



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 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 is used to explore additional elective offerings. The elective offerings are the same courses offered to other middle school students. 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! 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 with a large, prominent 'A'.

Adam Rothschild
Director of the Upper School
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2018-2019 Elective Class Choices 7th Grade

SEMESTER CLASSES

Please indicate your 1st – 5th choices on the survey. Elective courses are semester-length (half a year).

**New 2018-19 offering*

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.

***Choral Music:** Make a little music with your friends in choral music! This class will sing in unison, will sing canons, 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 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.

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.

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.

*** 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?”.

*** Computer Programming:** Computer Programming teaches students fundamental coding concepts using real Swift code. Students will expand their coding skills and start thinking more like an app developer. Students will work collaboratively to practice their skills, solve puzzles, and design their own creations. No coding experience is necessary.

*** 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.

Robotics Team: 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.

*** 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.

*** 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.

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.