



Middle School Course Catalog 2021-2022

Welcome to the Middle School Course Catalog for the 2021-2022 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 2021-2022 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 two weeks 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 21, 2021.**

Middle School Electives Courses:

All current 5th through 7th grade students are asked to complete the elective course form before **Friday, May 21**. Students will rank the elective course offerings below 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 several days per week (Mondays/Thursdays and Tuesdays/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. Students will also be enrolled in an Exploratory course for the entire school year each Wednesday. Students will rank the exploratory course offerings below from 1 to 4 (1 being their most preferred and 4 being their least preferred). 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.

Instrumental Ensemble:

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 and other grade levels. Families are responsible for instrumental rentals, which Liberty Tech have some available. Information concerning this process will be provided. Skills and main topics for the instrumentals course will include: Proper Technique, Music Reading, Music History, Music Theory, solo and ensemble repertoire.

Exploratory Guitar/Piano Class:

On Wednesdays, LT Upper school students have the opportunity to select a third elective class. The music option will include a guitar class for 6/7 and a Piano class for 7/8.

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 the 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.

Computer Literacy:

The Computer Literacy class will be a hands-on approach to learning how to live in a digital world. Students will 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 of apps, including Docs, Sheets, and Slides. There will also be projects centered around primary and secondary resources, research papers, proper MLA and APA formatting, and graphic design.

Exploratory Creative Writing:

On Wednesdays, Mrs. Murphy and Mr. Willis will team up to offer a Creative Writing class. This class will look at how to generate a story based on various topics. Topics will be given at the beginning of class, and the students will have time to brainstorm and develop a concept in a given class period. We will also explore various genres of writing so that students can try developing stories within different genres. Once stories have been developed, students will have the opportunity to create their own worlds within their writing by drawing or

painting a scene from their story, or creating an immersive podcast that includes ambient noise and dramatic music, or reenacting a scene from their story on video. This will be writing intensive class at first before any technical or artistic projects start.

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 Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics. Possible units of study may include 3D Printing, Engineering Career Exploration Challenges, Laser Engraving, Environmental Research and Robotics!

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.



2021-2022 Middle School Electives Form

Student Name: _____

Grade: _____

All middle school students will take two elective courses for the 2021-2022 school year. Elective classes run on a Monday/Thursday and Tuesday/Friday schedule. Wednesday classes are exploratory classes with the exception of Spanish I. **Spanish I is offered to 8th graders only who have completed at least one full year of Spanish.** Spanish I classes are Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Elective courses are graded and count towards a student's GPA (grade point average). **Please complete and return this form to your homeroom teacher no later than Friday, May 21, 2021.**

Elective Courses:

Rank the elective course offerings from 1-6 (1 being your most preferred and 6 being your least preferred).

_____ Chorus

_____ Band

_____ Visual Arts

_____ STEAM Lab

_____ Computer Literacy

_____ Spanish

_____ Spanish I (8th Grade ONLY)

Exploratory Courses (Wednesdays Only):

Rank the exploratory course offerings from 1-4 (1 being your most preferred and 4 being your least preferred.)

Note: 8th Graders taking Spanish I do NOT need to choose an exploratory course.

_____ Guitar/Piano

_____ Creative Writing

_____ Spanish Exploratory

_____ STEAM Exploratory

This form must be completed and turned in to your homeroom teacher no later than Friday, May 21, 2021. If this form is not turned in, electives and exploratory courses will be chosen by school administration.