June 2018

Dear Parents and Students,

Even though summer is just beginning, we are already getting ready for the new school year. One thing that our students usually get really excited about is choosing their elective classes. For sixth grade students, there are three periods in the day that are devoted to helping students discover and develop areas of interest.

During one of those periods students take a daily Physical Education class. This class provides students with the opportunity to exercise, develop new skills, and learn and practice a variety of games and physical activities.

During another one of those periods students will have the opportunity to take four short-term (8-9 week) classes that will provide them with a diverse group of learning experiences. This rotation will combine experiences designed to boost student and self-management skills with opportunities to explore and discover areas of interest.

The third period can be used to explore additional elective offerings. These classes are a full semester long.

Once you hit "submit" you will have made your requests! Please be sure to respond **no later than June 15.** This is one of those times when the early bird gets the worm! I encourage parents and students to talk through these choices and make their selections together. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about the elective program or the students' schedules. We are looking forward to a great year!

Sincerely,

Adam S. Rothschild

Adam Rothschild
Director of the Upper School
arothschild@tncs.org
804.266.2494 x2246

SHORT TERM CLASSES

Students will rank these choices from 1st – 6th choice. We make every effort to honor preferences but it is important to number all choices. Usually there are a couple of classes that do not receive enough requests and in that case, we want to make sure you get your next favorite choice!
New 2018-19 offering

Art: Make some art projects and build your creative skills while learning about cool art movements, famous master artists, and a variety of art materials including sculpture, drawing, and painting!

*Choral Music: "Make a little music with your friends in choral music! This class will sing in unison, will sing cannons, and learn about harmony. No experience is necessary. We'll go as fast as we can and as slow as we must (That's code for I won't let you be embarrassed!). Sing a song!"

*Drama: Life is theater, and drama plays out all around us. In this introductory course of theatre, students are introduced to an overview of drama. They are encouraged to take on roles of different creatures and people, and to let their imagination take them to places both real and imaginary. Students will learn to work cooperatively and also gain confidence in their ability to perform in front of a group. Activities will include theater games and improvisation and may include a field trip to local theater.

Lego Robotics: Do you like Legos? Do you like to build things and solve puzzles and problems? Do you like to work as a team? Do you like to use the computer to research ideas? All of these skills come together in this course. You will work primarily with the FIRST Lego League robotics program and might even compete at the regional tournament. This course focuses on teamwork and creative problem solving with lots of exciting hands-on action.

*iPad Photography: Have you ever traveled and wanted take photographs to archive memories wherever you go? In this hands-on course your iPad/iPhone is your digital camera! You'll learn what it takes to compose and set up stunning photos to capture an experience in a well-crafted photo. Lastly, we will take those great photographs and edit them using innovative mobile apps to make your pictures look like a pro.

Introduction to Programming: This course will introduce students to the basics of coding and fundamental coding concepts. Students will be taught to think like a coder by examining everyday situations and then get hands-on experience using apps specifically developed to practice coding concepts. No coding experience is necessary.

SEMESTER CLASSES
Please indicate your 1st – 4th choice on the survey.
New 2018-19 offering

Drama Production: The Drama Production class is for those who want to act in a performance on stage. In this course, you will learn the basics of acting by learning different ways to use your voice, move your body, and tap into your imagination. This course is open to returning 6th grade students as well as new and returning 7th and 8th grade students. This class may be repeated to continue to build skills and to share your experience with new classmates.

Introduction to Guitar: Have you ever wanted to learn to play the guitar? Then this is the course for you. You will learn chords, how to solo, how to write songs, how to tune and care for your guitar, and learn a bunch of songs. This course is for everyone, regardless of your level; however, instruction will focus on the basics every beginning guitarist should know. You do not need to own a guitar for this course.

*Ukulele: Ukulele class is designed with the beginner in mind. No musical background is required. In class students will be provided the tools and guidance necessary to start playing with relative ease. This class will teach you step by step the most important skills to learn the ukulele. If you already play the ukulele, this class will help you further sharpen your skills by focusing on advanced strumming patterns, rhythm and tempo, music reading, and basic music theory.

*Wondering About Philosophy: The ancient Greeks believed that philosophy begins with wonder. If you like to wonder, then you would make a great philosopher! The word philosophy was coined by the Greeks and it means love of wisdom. A philosopher is not necessarily wise, but a philosopher wants to become wise. They want to be wise about themselves, the people around them, and the world we live in. Join this elective and we will use activities and discussions to answer questions such as "Should you ever lie?" or "Can computers think?" or "How do you know if a friend is really a friend?".

iPad Photo Photography: Have you ever traveled and wanted take photographs to archive memories wherever you go? In this hands-on course your iPad/iPhone is your digital camera! You'll learn what it takes to compose and set up stunning photos to capture an experience in a well-crafted photo. Lastly, we will take those great photographs and edit them using innovative mobile apps to make your pictures look like a pro.

*Reader's Theater: Reader's theater is a strategy that combines reading practice and performing. Its goal is to enhance students' reading skills and confidence by having them practice reading with a purpose. Reader's theater gives students a real reason to read aloud. No memorization, costumes, blocking, or special lighting is needed. The focus is on reading the text with expressive voices and gestures.

Multimedia: This course is for students who are interested in digital photography and creating movies. Digital photos are edited and enhanced with online software. Digital movies are created and embellished with audio clips and visual effects. Artwork produced in class will be uploaded and showcased on a website.

*Natural Patterns: Are you intrigued by patterns in nature? We will explore a few mathematical concepts behind these natural patterns. Stop. Observe. The Fibonacci sequence is all around us.

*S.T.E.A.M: Do you have a curiosity for how things work and how to make them better? Then S.T.E.A.M is for you. This elective (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) opens up the world of designing a solution to a problem, testing it, and then redesigning until it works. Bring your imagination and stamina! There are no mistakes, just opportunities to try again!

The Community Green Garden Project: Do you like working with your hands? Do you like working outside and getting dirty? Do you like researching and planning? If the answer is YES, then come join the Community Green Garden Project. We will build gardens through raised garden beds and living walls, planting and maintaining produce, herbs, and flowers, and finally, cooking healthy food options. We will incorporate art and ceramics by creating hanging planters to support our indoor/outdoor garden project and help our community recycle food waste through a composting initiative.