



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. Freshmen and sophomores have the opportunity to select two electives, each year, one for the fall semester and one for the spring. In addition, in order to satisfy graduation requirements, they also take a daily Physical Education class for three quarters of the year and have health instruction for the other nine weeks. The P.E. class provides students with the opportunity to exercise, develop new skills, and learn and practice a variety of games and physical activities.

We are truly excited about the elective offerings this year. The additional space and facilities in Founders Hall are indeed opening up exciting possibilities for our students to explore new areas of interest as well as to delve more deeply into old favorites. We have grouped the classes in two categories: classes in the arts and technology classes. Students are free to select one from each group or to focus solely on either the arts or technology.

Please note that some classes have pre-requisites. Students should not select a course if they have not taken the required pre-requisite course.

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 with a large, prominent 'A'.

Adam Rothschild
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2017-2018 Elective Class Choices 9th-10th Grade

SEMESTER CLASSES

Please indicate your 1st - 4th choices on the survey. Not all classes will fill and so in case one of your choices doesn't or is over-subscribed, we need to know your preferences for 3rd and 4th choice.

Classes in the Arts

Visual Arts Introduction: Basic Darkroom Photography & Realistic Drawing: 2 for 1! For one quarter, you will learn how to develop photos in the TNCS darkroom. You will go “old school” and learn how to create black and white photos, and discover the origins of photography and how they influenced today's photo technology. For the other quarter, learn how to draw realistically with dedication and practice. Track the development of your drawing skills from the first day to the last day. Learn how to switch on that right brain thinking and watch your drawing skills and art-making skills bloom!

Realistic Drawing with Color - Pre-requisite: last year's Drawing I or Visual Arts Introduction:

Continue to improve your realistic drawing skills by trying out more challenging tasks such as perspective, still life and drawing the human figure. Color Theory will also be introduced through the use of colored pencils and oil pastels.

Oil and Hot Wax Painting - Pre-requisite: last year's Drawing I or Visual Arts Introduction:

We will look at famous painters and their artwork, learn about color, and learn 2 distinct painting materials. For half of the semester we will focus on oil painting and for the other half we will focus on hot wax (encaustic) painting. Oil naturally allows for realistic, long-term rendering and blending. Hot wax (encaustic) painting is more of an abstract expressive material that can be painted, melted, carved, and worked in many ways.

Ceramics and Sculpture: How are sculptures and statues different from flat drawings? Learn what to think about when you want to create a sculpture. Explore techniques for using clay, cardboard, wire, fiber arts, found objects and other sculptural materials. You will also learn basic ceramics techniques such as wheel throwing and hand-building. Learn about 3-D materials, sculpture artists, and how to plan and create a great piece of art!

Advanced Darkroom Photography - Pre-requisite last year's Basic Photography or Visual Arts Introduction:

Show us what you can really do with black and white film, a camera, and a darkroom. You will build upon the skills you learned in the Basic class by learning new techniques and taking on exciting assignments.

Digital Photography: You will learn to compose and understand the elements of a quality photograph and the basic principles of two-dimensional design. This course will also cover the basic principles of downloading your pictures, file management and archiving, and the use of simple editing software. You will need to supply your own digital camera (no phone/tablet cameras).

Drama Skills: This new fall semester 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 acting games as well as brief lessons on the history of theater and television/film. We will analyze portions of famous scripts and learn how to “block” short scenes. Students in this course will also have the opportunity to help behind the scenes with the Middle School production. This class is open to all levels of experience.

Drama Production: This class is for those who want to act in a performance on stage. Throughout the semester, you will develop your improv and acting skills to develop a character. All of your hard work will culminate with a performance in front of a big audience over two nights. Drama class members must commit to attending a weekend rehearsal before the play and to attending both nights of the play. If you are unable to make this commitment do not select Drama Production.

Chorale: This class is designed for upper 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.

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

Creative Writing: Do you have a story to tell? You don't need to be a great writer to join! We will focus on exploring creative storytelling and experiment with different forms: poetry, spoken word, short stories, comics and graphic novels, even podcasts! Find out which form you prefer; then choose your focus for the second half of the class. You'll also serve as editors and designers for a creative writing magazine, choosing art and writing submissions and creating the layout.

Woodworking: Work with your hands! Work with tools! Work with wood! Learn to design and plan woodworking projects then take it to the shop where you will use hand and power tools to turn your imagination into reality. With a focus on safety, design, and skill development this course will help you develop a lifelong hobby.

Technology Classes

Advanced Technology Projects: This class is for students who want to learn to plan, create, and display digital projects. You will learn to utilize a variety of tools and software. Student products will be displayed digitally. This course is open to students who demonstrate a high level of interest in computers.

Programming: This course will introduce (and extend) students to the basics of computer programming. Students will learn basic programming vocabulary, concepts, and syntax in a variety of programming languages, including JavaScript, Python, and PHP. Students will also learn about basic computer systems and web development. This course does not require any background in programming, just an interest in learning about computers 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: Be part of the TNCS Robotics team and compete in the world's largest robotics competition, VEX Robotics! This US version of Robotics is pure science! Team members will plan and design for success in competition. Since VEX teams often compete at several regional events, teams have multiple opportunities to compete, identify mistakes, problem-solve, and compete again. Therefore, team members will need to be available for Saturday competitions during the season and occasional after-hours work sessions.

Yearbook: This course is a graphic design course that produces the school's yearbook. Students design pages, take pictures, and sell advertisements. If you are interested in producing large scale publications, this is the course for you.

Health and Physical Education

Advanced P.E.: All 9th and 10th grade students take a full year of Health and Physical Education class. TNCS offers a one semester Advanced Physical Education class which focuses on fitness routines, weight lifting, goal setting, and leadership training. Most students in the Advanced P.E. class are juniors and seniors, but we sometimes have openings for younger students. Please check below if your son or daughter would like to be considered for membership in this class in place of one semester of regular P.E. if space permits.