



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.

Freshmen have the opportunity to select among three courses to satisfy their PE requirement: a traditional PE class, Advanced PE, or Fitness Lifestyle. For one nine-week grading period, they will take Health instead of their PE class. Freshmen will then have two additional semester-long electives throughout the year.

Sophomores will take one semester of a PE course. They will also take nine weeks of Health and nine weeks of Personal Finance. Sophomores will then have two additional semester-long electives throughout the year.

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 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 cursive script that reads "Adam S. Rothschild".

Adam Rothschild
Director of the Upper School
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2018-2019 Elective Class Choices 9th-10th Grades

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.

**New 2018-19 offering*

CLASSES IN THE ARTS

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.

Visual Arts Introduction: Basic Darkroom Photography & Realistic Drawing: 2 for 1! For one quarter, you will get a taste of developing photos in the darkroom and how to operate a DSLR camera. You will go “old school” and learn how to create black and white photos, discover the origins of photography, and fast forward to today's digital camera. 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: 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: 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!

***Quilt/Sewing:** In this class students will design and construct a quilt and express themselves with fabric and thread. Students will learn basic hand sewing techniques (running stitch, back stitch, hem stitch), knotting, and needle skills. They will work with a variety of threads (embroidery

floss, quilting thread), and utilize quilt-block skills of measurement and joining, color and fabric selection, and machine and hand sewing techniques. Creative, design, and problem-solving skills will be honed in this hands-on learning environment.

Darkroom Photography 1: Pre-requisite: Visual Arts Introduction

Have you ever wondered what the world looks like in black, white, and beautiful, full-range of greys in-between? Show us what you can really do with a 35mm camera and a darkroom. You will build upon the skills you studied in the Visual Arts Introduction class and learn how to capture a well-exposed photo with a mechanical 35mm camera. The process doesn't stop there! You'll also be developing your own 35mm film and photos based around creative projects.

Digital Photography 1: Have you seen amazing pictures in magazines, on billboards, or on your computer screen? You will enter the world of digital photography learning what techniques it takes to compose front page quality images. Photographs are not snapshots, but well-composed scenes capturing fleeting expressions and everlasting moments. This course will cover the basic principles of managing your files and easy-use editing software. Please supply your own DSLR camera as we are graduated from phone and tablet cameras, but if you don't have your own there are limited DSLR cameras that are TNCS property.

Drama Skills: This 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.

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.

***Recording Studio:** Pre-requisite: Introduction to Guitar, or teacher approval

Are you a musician or songwriter? Are you interested in recording your own music? This course will use GarageBand© software to record multi-track songs that you will be able to share with friends or just enjoy by yourself. You can record multiple tracks with different instruments. Later you can mix them together and add effects and change the volumes. You will be both a song writer and a music producer. You must be comfortable with using your laptop. If you are a decent musician but have not taken guitar yet, you can get special permission to take this course.

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.

FUTURE PREPARATION CLASSES

***Public Speaking:** Students are introduced to public speaking as an important component of their academic, work, and social lives. They survey public speaking occasions and develop skills as critical listeners of spoken information and persuasion. Students study types of speeches (informative, persuasive, dramatic, and special occasion), read and listen to models of speeches, and prepare and present their own speeches to various audiences. Students learn to choose speaking topics and adapt them for specific audiences, to research and support their ideas, and to benefit from listener feedback. They study how to incorporate well-designed visual and multimedia aids in presentations and how to maintain a credible presence in the digital world. Students also learn about the ethics of public speaking and about techniques for managing communication anxiety.

***Careers in Science:** This course will take an exploratory look into various fields of science and the careers involved in them. There will be hands-on science activities and experiments, as well as a few visits to corporations and businesses involved in scientific fields.

***Entrepreneurship:** Students in Entrepreneurship will take part in the Junior Founders Club, in which students brainstorm, launch, and market their own businesses, and possibly even make money doing so. This is the ultimate “real-life” experience!

COMPUTER SCIENCE AND CREATIVE 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.

***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.

***Introduction to Computer Science:** Introduction to Computer Science takes students through the basics of computers, programming, digital information, and the internet. This course is designed to prepare all students for life with technology in the 21st century. The lessons and skills learned in the course will benefit students wherever their educational and career paths lead.

***Introduction to App Development:** The Introduction to App Development course introduces the students to the world of app development and the basics of Swift and Xcode. Students will get practical experience with the tools, techniques, and concepts needed to build a basic iOS app from scratch. At the end of the course, students will build one of two basic iOS apps. No programming experience is necessary.

***App Development 1:** Pre-requisite: Computer Programming, Introduction to App Development, or teacher approval

App Development 1 is designed for students who want to expand their coding skills. Students will build on their knowledge of Swift and UIKit through hands-on labs and guided projects. By the end of the course they'll be able to build a fully functioning app of their own design.

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.

HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Advanced PE: 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 PE class are juniors and seniors, but we sometimes have openings for younger students. Please choose Advanced PE on the survey if your son or daughter would like to be considered for membership in this class in place of one semester of regular PE, if space permits.

***Fitness Lifestyle:** Fitness Lifestyle provides exploratory opportunities for upper school students that build upon the health and fitness foundations developed in middle and upper school general PE courses. Students will be exposed to several different fitness activities, so they are able to form individual fitness preferences and plans beyond TNCS. Fitness Lifestyle provides opportunities such as

- exploring a variety of group classes and fitness facilities on and off campus;
- learning the fundamentals of running techniques and cardiovascular training;
- experimenting with various outdoor and leisure sports; and
- providing the opportunity to learn more about specific health and fitness career pathways, which support national initiatives to better prepare students for college and career.