



MIDDLE SCHOOL ELECTIVES
COURSE CATALOG

2021-2022

Dear Middle School Parents and Students,

We are excited to offer the following elective choices for Middle School. We encourage you to have a conversation with your child about his or her choices and goals for the upcoming year. The choices should be made by students with parental input. Every student will take P.E. each trimester. The winter trimester elective period is used for a required course on Israel. Descriptions are included below, but all students take the course for their grade level. Once students have made their decisions, please submit your choices to Mr. Schmidt through the link provided:

<https://forms.gle/jUGBw54zci7qNRaW8>

Be sure to choose a 1st choice and 2nd alternate. Eighth graders' choices will be considered first. If your child is disappointed with being placed in a second choice class, please remind her/him that by eighth grade, s/he will have many first choice placements. We look forward to an exciting year!

Rick Schmidt
Middle School Coordinator

Listing By Trimester and Period

	First Period	Eighth Period
FIRST TRIMESTER		
	PE	PE
	Sewing 101	Quilting 101
	French	Latin Prep 1
	Band/PE	Robotics
SECOND TRIMESTER		
	PE	PE
	The Modern State of Israel, from Vision to Establishment - 7TH GRADE REQUIRED COURSE	The Modern State of Israel, from Vision to Establishment - 8TH GRADE REQUIRED COURSE
	Band / PE	Israel on the Map - 6TH GRADE REQUIRED COURSE
THIRD TRIMESTER		
	Band / PE	Forensic Science
	PE	PE
	Math in Art	The Wildness of our World
	Spoken Latin	World Religions

Band - Dr. Mark Connor

The Middle School Band class offers instruction on woodwind, brass, and percussion instruments with a focus on the skills necessary for long-term student success. Students will improve basic musicianship skills through the practice and performance of concert works & exercises in a large ensemble setting. Fundamentals stressed include proper posture and playing position, development of characteristic tone quality and training in music literacy. Students will take Band all together on Wednesdays plus one additional day, depending on the instrument the student plays. The other days, the student will take PE.

Judaic and Hebrew Course Descriptions

The Modern State of Israel, from Vision to Establishment. - 8th Grade Required Course (Second Trimester)

How did Herzl come to the understanding that the Jewish people should have their own state? Who was living in the land before the establishment of the state? Who declared independence, and what happened next? How did so many Jews arrive in the time periods before and after the creation of the state? In this class we will examine what our legacy and responsibility is in understanding this epic event in Jewish history.

The Modern State of Israel, from Vision to Establishment - 7th Grade - Required Course (Second Trimester)

How did Herzl come to the understanding that the Jewish people should have their own state? Who was living in the land before the establishment of the state? Who declared independence, and what happened next? How did so many Jews arrive in the time periods before and after the creation of the state? In this class we will examine what our legacy and responsibility is in understanding this epic event in Jewish history.

Israel On The Map - 6th Grade Required Course (Second Trimester) - Reb Scott

What are some of the reasons there are many maps of Israel? How do different maps of Israel tell different stories? Maps are creative, visual representations of information and stories, representing particular points of view and perspectives. They are visual documents that can be read and interpreted like text. In this class we explore many ways of correctly mapping Israel, and create our own maps, to convey a variety of information.

SCIENCE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

ROBOTICS (Limit of 20 students) - Mr. Schmidt

Introduces students to real-world engineering challenges by building LEGO-based robots to complete tasks on a thematic playing surface. FLL teams, guided by their imaginations and adult coaches, discover exciting career possibilities and, through the process, learn to make positive contributions to society.

The Middle-School students get to:

- Design, build, test and program robots using LEGO MINDSTORMS® technology
- Apply real-world math and science concepts
- Research challenges facing today's scientists
- Learn critical thinking, team-building and presentation skills
- Participate in tournaments and celebrations

This will be a first trimester class. Additional time outside of the regular class will be required in preparation for and during competitions. Competitions will take place on a Sunday to be determined and full-day team member participation is required.

Forensic Science - Mr. Schmidt - Third Trimester

Have you ever wondered how police investigate crimes? Do you wonder how police use science to figure out which suspect committed the crime? We will look at how DNA is used to solve crimes, how to use a fingerprint sample and how to use evidence left behind to solve crimes. During class, there will be several opportunities to solve "crimes" that happen at school.

Math Course Descriptions

Quilting 101 - Mrs. James - First Trimester

Never quilted? Well here's your chance to learn. What is a quarter inch seam? What is batting? How can I quilt something on my machine? All those questions will be answered and more. If students have their own machine, this is helpful. Students will be asked to buy material during this course.

Sewing 101 - Mrs. James - First Trimester

Always wanted to sew but never learned? Own a sewing machine that gathers dust? Let me help you learn how to sew a pillow, make a pencil bag or an Ipad stand, and ultimately learn how to use your machine.

Math in Art - Mrs. James - Third Trimester

Students will use the concept of ratio, proportion, and scale to create both 2D and 3D art. Students will create scale drawings, make fractal art, and weave based upon a binomial square in this elective.

The Wildness of our World - Mrs. James and Morah Connie - Third Trimester

“In wildness is the preservation of the world” - Thoreau

Do you love to explore the woods around school and learn about the natural world that surrounds Mirowitz? Is your passion for nature and protecting our environment something you want to spend more time doing? If you answered yes to those questions, then this class is for you. During our time together, there will be a three-pronged focus: Data collecting and identifying species of animals and plants that thrive at/around school, learning about biodiversity and how we can help cultivate and sustain it, and lastly, form a Stream Team and conduct a stream survey near Mirowitz. This class will also help restart programs around the school that prevent plastic from entering our environment and help fellow staff and students in reducing our carbon footprint. This class will require outdoor experiences so proper attire is important. Students will need to bring bug spray of their choice, hats, sunscreen when needed, and shoes/boots that can handle outdoor messy activities.

Language Arts Course Descriptions

Latin Prep I - Mr. Armstrong - First Trimester

Latin Prep will be a follow-up to Spoken Latin, but students who did not take Spoken Latin and express interest in Latin this year may take Latin Prep I. The course will use the same *viva voce* method as Spoken Latin, relying on the same pedagogical principles of extensive reading and comprehensible input, but will be designed around the National Latin Exam for Beginning Latin to enable students to place in Latin II/Intermediate Latin at the High School level. Contingent on student interest, Latin will continue in the second trimester as an enrichment program and in the Spring as Latin Prep III.

French - Mr. Armstrong - First Trimester

French will be an introduction for students to the basics of French language, culture, and history, with special emphasis on the Francophone world as a multicultural and multi continental reality. Students require no previous knowledge of French to take the course. Contingent on student interest, French may continue to be available in the second and third trimesters.

World Religions - Mr. Armstrong - Third Trimester

In World Religions, students will study major world traditions, looking at their histories, essential beliefs and practices, and presence in the world today. Through multimedia interactions with important religious founders, thinkers, texts, and traditions, students will learn how to think about religions with critical sympathy, from the standpoint of academic religious studies. By preparing students with the tools and knowledge to engage non-Jewish peers from a place of understanding, we hope to empower them to be leaders in multicultural settings, such as the high schools to which many of them will eventually transition.

Spoken Latin - Mr. Armstrong - Third Trimester

"In Spoken Latin, students will learn to understand Latin *viva voce* through the use of Latin in speaking and reading *Lingua Latina Per Se Illustrata*."