

Middle School Electives 2026-27

Art and Expression

Course Title	Description	Instructor
Art Through the Ages: Mixed Media Exploration	Students will journey through the history of art — from prehistoric cave paintings to contemporary creations — by making their own mixed-media artworks inspired by each major artistic period. Students will explore major movements and artists, analyzing art's social and cultural context and influence. Projects will combine techniques and materials from various media, including drawing, painting, collage, and sculpture. Students will develop visual literacy, critical thinking, and project management skills.	Ana Paz
Practice to Performance: Music Ensemble	Students will develop instrumental skills and explore various musical genres while collaborating to create musical content. Students will practice performance skills, such as following musical direction and practicing effectively with others. This course will build students' musicianship, confidence, communication, and teamwork skills.	Adam Rohrer
Ink & Imagination	Students will develop their creative writing skills while learning tips and tricks to improve their writing across genres, including fiction, poetry, and creative nonfiction. Using mentor texts, students will analyze writers' craft techniques, including character development, dialogue, structure, and pacing, and the use of literary devices. Students will also learn strategies that can be applied in their core academic classes, such as generating ideas, overcoming writer's block, and revising their work based on peer and teacher feedback.	Heather Oulton Rousseau
Stagecraft & Storytelling	Students will explore the foundational elements of acting, such as voice projection, stage movement, and character development. They will practice performance skills through creative and cooperative activities. Along the way, they will develop a deeper appreciation for theater as an art form as they build confidence, hone collaborative skills, and practice adaptability and flexibility.	Jasmine Ramos

Culture and Ideas

Course Title	Description	Instructor
CineMundo: Exploring Spanish-Speaking Cultures Through Film	In this elective, students will explore the rich diversity of the Spanish-speaking world through the lens of film. By watching age-appropriate movies, short films, and clips from Spanish-language media, students will gain deeper insight into the cultures, traditions, and perspectives of different Spanish-speaking countries. This course is designed for students who want to expand their horizons by experiencing Spanish beyond the classroom and developing a greater appreciation for world cinema and storytelling.	Chantal Windham
Global Perspectives: Finding Your Place in a Changing World	Global Perspectives invites students to explore diverse cultures with empathy, examine global issues through a critical lens, and engage in meaningful dialogue with peers worldwide. As they follow Paul Salopek's multiyear walking journey across the globe, students develop strong research and analytical skills. Through interactive maps and immersive activities, they connect their own lives to those of ordinary people in far-flung locales.	Ingrid Bowler
Hearts and Hands	In this class, students will develop empathy, responsibility, and leadership through hands-on projects benefiting the Discovery community. From playing with Primary students on the playground and reading to FE classes to helping around campus and assisting Admissions with school events, students will hone leadership skills, discover passions, and gain practical experience in project planning and execution while contributing to their school community.	Various Teachers

Innovation and Design

Course Title	Description	Instructor
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Digital Design Studio	Explore the exciting world of digital design! In this class, students will gain a clearer understanding of the role of digital art in media and society. They will learn to create vector artwork in Inkscape and discover how to use shapes, color, and typography to visually communicate ideas. Projects will include designing logos, experimenting with fonts, and creating unique package designs. Students will gain project/time management experience, visual literacy skills, and technological proficiency.	Ana Paz
Aerial Imaging Lab	In this elective, students will learn how to use new technologies, such as drones, to capture photographs and film. They will explore basic principles of composition, perspective, and storytelling to enhance the quality of their visuals. Through hands-on practice, students will gain facility with technology and confidence in safely and creatively using equipment to produce compelling images and videos.	Will Smith
CSI: Discovery	CSI: Discovery introduces middle schoolers to the real-world of crime scene investigation, where investigators use scientific techniques to solve mysteries, from blood typing and fingerprint analysis to examining clues at mock crime scenes and documenting evidence. Students will learn to think critically, observe closely, and interpret evidence to prove hypotheses and draw scientific conclusions.	Kim Strong
Sound Studio: Music Production and Composition	Students will be introduced to the fundamentals of music production, recording instruments, and programming music to create their own compositions. They will learn how to layer sounds, edit tracks, and apply basic mixing techniques. Through guided projects, students will experiment with different tools to develop their own musical style, as well as communication and collaboration skills, while exercising their creativity.	Adam Rohrer