

Middle School Electives
2025-2026
Trimester 1

Around the World

Pack your curiosity—no passport required! In this global adventure, students will explore the sights, sounds, and flavors of countries across the globe. From discovering unique celebrations, to hearing music from distant lands and exploring popular trends, you'll uncover the traditions and modern life that make each culture special. Come ready to learn, create, and celebrate the diversity of our world!

The Art of Leadership

In this course, students will explore the qualities and skills that make an effective leader. Through team activities, problem-solving tasks, and role-play scenarios, they will practice communication, decision-making, and conflict resolution. Students are expected to take on leadership roles in group projects and reflect on their strengths and areas for growth. By the end of the course, students will understand how to inspire and guide others toward shared goals. This is a great opportunity for students who are interested in student council.

Bible Study and Journaling

Show your creativity while reading Bible passages! Each session students will read, reflect and interpret a passage of the bible. The remainder of the class, students will spend time responding to the text with various art mediums and techniques.

Bonjour les amis!

This fun, beginner-friendly French class is perfect for students who are new to the language—or those who would like a refresher on the basics. You'll learn how to introduce yourself, express how you feel, and talk about what you want—all while exploring the rich, fascinating world of French culture that's admired across the globe. Come discover what has made France such a unique country throughout the world. Class is open to all students.

Bon Voyage les amis!

Are you ready to learn French and explore the world? In this exciting class, you will build a foundation in basic French while discovering the rich cultures and stunning geography of the French regions and the larger French-speaking world. From the heart of Paris to the peaks of the French Alps, the sunny beaches of the French Antilles to the turquoise waters of French Polynesia—you'll travel across five continents without ever leaving the classroom. Come join us on a global adventure through language and culture. Class is open to all students.

Calligraphy

Calligraphy class will teach students the art of writing the alphabet beautifully in many different styles. Using calligraphy pens in script notebooks, we'll practice neatness, spacing, and letter shapes. Students will also create fun projects like posters, cards, and quotes, on different types of paper while building patience and focus.

Checkmate!

Have you ever wanted to learn how to checkmate your opponent as quickly as possible in chess? Now is your chance. In this class, students will learn the various ways grandmasters have checkmated their opponents in tournament games. Students will also learn the infamous three-move, four-move, and five-move standard checkmate on their path to becoming grandmasters.

Chime In! – Middle School Handbell Ensemble

Welcome to *Chime In!*, an energetic and collaborative handbell and tone chime ensemble designed for middle school musicians of all experience levels. In this course, students will learn the fundamentals of handbell performance, including proper technique, music reading, rhythm, and ensemble playing. Through hands-on experience and group practice, students will explore a variety of musical styles while developing essential skills like teamwork, listening, and musical expression. Students will be introduced to special techniques such as damping, shaking, and echo ringing, and will work toward a final performance to showcase their progress.

Creative Writing

In this class, you'll learn how to take your creative ideas and turn them into awesome, well-written pieces. We'll explore writing in various different genres including mystery, fantasy, drama and more. You'll get to experiment, share your work, and find your own unique writing voice. Just bring your imagination!

Engineering Rube Goldberg Machines

In this hands-on course, students will design and build imaginative chain-reaction machines inspired by the work of Rube Goldberg. They will explore engineering concepts such as cause and effect, simple machines, and energy transfer while working collaboratively in teams. Students are expected to brainstorm, plan, test, and refine their creations through trial and error. By the end of the course, they will present a functioning Rube Goldberg machine that completes a simple task in the most delightfully complicated way possible.

Financial Literacy 101

Money is something we use every day—whether it's buying snacks at the store, saving for something special, or even donating to help others. But have you ever stopped to think about how money really works? In this class, we'll learn the skills you need to make smart choices about earning, spending, saving, and sharing your money.

Gardening

In gardening class, students will learn how to plant flowers and vegetables from seeds. They will explore how to choose the best seeds, prepare the soil, and provide the right amount of water and sunlight for healthy growth. Students will also discover how to care for seedlings as they sprout and learn helpful tips to keep plants strong and thriving. By the end of the course, they'll know how to grow beautiful flowers and tasty vegetables, all while having fun and connecting with nature!

Gator Gazette News Team: Journalism 101

In this collaborative elective, students will become school reporters, working together to brainstorm, research, write, and edit articles for a special student section to be featured in the Gator Gazette newsletter. They'll learn the basics of journalism, interviewing, and editing while sharing important news, events, and stories from around campus. This is a great opportunity to practice writing skills, build teamwork, and have your voice heard by the whole school!

Gator Tails: Yearbook Editing Basics

Students will take the lead in capturing and preserving the memories of the school year through the creation of the school yearbook. Throughout the year, students will learn photography skills and take photos at events and around campus. In Trimester 1, the focus will be on planning the yearbook layout using a page ladder and organizing content. In Trimesters 2 and 3, students will design candid pages that highlight student life, special moments, and behind-the-scenes snapshots. This is a creative, collaborative class perfect for students who enjoy writing, design, photography, and teamwork.

Health and Fitness

In this elective, students will develop knowledge and skills to support a healthy and active lifestyle. They will learn about nutrition, personal fitness, and the benefits of regular physical activity. Through a mix of classroom lessons and hands-on activities, students will participate in fitness routines, track personal progress, and set achievable wellness goals. By the end of the course, students will understand how to make informed choices that promote lifelong health and fitness.

Image Editing Basics

Image editing tools are used to edit and enhance most images presented in magazines, newspapers and other media. This course is designed to provide students with the basic knowledge and skills needed to begin image manipulation and photographic retouching.

Introduction to Social Media Production

In this engaging elective, students will become roving reporters, exploring different areas of the school each week, from Little Gators and Early Childhood classrooms to Lower School, electives, and even construction updates. With cameras in hand, they'll capture meaningful moments and craft creative caption stories to be featured on the school's official social media accounts. This

class combines photography, storytelling, and school spirit, giving students a real voice in how our community is shared with the world.

Marketing and Media: Promoting Holy Name of Jesus

Ever wondered how your favorite brands make those scroll-stopping Instagram posts or viral TikToks? In this class, *you* get to be the creative genius behind the screen — but instead of sneakers or soda, you'll be promoting something way more important: our school!

By the end of the class, you and your classmates will launch a *real* social media campaign for Holy Name of Jesus — complete with photos, videos, captions, and designs you've created yourselves. You'll walk away with skills that real businesses use every day (plus bragging rights that you helped put our school on the map).

If you're creative, love tech, or just want to make something awesome with your friends, this is the class for you.

Mic Drop-How to Create a Podcast

Do you have stories to tell, ideas to share, or questions the world *needs* answered? Then grab the mic—it's your turn to shine! In this class, you'll learn everything it takes to create your very own 30-minute podcast episode from start to finish.

By the end of the course, you won't just be *learning* about podcasts—you'll have your own fully produced show ready to share. Whether you dream of being the next big host, a behind-the-scenes editor, or just want to try something totally new, Mic Drop is your stage. Step up, speak out, and hit record!

Mindfulness: The Stress Free Mind

In this elective, students will explore mindfulness practices designed to reduce stress, improve focus, and promote emotional well-being. They will learn techniques such as deep breathing, guided meditation, mindful movement, and journaling. Lessons will include both individual and group activities, allowing students to apply mindfulness strategies in different settings. By the end of the course, students will have a personal toolkit of techniques to help them navigate challenges with calmness and clarity.

Oceans

In this elective, students will dive into the study of the world's oceans, exploring marine ecosystems, ocean currents, and the diverse life forms that inhabit them. They will investigate the impact of human activity on ocean health and learn about conservation efforts to protect marine environments. Through hands-on activities, research projects, and multimedia resources, students will deepen their understanding of ocean science. By the end of the course, they will be able to explain key ocean processes and identify ways to contribute to marine conservation.

Organized Life

Organized Life will teach students how to keep their stuff and their minds organized! We'll learn how to keep our school spaces neat, like lockers, backpacks, binders, and notebooks. But also at home, like our bedrooms and other spaces. We'll use tools like planners, checklists, fun stickies, highlighters, and simple apps to remember important tasks, and we'll practice setting goals, putting work in order of importance, and making routines that help us stay on track!

Print Making

Printmaking is all about contrast! In most cases, you are working with two colors: the color of your ink, and the color of your paper; so your challenge is to create strong focal points in the image you design. In this class, we will illustrate contrast in design using art techniques like Styrofoam Stamping and Linoleum Block Printing.

Printmaking requires LOTS of patience. You spend lots of time creating drafts and iterations of your design before you create your final artwork. When you take this class, be prepared to create and iterate over and over before you have a final product.

Random Acts of Kindness

If you can choose to be anything, choose to be.... KIND. This elective is designed to brainstorm and create ways to spread kindness throughout our school. You will boost happiness in your lives and the lives of others. You will plan and do acts of kindness AND find ways to educate others to spread kindness as well.

The main expectation of this elective is for everyone to actively participate individually and with each other in a respectful manner. Hope to see you there!

Scrapbooking

In this creative elective, students will explore the art of scrapbooking as a way to preserve memories and tell stories through visual design. They will learn techniques for creating unique layout pages using photos, decorative paper, embellishments, and creative journaling. By the end of the trimester, each student will have a personalized scrapbook showcasing their creativity and craftsmanship.

Screenwriting and Playwriting

In this elective, students will learn the fundamentals of screenwriting and playwriting, focusing on how to craft compelling stories for the stage and screen. They will explore key elements such as plot structure, character development, dialogue, and setting. Through brainstorming, outlining, drafting, and revising, students will bring their original ideas to life in script form. The course will culminate with students sharing selected scenes in a class reading or performance, showcasing their growth as storytellers.

Shark Tank: Create Your Own Product or Business

Welcome to the Shark Tank! Ever dreamed of becoming a business mogul or inventing the next big thing? In this elective, you get to be the boss and turn your ideas into a reality. You'll brainstorm innovative ideas, create a catchy slogan and logo, and learn how to use different resources to grow a business. The course culminates with you creating a poster and pitch for your unique product, which you will then present to "sharks" for a chance at an investment. Get ready to unleash your inner entrepreneur and maybe even start your own business!

Solve the Rubik's Cube

Want to learn how to solve the Rubik's Cube? In this class for beginners, you'll learn one of the basic methods to solve the 3x3 cube. You'll practice a basic pattern of hand movements and learn to recognize when to use them. Eventually, you can learn more efficient ways to solve it faster. This skill can be a calming therapy or competitive hobby (or both). Most importantly, it's fun, and you can enjoy it for the rest of your life!

Young Yogis

Young Yogis focuses on nurturing our authentic selves through an age and ability appropriate yoga practice. We will incorporate yoga asanas (postures), mindful meditation, and nature to build a love of self rooted in peace.

Elective Schedule

Each Grade will take Music, Art, and Public Speaking for one trimester each, as part of our curriculum's enrichment. Students will be able to rank which day they would prefer to take this class based on the offered days shown here. Then students will rank their choices for each day, and classes will be filled upon availability while trying to accommodate each student's preferences.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
5th Grade Art (Mon)	5th Grade Art (Tues)	6th Grade Music (Wed)	5th Grade Art (Thurs)
6th Grade Music (Mon)	6th Grade Music (Tues)	7th Grade Public Speaking: Ted Talks (Wed)	7th Grade Public Speaking: Ted Talks (Thurs)
Checkmate! (Mon)	Bible Study and Journaling	Bonjour les amis!	Around The World
Gator Tails: Yearbook Editing Basics	Creative Writing (Tues)	Checkmate! (Wed)	Bon Voyage les amis!
Health and Fitness	Financial Literacy 101 (Tues)	Creative Writing (Wed)	Calligraphy
Image Editing Basics	Gardening	Engineering Rube Goldberg Machines	Chime In! – Middle School Handbell Ensemble
Mic Drop-How to Create a Podcast	Introduction to Social Media Production	Gator Gazette News Team: Journalism 101	Financial Literacy 101 (Thurs)
Screenwriting and Playwriting (Mon)	Oceans	Mindfulness: The Stress Free Mind	Random Acts of Kindness
Shark Tank: Create Your Own Product or Business	Screenwriting and Playwriting (Tues)	Organized Life	The Art of Leadership
Young Yogis (Mon)	Solving the Rubik's Cube	Print Making	Young Yogis (Thurs)
–	–	Scrapbooking	–