

INTERIM TERM

JANUARY 5-22, 2027

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General Information

Term Duration: January 5 - 22, 2027

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 "book" 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 course leaders.

Planning for Interim Term travel courses begins two years in advance. Chaperones and itineraries are determined in the upcoming spring and summer. Information about the planned courses is communicated to every Upper School family in April. In early May, organizational meetings are held at which families register and pay deposits.

This travel program is open to students at all levels of Upper School. Since demand is often greater than the courses 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 Travel Courses, 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 Interim Term travel courses. In addition, students going on an Interim Term travel course are ineligible to take a PE course during the winter season.

Interim Term Travel Courses and Fine Arts: Participation in the spring musical is compatible with Interim Term travel courses. 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 Travel Courses 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 travel courses. In 2018, an anonymous donor created *The Cali's See The World Endowment* to support all international travel, including travel courses during Interim Term. Interested families are asked to contact our Financial Aid Coordinator, Meredith Van Ryder, at meredith.vanryder@kinkaid.org.

Caliphates to Caravels: Spain, Portugal, and Morocco

Faculty Facilitators: Ms. Wainright, Ms. Kuhleman, and Mr. Conner

Size Limit: 30 students

Travel Dates: January 5-22, 2027

Embark on an unforgettable journey through Morocco, Spain, and Portugal as we explore the rich history of the Middle Ages, diverse cultures, and stunning landscapes of these vibrant regions. We begin in Casablanca, discovering the magnificent Hassan II Mosque before traveling to Fez, where we step back in time through its medieval medina, historic mosques, and traditional artisan workshops. Continuing through Rabat and into the Atlas Mountains, where we will visit ancient kasbahs, trek through Berber villages, and experience authentic local hospitality. In Marrakech, we explore bustling souks, historic palaces, and lively city squares before flying to Madrid, where we are introduced to Spain's dynamic capital and enjoy a traditional churro tasting. Our journey continues through Toledo, Córdoba, and Granada, where we uncover the layered influences of Christian, Jewish, and Muslim cultures through iconic landmarks such as cathedrals, synagogues, and the breathtaking Alhambra, and enjoy a traditional Flamenco performance. In Seville, we will immerse ourselves in Andalusian culture with guided tours, tapas tastings, and a hands-on cooking class. We then travel into Portugal's Algarve region to explore dramatic coastlines and historic maritime sites before concluding in Lisbon, where we visit charming neighborhoods, historic monuments, and sample the famous pastel de nata. Students will keep a journal, take quizzes on information we learn from our guides, and will give a presentation when we return home.

Winter Ecology in Yellowstone National Park

Faculty Facilitators: Dr. Clayton and Dr. Epps

Size Limit: 30

Travel Dates: January 8-15, 2027

In partnership with Ecology Project International (EPI), we have the opportunity to enter the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, and you'll understand why it inspired our national park system. The landscape's singular beauty and fascinating thermal features combine to make this high-altitude plateau a distinctive and extraordinary ecosystem. There's solitude, beauty and concentration of wildlife that you can't find during the bustling summer months. By collaboration with the National Park Service and US Forest Service, EPI offers the opportunity to participate in ongoing research initiatives. You will engage in bison grazing studies, visitor use behavior, and snow science investigation alongside your instructors and park scientists in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. You'll also spend a morning with Yellowstone's wolves, learning the story of wolf reintroduction and how species interactions impact ecosystems. On our final day, you will relax in a developed hot spring located just outside the park. Our home during the week will be a lodge in Gardiner, the Park's North Entrance getaway town.

Homestay: Sevilla, Spain

Faculty Facilitators: Sr. Narbona, Ms. Ngo, and Ms. Kincaid

Size limit: 10-18 students

Travel Dates: January 6-21, 2027

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: Mme. Irshad and Mr. Call

Size limit: 10-18 students

Travel Dates: January 5-21, 2027

Students enrolled in French III or above can experience true cultural immersion in France! This 16-day program combines language study, cultural and historical exploration, and authentic living across two iconic regions. We begin in Paris immersed in the *Belle Époque*, putting our French skills to the test as we navigate to landmarks like the Eiffel Tower, Palais Garnier, and Musée d'Orsay. After four nights in the City of Lights, we'll trace the path of 19th-century travelers south to discover how industrial France transformed the Côte d'Azur into a haven for artists and high society. Our home base is the coastal town of Antibes, where students stay in pairs with local host families. Morning language classes at the Centre International d'Antibes are paired with hands-on afternoon activities like cooking classes and *pétanque*. Guided excursions take us across the Riviera—including perfume creation in Grasse and visits to Monaco, Nice, and the Villa Ephrussi de Rothschild. This adventure is sure to inspire the Francophile in every student! *Allez, on y va!*

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, math, 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 individually created, executed, and completed. Only in extremely rare and unusual 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 very 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 Kronic. 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 ext 3. Email is preferred.

ACT Class (Interim 2027)

Cost: \$940, includes materials

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 5th - January 22nd

- No class on Monday, January 18th in observance of MLK Day
- An additional class section after-school also possible if there is enough interest.
- Jan 5, 6, 7, 8, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 19, 20, 21, 22

Official ACT Exam: February 27, 2027

Last Day to Register: Monday, December 28th, 2026 (although space is available on a first-come, first-served basis)

SAT Class (Spring 2027)

Cost: \$825, includes materials

Includes: 16 hours of instruction, materials, and 3 proctored practice exams

Location (Advantage Testing of Houston office): [1455 W Loop S, Ste. 650, Houston, TX 77027](#)

Class schedule (total of 8 sessions, Sundays 5-7 pm): Jan 3, 10, 24, 31, Feb 7, 14, 21, 28

Official SAT Exam: March 6, 2027

Last Day to Register: Monday, December 28th, 2026 (although space is available on a first-come, first-served basis)

All students registering for a class must complete the linked student contract. **Student Contract Form:**
<https://form.jotform.com/262715730441150>

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

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 Fine Arts, the Holocaust Museum, the Arboretum, and even get a behind-the-scenes tour of Daikin 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

Type B Courses

Courses meet two periods each day

Behind the Gallery Walls

Instructors: Ms. Martinez and Ms. McEntire

Fee: \$75

What happens to art before it reaches a museum wall, and what happens after it gets there? In this experiential course, students will explore Houston's art world from the inside through visits to museums, artist studios, galleries, archives, special collections, reading rooms, conservation spaces, and immersive art environments such as Meow Wolf. Students will meet working artists and arts professionals while learning how artwork is created, exhibited, researched, preserved, restored, collected, and interpreted. Rather than simply touring museums, students will become art investigators. Through close looking exercises, sketching, conversations with artists and museum professionals, and behind-the-scenes experiences, students will consider how artists develop ideas, how curators build exhibitions, how conservators care for objects, how archives preserve cultural history, and how different institutions shape our understanding of art. Students will maintain an Art Investigator Field Journal, documenting observations, sketches, questions, interviews, and reflections throughout the course. For their culminating project, students will create a curatorial proposal inspired by the archives, artists, institutions and objects encountered during Interim Term. **Periods 2-3**

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. They 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

Jewelry Making

Instructor: Mrs. Connell

Fee: \$200

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. This class focuses on cold connections and basic jewelry making techniques. We do not create fine jewelry such as engagement rings, and we do not melt or cast metals. 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**

Type C Courses

Courses meet one period each day

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

Instructor: Mr. Rambow

Fee: none

Since 2023, several high-ranking military and intelligence officials have testified under oath before Congress that UFOs — now officially called UAP (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 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 incredible claims. **Period 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 various sporting events? If you are interested in learning more about these topics, then this is the class for you. In this course we will explore the important role animals play in our lives and the critical role we play in their lives. In addition, the course will include presentations that focus on veterinarians, the use of service animals, and the important roles falcons and other birds of prey can have assisting with human needs. Movies and documentaries will be viewed and discussed that portray heroic animal stories involving dogs and horses. The care and needs of these animals will also be presented, contrasting the differences between the needs of a dog versus a horse. The book *The Soul of a Horse* by Joe Camp will be read and serve as a center point for discussions in class. **Period 1**

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**

The Art of Mathematical Reasoning

Instructor: Ms. Torrens

Fee: none

How do we know when something is true? Is a pattern enough to convince us? What makes an argument valid? Can something be logically correct but still not be true? And what happens when perfectly reasonable assumptions lead to an impossible conclusion? The Art of Mathematical Reasoning is an introductory exploration of mathematics, logic, and the ways we use evidence and reasoning to determine what we can and cannot know. Rather than focusing primarily on computation or advanced mathematical techniques, the course asks students to slow down, notice patterns, ask questions, make conjectures, and construct convincing arguments. Students will begin with inductive reasoning, using recursive and explicit formulas and figurate numbers to explore patterns and make predictions. They will then move into deductive reasoning, truth, validity, soundness, and mathematical proof, learning the difference between having evidence that something is probably true and demonstrating that it must be true. As the course progresses, students will explore symbolic logic, paradoxes,

reasoning fallacies, and number theory. Along the way, they will encounter mathematical ideas that are accessible in their prerequisites but surprisingly deep in their implications. This course is designed for students who are curious about mathematics and enjoy thinking about problems that do not have an immediately obvious solution. **Period 4**

The Art of Mystery

Instructor: Ms. Fayard

Fee: book

From its roots with writers like Edgar Allen Poe and Arthur Conan Doyle, mystery writing has developed into strains like the puzzler, the hard-boiled mystery, the cozy, and the police procedural. Expanding into film and television, mystery includes everything from *Sherlock* to *True Detectives*. Through film, text and games we will explore the evolution and proliferation of the mystery genre. You will be reading one book for the course. **Period 4**

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 3**

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. **Period 2 or 3**

Beginning Knitting

Instructor: Ms. Peterson

Fee: \$40

This class is for you if you have always wanted to learn to knit, but have not had the opportunity to learn yet! By the end of the class, you will have created your very own knitted item, perhaps a scarf, a hat, a toy or something from your own imagination. But knitting is not just about the final product, it is a great way to release stress, boost your mood, and spend time with people who enjoy a relaxing and creative activity. You will learn the basic stitches to knit, along with other fun and decorative ways to add interest and flair to your projects. Whether you are a fan of all things crafty, a gamer or social media lover looking for a screen break, or an athlete wanting to pass the time on long team bus rides, we welcome all to our community of knitters. **Period 2 or 3**

Birds of a Feather

Instructor: 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. And, 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 and 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 too often feel buried in other demands, consider joining Books with Friends to rediscover that lost joy—and to spread it to others. **Period 1 or 4**

Booky Fun

Instructor: Ms. McEntire

Fee: \$10

When thinking of your treasured books from childhood, did you ever think you'd like to make your own? Starting with shared experiences and resources and culminating in a written and visualized story, you will make a bound copy of a children's book and share it with others. No prior knowledge of illustration or book binding is required. Advanced students will be able to work with more complex length books and materials. **Period 1**

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 neurological case studies: patients who can see but cannot recognize what they're looking at, those who cannot form new memories, and people whose injuries or disorders dramatically change their personality, movement, or emotions. Along the way, we'll investigate topics including language, memory, fear, neurodegenerative disease, addiction, concussions, and the history and ethics of neurological treatment. Students will step into the roles of neurologists, researchers, and ethicists as they diagnose puzzling cases, experiment with illusions and demonstrations, and debate questions about consciousness, identity, responsibility, and medical ethics. We'll consider what these unusual brains reveal about how *all* brains work and what neuroscience can tell us about our own experiences and behavior. The course culminates in a project that allows students to explore a neurological case or question through a clinical case study, presentation, or creative work. **Period 1**

Bridging Divides: Helping Americans to Stop Hating Each Other

Instructor: Mr. Rambow and Ms. Manchac

Fee: none

Let's face it: Americans hate each other, with families and friends becoming ever more divided by political and cultural disagreements. However, the United States did not always suffer from such extreme division. For generations, people maintained friendships in spite of differences of opinion on controversial issues. How did things get so bad, and is there a way forward? In this course, we will investigate how people form political and cultural beliefs, why those beliefs can become so deeply entrenched, and what can be done to change them. Students will examine a variety of sources to explore conspiracy theories, extremist movements, and political polarization. Along the way, we will consider the roles played by cognitive biases, the forces of social psychology, and the ways social media algorithms can trap us inside echo chambers. But the hardest subjects we will examine are *ourselves*. What biases shape our *own* beliefs? What echo chambers are *we* trapped in? Through readings, documentaries, journaling, and discussion, students will develop practical tools for thinking more critically, communicating across political, cultural, and social divides, and, just maybe, changing minds. **Period 1**

Building with Godot

Instructor: Mr. Ayres

Fee: none

Understand the basics of developing and designing interactive entertainment with the Godot game engine. Taking inspiration from your favorite games, students will learn the fundamentals of Godot by creating a prototype level/experience for their own game. Beginning with the basics of game design, programming, 2D environments, player movement, and interactive elements, students will build upon their skills to create their own gaming experience. Students will be asked to create a game level that meets basic course requirements, while also being encouraged to explore Godot beyond those requirements and experiment with their own ideas.

Period 4

Chess: Culture, Theory, and Practice

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 not only a symbol of intellectual challenge but also of artistic expression. In this course, you'll explore chess's cultural and linguistic history, from its origins to its role in connecting people across the world. You'll examine how modern chess engines have revolutionized the game and learn about the science behind their remarkable abilities. Through hands-on practice, you'll play lots of chess like they do in competitions, study some basic human “chess theory,” solve strategic puzzles, and reflect on how chess can mirror decision-making in life. You'll complete a brief knowledge check and personal reflection almost every day. Whether you're a beginner or a seasoned player, you'll deepen your appreciation for the complexity and beauty hidden beneath the chessboard. **Period 2 or 3**

Chinese Calligraphy: Mastery through Repetition

Instructor: Ms. Lin

Fee: \$50

This course introduces beginners to Chinese calligraphy not as a language class, but as a disciplined art of attention, control, and patience. Students will practice the same fundamental strokes and characters every day in silence, learning through repetition, slowness, and refinement rather than variety. The course emphasizes posture, brush control, ink loading, stroke order, and spacing. By repeating identical tasks daily, students experience how mastery develops incrementally through consistency and mindful practice. No prior knowledge of Chinese is required. Students will be assessed based on their daily practice sheets, reflections, and their final mastery sheet. “This course is not about expression. It is about discipline. Mastery is not exciting—it is earned quietly.” **Period 1 or 2**

Coffee, Coffee, Coffee!

Instructor: Ms. Coffman

Fee: \$25

From lattes to macchiatos, espresso to pour overs...this course is all about coffee! Coffee and coffee houses have been bringing communities together for centuries. In this course we'll explore the different coffee regions of the world, discover how the roasting process impacts flavor, and learn what distinguishes one style of drink from another. Students will have the opportunity to try different types of coffee, experiment with brewing methods, see the coffee roasting process in action, and work on their latte art. For their final assessment, students will brew a variety of coffee beverages for their peers and walk them through the different flavor profiles. Whether you're a daily coffee drinker or curious about one of the most popular beverages in the world, come ready to explore the world of coffee. **Period 3**

College Discovery and Self-Reflection: An Intentional Path

Instructor: Mr. Friday, Ms. Salinas, and Mr. Burroughs

Fee: none

This course guides students from self-discovery and values clarification to purposeful college exploration. Students will complete character assessments in Maia Learning, interpret interest and personality insights, and connect what they learn about themselves to career searches and summer program planning. Through research

into college cultures and fit, attendance at a college fair, and the development of professional skills and admissions knowledge, students will gain the insight and tools to create an informed, authentic college path.

Period 1

Consciousness: Nature's Deepest Mystery

Instructor: 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 dead animals
- 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

Cooking 101: Essential Kitchen Skills

Instructor: Dr. Das and Mr. Johnson

Fee: \$200

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**

Couch to 5K: The Science of Running

Instructor: Ms. McDonald and Ms. Shelby

Fee: none

What does it take to go from walking to running a 5K? In this active, hands-on course, students will follow a progressive run/walk training program while learning about the science behind endurance and exercise. Short lessons will explore topics such as fueling, hydration, heart rate, pacing, and recovery, with students applying what they learn directly to their training. Students of all running abilities are welcome, and training will be adapted to individual fitness levels and goals. Throughout the course, students will maintain a simple training log to track their progress and reflect on how their bodies respond to exercise. The course will culminate in a class

5K run/walk and the creation of an individualized plan for continuing their training beyond Interim Term, or in the Houston 5K that is scheduled for the final weekend of Interim Term. **Period 2**

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 code-breaker. 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 secret message. Think you can find it? **Period 4**

Cultured: The Art and Science of Fermentation

Instructor: Ms. Torrens

Fee: \$50

What do sourdough bread, yogurt, kimchi, sauerkraut, cheese, kombucha, and chocolate have in common? Fermentation. Fermentation is one of humanity's oldest culinary technologies, but it is also a fascinating intersection of biology, chemistry, culture, and creativity. In this introductory, hands-on course, students will explore the science behind fermentation while learning how people around the world have used microorganisms to transform food for thousands of years. We will investigate questions such as: What exactly is fermentation? What are yeast and bacteria doing while our food is changing? Why does dough rise? What makes yogurt tangy? Why does cabbage become sauerkraut? Why do some fermentations produce alcohol while others produce acids? And perhaps most importantly: How do we know when a fermentation has gone right or very, very wrong? Students will learn basic concepts about microorganisms, sugars, acids, pH, temperature, and time, but the emphasis will be on doing and observing rather than memorizing biology or chemistry. No previous science or culinary experience is required. Over the three weeks, students will conduct small-scale fermentation experiments, prepare and taste fermented foods, keep fermentation journals, and learn how to manipulate variables to change the outcome of a fermentation. Along the way, we will consider the history and cultural significance of fermented foods and the ways fermentation allows us to preserve food, develop flavor, and transform ingredients. The course will culminate in students designing and producing their own fermentation project. **Period 3**

Dance for Athletes

Instructor: Ms. Williams

Fee: none

This class explores the connection between dance and athletic performance through rhythm, coordination, agility, musicality, spatial awareness, reaction time, improvisation, performance, and teamwork. Students will discover how skills they already use as athletes (such as balance, explosiveness, footwork, timing, body control, repetition, visualization, and communication) can translate into dance. We will use examples such as Discofoot

and the Savannah Bananas, to examine how dance can transform an athletic event into entertainment and how athletes can use movement as another form of performance. At the end of the term, the class will showcase the material they create for their peers as the final assessment. The class is intentionally designed for students who may not consider themselves dancers. **Period 3**

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 software to design objects and the BambuStudio 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: 3d design software is a fairly resource-intensive program for your computer. Make sure your computer meets Kinkaid's minimum BYOD requirements @ <<https://bit.ly/BYOD2627>>.) **Period 2**

The Director's Eye: How Great Filmmakers Make Us See

Instructor: Ms. Flowers

Fee: \$25

How does a director control what we see and influence who we understand? We'll learn to watch movies through the director's eye by studying five very different filmmakers and the unforgettable worlds they create. We'll begin with Alfred Hitchcock's *Psycho*: How does Hitchcock make us nervous before anything frightening has even happened? From there, we'll move through Nicholas Ray's *Rebel Without a Cause*, Francis Ford Coppola's *The Outsiders*, Rob Reiner's *Misery*, and Frank Darabont's *The Green Mile*, discovering how great directors make us afraid, make us care, surprise us, and sometimes completely change our minds about what—or whom—we thought we understood. Along the way, we'll read film critics and become critics and filmmakers ourselves through reviews, collaborative presentations, and short video critiques. **Period 2**

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* (2004) 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 documentaries, docudramas and short-docs 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, the Documentary Film students will create a poster display, extolling the virtues and memorable moments from all the films studied. **Period 2 or 3**

Exploring the Energy Industry

Instructor: Dr. Capitano and Ms. Cross

Fee: book

Energy is the one thing modern life can't exist without. All other industries depend on it, which makes it the most profitable and the most important industry in the world. In this class, we will look at how energy is used, how it is generated, and how it affects everything from our daily lives to global politics. You'll get to investigate both fossil-fuel based energy and renewable approaches, examining the strengths and weaknesses of each, as well as how science and economics blend to determine the prices we pay for electricity. We'll also discuss data centers and how they affect the energy market. We'll explore these ideas through hands-on activities in the Engineering Lab and Maker Space and guest speakers who will share their expertise and ideas. If you want to learn about this powerful economic engine through a practical, real-world approach, this class is for you! **Period 3 or 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 fluff and find out what really is required to satiate our culture's love and demand for immediate gratification in the way of a fast happy meal. 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 *Fast Food Nation*, by Eric Schlosser, 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 fair metropolis of 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 1**

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 the cover of a novel? This class offers an introduction to writing short stories and novels, exploring 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 (ex: finding agents and editors, the breakdown of an advance, how imprints work) and talking about the different paths to publishing. 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 a full book in three weeks, but you will be on your way! **Period 1 or 2**

Finance in Film

Instructor: Dr. Watson

Fee: none

Do you love *The Big Short* but wish you understood what it is about? Here's your chance! Join CLEF faculty Dr Watson as we watch and discuss classic films about finance: *Wall Street*, *The Big Short*, *Margin Call*, and others! Topics will include risk management, M&A, CDOs, Leverage, and other financial areas. A two-page final paper will be assigned. Students will gain credit by writing a financial summary and a reflection for each film. **Period 2 or 3**

Fixer Upper

Instructor: Mr. Sell

Fee: \$300

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, 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**

Freaks and Geeks? Teens on Television

Instructor: Dr. Howell

Fee: none

Are television dramas featuring teenagers "misleading and unrealistic," as some critics argue? After all, they often cast actors in their mid-to-late 20s to pose as high school students who solve crimes, wrestle with supernatural powers, or try to save the universe. Or could we say that, despite its heightened drama, teen television captures something accurate and meaningful about those transitional years between childhood and adulthood? In this course, we will consider the purpose and effect of watching teenagers on TV as we watch highlights from the series *Freaks and Geeks*, a late-1990s show that tries to represent the adolescent experience with "clarity, accuracy, and honesty." For homework, students will watch a contemporary teen television series of their choice—like *Sterling Point*, *The Summer I Turned Pretty*, *The O.C.*, *Gossip Girl*, etc.—and contribute to a discussion board. The final assessment will be a project featuring their chosen television show. **Period 1 or 2**

Fridomania: The Art, Identity, and Cultural Memory of Frida Kahlo

Instructor: Ms. Zamudio Lara

Fee: \$100

Discover Frida Kahlo beyond her iconic image through film, visual analysis, Mexican cultural traditions, and hands-on art making. Students will explore how Frida transformed personal experience, identity, and symbolism into art, while examining her cultural context and lasting influence on popular culture. Through painting, basic embroidery, and mixed-media projects, students will create artistic responses and explain their choices in oral presentations. No previous art experience is required, but students must be genuinely interested in art making and must be willing to paint, embroider, complete homework, and participate in quizzes, projects, and oral presentations. Active participation in the course's hands-on projects is essential. Assessment will emphasize

content, reflection, and understanding, along with craftsmanship and presentation. An estimated course fee of \$100 per student will cover art materials and project supplies as well as food and snacks for selected film sessions. **Period 4**

Gardening 101: Let the Beet Drop

Instructor: Ms. Ellis and Ms. Cepeda

Fee: \$50

This course introduces the fundamentals of urban gardening, with a strong emphasis on container gardening techniques. Hands-on learning will be a core focus, with students spending most days outdoors—weather permitting—to learn how to design, plant, and manage small-scale food gardens. We will explore key topics such as seasonality and the unique considerations for gardening in Houston's local climate. In addition to practical fieldwork, students will take several field trips to local urban agriculture sites, including the Betty and Jacob Friedman Holistic Garden at Rice University and a nearby Plant It Forward farm to assist with farm tasks. In the classroom, we will examine concepts of regenerative agriculture, local food resilience, gardening folklore and agriculture news, and test field-to-fork seasonal recipes. **Period 3**

Global Plates: Cooking Through Cultures and History

Instructor: Ms. Reza and Dr. Wheeler

Fee: \$200

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. **Period 2 or 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 2**

Gone to Texas: A Cultural Crash Course on the Lone Star State

Instructor: Ms. Manchac

Fee: \$30 plus book

You may remember the Alamo, but do you remember all the six flags that have flown over Texas, the native peoples who have called the state home for centuries, or our first female governor (who was much earlier than you'd think!)? This course will offer an interdisciplinary exploration of the culture, people, and history of the only state in the union to have ever been its own country. Through discussion and reflections on movies, music, art, and just maybe a field trip or two, we will go beyond the cowboy and oil stereotypes to explore the rich history and culture of the Lone Star State. We will also examine our own relationship to Texas, where we connect to its history and culture, and how we are processing its evolution over time. Whether your family is a part of the Old 300 or moved here last just year, you'll walk away with a deeper love and appreciation for the place we all call home. Evaluation will be based on participation, written reflections, and the curation of a Museum of Texas exhibition to conclude the course. **Period 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 may have been told that video games will rot our brains, but this multi-billion dollar industry just keeps growing?. 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. Students will learn about the history of gaming by experiencing the gameplay of classic video games, by learning about and discussing the stories behind the creation of these early classics, by participating in our Classic Video Game High Score Challenges, and by creating a short presentation on an influential video game. **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, ensemble-based class. Expect to be on your feet and participating in nearly every class. We will perform a short showcase for another interim class at the end of the term. An ideal class for writers, actors, and creative minds. **Period 4**

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 the time, the space, and real, scientifically-proven reasons to keep a journal. You'll explore why writing by hand sharpens memory, eases stress, and sparks new ideas. 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, connection and self-confidence. **Period 1 or 3**

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 4**

Interior Decorating 101

Instructor: Ms. McDonald

Fee: none

This hands-on Interior Decorating Interim Course will introduce students to the creative and practical elements of designing beautiful, functional spaces. Students will learn directly from professional interior decorators through guest speakers who will share their experiences, design processes, and industry insights. Field trips to vintage stores, professionally decorated homes, and design showrooms will give students the opportunity to explore different styles, furnishings, materials, and sources of inspiration. Throughout the course, students will apply what they learn to a final project in which they develop complete design concepts for three rooms in a home, including furniture, color schemes, and décor. The course will culminate with students presenting and pitching their designs to mock “customers,” giving them experience communicating their vision and defending their design choices. **Period 3**

Introduction to German Language and Culture

Instructor: Ms. Madison

Fee: \$30

This course introduces students to the German-speaking world through both language and culture. Students will build practical vocabulary, grammar, and conversational phrases for travel — enough to hold a short conversation, order a meal, ask directions, and read common signage. Alongside language study, students will explore German-speaking Europe's cultural contributions — including art, music, cuisine, and literary tradition — as well as its geography, history, and current events. The course culminates in a Cultural Passport Project: each student selects a German-speaking region (Germany, Austria, Switzerland, or another German-speaking community) and researches its cultural contributions and a moment in its history that still shapes it today.

Students present their findings in a self-designed format — a mock travel guide, walking-tour script, or multimedia presentation. Students will also complete a practical language assessment, role-playing real travel scenarios (checking into a hotel, navigating a train station, ordering at a café) to demonstrate their conversational progress. **Period 3**

Jim Carey and the Search for Self

Instructor: Mr. McCrink

Fee: none

From the outrageous comedy of *Ace Ventura* and *The Mask*, to the darker, more thoughtful worlds of *The Truman Show* and *The Majestic*, Jim Carrey has spent his career exploring identity, performance, fame, and happiness. In this class, we'll follow Carrey's evolution from one of Hollywood's biggest comedy stars to an actor, artist, and outspoken spiritual seeker. Along the way, we'll watch and analyze selected films, examine interviews and speeches, and explore some of the philosophical questions that have shaped his thinking. A few questions will guide us: Can fame make us happy? Is there a "real" self beneath the roles we play? What happens when success isn't enough? Can art help us discover who we are? **Period 2 or 3**

Kdrama Binges and Bites

Instructor: Ms. Peterson

Fee: \$50

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'll explore both, watching scenes from some of the most iconic Korean dramas, sampling the snacks and foods that show up on screen, and taking a food tour through Houston's Asiatown. We'll break down the storytelling tropes and elements of suspense that keep us clicking "next episode," while also exploring how food helps tell the story and express characters' moods, relationships, and experiences. Feeling blue? Cheer up with some spicy tteokbokki. Stressed out about an exam? Get focused with the ever-present Kopiko. You will choose a K-drama to watch on your own for homework and create a pitch for your own K-drama for your final project.

Note: We will be watching shows with subtitles in class. **Period 4**

Let's Play Board Games!

Instructor: Dr. Howell

Fee: none

From Codenames to Wingspan, board games are having a major moment. Thanks to game cafés, viral recommendations, and a growing culture of tabletop conventions, "Do you want to play a game?" no longer means dragging out a dusty box of Monopoly. But what makes a board game irresistible or impossible to finish? Why do we love cooperation in Pandemic, investigation in Clue, strategy in Ticket to Ride, and the satisfying chaos of a perfectly timed card in Exploding Kittens? In this course, we'll play, analyze, and debate a wide range of modern board games while exploring how designers use rules, theme, chance, competition, and storytelling to shape our experiences. Students will learn the language of game design, compare classic and contemporary titles, and consider what our love of play tells us about who we are. For a final project, students will pitch an original board game or redesign an existing one for a new audience. Bring your best strategies, your cleverest rules, and your love of a game! **Period 3**

Let's Play Trivia!

Instructor: Dr. Parr

Fee: none

Why are people obsessed with games about trivia? In this course, we will explore the public fascination with trivia by studying its history and exploring the most popular trivia games. Much of the class will be devoted to playing trivia games and developing strategies for winning. As a culminating project students will create their own trivia games to be played by their classmates. **Period 1 or 4**

Living Your Best Life!

Instructor: Ms. Terrill and Ms. Ghosn

Fee: book

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. We will also 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 3**

Mahjong: Cracking the Code of Numbers

Instructor: Ms. Norman

Fee: \$70

Students explore the mathematics embedded in Mahjong through patterns, matching, probability, logic, spatial reasoning, and strategic thinking. Students learn how mathematical information can be organized and used to make decisions in a complex game environment. Final Challenge: Students develop a Mahjong Mathematical Strategy Guide, explaining how patterns, probability, and logic can be used to make strategic decisions. **Period 2**

Mathematics for Human Flourishing

Instructor: Mr. Alban

Fee: book

Maybe you've always loved math class: the puzzles, the satisfaction of a right answer, the patterns hiding everywhere. Maybe you've always dreaded it: the confusing symbols, the abstract nature of it all. I mean, really, when *are* you going to use the Pythagorean Theorem? Regardless of which side you fall on, you still have to answer the question: why do math? For college? For a job? Just because the school says so? At bottom, this is the question that Francis Su, former President of the American Mathematical Association, tries to answer in his aptly titled book *Mathematics for Human Flourishing*. Through reading this book, Socratic discussions, and exploring open-ended mathematical puzzles, we will explore how the study of math reveals the human pursuit of a well-lived life: the pursuit of truth, goodness, and beauty. Assessments will include Socratic discussions, daily handwritten journal reflections, and open-ended mathematical puzzle exploration. Whether you love math, hate it, or aren't quite sure what to make of it: come join our exploration of math and its meaning. **Period 4**

Monster Mash: A Horrific Experience

Instructor: 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 Term 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! Perhaps you’ll even have the chance to create your own monster. It’s alive!!!! **Period 2 or 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 an investigatory project, where students apply their skills to solve a mystery. **Period 2**

Needle Felting 2D and 3D Figures

Instructor: Ms. Martinez

Fee: \$40

Have you ever wondered how a handful of soft, fluffy wool can be transformed into a detailed picture or a three dimensional sculpture? In this fun, hands-on course, students will learn the art of needle felting by using specialized felting needles to shape, layer, blend, and sculpt colorful wool fibers. We will begin by creating flat, two dimensional designs and wool “paintings;” then advance to three dimensional figures such as animals, characters, food, plants, or imaginative creatures. Students will experiment with color, texture, pattern, and form while creating several original artworks that express their individual interests and personalities. No previous fiber art or sewing experience is required. Just creativity, patience, and a willingness to try something new!

Period 4

Needlework and Fiber Arts

Instructor: Mrs. Connell, Ms. Ellis, and Ms. Spencer

Fee: \$100

Humans have made clothing, textiles, and decorative objects by hand for thousands of years. Today, needlework and fiber arts continue to connect people through creative communities while offering an opportunity to slow down, work with our hands, and create something tangible. In this class, students will explore needlepoint, knitting, and embroidery through hands-on projects and individual exploration. Beginners will learn

foundational techniques and terminology as well as how to select and work with appropriate materials. Students with previous experience are encouraged to bring their existing skills and projects into the class. Students will have the opportunity to develop their own interests, work at their own pace, and explore different approaches to making. The class will include a field trip to Nimblefingers, where students will learn about canvases, yarns, and other materials. Throughout the course, students will develop patience, problem solving skills, creativity, and confidence through the process of making. Whether learning a new skill or enjoying time to stitch on a familiar project, students will have the opportunity to experience the creative and restorative nature of working with textiles by hand. Students who have enrolled in prior knitting or stitching classes are encouraged to take this class. **Period 4**

No Stupid Questions: The Art of Asking, Answering, and Living with Not Knowing

Instructor: Ms. Madison

Fee: none

“How can I stop comparing myself to other people?”

“Is it good or bad to keep secrets?”

“What are my obligations to strangers?”

We all carry questions like these — some big, some small — but few of us are ever taught how to actually investigate one. This course explores what separates a shallow question from a genuinely interesting one, and how to evaluate sources and methods for credibility and validity. From a TikTok video to a peer-reviewed study to the *New York Times* — how do we know what to believe, and why? Each student will then pursue their own guiding question — something they're genuinely curious about — and dig into what's already been researched and written about it, gathering and weighing evidence from multiple sources. The course concludes with a multimodal presentation (podcast episode, video essay, infographic, or another format of the student's choosing) in which students share their question, their process, what they discovered, and where the evidence left them with more to think about. **Period 1 or 4**

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 that you come with an open mind and a passion to learn. Be ready for a good time! **Period 2**

Painting Porcelain Stories

Instructor: Ms. Grandchamp

Fee: \$120

In Porcelain Stories, students will discover porcelain as more than a material. It is a cultural language filled with history, symbols, beauty, and meaning. Over three weeks, they will explore how porcelain traveled across cultures

and how decorative objects reflect the stories, traditions, and celebrations of the people who created them. Through hands-on painting, students will create three original pieces (a porcelain box, a small plate, and a dinner plate) by transforming historical inspiration into their own artistic expression. Three exciting field trips to the Museum of Fine Arts, an antique store, and Bering's Hardware Store will bring the experience beyond the classroom, inviting students to observe art, uncover the stories behind treasured objects, and discover how porcelain and design continue to shape the world around us. I DISCOVER → I EXPLORE → I CREATE. **Period 4**

The Perks of Being a Wallflower: Book and Movie

Instructor: Ms. Lambert

Fee: book

"People ask me why I love literature so much; it's because it's constant: when everything else is so broken and lost, words remain." Maggie, the sixteen-year-old who wrote those words, also says, "*The Perks of Being a Wallflower* saved [her] life." So in this course, we will begin by reading and discussing Stephen Chbosky's young adult novel, *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*--a powerful story that explores both the joys and the darkness of adolescence. Beware, however, that in such exploration, this novel raises many controversial issues including drug and alcohol use, eating disorders, sexuality, and suicide, among others. Additionally, we will watch and discuss the movie version of this novel, analyzing how the two adaptations invite us to think differently about Chbosky's story. According to Chbosky, stories can "help all of us discover who we are, what we believe, and what we hope our life can be." Thus, in keeping with Chbosky's intentions, students will also explore their own sense of self in journal and writing assignments. Come discover with us. **Period 2**

Permission to Amend: Writing and Revising Kinkaid's AI Policy

Instructor: Mr. Vrotny and Mr. Lopez

Fee: none

Last summer a national student senate wrote and passed a bill on defining a framework for how schools should use AI in. They were writing the rules for their own education. This course gives you that same responsibility at Kinkaid, to help shape our path forward. You will begin by studying Kinkaid's most recent student survey data and current AI policies. Next, you will interview teachers and administrators at Kinkaid and at other independent schools and will talk with national experts in the field. Then in a design sprint, you will decide what needs to change, draft a new policy, debate it, revise it, and put it to a vote. On the final day, you will present the class's approved policy to Ms. Spencer, Ms. Cross, Mr. Vrotny, Mr. Behr, and Dr. Harris for consideration for adoption next school year. No background in AI or policy is required--only a willingness to research carefully, disagree productively, and say what you think Kinkaid should do. **Period 1**

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**

Pickleball and Math

Instructor: Ms. Fain and Dr. Baltrip

Fee: none

This course puts pickleball technique and strategy front and center, with a nightly math activity to reinforce concepts. Students build core skills — serves, dinks, volleys, the third-shot drop — along with tactics like shot selection, positioning, and reading an opponent. Along the way, they'll uncover the geometry, probability, and statistics built into the game, explored through live play and real match data. The course culminates in a student tournament, putting players' skills and strategy to the test. Whether new to pickleball or already comfortable with a paddle, this course builds real playing ability — with math woven in. **Period 2**

Pilates 101

Instructor: Ms. Dagnall

Fee: \$50

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. We will start by exploring the origins and core principles of Pilates while learning the differences between classical Pilates, contemporary Pilates, and Pilates-inspired fitness methods such as Lagree and Solidcore. You will master foundational exercises that build core strength, improve posture, increase flexibility, and develop the mind-body connection that makes Pilates unique. No previous experience is required—just a willingness to challenge yourself in new ways. **Period 3**

Poetry Workshop

Instructor: Mr. McCrink

Fee: none

In this creative writing workshop, you will develop your poetic voice and personal writing style, experimenting with tone, rhythm, and perspective to create poems. We will delve into the works of various poets from diverse backgrounds and periods, gaining insights into the evolution of poetry. We will engage in in-class writing exercises, peer workshops, and discussions on poetic composition and expression. Throughout the course, you will work on creating your very own portfolio, which will exhibit your growth as a writer, editor, and critic. **Period 4**

Pointillism and Stippling

Instructor: Dr. Gárciga

Fee: \$70 plus book

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 2 or 3**

Pokémon and Probability: Gotta Catch ‘Em All

Instructor: Mr. Tipton

Fee: \$20-\$60 (depending on chosen card deck)

Learn to play the Pokémon Trading Card Game while using real probability and statistics to deck-build, predict draws, and outsmart your opponents! While we will learn how to play the game in this course, we will also learn about topics in probability such as: sample space, outcomes, events, probability scale, the probability of a given event, the complement rule, the addition rule, and independent events. In this course students will be required to obtain Pokémon trading cards for the purpose of building their deck, play testing it, and applying probability theory. Your final assessment will consist of a real play test against another student or myself where you will actively apply and show everything you have learned regarding probability in this course on paper to achieve your “win condition” - the set of cards you need to win. **Period 1**

Pop Culture of the 1980s

Instructor: Ms. Fayard

Fee: none

It was known as the “me” decade and it introduced us to MTV, Madonna, U2, teen angst, Indiana Jones, and Ronald Reagan. We will learn about the historical events of the 1980s and how the culture of the 1980s reflected and influenced society. We will examine everything from music, films, TV, and fashion to politics, war, and sports. Grade evaluation will be based on movie reviews and a music project. **Period 1 or 2**

The Psychology of Leadership

Instructor: Mr. Engstrom

Fee: none

The Psychology of Leadership course examines the mental frameworks, emotional intelligence, and interpersonal dynamics that define effective leaders across personal, professional, and social contexts. Students will explore how personality, motivation, and decision-making shape leadership styles, and how great leaders inspire trust, navigate conflict, and drive meaningful change. Grades will be a combination of current events application and in-class presentations. **Period 1**

The Psychology of Reality TV

Instructor: Ms. Dagnall

Fee: none

Why are we drawn to watching people argue, fall in love, compete, and reveal their lives on television? In this course, students explore how reality TV uses casting, editing, competition, suspense, social dynamics, and storytelling to shape audience emotions and keep viewers watching. Students will examine the connections between television, psychology, and the construction of “reality.” For their final project, students will design and present an original reality-TV show concept, explaining its psychological appeal and ethical considerations. **Period 2**

Public Speaking 101

Instructor: Ms. Coffman

Fee: none

This crash course in public speaking will give you the tools you need to present with confidence and passion—whether you’re sharing in front of your class, addressing your peers, or taking the stage at assembly. We’ll start simple and work our way through a variety of speaking formats, from impromptu speaking to structured slide decks. By the end of the three weeks, you’ll have a variety of skills that you’ll be able to use in and out of the classroom. For their final assessment, students will create a slide deck on a topic of their choosing to present to their peers. Students of all experience levels are welcome. **Period 1**

Reading for Fun and Profit

Instructor: Ms. Jamail

Fee: \$20 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 their 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 an e-reader that doesn’t have an internet browser) 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: Say What You Mean

Instructor: Ms. Higginbotham

Fee: none

Have you ever walked away from a conversation wishing you had handled it differently? This course is about what to do when emotions are high, the pressure is real, and the conversation matters. Through real-life scenarios, role-play, and film study, you’ll learn how to navigate disagreement, recognize what is happening in the moment, question your own assumptions, and respond in a way that helps rather than makes things worse. You’ll finish the course by creating a short film that shows the same conversation two ways—what causes it to fall apart and what changes when it’s handled well. **Period 1**

Reel Science: Fact vs. Fiction in Sci-Fi Cinema

Instructor: Mr. Tipton

Fee: none

From fiery space explosions to instant wormhole travel, Hollywood routinely bends the laws of physics to tell a great story. But, where do real scientific principles end and cinematic liberties begin? This course puts iconic sci-fi blockbusters under the microscope to evaluate their plausibility using real astrophysics, biology, and computer

science. You will learn to spot common tropes (like sound in a vacuum or unrealistic gravity), investigate theoretical physics concepts (like time dilation and event horizons), and discover when Hollywood actually gets the science right. Assessments in this class will be primarily completed through written essays and participation in Socratic seminars. **Period 3**

Saturdays in the South

Instructor: Ms. Ghosn

Fee: none

Inspired by ESPN's series *Saturdays in the South: A History of SEC Football*, this class will take an in-depth look at the SEC, from its infancy to present day. We will look at its most (in)famous coaches and players as well as defining games and plays. Students will also learn about some of the SEC's most controversial moments, including issues surrounding race. As this class will be organized around several series – *Saturdays in the South* and *SEC Storied* – students will be expected to participate in discussions and write reflections. Students will also do their own independent research on the history and stats of their chosen SEC team and present to the class. Get out your SEC polos and t-shirts, and sign up for "Saturdays in the South," where football isn't just a game. It's a way of life. **Period 1 or 2**

Scrapbooking

Instructor: Ms. Frank

Fee: \$150

Bring your favorite pictures off your phone and into a memory book! In this hands-on course, students will transform their personal photos and memories into a creative, one-of-a-kind scrapbook. Students will learn how to print and thoughtfully arrange photographs, create dynamic page layouts, experiment with collage and mixed media, and use color, pattern, typography, and embellishments to tell a story. Students will also learn to use the Cricut machine to design and create custom lettering, shapes, graphics, and decorative elements that connect to their chosen theme. Whether documenting a favorite trip, family memories, friendships, hobbies, special moments, or a personal story, students will combine photography and art to create a finished memory book they can keep for years to come. **Period 3 or 4**

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 digits, 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 1 or 4**

Self-Defense

Instructor: Ms. Burris Richardson and Ms. Mitchell

Fee: none

Learn the basics of self-defense in this hands-on class. Explore situational awareness, and practice communication skills for talking with someone in crisis. Class sessions combine active practice, reading, and discussion with exercises in both verbal and physical skills. Homework includes reading, practicing skills, paying attention to your surroundings, and reporting what you learn to the class. **Period 4**

Sewing for Beginners

Instructor: Ms. Anderson

Fee: \$60

Have you ever thought it might be fun to wear or use something you made yourself? In this course, you will learn how to prepare fabric and operate a sewing machine to sew your own creations. You'll also learn basic hand stitches to finish and repair items. By the end of the class, you'll be wearing and using your own completed creations! **Period 3**

Shōgun: History Meets Hollywood

Instructor: Ms. Chambers

Fee: none

Step into the world of samurai, shōguns, 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. Building on this, we will also compare clips from the original 1980 *Shōgun* miniseries with the 2024 adaptation to explore how narrative perspectives, cultural representation, and period drama storytelling have evolved over time. 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. Join us for a deep dive into one of television's most fascinating political sagas and the real history behind it! **Period 1 or 4**

Songs that Change Us: Music, Protest, and Social Change

Instructor: Ms. Flowers

Fee: none

Can a song change the world...or at least make us pay attention? From Bob Dylan, Joan Baez, Marvin Gaye, and Bob Marley to U2 and The Cranberries, musicians across generations and cultures have used music to question the world around them, call attention to injustice, and give voice to movements for change. We'll begin with the protest music of the 1960s and then travel across genres, decades, and countries to explore how music responds to its cultural moment. And how American protest traditions connect with music created around the world. Finally, we'll turn to the music you listen to now. What are today's protest anthems? Which artists are using music to bring attention to issues that matter to generation? Through lyrics, documentaries, articles, concert footage, and student-selected music, we'll listen, analyze, discuss, and discover what happens when music becomes more than entertainment. **Period 1 or 3**

Spanish and Latin American Cinema

Instructor: Mr. Longoria

Fee: \$20

This course will explore the culture and politics of Spain and Latin America through films such as: *Pan's Labyrinth* and *Death in Granada* (to learn about the Spanish Civil War), *Machuca* (to learn about Chile's dictator Augusto Pinochet) and *Valentín* (to learn about Argentina and the political issues of the 1970's), as well as a documentary over *The Life of Bullfighting* (time permitting). Grade evaluation will be based on participation, short reading assignments, and a Google Slides presentation over a country of their choice. This course will be taught in English, so no prior knowledge of Spanish is necessary. **Period 1 or 2**

Spanish and Latin American Painters

Instructor: Mr. Longoria

Fee: \$30

This course is designed for art enthusiasts and anyone interested in exploring the vibrant world of Spanish and Latin American art. No prior art history knowledge is required. Explore the dynamic and vibrant world of art in Spain and Latin America in this engaging course. We will delve into the lives and works of influential artists, movements, and trends that have shaped the artistic landscapes of these regions. We will study the works of renowned artists such as Salvador Dalí, Frida Kahlo, Fernando Botero, Diego Rivera, Diego Velázquez and more. We will watch some documentaries and create some paintings on canvas.

Course Goals:

- Gain a deep understanding of the diverse and evolving art in Spain and Latin America.
- Develop critical thinking skills for analyzing and interpreting art.
- Explore the intersection of art, culture, politics, and identity in the region.
- Foster an appreciation for the rich artistic heritage of these areas and their contributions to the global art world.
- Practice your artistic skills on canvas.

Period 4

Sports Analytics

Instructor: Mr. Harris

Fee: none

Have you ever wondered why a head coach would throw the ball when they were on the 1-yard-line? Have you thought about there being a correlation between increasing velocity and a pitcher's arm injuries in baseball? Or wondered what caused the disappearance of mid-range shots in basketball? This course will take a look at the history of analytics in sports, and the shift into the data revolution that started at the turn of the century. We will discuss what has changed across many sports, how athletes are being evaluated differently, and how that affects preparation. We will investigate coaches' decisions that have left fanbases second-guessing, athletes' choices to participate - or not participate - in pre-draft preparation, how injury prevention has changed over the past decade, and more! This course will offer students an opportunity to be exposed to sports analytics and the variety of ways that they can be involved in various sports programs and organizations. No analytics background is required for this course. Students will earn credit in this course through the submission of a handful of reflection assignments that we will start each class with, and a short (<1 page) paper beginning the analysis of a sports analytics topic of the student's interest. **Period 1 or 4**

Steps to Wellness: The Science of Everyday Movement

Instructor: Ms. Chambers and Ms. Shelby

Fee: none

How can something as simple as walking improve both physical and mental well-being? In this active, hands-on course, students will explore the connections between everyday movement, mindfulness, and overall wellness. Each class will incorporate walking and other forms of low-intensity movement along with opportunities to unplug, spend time outdoors, and practice simple mindfulness techniques. Short lessons will explore topics such as cardiovascular health, stress and the nervous system, sleep, mood, time in nature, mindful movement, and the physical and mental benefits of stepping away from screens. Students will set individual movement and wellness goals and use a simple activity and mindfulness log to track their experiences and progress throughout the course. Activities may include mindful walks, nature walks, breathing exercises, walking without technology, gratitude practices, and guided reflection. Students of all fitness levels are welcome, and activities can be adapted to individual abilities. The course will culminate in a personal wellness reflection and the creation of an individualized movement and mindfulness plan that students can continue beyond Interim Term. **Period 3**

Stories from the Spanish-Speaking World: From Page to Screen

Instructor: Ms. Zamudio Lara

Fee: \$50

This class explores how stories from the Spanish-speaking world move from literature to film. In this course, students will explore selected films adapted from novels, memoirs, and plays written by authors from the Spanish-speaking world. Through assigned literary excerpts and carefully selected film scenes, students will examine how directors transform words into images, sound, movement, and emotion. We will explore themes such as family, identity, memory, freedom, and social change while learning to analyze cinematography, symbolism, and storytelling. Students should expect regular reading assignments, preparation for class discussions, and quizzes covering both the literary excerpts and film analysis. Class participation, written film-analysis activities, and one or two oral presentations will also be part of the course. No full-length novels are required. Selected film-viewing days will include Latin American food and snacks. **Period 1 or 2**

Storytelling for Change: Partnering with Houston's Nonprofits

Instructor: Ms. Forster, Ms. Horton, and Mr. Marrie

Fee: none

What can a story change when the people at its center help shape it? In this interim course, you will visit a Houston nonprofit, take part in its work, and investigate related organizations. You will learn to craft written, oral, and digital stories, then create a real storytelling piece the nonprofit can use. You might produce a short video, podcast (in the Kinkaid studio), photo essay, profile, or another format that fits the organization's needs and your strengths. Discover more about your community, more about yourself and your classmates, and more about the power of a well-told story. **Period 4**

Taskmaster: Playful Problem Solving

Instructor: Ms. Stutts

Fee: \$25

This class is inspired by the TV show *Taskmaster*, where students engage in creative challenges that develop critical thinking, collaboration, and communication skills. Students complete individual and team-based tasks,

design their own challenges, and reflect on problem-solving strategies. Challenges incorporate different themes including math, art, music, physical education, and more. The course emphasizes creative thinking, risk-taking, and originality over "correct" answers, culminating in a final showcase where students create and present their own Taskmaster-style tasks. **Period 1 or 4**

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 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 2 or 3**

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**

Topics in Economics: A Seminar

Instructor: Dr. Watson

Fee: book

Do you wonder what the future of economics looks like in space? Do you wonder what the future of work looks like in the age of AI? What is the economics of microprocessors? Are globalization and international trade actually working? We will explore the answers to these questions and more in Advanced Topics in Economics. This course will undertake directed readings in Economics on topics related to Microprocessors, AI, Space Economics, and some classical economics, including Acemoglu, Weinzierl, Koo, Mill, and others. Students will be responsible for writing reflections on each topic. Topics will include microprocessors, globalization, international trade, universal income, agentic AI, sovereignty, space economics and technological introduction. Grades will be based upon contribution to class seminars, written reflections, and a 2 page final paper will be assigned. **Period 1**

The Truth Lab: AI, Media, and Information Literacy

Instructor: Dr. Baltrip

Fee: none

AI can generate convincing information in seconds, making it easier than ever to shape perceptions of "truth." We must learn how to responsibly question, evaluate, verify, interpret and create information. The Truth Lab is an exploration of how information shapes what we know and believe. Students will examine the intersection of AI, algorithms, media, psychology, persuasion, misinformation and digital culture. Through hands-on "labs," we

will investigate real-world information, uncover how and why it influences us, and develop a practical framework for determining what deserves our attention, belief, and trust — and what doesn't. **Period 1 or 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**

Twisted: A Psychological Thriller Book Club

Instructor: Ms. McDonald and Ms. Shelby

Fee: none

Love books with secrets, unreliable narrators, suspicious characters, and endings you never saw coming? In this course, students will spend three weeks reading and discussing psychological thrillers in a book-club setting. As we read, we will make predictions, track clues, debate character motives, and discuss the psychological ideas that make thrillers so compelling. Topics may include memory, perception, deception, manipulation, fear, trust, bias, and decision-making. Short activities, film clips, and psychology mini-lessons will complement the reading and help students think more deeply about both the characters and themselves as readers. The course will emphasize reading, conversation, and lively debate. Students should come ready to read, speculate, question everything, and expect at least a few plot twists along the way. **Period 1**

Vision Boards

Instructor: Ms. Hawkes

Fee: \$75 (dependent on student's choice of supplies)

In this class, students will explore the theory and practice of creating vision boards rooted in wellness principles and creative arts and crafts. Students will design and craft both a gratefulness board and a personal vision board to reflect their goals, values, and mindfulness practices. The class will take one or two field trips to select unique materials and crafting supplies to personalize their creations. To conclude the course, students will present and share their completed boards with peers, discussing their design choices and the underlying wellness concepts.

Period 1 or 3

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

Instructor: Ms. Cepeda and Mr. Rovell

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**

The Winning Hand: Math in Spades and Dominoes

Instructor: Ms. Norman

Fee: \$20

In this course, students will explore the mathematical principles powering classic games by examining probability, statistics, data analysis, and numeric patterns. Through interactive games and strategic gameplay, students will analyze card distribution probabilities and estimation in bidding. They will also explore how operations, factors, and algebraic reasoning govern domino structures. As a culminating project, students will design an original strategy guide for Spades backed by probability data and construct a Domino Math Challenge for peers to decode using pattern identification and logic rules. **Period 3 or 4**

Women in Art: Creative Women Who Inspired the World

Instructor: Dr. 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 who we will discover include 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 4

Yoga and Wellness

Instructor: 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, a thoughtful approach to how we exercise, and will provide techniques which 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 the 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**

Interim Term Courses by Type: What are you interested in?

Animals and Plants ★ Animal Heroes ★ Birds of a Feather ★ Gardening 101	Dance ★ Dance for Athletes ★ Inspired Choreography ★ Old School Hip Hop Dance	Writing ★ Fiction Writing 101 ★ Insight & Ink: Journaling ★ Poetry Workshop
DIY: Do-It-Yourself ★ Auto Aware ★ Fixer Upper ★ Interior Decorating 101 ★ Tool Time	Food and Cuisine ★ The Art of Cookie Decorating ★ Coffee, Coffee, Coffee! ★ Cooking 101 ★ Cultured: Fermentation ★ Fast Food ★ Global Plates	Culture: Local and Global ★ Be a Tourist in Your Hometown ★ Gone to Texas ★ Intro to German Language & Culture ★ Pop Culture of the 1980s ★ Viva l'Italia
Wellness and Medicine ★ Brain on Trial: Cases in Neuroscience ★ Couch to 5K ★ Living Your Best Life! ★ Pilates 101 ★ Self-Defense ★ Steps to Wellness ★ Yoga & Wellness	Visual Art ★ Behind the Gallery Walls ★ Fridomania: Frida Kahlo ★ Jewelry Making ★ Painting Porcelain Stories ★ Pointillism and Stippling ★ Spanish & Latin American Painters ★ Women in Art	Makerspace: Arts and Crafts ★ Beginning Knitting ★ Booky Fun ★ Design to Print 3D ★ Needle Felting 2D and 3D Figures ★ Needlework & Fiber Arts ★ Scrapbooking ★ Sewing for Beginners
TV, Films, and Filmmaking ★ The Director's Eye ★ Documentary Film ★ Finance in Film ★ Freaks & Geeks? Teens on Television ★ Kdrama Binges & Bites ★ Monster Mash ★ The Psychology of Reality TV ★ Reel Science: Fact vs. Fiction in Sci-Fi Cinema ★ Shōgun: History Meets Hollywood ★ Spanish & Latin American Cinema	Understanding Ourselves ★ Bridging Divides ★ Chinese Calligraphy ★ College Discovery ★ Consciousness ★ Jim Carey & the Search for Self ★ No Stupid Questions: The Art of Asking, Answering, & Living with not Knowing ★ The Psychology of Leadership ★ Real Talk: Say What You Mean ★ Songs that Change Us ★ Vision Boards	Stories and Storytelling ★ The Art of Mystery ★ Books with Friends ★ Improv Acting ★ The Perks of Being a Wallflower ★ Public Speaking 101 ★ Reading for Fun and Profit ★ Stories from the Spanish-Speaking World ★ Storytelling for Change: Partnering with Houston's Nonprofits ★ Twisted: Psychological Thriller Book Club
Applied Mathematics ★ The Art of Mathematical Reasoning ★ Mathematics for Human Flourishing ★ Pokémon & Probability ★ Secrets of Mental Math ★ Sports Analytics ★ The Winning Hand: Math in Spades and Dominoes	Games and Gaming ★ Chess: Culture, Theory, & Practice ★ Dungeons and Dragons ★ The Glory of Sports ★ History of Video Gaming ★ Let's Play Board Games! ★ Let's Play Trivia! ★ Mahjong ★ Pickleball and Math ★ Saturdays in the South ★ Taskmaster: Playful Problem Solving ★ The Theory of Fun ★ Twilight Struggle: A Board Game	Technology ★ Aliens & UFOs ★ Authoring Videogames for the Playdate ★ Building with Godot ★ Cracking the Code ★ Exploring the Energy Industry ★ Mysteries & Forensics ★ Permission to Amend: Kinkaid's AI Policy ★ Physics of Space Flight ★ Topics in Economics ★ The Truth Lab: AI, Media, & Info Literacy

Interim Term Course Schedule Overview

PERIOD 1	PERIOD 2	PERIOD 3	PERIOD 4
Type A Courses			
	Be A Tourist In Your Hometown		
Type B Courses			
	Behind the Gallery Walls		
	Dungeons and Dragons		
	Jewelry Making		
Type C Courses			
		Aliens and UFOs	
Animal Heroes			
	The Art of Cookie Decorating		
			The Art of Mathematical Reasoning
			The Art of Mystery
		Authoring Videogames for the Playdate Handheld Console	
	Auto Aware	Auto Aware	
	Beginning Knitting	Beginning Knitting	
Birds of a Feather			
Books with Friends			Books with Friends
Booky Fun			
Brain on Trial: Cases in Neuroscience			
Bridging Divides			
			Building with Godot
	Chess: Culture, Theory, and Practice	Chess: Culture, Theory, and Practice	
Chinese Calligraphy	Chinese Calligraphy		
		Coffee, Coffee, Coffee!	
College Discovery			
			Consciousness
	Cooking 101	Cooking 101	
	Couch to 5K		
			Cracking the Code
		Cultured: The Art and Science of Fermentation	
		Dance for Athletes	
	Design to Print - 3D		
	The Director's Eye		
	Documentary Film	Documentary Film	
		Exploring the Energy Industry	Exploring the Energy Industry

Fast Food			
Fiction Writing 101	Fiction Writing 101		
	Finance in Film	Finance in Film	
Fixer Upper			
Freaks and Geeks? Teens on Television	Freaks and Geeks? Teens on Television		
			Fridomania: Frida Kahlo
		Gardening 101	
	Global Plates	Global Plates	
	The Glory of Sports		
			Gone to Texas
			The History of Video Gaming
			Improv Acting
Insight & Ink: The Science and Practice of Journaling		Insight & Ink: The Science and Practice of Journaling	
			Inspired Choreography
		Interior Decorating 101	
		Intro to German Language and Culture	
	Jim Carey and the Search for Self	Jim Carey and the Search for Self	
			Kdrama Binges and Bites
		Let's Play Board Games!	
Let's Play Trivia!			Let's Play Trivia!
		Living Your Best Life!	
	Mahjong		
			Mathematics for Human Flourishing
	Monster Mash	Monster Mash	
	Mysteries and Forensics		
			Needle Felting 2D and 3D Figures
			Needlework and Fiber Arts
No Stupid Questions			No Stupid Questions
	Old School Hip Hop Dance		
			Painting Porcelain Stories
	The Perks of Being a Wallflower		
Permission to Amend: Writing and Revising Kinkaid's AI Policy			
Physics of Space Flight			Physics of Space Flight
	Pickleball and Math		
		Pilates 101	
			Poetry Workshop
	Pointillism and Stippling	Pointillism and Stippling	
Pokémon and Probability			

Pop Culture of the 1980s	Pop Culture of the 1980s		
The Psychology of Leadership			
	The Psychology of Reality TV		
Public Speaking 101			
Reading for Fun and Profit			
Real Talk: Say What You Mean			
		Reel Science: Fact vs. Fiction in Sci-Fi Cinema	
Saturdays in the South	Saturdays in the South		
		Scrapbooking	Scrapbooking
Secrets of Mental Math			Secrets of Mental Math
			Self-Defense
		Sewing for Beginners	
Shōgun: History Meets Hollywood			Shōgun: History Meets Hollywood
Songs that Change Us		Songs that Change Us	
Spanish and Latin American Cinema	Spanish and Latin American Cinema		
			Spanish and Latin American Painters
Sports Analytics			Sports Analytics
		Steps to Wellness	
Stories from the Spanish-Speaking World	Stories from the Spanish-Speaking World		
			Storytelling for Change: Partnering with Houston's Nonprofits
Taskmaster			Taskmaster
	The Theory of Fun	The Theory of Fun	
			Tool Time
Topics in Economics			
The Truth Lab			The Truth Lab
	Twilight Struggle: A Board Game Simulation of the Cold War		
Twisted: A Psychological Thriller Book Club			
Vision Boards		Vision Boards	
			Viva L'Italia
		The Winning Hand: Math in Spades & Dominoes	The Winning Hand: Math in Spades and Dominoes
			Women in Art
	Yoga & Wellness		

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 **may not** 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.