

# Middle School Electives

## Academic and Performing Arts Enrichment Courses

Our enrichment courses alternate on odd and even days. Each student will select 2 enrichment courses.

### Academic Enrichment

#### **Yearbook**

In this class students will understand the various roles a yearbook serves. Students will learn how to plan sections and agendas for the yearbook. They will be able to recognize and write yearbook copy and understand the roles of various yearbook staff members. *Yearbook is limited to 1-2 students in 8th grade and must have the approval of the Yearbook Advisor. Students interested in this course must be interviewed by the Yearbook Advisor and complete an application prior to course selection.*

#### **Broadcast Journalism**

This class combines journalism with public speaking and film design. In this course, students will brainstorm, develop, write, film and edit a short program based on middle school news. Students will learn skills in public speaking, news, writing, and film recording.

#### **Art I**

Students will be introduced to basic skills and knowledge necessary to communicate in each art form. By learning the elements and principles of art, working with various media, and evaluating master artist works, students will develop an awareness and appreciation for art both within the classroom and in their everyday life experiences. The class will learn how to use different mediums such as charcoal, colored pencils, oil pastels, and soft pastels. We will also use watercolor, acrylic, and tempera paints. These elements and principles will help enhance the students' natural framework of talent.

## **Art II**

This class is designed to develop concepts necessary for understanding and producing art to demonstrate knowledge and appreciation of art in the present, and to develop an awareness of art as an avocation and profession. Art I is not a prerequisite. *This class is limited to 7th and 8th graders.*

## **Forensics**

This class uses a scientific approach to the investigation of crimes and the psychology of criminal behavior. Students will learn terminology and investigative procedures related to crime scene, questioning, interviewing, criminal behavior characteristics, truth detection, and scientific procedures used to solve crimes. Using scientific methods, students will collect and analyze evidence through case studies and simulated crime scenes such as fingerprints, DNA, blood, fibers, hair, impressions, toxicology, ballistics, handwriting, and bones. Students will work in teams to solve crimes using scientific knowledge and reasoning. *This class is limited to 7th and 8th grade students.*

## **Engineering I**

This project-based course is designed to challenge and engage the natural curiosity and imagination of middle school students. Students will explore robotics, communication and engineering. They will learn how to construct a glider and build and test a scale model of a structure. In group and individual activities, students experience ways in which a technological knowledge of the design and material processes contribute to effective solutions to problems. Brainstorming, modeling, visualizing, constructing, testing and refining designs provides first-hand opportunities to understand the uses and impact of innovation. The knowledge and skills that students gain from Engineering I create a strong foundation for future STEM learning.

## **Engineering II**

This project-based course is designed to challenge and engage the natural curiosity and imagination of middle school students. Students will explore robotics, communication and engineering. They will learn how to construct a prosthetic arm and build and test a scale model of a dragster. In group and individual activities, students experience ways in which a technological knowledge of the design and material processes contribute to effective solutions to problems. Brainstorming, modeling, visualizing, constructing, testing and refining designs provides first-hand opportunities to understand the uses

and impact of innovation. The knowledge and skills that students gain from Engineering I create a strong foundation for future STEM learning. Engineering I is not a prerequisite.

## **Robotics**

This course is limited to students in the seventh or eighth grade. Robotics is a hands-on-class where the students use LEGO MINDSTORMs Education EV3 kits to build and program robots. The robot projects range from simple robots doing turns to complex, sensor-driven projects. The students will complete construction, hold experiments, and program using LEGO block coding. This is a fun, energetic class where students learn and use their creativity in a project-oriented environment.

## **Study Hall**

Students are given an opportunity to complete their homework. In addition, study skills are taught during this time.

## **Math Resource Lab**

This class will provide students with a math tutor. Lower student-teacher ratio is maintained in order to ensure adequate help is provided.

## **English Resource Lab**

This class will provide students with an English tutor. Lower student-teacher ratio is maintained in order to ensure adequate help is provided.

## Performing Arts Enrichments

### **Chorus**

Basic music-reading skills will be reinforced, with emphasis on the ability to hear harmonies and sing three-part music. The student will become acquainted with and be able to recognize different styles of music, such as a cappella, spirituals, hymns, and classical. Proper vocal health and usage will be demonstrated. They will participate in Christmas and spring concerts as well as the State Fine Arts Festival and school chapels.

## **Handbells**

Experience in bell-ringing is helpful, however it is not required to participate. The students will learn basic and advanced bell techniques in this class. Music reading skills will be reinforced. Proper body posture and performance skills will be demonstrated. They will participate in Christmas and spring concerts as well as the State Fine Arts Festival and school chapels.

## **Concert Band**

This group is open to band students in 6th - 8th grades. Students are expected to maintain a regular practice routine. They will perform two concerts, one at Christmas and one in the spring. Students will be able to participate in All-State Band in November, in a Fine Arts competition in March, and at Carowinds or King's Dominion in the spring. This band will play music at a grade 2-3 level on the NC Bandmasters Contest list. Seventh and 8th grade students in Concert Band may also be given the opportunity to be a part of Marching Band and Gideon's Line, the WCA Jazz Ensemble.

## **String Orchestra**

This every-other-day class is for students who have completed Strings II. Students will continue learning techniques and theory, as well as working on string orchestra arrangements. Students perform in various settings including chapel, concerts and Super Saturday. This class will also attend a professional symphony rehearsal.

## **Drama**

This course is designed to introduce students to public speaking and performance. Students will be required to memorize and recite publicly as well as perform skits in chapel. The goal of this course is for students to acquire poise and self-confidence while developing an appreciate for drama and good literature.