

2026-2027 Middle School Electives



Physical Education & Health Electives

Archery

One Quarter Elective Course

No Prerequisite

In Archery, students will learn safety, rules, procedures, commands, etiquette and the basics of shooting form and technique. Additionally, they will learn competition basics and the rules of scoring.

Middle School Physical Education (REQUIREMENT)

One Quarter Elective Course

Middle School Physical Education is designed to promote lifelong fitness, teamwork, and sportsmanship while developing students' motor skills and knowledge of various sports and physical activities. Through engaging lessons and dynamic games, students will build fundamental movement skills, improve their physical fitness, and learn strategies for individual and team sports. Units may include basketball, soccer, volleyball, fitness, cooperative games, and more!

Emphasis is placed on personal growth, goal setting, and fostering a positive attitude toward physical activity. Students will also explore concepts related to health and wellness, including the importance of regular exercise, injury prevention, and making healthy lifestyle choices. By participating in a variety of activities, students will enhance their physical literacy and gain the confidence to stay active beyond the classroom.

Health—6th Grade (REQUIREMENT)

One Quarter Elective Course

This course introduces students to the concepts of health and wellness and how they relate to the physical, mental, emotional, and social fitness domains. Students will explore the connections and relationships of these concepts and how they relate to transition to the Middle School community. Topics will include health and skill-related fitness, effective communication and listening strategies, value clarification and decision making, and the appreciation of individual differences.

Health—7th Grade (REQUIREMENT)

One Quarter Elective Course

This course introduces students to relevant terms and topics that will help them understand themselves and others better. The objective is to teach students how to understand themselves while understanding and respecting others. Students will focus on identity, ethics, peer-to-peer relationships, respecting differences, and practicing self-advocacy and self-care.

Health—8th Grade (REQUIREMENT)

One Quarter Elective Course

This course provides a bridge for students to connect previous Health courses to the world of becoming a teenager and moving toward Upper School. Students will explore the important areas of relationship building, stress and conflict management strategy, leadership principles, proactive vs reactive behaviors, evaluation of media messages, exercise science principles and functional movement-fitness applications. Students will participate through class discussion, article reviews, and class activities.

Yoga and Movement

One Quarter Elective Course

In this yoga elective, students will explore the physical, mental, and emotional benefits of yoga in a fun, interactive, and supportive environment. Through a combination of stretching, strengthening, breathing exercises, and mindfulness techniques, students will learn how to relax, focus, and manage stress. This course will help them to navigate the challenges of middle school with confidence and calm. No prior experience is necessary—just an open mind and a willingness to try something new!

Fine & Performing Arts Electives

Art 6

Semester Elective Course

A 1-semester survey course for 6th grade students. This studio course will re-introduce the elements and principles of art through a variety of hands-on projects. Assignments in drawing, painting, two- and three-dimensional design will focus on learning the fundamental techniques and how to use and manipulate materials such as pencil, charcoal, soft pastel, oil pastels, watercolor, acrylic and ink.

Art 7

Yearlong Elective Course

This survey course gives the student artist an opportunity to further explore problems in the visual arts. Projects will include drawing, painting, three-dimensional design, and a possibility for individual exploration in other art mediums. This course is the logical next step in a three-year middle school art sequence.

Art 8

Yearlong Elective Course

This survey course gives the student artist an opportunity to further explore problems in the visual arts. Projects will include drawing, painting, three-dimensional design, and a possibility for individual exploration in other art mediums. This course would conclude the three-year middle school art sequence.

Concert Band

Yearlong Elective Course

This course is an ensemble for all Middle School Band students who (preferably) have at least one year of experience on a brass, woodwind, or percussion instrument. Instruction is directed toward strengthening the fundamentals of playing (embouchure, fingerings, proper breathing) while expanding the students' knowledge of rhythms, dynamics, key signature (6, plus minor relatives), ear training, and deeper musical concepts like phrasing and structure. A diverse repertoire of band literature (classical through modern marching band) is used to improve both individual and ensemble skills. Attendance at concerts (2-3) is required and an end of the year trip to perform (for a rating) at a festival in Orlando will be scheduled.

Digital Art

One Quarter Elective Course

In this course, students explore what it means to be a digital artist or designer. The course defines digital art and design, distinguish between digital art and design and other art forms, identify the traits of digital artists, explore, and examine the works accomplished in digital artists. Students will create digital art projects.

Drumline

One Quarter Elective Course

This course is an introduction to the concept and experience of drumline. Students will learn basic drumming, techniques, and fundamentals of being a part of a drumline. The drumline class includes a performance element.

Just Clay

One Quarter Elective Course

In this introductory course, students use clay in a variety of building methods: hand building, coil, slab and/or potter's wheel. The fundamentals of technique and artistry are explored.

Just Drawing

One Quarter Elective Course

This elective is a basic introduction to drawing. Students work with basic drawing techniques including working with perspective, shading, working from a still life as well as human figure drawing.

Just Painting

One Quarter Elective Course

Introduction to colored media including, color pencils, soft pastels, markers, watercolor and acrylic. The student artist will gain experience experimenting with a variety of techniques and manipulating materials.

Mosaic Art

One Quarter Elective Course

A course that will explore the mosaic technique with stained glass. Students will learn about the principles of design and techniques to cut glass.

MS Musical

Semester Elective Class

Students enrolled in MS Musical will be cast in the 2026-2027 MS production which is performed in May. While there are try-outs, every student gets a part. Previous performances include *Seussical*, *The Little*, *Matilda*, *The Wizard of Oz* and *Legally Blonde*.

MS Vocal Workshop—Fall and/or Spring

Semester Elective Course

Students who love to sing will refine their soloing skills and build stronger musicianship through harmonizing with this group. Basic sight singing and theory are implemented in each lesson, as well as focused exercises to create solid vocal technique. Students work towards an end of semester performance which includes solos, ensemble selections, and choreography. *Students interested in competing in the District Thespian Competition will have the opportunity to workshop a small group number and/or solos, duets, and trios in this class.*

Orchestra

Yearlong Elective Course

This course is an ensemble for all Middle School Band students who (preferably) have at least one year of experience on String (Violin, Viola, Cello, Bass) instrument. Instruction is directed toward strengthening the fundamentals of playing (bow technique, positions, intonation, vibrato) while expanding the students' knowledge of rhythms, dynamics, key signature (6, plus minor relatives), ear training, and deeper musical concepts like phrasing and structure. A diverse repertoire of orchestral literature (classical through modern and pop) is used to improve both individual and ensemble skills. Attendance at concerts (2-3) is required and an end of the year trip to perform (for a rating) at a festival in Orlando will be scheduled.

Piano

One Quarter Elective Course

Students interested in learning to play the piano (or already accomplished pianists) will enjoy this opportunity to learn and practice at their own pace. Once student skill level is assessed, students explore musical selections within their grasp and set to work. There is opportunity to share/perform at the end of each class.

Principles of Guitar

One Quarter Elective Course

No Retakes Allowed

This class will cater to the beginning guitarist but will also be able to help the more experienced guitarist learn new concepts and improve technical aspects of their playing. The class will largely be structured around each student's experience level and ability.

Computer, Technology & Innovation Electives

Animatronics and Electronic Props

One Semester Elective Course

Lab fee \$40

In this class, students are introduced to the process of invention and physical computing while building animatronics, props, and other electronic decorations. They will develop 3D design skills and learn to use the engineering design cycle. Students will be introduced to circuitry and how to use computer code to control their physical environment using microcontrollers.

Boat Building

One Quarter Elective Course

Have you ever wondered how a large supertanker filled with oil or navy battleship can float? If you take this class, you will learn and live the answer. Students will learn about the principles of boatmaking, create prototypes and construct a final life-size cardboard boat build—big enough for a student captain to steer and paddle. The final boat design, speed, and buoyancy will be tested in the annual CSN Boat Regatta in the Norris pool.

Build It! Destroy It!

One Quarter Elective Course

No Retakes Allowed

In the Build It! Destroy It! elective each student will design and build his or her own balsa wood structure, then test it to see how much force it can withstand before collapsing. In the process, students will learn about bridge and building types and their various attributes while incorporating basic design and engineering principles in the final project.

Competitive Robotics VEX-IQ

One Semester Elective Course

Teammate & Teacher Recommendation Required

This course is meant to build on student's prior robotics and coding experience. Students learn and utilize the engineering process with computational thinking to design and build mechanical systems. Robots are designed, programmed, and tested for the express goal of competing at VEX-IQ Robotics Competitions in Florida.

Competitive Robotics VRC Metal

One Semester Elective Course

8th grade only

Teammate & Teacher Recommendation Required

Experienced 8th grade teams step-up to the VEX EDR Metal-parts platform with the new advanced V5 motors and V5 sensors. Design and building become much more challenging as they compete at a high school level and have the ability to cut, grind, and modify parts to develop innovative features that make their robot qualify for VEX Worlds. Students extend their application of the engineering design as they prepare for VRC Competitions in Florida. Students are exposed to VEXcode (based on Python with block-based option), as well as Onshape CAD Design & Modeling software. Teams should expect to work outside of class during the competition season. And teammates MUST be enrolled in the same section of the course.

Grade 6 Computer Science and Engineering (REQUIREMENT)

One Semester Course

In the first half of this course, students will develop their proficiency in a key set of skills that they will need for academic success in middle school. Students will learn basic computer operation and knowledge, hotkeys and trackpad gestures, typing, file management and sharing (Local and OneDrive), password creation and management, basic internet skills and safety, MS Office basics (Word, PowerPoint, and Excel), and project management tools (Planner and Outlook Groups).

In the second half of the course, students will develop skills to become producers of technology and media rather than just consumers. Students will learn how to solve problems like a computer scientist while creating retro style 2D games. Students will learn the basics of computer programming, explore game design concepts, create pixel game art and animations, and use an iterative and agile design process to develop games individually and collaboratively. Students will learn programming concepts such as variables (strings, numbers, Booleans), conditionals, loops, functions, and events. Students will learn to decompose problems, to develop algorithms, and to implement and debug those algorithms in a block-based programming language.

Grade 7 Computer Science and Engineering (REQUIREMENT)

One Semester Course

In this class, students will learn the basics of 3D design and printing, from imagination to printed prototype, through an iterative design process. Students will learn how to take measurements and sketch a design concept on paper, then translate that design into 3D using CAD software. Students will learn how to install and use slicer software, how to print 3D files, and how to troubleshoot printers. The digital citizenship focus of the course is creating and consuming digital content. Students will explore issues surrounding the concepts of intellectual property, public domain, and generative AI. Students will further develop their computer usage and internet skills.

Grade 8 Computer Science and Engineering (REQUIREMENT)

One Semester Course

"Using Technology Responsibly: Digital Footprint and Security"

Students will reinforce and expand their digital citizenship skills learned in 6th & 7th grades, focusing on how to be responsible users of technology, social media, and the internet. They will explore how their online behavior creates a lasting digital footprint that can impact the future. The course covers how to practice personal cybersecurity. Students will also examine ethical and professional standards of technology use, helping them develop safe and responsible online habits. Students will gain practical technology skills to prepare for academic and professional success. They will also learn the fundamentals of engineering and robotics while integrating Microsoft Office and Google Suite applications to conduct cohesive research. Additionally, students will develop the ability to evaluate digital content, understand intellectual property, and adapt to emerging technologies.

Holiday Decoration Making

One Quarter Elective Course

Lab fee \$35

In this class, students are introduced to the process of invention while building holiday decorations that they can take home. They will develop 2D design skills and learn to use the engineering design cycle. Students will be introduced to 2D design software and lasercutting.

Introduction to Robotics VEX-IQ

One Quarter Elective Course

No Retakes Allowed

In this course, students are exposed to the basic fundamentals of robotics. They start out building to a standard design, producing a robot that they can drive and complete in fun challenges. Students then learn how to generate their own design modifications to accomplish harder challenges. The course wraps up with robot programming activities that will enable the robot to sense and move autonomously.

Pinball Wizardry

One Semester Elective Course

Lab fee \$65

In this class, students will use the engineering design cycle while building a working pinball machine using cardboard, electronics, and 3D printing. Students will iteratively plan and play test their game design. Students will develop their coding skills using a microcontroller to create the circuitry and interactive elements of their design.

Python Coding

One Semester Elective Course

No Retakes Allowed

In this class, students will learn programming concepts such as loops, objects, methods, variables, conditionals, and data types. Students will learn to decompose problems, to develop algorithms, and to implement those algorithms in the Python programming language.

Vinyl Design

One Quarter Elective Course

Vinyl Design focuses on developing skills in Inkscape and Cricut Design Space. This class aims to teach students how to design and create in a 2D space. Throughout the course, students will design logos, shirts, and creative stickers. They will also have the opportunity to bring their designs to life for both production and personal use.

Workshop Makerspace

One Quarter Elective Course

Workshop Makerspace is a hands-on elective where students learn basic shop safety and how to use tools responsibly. After learning the fundamentals, students are given time, space, and tools to design and build projects of their own choosing. The class emphasizes creativity, problem-solving, and learning through making while working in a controlled workshop environment.

Other Elective Offerings

BOOK DRAGONS (because readers are not worms)

One Quarter Elective Course

In this class, we vote on genres (everything from mysteries to fantasy to adventure and beyond!) and YOU choose what book you'll read. Every 3 weeks or so, everyone brings in a snack from their book (think chocolate frogs or licorice wands from Harry Potter or some bread from Peeta's bakery from Hunger Games) and we enjoy them with a quick "speed date" book intro. No tests, no quizzes, no papers...just chill and lit!

Career Quest

One Quarter Elective Course

Career Quest is an engaging and interactive elective designed to help middle school students discover the vast array of career options and the college pathways that can lead to them. In this course, students will explore various industries, job roles, and the skills required to succeed in the workforce. They will also learn about the importance of higher education, different types of colleges and universities, and how to plan for their future beyond middle school. Through hands-on projects, guest speakers, and discussions, students will identify their interests, strengths, and passions while gaining an understanding of the connections between careers and higher education. By the end of the course, students will be empowered to think critically about their future career goals and the educational paths that will help them get there.

Chess

One Quarter Elective Class

Want to be as good as Magnus Carlson or Bobby Fischer? In this quarter long course, students will be introduced to the game of chess. This course is designed to take someone who has never sat behind a chess board to being tournament ready in just one quarter. Topics will range from beginner basics, logic and thinking, developing game theory, solving chess problems, variation on opening game, recording and reading notation, recovering from mistakes, skill workshops, problem solving, logic and analysis of professional chess players matches, variations of chess, competition, and sportsmanship. The course is ideal for all, from novice players to experienced players looking to further their skill set.

Chinese Traditional Dance

One Quarter Elective Class

Step into the world of movement and culture! In Chinese Traditional Dance, students will learn graceful dance styles inspired by stories, history, and nature from across China. You'll practice elegant hand gestures and expressive movements while discovering

the meaning behind traditional costumes and music. No dance experience needed—just curiosity, creativity, and a love for trying something new! There is a \$30 lab fee for costumes.

Chinese Traditional Instrument

One Quarter Elective Class

Discover the soothing sounds of the **Guzheng**, one of China's oldest and most elegant string instruments! In this elective, you'll learn to play simple melodies, use traditional finger techniques, and explore the music's cultural background. Whether you're new to music or already play an instrument, this course is a fun and relaxing way to experience Chinese musical traditions. There is a \$5 lab fee for nails and tape.

Chinese Traditional Painting

One Quarter Elective Class

Love art and creativity? In Chinese Traditional Painting, you'll explore how to paint with brush, ink, and watercolor just like ancient Chinese artists. Create beautiful images of mountains, flowers, and animals while learning the stories and traditions behind this unique art form. This class is all about expression and imagination—no experience needed, just bring your artistic spirit! There is a \$20 lab fee for materials

Chunky Blankets for a Cause

One Quarter Elective Class

Lab Fee: \$50

In this hands-on elective, students will learn the art of making cozy, chunky blankets, hats, and pet beds while giving back to their community. Using soft, thick yarn and simple no-needle techniques, students will create beautiful, warm blankets or pet beds designed to bring comfort to people and animals in need. Not only will they develop skills in knitting, but they'll also experience the joy of creating something with a purpose. Throughout the course, students will work together to craft blankets that will be donated to local shelters, hospitals, and other organizations. It's a great way to combine creativity, teamwork, and kindness to make a meaningful impact!

Chunky Hats/Pet Beds for a Cause

One Quarter Elective Class

Lab Fee: \$25

In this creative, hands-on elective, middle school students will use chunky yarn and their hands—no needles required—to craft cozy hats and soft pet beds. As they learn basic hand-knitting techniques, students will work collaboratively on meaningful projects. All finished items will be donated to individuals and animals in need, giving students the opportunity to use their talents to make a warm and tangible difference in their community.

Community Changemakers

One Quarter Elective Class

Community Changemakers is a hands-on elective where middle school students identify real needs in their school and local community and work together to make a difference. Students learn how to research issues, design solutions, and take meaningful action through service projects, awareness campaigns, and community partnerships. Along the way, they build leadership, teamwork, empathy, and problem-solving skills while discovering the power they have to create positive change.

Creating with Canva

One Quarter Elective Course

In this course, students will work within Canva, an online design and publishing platform. They will learn how to utilize the tools, templates, and graphics to create social media art, flyers, stationary, programs, t-shirts and more! Students will work on design teams and take on real clients to produce the requested products. Whether you have a design eye or not, this class will give you the tools to create amazing, beautiful, professional graphic designs.

Creative Writing

One Quarter Elective Course

The focus for this quarter-length elective is to encourage students to engage with their imaginations and to inspire them to write. Class sessions will include creative writing exercises that explore showing, not telling, imagery, narration, dialogue, point of view, character development, and more. Each student will keep a folder of writings, adding completed work as the quarter unfolds.

DIY Self Care

One Quarter Elective Course

Lab Fee: \$35

DIY Self-Care is a hands-on elective designed to help middle school students build healthy habits for both mind and body. Students will explore how to create their own hygiene and self-care products, learning to swap out potentially harmful ingredients for safer, more natural alternatives. From stress-relief strategies to DIY wellness projects, this course empowers students with lifelong skills to care for themselves in thoughtful and healthy ways.

Entrepreneurship & Business Lab (Grades 7–8 only)

One Quarter Elective Course

This hands-on elective is for 7th and 8th grade students interested in starting a business. Students will learn how ideas become real companies by exploring entrepreneurship, money management, marketing, teamwork, and decision-making. They will hear from guest speakers who own businesses across different industries and apply their skills through a fun business simulation where they run their own company. This course is perfect for creative problem-solvers who want to learn how businesses really work.

Exploratory Chinese Conversation

One Quarter Elective Class

Interested in learning a new language? In this experiential class, students will explore the basics of Mandarin Chinese through games, songs, and simple conversations. You'll practice greetings, introductions, and everyday phrases while discovering fun facts about Chinese culture. No prior language experience needed—just an open mind and a willingness to speak up!

Fishing: Rod Building

One Quarter Elective Course

Lab Fee: \$60

In this class students will learn firsthand what goes into making a fishing rod. Students will learn the different components of the rod and the different steps to make one. They start out by finding the spine of the rod and sizing out the different grips before moving on to applying the guides and wrapping them in thread. The rods the students will build are 7' medium mod-fast rods which are great all-around rods for the area we live in.

Historical Novels Book Club

One Quarter Elective Course

This elective would be a book club for history lovers with both non-fiction and fiction novels used. Students would be able to improve their reading, writing, and communication skills. There will be two whole-class reads, one fiction and one non-fiction. Students will create a book cover and write a short summary of a book they would hypothetically write about a historical topic of interest to them.

Independent Science Research

One Quarter Elective Course

Must do Competitive Science Fair/Inventors Fair

Independent Science Research is a student-driven course that will allow students to gain a deeper understanding of scientific research, experimental design, and data analysis. Students will focus on one area of passion and will design, research, and investigate the effect of a variable on a measurable outcome. Alternatively, students may complete a project where they engineer and invent a solution to a problem. Students will complete their experimentation and data collection at school in the MS J-Building science lab during class time. The research culminates in students participating in the competitive portion of the CSN STEM fair. If students advance to additional levels of competition, they are expected to attend and complete those obligations including award ceremonies.

Junior Toastmasters: Finding Your Voice

One Quarter Elective Course

Junior Toastmasters is an engaging, skill-building elective designed to help middle school students discover the power of their voice. Modeled after the internationally recognized organization Toastmasters International, this course introduces students to the fundamentals of public speaking, leadership, and constructive feedback in a supportive and encouraging environment. Students will learn how to organize their thoughts, craft compelling speeches, think on their feet during impromptu speaking activities, and deliver presentations with clarity and confidence. Through structured roles, peer evaluations, and interactive speaking challenges, participants develop poise, active listening skills, and the ability to offer thoughtful, respectful feedback.

Latin 101: The Language of Legends

One Quarter Elective Course

No Repeats allowed

In this class, you'll unlock the secrets of ancient Rome—no toga required. We'll dive into building your Latin vocabulary while exploring life in ancient Rome, from gladiators and gods to Roman feasts and festivals. We also enjoy some hands-on mini-projects, from mosaics to uncovering ancient Roman coins. Think of it as a time-traveling adventure with some grammar thrown in! By the end, you'll know how to say "hello" in Latin and might even impress your friends with your knowledge of how the Romans invented things like concrete.

Mahjong!

One Quarter Elective Course

Do you love strategy, puzzles, and a little bit of friendly competition? In this elective, you'll learn to play Mahjong, a classic Chinese tile-based game that combines skill, strategy, and a bit of luck that is currently experiencing a surge in popularity in the US. Whether you're a beginner or have some experience, this class is perfect for you! You'll discover the history behind the game, learn the rules, and practice your skills through hands-on play. You'll also develop important life skills such as critical thinking, pattern recognition, and concentration—all while having fun with friends! By the end of the course, you'll be able to play Mahjong confidently and even challenge others to a match. Ready to take your game to the next level? Come join the Mahjong Club and let the games begin!

Mathletics

Yearlong Elective Course

Students who love to challenge themselves mathematically will enjoy the many opportunities provided by the Middle School Mathletics elective. Mathletes engage in friendly competition during every class, as they dedicate themselves to a full year of training and competing in math competitions. Over the course of the school year, Mathletes compete in over a dozen competitions. Mathletes will benefit from this course by being routinely exposed to challenging problem-solving situations and working with their fellow Mathletes to develop their creativity and efficiency in solving such problems.

Mindfulness & Mindset

One Quarter Elective Course

In a world that never stops moving, this elective offers a refreshing pause. Mindfulness & Mindset is an interactive, experiential class designed to help middle schoolers navigate the rollercoaster of adolescence with greater ease, confidence, and focus. Students will learn to manage stress and develop a "growth mindset"—the belief that abilities can be developed through effort and perseverance. It is an exploration of how to live with intention, kindness, and strength while developing tools to handle stress, anxiety, and peer pressure.

Model United Nations (MUN)

Semester Elective Course

This class will be a mixture of novices and veterans to Model United Nations. Fashioned after the United Nations, students will tackle the world's problems through the lens of specific countries. The class will focus on public speaking, parliamentary procedure, research, writing, negotiation and understanding different perspectives. Students will show off their skills at Model UN conferences, competing against their peers, as well as high school students. This elective is a great option for students interested in current events, world politics and being a future leader!

Pass the Bricks: Designing Kits for Kids

One Quarter Elective Course

In this creative and impactful elective, students will design their own unique LEGO kits to be donated to children in need. Throughout the course, students will learn about the design process, problem-solving, and teamwork as they create fun, engaging, and educational LEGO sets. They will explore themes like creativity, engineering, and philanthropy while collaborating to make sure their kits are accessible and enjoyable for kids of all ages. At the end of the semester, students will package and donate their creations, spreading joy and learning to children who may not have access to these building blocks. This course offers a meaningful way for students to combine their love for LEGO with giving back to the community!

Presidential History: Washington to FDR

One Quarter Elective Course

This elective would be designed to be a snapshot of presidential history from George Washington to Franklin Roosevelt through select readings, projects, games, and class discussions. The course would kick off with a chapter from [*The Mortal Presidency: Illness and Anguish in the White House*](#) on Calvin Coolidge to humanize the presidency, as Coolidge's personal tragedy greatly impacted his presidency. We would utilize other non-fiction works and short videos to learn more about select presidents. Students would complete an independent research activity on a president of their choosing from Washington to FDR.

Psychology of Personality

One Quarter Elective Course

One's personality is described as a relatively stable set of characteristics that influence an individual's behavior. How did your personality evolve? Why do people have different personalities? When exposed to the same situation, why do individuals react in different ways? This course will dive into the affective domain of psychology, analyzing the major theories on personality (Freud, Maslow, Skinner, etc.), motivation, emotions, stress and conflict. Students will complete self-exploration through personality tests and analyze case studies to better understand this realm of psychology. A great course for any student wishing to better understand their own personality or those having a general interest in psychology.

Super Scrappers: The Art of Scrapbooking

One Quarter Elective Course

Lab Fee: \$25

Discover the joy of scrapbooking to capture memories and create unique family and friend albums to keep and share. In this elective course, students will learn how to start their scrapbooking hobby by first creating a digital scrapbook and then designing a physical memory book. From helpful advice on designing interesting layouts, developing an artistic eye and the story-telling aspects of scrapbooking, students will have designed two beautifully crafted scrapbooks by the end of the class.

The Stock Market

One Quarter Elective Course

In this course, students will use the online platform *HowTheMarketWorks* to manage a simulated ("paper-trading") investment account with a starting balance of \$100,000. Students will trade U.S.-based stocks and explore a variety of investment strategies, including swing trading, day trading, value investing, and taking both long and short positions. Each class period begins with a review of current financial news, helping students learn how to interpret real-world events and apply that information to investment decisions. Current events serve as a springboard for learning important market concepts such as earnings per share (EPS), price-to-earnings ratio (P/E), and overall market trends. Throughout the course, students will also be introduced to the basics of technical analysis, including how to read and annotate stock charts to identify patterns and trends. By the end of the quarter, students will have built foundational financial literacy skills and a practical understanding of how the stock market works in a real-world context.

The 1970s – 1990s: History through Pop Culture

One Quarter Elective Course

Why did the 70s feel so gritty? Why were the 80s so over the top? And how did the 90s change the way we talk forever? In this class, we aren't just studying history; we will explore how the movies, music, and pop culture of the 70s, 80s, and 90s reflect the historical events of those decades. This class will consist of projects, reflections, primary source analysis, and readings to complement class discussions.

World War II: Causes, Conflicts and Consequences

One Quarter Elective Course

No Retakes Allowed

This course dives into the profound impact of World War II on the global landscape. Students will investigate the complex causes of the war, including the emergence of powerful dictators and the political and economic tensions that followed World War I. This course will cover significant events and battles from both the European and Pacific Theaters, highlighting key moments such as D-Day, the Battle of the Bulge, and the Battle of Midway. In addition to military strategies, students will explore the experiences of soldiers, civilians, and political leaders from around the world. Through a combination of discussions, historical documents, multimedia resources, and engaging activities, students will uncover the lasting influence of World War II and the critical lessons it offers for our modern world.

Yearbook

One Quarter Elective Course

Students taking the Yearbook elective will play a key role in designing, planning, and organizing the school yearbook. This course will include opportunities for editorial leadership positions and training in digital photography and photo editing as well as page layout and design software and typography. Students will also gain real-world experience in collaborating and meeting deadlines.