

2022-23 Middle School Electives

America at War

- One semester course
- Offered semester 1 & 2
- No prerequisite
- May only take once

This course will cover America's involvement in global and national conflicts from World War I through modern day. The class will focus on the weapons of war and military strategies used that allowed America to become a superpower.

Art - 2D

2D art gives students the opportunity to experiment and develop their skills in creating a variety of paper based art assignments. They will learn to create art on a variety of paper surfaces using a variety of mediums. Students will learn how to create artworks through modern tools, to create thoughtful, detailed works of art within a truly unique and artistic space. They will learn about the techniques, tools and processes used in professional art trades. Grade 7 and 8 students are offered 2D art once per year. Class curriculum will alternate, offering students different projects, if they choose to take the class the following year.

Art - 3D

3D Art gives students the opportunity to experiment and develop their skills in creating with clay. They will learn the basics of hand building using pinch, coil, and slab construction. Students will learn how to patiently manipulate clay, through the stages of drying, to create thoughtful, detailed works of art. They will learn about the techniques, tools and glazes used in Ceramics. Grade 7 and 8 students are offered 3D art once per year. Class curriculum will alternate, offering students different projects, if they choose to take the class the following year.

Hot Topics

- One semester course
- Offered semester 2
- No prerequisite

Take a dive into some of the most pressing issues in society today. Students will be able to uncover God's truths for their lives as they navigate the final years of middle school. Student's will be equipped to answer and discuss hot button issues and lean on God's Word for their understanding.

Intro to Google and Computer Science

- Semester 1
- No prerequisite
- May only take once

Students will learn life applicable skills using the google platform to build resumes, interview for jobs, and perform basic accounting. The students will be able to use the problem solving method to develop a basic app using code.org.

Life 101

Life 101 gives students an opportunity to learn critical life skills. Students will be exposed to a variety of elements related to success and independence in adulthood such as: foundational culinary skills, basic sewing, hospitality, etiquette, and home budgeting.

Music Electives

Advanced Middle School Band 7/8

The HCA Advanced MS Band (level 2) class offers instruction on woodwind, brass, and percussion instruments with a focus on the skills necessary for long-term student success and to prepare them for advanced musicianship in high school and beyond. Grade 7 & 8 band students with a minimum of one year band experience are welcomed on the following instruments: flute, oboe, clarinet, alto and tenor saxophone, trumpet, French horn, trombone, tuba and percussion. Students will study intermediate music theory and will be given opportunities to perform through the year at public performances such as Java Jam, Christmas/Spring Concerts, Veteran's Day, HCA Graduation and in HCA pep and marching bands.

Choir 5/6

Description and Goals: The 5/6 Grade Choir is open to young men and women and will establish a solid foundation in sight-singing and performance skills. This class will learn beginning music theory, proper vocal techniques through warm ups and a variety of musical selections. Students will learn vocal pieces and become more confident independent singers. Choir students will be given opportunities to perform selected pieces and showcase skills learned through the year at public performances such as Christmas and Spring Concerts.

Choir 7/8

Description and Goals: The 7/8 Grade Choir is open to young men and women and will continue studies in sight-singing, tone production and performance skills. This class will learn intermediate music theory, proper vocal techniques through warm ups and a variety of musical selections. Students will learn vocal pieces in two part harmony and strengthen their solo singing. Choir students will be given opportunities to perform selected pieces and showcase skills learned through the year at public performances and have the opportunity to lead Lower School worship for select chapels.

Concert Band 5/6

The HCA Concert Band (level I) class offers instruction on woodwind, brass, and percussion instruments with a focus on the skills necessary for long-term student success. Fundamentals stressed include proper posture and playing position, development of characteristic tone quality and training in music literacy. Students can choose one of the following instruments for study in the HCA Cadet Band: Flute, Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, Trumpet, French Horn, Trombone and Percussion. Playing percussion in Band consists of a multi instrument study including mallet instruments, snare drum, bass drum, timpani and other auxiliary instruments. Percussion is the only instrument that has the prerequisite of 2 years of private piano study prior to band study. All woodwind and brass instruments are available to any 5th & 6th grade student to choose regardless of music experience. Students may be tested on the instrument of their choice so that we can ensure sound production and a successful start to their band journey. Concert band students will learn beginning band pieces (grade .5-1 in difficulty), beginning music theory and will be given opportunities to perform through the year at public performances including Christmas and Spring Concerts.

Guitar Ensemble 7/8

Guitar class begins with foundational set up and review on acoustic guitar. Students will take a Classical approach to studying proper right and left hand techniques in order to gain the highest level of proficiency on the instrument. Various note-reading skills will be covered in class, including how to decode chord charts for Worship music and traditional musical notation. Repertoire will include music from each musical era and multi-part pieces will encourage the ensemble skills needed to perform as a group or in accompaniment to voice. As part of their study, students will also be taught the guitar requirements for the high school Worship Team audition.

Piano 5/6

Piano class starts with foundational techniques and layout of the keyboard. The course will balance any previous piano study with a blend of traditional note reading plus rote-based chord studies and scales in every key. With these skills and knowledge, students will be able to play any Worship chord chart and read standard music notation. Repertoire will draw from each musical era and student selections for their piano recital each semester. Upon completion, students will have enough piano proficiency to continue their playing with an ensemble, including the option to transfer to percussion in band or guitar ensemble for a worship track.

Strings 5-8

String classes offer musical study on violin, viola, cello and bass. Students will develop solid foundational techniques and understand the layout of their instrument in common positions and keys. A variety of music will be practiced and performed, including Folk, Pop and Classical music from each era. Strings also have many opportunities to serve at school in addition to our regular concerts. Note and sight-reading are emphasized to gain independence on string instruments during the middle school years. As students advance, the introduction and refinement of shifting and vibrato gives students the ability to attain a high level of performance.

Personal Finance 7/8

- Semester 2
- No prerequisite

This course covers Biblical principles of personal stewardship by focusing on a variety of real-world concepts such as personal responsibility, giving, saving, budgeting, and financial planning; and includes credit, borrowing, and principles of investing. In focus throughout are principles and practices which promote a Biblical view of generosity and financial responsibility.

Pre-Engineering 7

No prerequisite other than abstract aptitude, good math skills, and willingness to work hard.

This elective gives budding innovators a formal intro to how to "do" engineering. We will design projects in 3D cad software (and print), work on how to communicate with machines and make them talk to each other (programming), and learn how to use basic hand and machine tools. Working in a team is a huge part of the experience.

Pre- Engineering 8

No prerequisite other than abstract aptitude, good math skills, and willingness to work hard.

The final MS Engineering class builds on all previous experiences. This class will start off with automation--how we get things to move--by building increasingly complex machines. Developing communication skills between team members and machines (adding the C language) prep students for success in high school engineering. Students will complete a capstone project with a partner.

Spanish 1

The aim of grades 7 and 8 Spanish is to continue to learn the Spanish language through songs, games, and activities. Students will continue to progress in their knowledge of the basics of the language. Middle School Spanish blends elements that students were exposed to in Lower School while adding more academic components such as: grammar, sentence structure, and basic conjugation to support the transition into Upper School Spanish.

Spanish 2 (Prerequisite Spanish 1)

The aim of grades 7 and 8 Spanish 2 is to continue to learn the Spanish language through songs, games, and activities. Students will continue to progress in their knowledge of the basics of the language. Middle School Spanish blends elements that students were exposed to in Spanish 1 while adding more academic components such as: grammar, sentence structure, and basic conjugation to support the transition into Upper School Spanish.