

# 2016-17 MIDDLE SCHOOL ELECTIVES (TENTATIVE)

Students in **Grades 7 and 8** will choose **two** elective courses and two alternative courses. Every effort is made to try to place students in their first choice, but as popular electives fill quickly, some students will be placed in alternative courses.

## **Art Production: Grades 6-8**

This yearlong course is designed for beginning art students. It follows the California State Framework for Visual Arts and Common Core Standards. We will focus on art elements and principles as they relate to four components of art education: artistic perception, creative expression, historical and cultural context, and aesthetic valuing. Creative thinking, problem solving, and skill acquisition are stressed in all assignments. Projects will be in a variety of media, and will be both two and three-dimensional. Student success will depend on full participation in class activities, adherence to project requirements, and quality of execution.

## **Beginning Strings: Grades 6-8, No previous musical knowledge or experience is necessary**

This yearlong course provides instruction in the basics of playing a string instrument and reading music. The acquisition and development of the physical skills necessary for instrumental performance is emphasized. Successful completion of this course qualifies the student to move on to Beginning Orchestra. Instruments include violin, viola, cell, and bass. This is not a guitar class.

## **Beginning Winds: Grades 6-8, No previous musical knowledge or experience is necessary**

This course provides instruction in the basis of playing a band instrument and reading music. The acquisition and development of the physical skills necessary for instrumental performance is emphasized. Successful completion of this course qualifies the student to move on to Beginning Band. Instruments include flute, oboe, clarinet, bass clarinet, bassoon, alto, tenor, and baritone saxophone, trumpet, French horn, trombone, tuba, and percussion.

## **Beginning Orchestra: Grades 6-12, 1-2 years of previous experience with the same instrument**

This yearlong course emphasizes the continuing development of the technique and expression of the string player. Music is selected from a wide range of periods and styles to give the student the broadest musical and cultural experience.

## **Beginning Band: Grades 6-12, 1-2 years of previous experience with the same instrument**

This yearlong course provides continuing development of the technique and expression for the concert band instrument. Music is selected to give the student the widest range of musical and cultural experiences.

## **Choir: Grades 6-12, Auditions will be held in the fall for incoming students**

This yearlong course is geared toward performance and will emphasize music notation reading, sight-singing skills, and offer multiple opportunities to perform.

## **Intro Theatre MS: Grades 6-8, Auditions and interviews required**

This course requires no prior experience in theatre and is designed to explore the nature of theatre as a performing art. This class will train the actor in the areas of speech, voice, movement, music, and dance. Students will study selected plays from the perspectives of actors and directors, and the strategies of playwrights to develop the ability to imagine the play in performance and to appreciate the range of theatre's possibilities. The acting curriculum features improvisation, storytelling, poetry, text analysis, contemporary and classical scene studies, neutral mask, character mask, clowning, commedia dell'arte, television and film technique, and audition preparation. This Theatre program will include spots for students who are interested in set, costume, lighting and sound design for the theatre. Course may involve costs of attending professional theatre productions.

## **Explorations in Science: Grades 6-8**

This yearlong course is for students who wish to pursue independent projects to further their interest and understanding of science and/or engineering. Students will select one or more projects from various options including MESA, Science Bowl, and computer programming. MESA involves engineering competitions (egg drop, balsawood glider, and bridge-building are some examples? That start out at the regional level and all students are eligible to compete. Science Bowl is a quiz-based competition for all to try-out to make our school team. Our Science Bowl team has won the L.A Regional Competition the past two years, and members from those teams

earned trips to Washington D.C. for the national competition. Students who choose the programming option will follow the curriculum on a coding website (code.org, and codeacademy are examples). In addition to working on the above, all students will participate in a science project with mentoring by UCLA undergraduate students. The UCLA students visit weekly, and this aspect of the course will culminate with a field trip to UCLA for a personalized tour and a science fair.

### **Exploratory Wheel – Folk Art, Yoga, College Intro, Library Media: Grades 6-8**

This is an introductory course designed to expose students to a wide variety of cultural and academic interests. Each 10-week segment is taught by a different teacher, and students rotate through each course within the school year.

### **World Languages & Cultures Wheel: An Introduction to French, Japanese, Korean, and Spanish: Grades 6-8**

This is an introductory course designed to expose students to the French, Japanese and Korean, and Spanish languages and cultures. Each 10-week segment is taught by a different foreign language teacher, and students rotate through each language/culture within the school year.

### **Middle School Journalism: Grades 6-8**

This yearlong course offers introductory training in writing news stories, feature articles, and editorials; in basic interview techniques; and in collecting, selecting, and organizing material from other sources. Students will learn to distinguish the major types of material in a newspaper, identify parts of the lead paragraph of a news story that tell who, what, when, where, and how, and recognize the elements of an event that make it newsworthy.

### **Robotics: Grades 6-8**

Students in this computer-based yearlong course will learn basic programming, build robotic models, and learn to design computer programs to enable their robots to move.

### **Beginning Foods: Grades 6-8**

This year long course emphasizes skills necessary to the selection and preparation of nutritious foods. Topics will include consumer decision-making, basic concepts of nutrition; and the planning, preparing and serving of nutritious meals. There will be hands-on opportunities to prepare foods during this class.

### **Advanced Art: Prerequisite Art Production**

This yearlong course is designed for experienced art students. It follows the California State Framework for Visual Arts and Common Core Standards. We will focus on art elements and principles as they relate to four components of art education; artistic perception, creative expression, historical and cultural context, and aesthetic valuing. Creative thinking, problem solving, and skill acquisition are stressed in all assignments. Projects will be in a variety of media, and will be both two and three-dimensional. Student success will depend on full participation in class activities, adherence to project requirements, and quality of execution.

### **Introduction to Computers: Grades 7-8**

This yearlong course will introduce students to basic through early advanced computer skills. Keyboarding, word processing, basic internet skills, and computer generated art will be covered.

### **Pentathlon: Grade 6-8**

This course is divided into two different parts; one part is the learning, training, and practice for our school's competitive Pentathlon Team, which competes with other schools in academic competitions similar to our high school Academic Decathlon. The second part of this course is the practice and training for our Middle School Mock Trial team, which competes with other schools in presenting Mock Trials in front of real judges.

### **Spanish 1, French 1, Japanese 1, Korean 1: Priorities given for 7<sup>th</sup> grade students with satisfactory completion of World Languages and Cultures with a grade of B or better and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students who will be in Honors 8<sup>th</sup> grade English.**

These are first year high school courses taught at the high school level. These high school courses are open to middle school students to motivate them. Students will be able to continue with their foreign language study in 9<sup>th</sup> grade and beyond, satisfying the UC/Cal State requirement for a minimum study of two years of the same foreign language.