



February 18, 2019

Dear 6th, 7th, & 8th Grade Students and Parents,

This is a reminder letter for the process of selecting electives. We will be selecting electives for Trimester 3 in the next couple of weeks. We hope that offering several choices will allow students to sample various electives that spark their interest.

This is how it will work:

- All students will take an elective each Trimester from each category: Reading, Technology, Music, PE, and Foreign Language (only 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade will have a choice of Foreign Language. 6<sup>th</sup> Grade will take French, German, & Spanish in each trimester of their 6<sup>th</sup> grade year as an introduction.) *Students who are fluent in a language may not take the language in which they are fluent.*
- There may also be extra electives that will be offered each trimester by other middle school teachers as a choice when the schedule has a gap. We will let you know what those classes are when and if they become available. All students will have 3 full years of all of their core classes: Religion, Science, Language Arts, Math, Reading, and Social Studies.
- Some courses offered are yearlong and others are trimester long. If there is a very popular class that fills for Trimester 1, we will explore the option of offering it again in Trimester 2 or 3.
- Students will rank their preferences, and we will make the schedule according to those rankings, attempting to place students in their highest ranked classes. However, due to scheduling constraints, a tentative budget, and staffing requirements, students are not guaranteed all of their top choices.
- Each year we hope to build our electives catalog and offer more advanced topics for those that have taken and enjoyed an introductory class.

The course descriptions are found on the following pages.

Please discuss the electives with your student, rank each choice, and bring the attached form to school by February 26<sup>th</sup>. Students will meet with Mrs. Meiller to build their schedules. Once the schedule is built they will need to have the attached form signed again by a parent or legal guardian and return it to school by March 5<sup>th</sup>. Students will be notified before Trimester 3 starts of their finalized schedule.

Thank you for your patience with us as we learn, grow, and enhance our middle school in this process. I welcome your feedback, and am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Callie Meiller, Principal

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## Middle School Elective Choices

### Trimester 3 2019-2020

In each category, please indicate your preference of classes by circling a number.

**Please rank every class in the list.** (Course descriptions can be found in the Eagle Express)

#### Reading

- 1 2 3 Mythology
- 1 2 3 Graphic Novels
- 1 2 3 Poetry

#### Technology

- 1 2 3 8<sup>th</sup> grade Final Project
- 1 2 3 Coding II
- 1 2 3 Robotics II

#### Music

- 1 2 3 Bucket Drumming
- 1 2 3 Instrumental Ensemble
- 1 2 3 Show Choir

#### Physical Education

- 1 2 3 Team Sports
- 1 2 3 Weightlifting
- 1 2 3 Ninja Warrior Fitness

**Please sign below and return this form no later than February 25th, 2020.**

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Student Notes:

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**Post Scheduling Day (Please sign and return by March 2nd:)**

Principal Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature #2: \_\_\_\_\_



## **IHM Middle School Elective Course Catalog**

### **MIDDLE SCHOOL PHYSICAL EDUCATION ELECTIVES -Trimester 3**

#### Team Sports

This elective will follow the school sports calendar as closely as possible. Team Sports will provide students with the opportunity to gain physical preparation skills necessary to improve their sports skills as well as overall athleticism and also allow for extra practice on game skills within the particular sports emphasis. Fall trimester we will be focusing on volleyball and flag football. Winter trimester Team Sports will be focusing on basketball. Spring Trimester our emphasis will be volleyball and track and field.

#### Olympic Weightlifting

Weightlifting is an Olympic sport that can be an activity that will help you gain overall strength, power, speed, flexibility, fitness, and CONFIDENCE! In this course a variety of weightlifting accessory movements will be completed as well as focusing on the main lifts of the snatch and clean & jerk. Students that select Olympic weightlifting will have the opportunity to potentially compete locally in competitions with the potential of national level competitions available to those that may qualify.

#### Ninja Warrior Fitness

Fitness class working on speed and agility, strength, coordination, endurance, flexibility, through different skills and drills with Ninja Warrior flare.

### **MIDDLE SCHOOL MUSIC ELECTIVES -Trimester 3**

#### Instrumental Ensemble

This course is for enthusiastic musicians who love to use their voices, instruments, and movement to create and perform exciting and beautiful music. All Orff instruments are involved: recorder, unpitched percussion, xylophones, glockenspiels, bass bar, and metallophones. Students will improve on playing skills learned in previous years, and work together to perform complicated orchestrations. Students will be exposed to a variety of musical styles. Special attention will be given to musical literacy and performance expectations. This course will be offered every Trimester.

#### Show Choir

The trimester course is for male and female students of any grade. The choir learns a variety of show tunes and pop songs while studying basic music theory and ear training. Enthusiasm for singing is the prerequisite! The group learns choreography and staging to highlight the music and may require outside rehearsals to prepare for concerts.

#### Bucket Drumming

The Bucket Drumming Ensemble studies and performs drumming techniques from around the globe. This group performs in concerts throughout the year. Attendance is required at all performances. During this class, students review rhythms and learn new notation specifically for parts of the bucket (drum). The course begins with simple rhythmic patterns and progressed to more challenging ones. The objective is to enable students to play together as an ensemble, give them independence within the music to improvise and ultimately compose and notate their own music.

***All three classes will be included and required to participate in the Spring Concert on May 14, 2020. Only students in Theatre will be able to assist with narration and stage crew.***

### **MIDDLE SCHOOL TECHNOLOGY ELECTIVES -Trimester 3**

#### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Final Project

All 8<sup>th</sup> grade students must take this Technology class for Trimester 3.

#### Coding II

Coding, or programming, has become the new global language, foundational to many levels of society. Coding is the process of designing and building an executable computer program for accomplishing a specific computing task. In this class, we will be using the MIT development environment called Scratch, as well as the online expanded instructional system at code.org. The results of our coding activities will include games, animations, puzzles, and interactive entertainment. This is all great preparation for higher level programming classes in high school such as Python and Javascript.

#### Robotics II

Robotics deals with the design, construction, operation, and use of robots, as well as the computer systems used for their control. In this class, we will be exploring the use of Edison robots and their programming, as well as their mechanical design including cranes, diggers, tanks and line markers. Depending on our rate of progress, we will also make use of the more advanced Linux-based Raspberry Pi Model B computers that serve multiple robotic applications, and even the "Internet of Things". Raspberry Pi computers and their greater possibilities offer a gateway into higher level integration of both code and operating system management.

## **MIDDLE SCHOOL READING ELECTIVES -TRIMESTER 3**

### **Mythology**

in this literature class, students will explore literary elements presented in the mythology genre. Reading of classic myths, along with a study of fables and folklore, will help students with comprehension, drawing inferences, character study, and vocabulary. Understanding how mythology reflects cultural beliefs and comparing and contrasting similar works will also be included in the course. Writing practice will help students develop their own individual response to reading.

### **Poetry**

This course will introduce students to the study of poetry and the tools and terminology used in analyzing a poem. We will study various forms of poetry—including the sonnet, elegy, haiku, and ode—to gain a deeper understanding of the structure and language of poetic works. We will focus on imagery, figures of speech, and other poetic devices that distinguish poetic

language from other types of writing. Students will be exposed to the work of several major poets and try their skill at writing poetry.

### **Graphic Novels**

In this literature class, students will continue to explore the literary elements that constitute the graphic novel genre. Readings will include but are not limited to New Kid and March II. Along with an understanding of the graphic genre, students will also focus on traditional literary elements such as plot, setting, characterization, and theme. Writing practice will help students develop their own individual response to reading.