickly what day of the week any of your friends were born. **Period 4**

Sewing for Beginners

Instructor: Ms. Anderson and Ms. Hocker
Fee: $50

Have you ever thought it might be fun to wear or use something you made yourself? Sewing is not as difficult as it might seem! In this course you will learn how to operate a sewing machine, prepare fabric, and use patterns to make PJ pants and other projects, sew basic hand stitches, and do simple repairs and alterations. By the end of the class, you'll be using and wearing your own completed creations! **Period 3**

Shōgun: History Meets Hollywood

Instructor: Mrs. Chambers and Dr. Epps
Fee: none

Step into the world of samurai, shoguns, and political intrigue with Hulu's *Shōgun*. In this class, we'll watch the full series together and use it as a gateway to explore the fascinating history, culture, and values of early modern Japan. Alongside epic battles and moments of intense political tension, we'll also look at the strict codes of decorum and strategy that shaped leadership, diplomacy, and daily life. At the same time, we'll examine how

Shōgun tells its story—through character, costume, and visual style—and how these choices bring a distant time and place vividly to life. By blending historical study with close attention to the craft of storytelling, this course offers both a window into Japan's past and a deeper appreciation for one of today's most compelling and award-winning television dramas. For the culminating project, students will choose a topic to research and explore in greater depth, allowing them to connect the series to the rich history, culture, and society of early modern Japan. **Period 2 or 3**

Singing Contemporary Musical Theatre: A Crossroads Between Broadway and Pop

Instructor: Mr. Harrison and Mrs. Pastorek
Fee: $150

Gone are the sweeping, lyric melodies of Richard Rodgers and Frederick Loewe - now Broadway theaters are filled with drums, riffs, and belting. How can you use your voice, body, and soul in a believable way yet remain vocally healthy? In this class, we will show you a step-by-step approach to healthy contemporary vocal production. No more screaming until you lose your voice! We will learn acting-based vocal technique and help you feel strong and confident for any musical, audition, or even your next road trip! **Period 4**

Stephen King: Different Seasons

Instructor: Mr. Conner
Fee: book

Stephen King is a prolific writer in the horror genre. Over fifty of his works have been made into movies or TV mini-series. These include such supernatural thrillers as *It, The Shining, The Stand*, and *Carrie*. However, King has some equally famous works of a non-supernatural nature, and two of those will be the focus of this course. Each story started as a novella in the collection *Different Seasons* and each was made into a movie that critics have acclaimed among the best ever made. "The Redemption of Rita Hayworth" was made into *The Shawshank Redemption*, and "The Body" was made into *Stand By Me*. We'll look at both of these stories both as stories in their own right, but also how they different from what we'd expect from the "Master of Horror." We will finish by watching a Stephen King movie of the class's choice. Grades in this course will come from short homework assignments, classwork, quizzes, and a short paper to be submitted at the conclusion of the course. Whether you're a longtime fan or looking for an introduction to Stephen King, this could be the course for you! (This is NOT the same course as "Stephen King Goes Dark.") **Period 4**

Strong Like a Girl: Beginning Strength and Conditioning for Girls

Instructor: Dr. Das and Ms. Shelby
Fee: none

Are you ready to embark on a journey to build a stronger, healthier, and more resilient you? "Strong Like A Girl" is designed to provide Kinkaid Upper School female students with the foundational skills and confidence to rock it in the weight room. Throughout this course, tailored specifically to beginners with little to no prior experience, you will learn the basics principles of strength training, including exercise terminology and the importance of proper fueling. Expect to learn how to execute the following essential exercise movements: push, pull, squat, hinge, and carry. In tandem, you will explore how cardiovascular conditioning can help you progress and recover even faster. At the end of this course, my hope is that you will continue your fitness journey independently or progress to a more advanced training program. Note: Before beginning any fitness program, it's advisable to consult with a healthcare professional, especially if you have any pre-existing medical conditions or injuries. **Period 1**

Taskmaster: Playful Problem Solving

Instructor: Ms. A. Ellis and Ms. Stutts
Fee: $25

Inspired by the beloved British comedy show *Taskmaster*, this course transforms problem-solving into an art form of creativity, ingenuity, and joyful discovery. Students will tackle a series of unique, open-ended challenges that require them to think laterally, embrace unconventional approaches, and find innovative solutions under various constraints. Working both independently and in small teams, participants will learn that there's rarely just one "right" answer—and that the most unexpected approaches often yield the most brilliant results. Through hands-on challenges ranging from practical puzzles to creative conundrums, students will develop resilience when initial strategies don't work, learning to pivot, adapt, and find new pathways forward. This course celebrates the process of problem-solving as much as the outcome, encouraging students to embrace failure as a stepping stone to innovation. By the end of Interim Term, students will have discovered the genuine joy that comes from tackling the seemingly impossible and will possess the confidence and flexibility to approach any challenge with creativity and determination. Perfect for students who love to think differently, enjoy collaborative work, or want to develop their creative confidence in a supportive, playful environment.
Period 1

Tea Time: The Art and Science of Tea

Instructor: Ms. Kuhleman
Fee: $20

Come get the tea! This course is designed to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of the world's second-most popular beverage. This course will explore the fascinating world of tea, from its ancient origins to its modern-day applications. We will explore the origins of the *Camellia sinensis* plant and the distinct processing methods that create the six main types of tea. Students will also learn about the historical trade routes that shaped empires, the medicinal benefits backed by science, and the ritual and art of tea service in different cultures. The course culminates in a practical lesson and a field trip to a local tea house to put theory into practice. **Period 3**

The Theory of Fun

Instructor: Mr. Ayres
Fee: none

Through this course, we'll explore, analyze, and most importantly play a variety of games to try to figure out why some games are more fun than others. Games we have played since childhood remain fun while others become boring quickly. Games can be a powerful tool for helping us to understand more about the world around us and ourselves. By playing and analyzing all types of games, we'll develop our own theory of fun! Whether we're playing card games, board games, video games, or childhood playground games, we'll find similarities and differences among some of our favorite games. **Period 1 or 2**

Tool Time

Instructor: Mr. Sell
Fee: none

This course involves building scenery for theatrical productions. Students will learn how to safely operate a table saw, miter saw, cordless driver drill and impact driver, jig saw, router, circular saw, pneumatic staple gun, and sander as well as a variety of hand tools. Building projects will involve constructing scenery for the Upper School musical. Students will be evaluated on craftsmanship, teamwork, and safety. **Period 4**

Twilight Struggle: A Board Game Simulation of the Cold War (1945-1989)

Instructor: Dr. Robinson
Fee: none

Explore the Cold War through the highly lauded board game *Twilight Struggle*, which long occupied the #1 rank on the top English-language board game community website. Simulate alternate timelines of the Cold War and experience the historical elements of the game through films, class discussions, and a final project on a topic of your choice from the course. Encounter the era's tense drama and brinksmanship as you play through the superpowers' ideological scramble for global dominance. Who will ultimately triumph? Struggle with your classmates for strategic victory! **Period 2**

Viva L'Italia! – Introduction to Italian language and culture

Instructor: Ms. Cepeda
Fee: $100

This course will give an overview of Italian culture and basic Italian vocabulary and phrases. Students will learn about Italian geography, famous landmarks, religious traditions, family dynamics, music, art, cinema, fashion and, of course, Italian cuisine. We will also examine how Italian culture has permeated U.S. pop culture and society. Students will have the opportunity to taste traditional Italian food, watch some of Italy's great films and plan their ideal Italian vacation! Grades will be based on class participation, comprehension quizzes, and short presentations. **Period 4**

What's In Our Food?

Instructor: Ms. Shelby
Fee: $15

Get ready to embark on a tasty adventure! We will explore how our favorite meals are made today compared to the past. Discover the secrets behind modern processing methods–from high-tech farming to innovative food production techniques–and see how they stack up against traditional practices. We'll investigate the chemicals and additives that show up in our snacks and meals and discuss their impact on our health and the planet. Through hands-on activities, lively discussions, and even some delicious tastings, you'll uncover the journey of what's in your food! Get ready to decode the ingredients in your meals and learn how to make informed choices that are not just tasty but also sustainable! **Period 2 or 3**

Women in Art : Creative Women Who Inspired the World

Instructor: Ms. Gárciga
Fee: none

Art speaks for itself; it does not need an explanation nor a reason to exist. It just is. When an artist finishes a piece, and she is happy with it, hopefully the piece can give its own testimony. This course will provide a brief look at the lives and creative journeys of several women throughout history. Some of the artists that we will discover will be Christine de Pizan, Julia Morgan, Dorothea Lange, Ray Eames, Lola Alvarez Bravo, and Yayoi Kusama. Lessons will include brief lectures accompanied by short documentaries/films and students' presentations. **Period 1 or 4**

Yoga and Wellness

Instructor: Ms. A. Ellis and Ms. Stutts
Fee: $100

At its core, yoga is a practice of creating balance and union between strength and flexibility, body and mind. While many modern American yoga studios and classes focus on "power" or "fitness," these poses are meant first and foremost to help us pay attention to our bodies. We are not meant to "master" poses but to come into the poses each day prepared to listen to what they have to teach us. We will also practice mindfulness through journaling. This course will require focus, perseverance, and a thoughtful approach to how we exercise. It will also provide techniques that can guide us toward wholehearted living. This class is foundational and designed so that, by the end of Interim Term, students can walk into almost any yoga class and assess its legitimacy in terms of safety and purpose as well as know how to modify poses for their best personal results. It's great for athletes, dancers, those without a regular physical practice, and anyone seeking a wellness antidote to achievement anxiety. **Period 2 or 3**

Your Brain on Art

Instructor: Dr. Clayton and Ms. Lambert
Fee: $25 plus a book

Ever wondered why a beautiful painting moves you to tears or why music can instantly change your mood? Join us on a journey to explore the science behind art's power to transform our minds, bodies, and lives. In this three-week course, we will dive into the research on how engaging with art—whether creating, viewing, or experiencing it—may rewire our brains for better health, enhanced learning, and deeper emotional well-being. We'll explore how different art forms activate neural pathways, reduce stress hormones, and bring joy to our lives. Beyond the pages of our book, we'll get hands-on experience with various art forms, from visual arts to music to theater, while examining the biological processes happening in our brains. Assessments will include short quizzes, regular reflections, and a final project. The course takes inspiration from Susan Magsamen and Ivy Ross's book, *Your Brain on Art: How the Arts Transform Us*. We also hope to venture beyond the classroom walls to experience art in action through a live performance and a museum visit. **Period 3**

Interim Term offers a lot of choices.

What are you interested in?

Dance
- ★ Inspired Choreography
- ★ Musical Theatre Movement for Men
- ★ Old School Hip Hop Dance

Entrepreneurship
- ★ Building the Upper School with Brandt Bowden
- ★ Falcon Tank

DIY: Do-It-Yourself
- ★ Are You Auto Aware?
- ★ The Art of Cookie Decorating
- ★ Cooking 101
- ★ DIY Projectile Launchers
- ★ Fixer Upper
- ★ Sewing for Beginners
- ★ Tool Time

Culture and Cuisine
- ★ Fast Food
- ★ Global Plates
- ★ Latino Americans
- ★ Sabores Latinos
- ★ Tea Time: The Art and Science of Tea
- ★ Viva l'Italia
- ★ What's in Our Food?

Stories and Storytelling
- ★ The Best of All Possible Worlds
- ★ Books with Friends
- ★ Conspiracy Theories
- ★ Dune, the Desert Planet
- ★ Improv Acting
- ★ Reading for Fun and Profit
- ★ Stephen King: Different Seasons

History
- ★ 1980s Culture, Trends, and Roller Skating!
- ★ Girl Squads: Powerful Alliances throughout History
- ★ Shōgun: History Meets Hollywood
- ★ Twilight Struggle: A Board Game Simulation of the Cold War

Writing
- ★ Fiction 101
- ★ Insight & Ink: The Science and Practice of Journaling
- ★ Poetry Workshop

Makerspace: Arts and Crafts
- ★ Be Well, Knit!
- ★ Design to Print 3D
- ★ Needle Felting
- ★ Sewing for Beginners

TV, Films, and Filmmaking
- ★ Acting and Directing for the Camera
- ★ Documentary Film
- ★ Kdrama Binges and Bites
- ★ Literature and Film
- ★ Monster Mash

Understanding Ourselves
- ★ Consciousness
- ★ How to be a Big Fish: Dive into the College Process
- ★ Real Talk: Skills for Life
- ★ Your Brain on Art

Wellness and Medicine
- ★ The Art and Science of Inner Peace
- ★ Brain on Trial: Cases in Neuroscience
- ★ Future Health Heroes: HOSA Competitive Prep & Healthcare Foundations
- ★ Living Your Best Life!
- ★ Monsters Inside Me
- ★ Pilates 101
- ★ Strong Like a Girl
- ★ Yoga and Wellness

Music
- ★ Hip Hop and 1960s Music as Culture and Protest
- ★ I Just Scored Tix to <Insert Favorite Artist>!
- ★ Into the Dollyverse
- ★ Introduction to Music Theory
- ★ Jazz Brothas
- ★ Music From Before You Were Born that Everyone Ought to Know
- ★ Pop Music Today
- ★ Singing Contemporary Musical Theatre

Games and Gaming
- ★ Dungeons and Dragons
- ★ The Glory of Sports
- ★ History of Video Gaming
- ★ Let's Play Cards
- ★ International Relations and *Diplomacy*
- ★ Pickleball and Math
- ★ Queen's Gambit Accepted
- ★ Taskmaster: Playful Problem Solving
- ★ The Theory of Fun

Technology
- ★ Aliens and UFOs: Are They Real, and Are They Here?
- ★ Authoring Videogames for the Playdate Handheld Console
- ★ Cracking the Code
- ★ Mysteries and Forensics: The Science of Crime
- ★ Human Agency in the AI Era
- ★ Physics of Space Flight
- ★ The Secrets of Mental Math

Visual Art
- ★ Art and Plunder of the Third Reich
- ★ The Art of Looking and Making
- ★ From Likes to Luxuries
- ★ Pointillism and Stippling
- ★ Traditional to Contemporary Jewelry
- ★ Women in Art

All About Houston…
- ★ Bayou Baddies: Houston's Notorious Crimes
- ★ Be a Tourist in Your Hometown
- ★ History of Houston
- ★ Melting Pot or Stir Fry? Houston's Diasporic Communities

Animals and Plants
- ★ Animal Heroes
- ★ Birds of a Feather
- ★ The Chronicles of the Ubiquitous Tomato
- ★ Plant Yourself Here

Interim Term Course Schedule Overview

PERIOD 1	PERIOD 2	PERIOD 3	PERIOD 4
Type A Courses			
	The Art of Looking and Making		
	Be A Tourist In Your Hometown		
CLEF: Principles of Investing			
Decisions: Leadership		Decisions: Health	Decisions: Health
	Decisions: Leadership	Decisions: Health	Decisions: Health
	History of Houston		
Type B Courses			
	80s & '90s Culture, Trends, and Roller Skating!		
Animal Heroes			
	Dungeons and Dragons		
	From Likes to Luxuries		
	Melting Pot or Stir Fry?		
Traditional to Contemporary Jewelry			
Type C Courses			
			Acting and Directing for the Camera
Aliens and UFOs	Aliens and UFOs		
	Are You Auto Aware?	Are You Auto Aware?	
Art and Plunder of the Third Reich			
		The Art and Science of Inner Peace	
	The Art of Cookie Decorating	The Art of Cookie Decorating	
	Authoring Videogames for the Playdate Handheld Console		
Bayou Baddies			
	Be Well, Knit!	Be Well, Knit!	
The Best of All Possible Worlds			
Birds of a Feather			
Books with Friends			Books with Friends
Brain on Trial: Cases in Neuroscience			
Building the Upper School with Brandt Bowden			

Chronicles of the Ubiquitous Tomato			
			Consciousness
Conspiracy Theories			
	Cooking 101	Cooking 101	
Cracking the Code			Cracking the Code
		Design to Print - 3D	
		DIY Projectile Launchers	
	Documentary Film	Documentary Film	
			Dune, the Desert Planet
			Falcon Tank
			Fast Food
Fiction Writing 101			Fiction Writing 101
Fixer Upper			
			Future Health Heroes: HOSA
Girl Squads: Powerful Alliances throughout History			
		Global Plates	
The Glory of Sports	The Glory of Sports		
Hip Hop and the 60's Music as Culture and Protest			Hip Hop and the 60's Music as Culture and Protest
			The History of Video Gaming
How to be a Big Fish	How to be a Big Fish		
Human Agency in the AI Era			
			I Just Scored Tix
		Improv Acting	
Insight & Ink: The Science and Practice of Journaling			Insight & Ink: The Science and Practice of Journaling
Inspired Choreography			Inspired Choreography
International Relations and Diplomacy			
	Into the Dollyverse		
		Introduction to Music Theory	
			Jazz Brothas
			Kdrama Binges and Bites
Latino Americans			Latino Americans
	Let's Play Cards	Let's Play Cards	
		Literature and Film	
	Living Your Best Life!	Living Your Best Life!	
	Monster Mash	Monster Mash	

Monsters Inside Me	Monsters Inside Me		
	Music From Before You Were Born that Everyone Ought to Know	Music From Before You Were Born that Everyone Ought to Know	
		Musical Theatre Movement for Men	
	Mysteries and Forensics: The Science of Crime		
	Needle Felting	Needle Felting	
	Old School Hip Hop Dance		
Physics of Space Flight			Physics of Space Flight
	Pickleball and Math		
		Pilates 101	
Plant Yourself Here			Plant Yourself Here
			Poetry Workshop
		Pointillism and Stippling	
Pop Music Today			
	The Queen's Gambit	The Queen's Gambit	
Reading for Fun and Profit			
Real Talk: Skills for Life!			
		Sabores Latinos	
			Secrets of Mental Math
		Sewing for Beginners	
	Shōgun: History Meets Hollywood	Shōgun: History Meets Hollywood	
			Singing Contemporary Musical Theatre
			Stephen King - Different Seasons
Strong Like A Girl			
Taskmaster			
		Tea Time: The Art and Science of Tea	
The Theory of Fun	The Theory of Fun		
			Tool Time
	Twilight Struggle - A Board Game Simulation of the Cold War		
			Viva L'Italia
	What's in our food?	What's in our food?	
Women in Art			Women in Art
	Yoga & Wellness	Yoga & Wellness	
		Your Brain on Art	

Interim Term Registration Planning Form

Interim Term	Period 1	Period 2	Period 3	Period 4
1st Choice				
2nd Choice				
3rd Choice				
4th Choice				
5th Choice				

Tips for success:

- ➔ Students **<u>may not</u>** register for a course that they have taken in a previous year.
- ➔ Please check that the course you sign up for meets during the period you wish to list it.
- ➔ If a course meets for more than one period and it's your first choice, you must list it as your first choice for every period during which the course meets. If it's your second choice, list it as your second choice for every period during which the course meets.

How does registration work?

All students must indicate five choices. In general and unless otherwise specified in the Course Descriptions, enrollment priority in all courses is given to these students in this order: 12th graders, 11th graders, 10th graders, and then 9th graders. On the first day of their group's registration period, each student will receive an email with a link to register for courses. Each link is unique and expires on the last day of that particular group's registration period.

What if you change your mind?

Due to the short duration and the particular scheduling of Interim Term, students typically stay in the courses to which they have been assigned. However, if specific circumstances warrant the changing of a student's schedule, such changes must be made by the end of the first day of Interim Term.