

Middle School Electives Course Catalog

Foreign Language

Spanish A

(3 Trimester Course)

Students will learn the fundamentals of the Spanish language. Students begin their introduction to Spanish by focusing on the four key areas of foreign language study: listening, speaking, reading, and writing.

Students in 6th or 7th grade may take Spanish A

Spanish B

(3 Trimester Course)

This course will focus on comprehending spoken and visual text, comprehending written and visual text, using language in spoken and/or written form; and communicating in response to spoken, written and/or visual text.

Prerequisites: Students must have completed a year of Spanish and teacher approval. **Student in 6th, 7th, or 8th grade may take Spanish B**

Spanish C

(3 Trimester Course)

This course will focus on comprehending spoken and visual text, comprehending written and visual text, using language in spoken and/or written form; and communicating in response to spoken, written and/or visual text.

Prerequisites: Students must have completed a year of Spanish and teacher approval. **Students in 7th or 8th grade only may take Spanish C.**

Italian B

(2 Trimester Course)

Students will learn the fundamentals of the Italian language. Students begin their introduction to Italian by focusing on the four key areas of foreign language study: listening, speaking, reading, and writing.

Prerequisites: Students must have completed a year of Intro to Italian and teacher approval.

Fine Arts

Contemporary Music Theory

(1 Trimester Course)

Contemporary Music Theory will allow the student the opportunity to discover and learn the language of music from a modern viewpoint. Elements of music theory that will be covered are: Pitches, Intervals, Scales and Key Signatures, Modes, Chords, Meter, Rhythm and Ear Training. Improvisation on instruments and critical listening to recorded works will be key strategies used throughout the course to develop these skills.

Building on this foundation, the course progresses to include complex and creative tasks, such as melodic and harmonic dictation; beginning orchestration skills; an understanding of inversions and voice leading; an understanding of basic harmonic function derived from the major scale; analysis of repertoire, including melody, harmony, rhythm, texture, and form; and sight-singing.

Drama

(1 Trimester Course)

This is a beginning course in which students engage in creative theatre exercises to develop imagination, observation, and concentration. Students also condition their bodies and voices to be flexible, coordinated, and expressive. Students are introduced to drama through activities such as improvisation, pantomime, storytelling, characterization, stage directions, and vocal projection. This course includes the basic elements of dramatic production at the end of every trimester. An acting journal will be needed for some light homework.

Choir

(3 Trimester Course)

This course provides an introduction to choral music. Students will learn to sing a variety of choral literature and styles from around the world in unison, two- or three-part harmony. Selections will be based on teacher suggestions and student interest. Musical concepts are taught in weekly rehearsals with an emphasis on correct breathing and vocal techniques. The choir will be responsible for the Liturgical music of Corpus Christi School and work toward community involvement and competitions.

Attendance to Masses, competitions and community events is mandatory.

Recording Arts

(1 Trimester Course)

This course will give students the opportunity to select, arrange and perform works of interest (original or otherwise) and produce recordings of these pieces using the Garageband platform. Students will gain an understanding of the basic signal path from live voice/instrument to recorded audio. Students will explore the functions of a microphone, signal processor, mixing console and tape machine to gain an understanding of how digital audio workstations have consolidated these technologies. They will also learn about how to arrange, produce and record material while building their collaborative ensemble skills.

Songwriting
(1 Trimester Course)

The Songwriting course will be a chance for students to learn how to express themselves through the creative combination of music and lyrics. The course will begin with critical listening to classic songs of different styles to gain an understanding of the difference between AABA and ABAB(C)B song forms. Traditional blues form will also be explored to give students an understanding of a basic lyrical structure and rhyme scheme. Functions of a verse, chorus, bridge and song "hook" will be explored and defined. An addition to original re-written lyrics to existing songs and original blues verses students will be encouraged to write their own songs, independently or in collaboration with peers. Performance of these songs in class is optional and encouraged.

Students will be asked to keep a journal to record observations from daily life for possible lyric material.

Drawing & Painting
(1 Trimester Course)

Students will explore drawing and painting techniques, using a variety of media and methods. Projects will focus on introducing and developing the elements of art and principles of design.

Art Appreciation
(1 Trimester Course)

Students will study artists and art movements, and will use what they learn as inspiration for art projects. Students will produce 1 artist report/presentation per trimester. The understanding and appreciation of self and others through art history, culture, and heritage is emphasized.

3D Art/Sculpture
(1 Trimester Course)

Students will explore all 3-dimensional media, creating sculptural work out of wood, clay, wire, paper, found materials, etc. Projects will focus on introducing and developing the elements of art and principles of design.

Advanced Art
(3 Trimester Course)

This is an advanced art class for highly motivated students. Students will engage in long-term assignments, using advanced skills and techniques.
Prerequisite: Must have teacher approval.

Additional Cost: \$75

Technology

Professional Technology (1 Trimester Course)

This course studies the tools of office suite software (word processing, spreadsheets, and presentations). It also provides practice in fundamental skills like typing and digital organization and planning.

Required course for ALL 6th graders.

Fundamentals of Programming (1 Trimester Course)

This course studies the history of programming languages as well as introduction to javascript, C#, and Python.

Video Game Design (1 Trimester Course)

This class is an introduction to game development, from planning to programming. Teams will work together to develop a game over the course of the semester.

Prerequisite: Completion of Fundamentals of Programming or any 8th grade student.

Robotics (1 Trimester Course)

Physical programming is where code meets world. In this course students will build robots and learn to program them to complete various tasks.

Electrical Engineering (1 Trimester Course)

This course focuses on the basics of electrical circuits and circuit diagrams. Students will construct models of electrical components (such as resistors, capacitors, inductors, transistors, diodes, semiconductors) for simulation purposes.

Additional Cost: \$40

Video Production (1 Trimester Course)

Students will learn the basics of video production through doing, including the phases of production, from development through postproduction. Technical skills will be taught in basic film framing, editing, sound tracks, and creative design.

Academic Electives

Academic Decathlon (2 Trimester Course)

Students will prepare for the Academic Decathlon competition in March. Students must maintain a minimum 3.0 GPA

Study & Organizational Skills (1 Trimester Course)

In this course students will learn and practice organizing study materials, active listening techniques, time management skills, taking notes on textbook content, studying for tests, strategies for taking tests, and the steps to produce a great paper.

Virtual Fieldtrips (1 Trimester Course)

In this course, students will explore the world virtually using tools including Google Earth, Google Maps, Google Expeditions with Cardboard VR glasses, webcams, Microsoft Education Skype in the Classroom, and 360Cities.net. Students help choose the destinations based on theme and prepare for the trips by researching their destination, planning what to see, practicing being tour guides and more.

Newspaper/Journalism (1 Trimester Course)

Students will become more active members of the Corpus Christi community in this class, where they will study the historical importance of journalism and examine the role of news media while reading, responding to, and writing their own news and featured articles about goings on at school and throughout our neighborhood.

Generation Earth (1 Trimester Course)

The Generation Earth Elective empowers students to take action and address environmental issues facing Los Angeles County. This course is designed to teach and empower students to make their home a cleaner, healthier place to live, show them how to reduce waste by re-thinking, reusing, and recycling resources, and then properly disposing what's left, and help to clean up storm water. The elective will conclude with an environmental service learning project.
**Service learning is a teaching and learning approach that integrates community service with academic study to enrich learning, teach civic responsibility and strengthen communities.

Greek & Roman Life/ Mythology (1 Trimester Course)

Classical Mythology - the study of Greek and Roman myths, including the societies that produced them and their empires impact on Western civilization.