



Middle School Course Catalog 2019-2020

Welcome to the Middle School Course Catalog for the 2019-2020 school year!

The purpose of this catalog is to provide you with a description of the elective courses available for middle school students for the 2019-2020 school year. For these elective courses, students will have the opportunity to select their elective choices through an elective survey. The elective survey will be available to current 5th through 7th grade students the last week of school. We highly encourage parents to discuss with their students the elective course options and assist them in making the most appropriate choice. **The deadline to complete the survey is Friday, May 31, 2019.**

Middle School Electives Courses:

All current 5th through 7th grade students are asked to complete the elective course survey before Friday, May 31. On the survey students will rank the six elective course offerings from 1 to 6 (1 being their most preferred and 6 being their least preferred). Students will be enrolled in two elective courses for the school year based on their rankings on the survey. Each course is a 60-minute class block, which the students will attend twice a week. Students will take one course on Mondays and Thursdays, while they take the other course on Tuesdays and Fridays. Electives are chosen on an annual basis; therefore, each year students have the option to continue on in an elective study or to choose a different elective course to pursue. Following is a descriptor of each course offered.

Chorus:

Middle school students are eligible for the LTCS choir, regardless of previous choral experience. This group will perform a varied repertoire of music, including classical, folk, pop, and musical theater. They will perform a number of concerts during the year, which could include both after school, on campus, and off campus performances. The ensemble will also collaborate with other music groups. Skills and topics will include: Developing the Voice and Proper Technique, a Variety of Repertoire and Genres and Languages, Sight Singing, Ear Training, Music Theory, History of Music.

Instrumentals:

Middle school students are eligible to take instrumentals, regardless of previous experience. There is a 6/7th class and a 7/8 class. Like the Chorus, this group will perform a number of concerts throughout the year, which could include both after school, on campus, and off campus performances. These performances may also include collaborations with the chorus group. Families are responsible for instrumental rentals. Information concerning this process will be provided in July. Skills and main topics for the instrumentals course will include: Proper Technique, Music Reading, Music History, Music Theory, solo and ensemble repertoire.

Visual Art:

The visual art elective course introduces students to the Elements of Art and Principles of Design, while developing drawing skills and painting techniques. Studio experiences in the classroom will give students opportunities to experience a variety of media (pencil, pen, ink, charcoal, pastel, watercolor, and tempera paint) while developing student's individual style and creative problem solving skills. Students will demonstrate their ability to respond, to analyze and to interpret their own artwork and the work of others through discussions, critiques, and writings. Attention is also given to understanding the historical context of art works and art movements introduced in the class, so art history is also part of our curriculum and lessons are often tied to history and literature.

STEAM Lab:

The STEAM Lab course will engage students in various hands-on/minds-on activities and problem solving processes while using math and technology to research, track, and analyze data. Students will work collaboratively to solve real-world based inquiry problems. The goal of this course is to foster a learning environment in which students are guided to produce original ideas, objects, and structures according to certain specifications using concepts and skills from Math, Science, and Technology. Possible units of study may include: Engineering Technology, 3D Printing, Career Exploration Challenges, Mechatronics and Robotics.

Digital Media:

The Digital Media course (formerly known as Computer Technology) will be a hands-on approach to learning photography, videography, augmented reality, and everything in between. Each grade will have custom projects, such as the Within LTCS news show and the LTCS Maverick Times news paper, as well as creating engaging websites to learn marketing skills that promote their products. Students will also continue to enhance their understanding of digital citizenship through topics such as online safety, digital etiquette, cyber bullying, protecting an online reputation, social networking, and much more. Throughout this course, students will also continue to enhance their skills with the Google Suite, including Docs, Sheets, and Slides.

Spanish:

This course is designed to prepare students for Spanish at the high school level. Middle School students in 6th through 8th grades are eligible to take Spanish regardless of previous experience. In this course, students begin to communicate in Spanish through interpersonal speaking and writing, presentational speaking and writing, and interpretive reading and listening. The course will be conducted heavily in Spanish with a goal of helping students become more competent communicators. They will also explore in-depth themes in order to expand their understanding of Spanish speaking countries.

Spanish I:

The Spanish I course is a high school credit course for 8th grade students who qualify. This means that students enrolled in the course will earn a high school credit on their transcript upon successful completion of the course. Also, the students' grade in this will reflect onto their high school transcript, thus being calculated into their high school GPA. While not required, it is highly suggested that students take Spanish in both 6th and 7th grades before taking the Spanish I course. At the beginning of the course, the teacher will assess students who have enrolled to determine eligibility to continue in the course.