



June 2017

Dear Parents and Students,

Although it is fairly quiet here at TNCS 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 middle school 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 of those periods during the fall semester seventh grade students will take a 9-week health course and a 9-week Keyboarding class. During the spring semester, they will have the opportunity to select one of our exciting elective options.

The third period can be used either to explore additional elective offerings or for a supervised study hall. The elective offerings are the same courses offered to other middle school students. These classes are a full semester long. Students who would like to finish all or most of their homework here at school usually elect the study hall, while those who want as many elective exposures as possible select a fall and spring class. Please complete the form to indicate your child's choices.

Once you hit "submit" you will have made your requests! Please be sure to respond **no later than July 21st**. This is one of those times when the early bird gets the worm! 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Adam S. Rothschild". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Adam Rothschild
Director of Special Projects
Co-Director of the Upper School
arothschild@tncs.org
804-266-2494 ext. 2246



2017-2018 Elective Class Choices 7th Grade

SEMESTER CLASSES

Please indicate your 1st - 5th choices on the survey. Students who opt for a study hall will have one elective course. Those who do not have a study hall will have three. Elective courses are semester-length (half a year).

Advanced Strategy Games and Logic: Time to turn off those electronics and get on 'board'! This course is designed to engage students 21st Century skills in a fun and dynamic way! Students will work cooperatively and competitively to develop logic and reasoning skills. We'll go back to basics, learning the history of classic games and origins of strategic thinking using Checkers, Backgammon, and Parcheesi. We'll use what we've learned to tackle exciting modern games like Ticket to Ride, Castle Panic, Forbidden Island and more. You'll be sure to find new favorites for your family game night!

Art: In this class we will draw, paint, and sculpt art pieces. You will also have the chance to learn about some different tribes and cultures from other parts of the world, master artists, and art movements. You will have the opportunity to create projects that help you develop specific art skills and allow plenty of room for creative individualization.

Chorale: This class is designed for all middle school students who are interested in enriching their educational experience through music. Students will learn singing technique, basic music theory, and performance etiquette while exploring musical genres including folk, pop, classical, and more. Students are expected to participate in all performances.

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

Drama Skills: This new course is designed for students who want to try a wide variety of skills related to the theater. This includes acting, directing, improv, costume design, set design, and stage management. Classes will include many acting games as well as brief lessons on how theater has changed over the years. Students in this course will also have the opportunity to help behind the scenes with the Upper School production. This class is open to all levels of experience.

Global Community: We will examine how our local choices have a global impact. You will become a consumer journalist researching a product of your choice and have an opportunity to share your report with others. Goats, Sheep, Cows, Oh My! We will learn how these and other animals are part of Heifer International's program to reduce poverty and hunger around the world. Then you will be encouraged to lead a project that will inspire others to become global citizens.

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.

iPad Photo Photography: Have you ever wanted to be a photographer in real life? Here's your chance to explore the cool world of photographers. In this hands-on course your iPad is your digital camera with which you'll learn to frame your shot, use apps to adjust your shot, and print your shot. You'll learn about apps for movie-making too.

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.

Programming: This course will introduce students to the basics of computer programming. Students will learn basic computing ideas, programming language and syntax, and web design. Students will progress from block programming to text-based programming. This course does not require any background in programming, just an interest in learning about computer and how we can make them work for us. Whether students are beginners to programming or come with experience, this course will use resources designed to meet students at their level and extend their programming skills.

Robotics Team: Do you like Lego's? 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.

Sewing and Crafts: This course is for students of all levels. No experience required. The class will include several sewing and craft projects throughout the semester. You will learn techniques for hand stitching, cross-stitching, and sewing on a machine. Projects will include hand-sewing pillows, cross-stitching a design, holiday crafts, baking and decorating cookies, and more.

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 New 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.

Watercolors: There is a magic about watercolor painting because what happens when water and pigments mix together can be very unpredictable. Unimagined creations can happen right before your eyes! In this course, you will learn basic skills such as how to blend colors through washes, dry brushing techniques, and the fun possibilities with materials like Q-tips and sponges. No art experience necessary, just a willingness to explore this form of art.

Woodworking: This is the original "Maker" class — all hands-on. We learn how to use basic woodworking hand tools to shape and join wood parts together to make a useful project. We learn how to read the grain of a wooden board, how to use a handsaw, chisel, and hand plane. While most of the course involves hand work, we will also use the lathe to turn wooden handles and other objects. Possible projects include a wooden tool box or a wooden bench.