

2023-24 Middle School Electives

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.

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.

Music Electives

Advanced Concert Band-Winds 7/8

The HCA Advanced MS Band (level 2) class offers instruction on woodwind and brass 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, and tuba. Ensemble and solo activities are designed to develop elements of musicianship including, but not limited to, (1) tone production, (2) technical skills, (3) intonation, (4) music reading skills, (5) listening skills, (6) analyzing music, and (7) studying historically significant styles of music literature. The curriculum also includes but is not limited to: marching/pep band at HCA school related events such as parades and athletic band sessions, all school concert performances, Java Jam and commencement ceremonies.

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 as well as music application using classroom instruments such as ukulele and African drums. 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 Java Jam, and all school 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 such as Java Jam, Veterans Day, and biannual all school concerts.

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 included are 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 Beginning Band: Flute, Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, Trumpet, 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 or one year of piano at HCA prior to band study. All woodwind and brass instruments are available to any 5th & 6th grade student to choose regardless of prior music experience. Students will be tested on the instrument of their choice at our Meet the Teacher day in August to ensure that they can make a characteristic sound on their preferred instrument and have a successful start to their band journey. Each band family will be responsible for obtaining their own instrument to rent or buy. HCA has a music company that we work with to obtain the best quality band rentals for students. Instrument information will be available at Meet the Teacher. 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 such as Java Jam, Veterans Day, and biannual all school concerts.

Acoustic Guitar Ensemble 5/6

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, with a focus on traditional musical notation and an introduction to lead sheets and chord charts. Students will learn both melodic playing and basic chords on the guitar. Repertoire will draw from more traditional music for guitar, influenced by the Spanish style of classical music and selections that are more popular or contemporary given the nature of the performance.

Electric Guitar Ensemble 7/8

Continuing guitar students will ramp up their foundational studies on electronic instruments and students will have the opportunity to select study on the electric bass guitar. Musical styles will mostly draw from more modern genres (Jazz, Pop, Worship) and the occasional remix of the classics. Students will develop their abilities in soloistic and accompanimental lines and be challenged to perform music with multiple parts. Musicians will also gain additional chords and experiment with new techniques and equipment. As part of the class, students will reinforce reading music in traditional notation, lead sheets, chord charts and will practice to create workable parts given only chord charts.

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. New piano students will begin with pentascales and arpeggios in all keys, while continuing students will advance to one or more octave scales and arpeggios in all keys. Note-reading on the piano will be introduced or reinforced based on experience. Chord charts for playing Worship music will also be covered in this class. Each semester, piano students will perform in group and solo settings: Java Jam will feature small group experiences followed by a Winter Piano recital; the spring semester will provide another multi-piano ensemble presentation and a solo opportunity at the Spring Piano recital. Repertoire will be selected from both classical and popular music based on the nature of the concert/recital, though students will have a great amount of personal choice for their recital solos. Upon completing piano, students will be able to extend their piano skills by applying their knowledge to percussion instruments or by becoming an independent pianist in another ensemble through teacher recommendation.

Percussion Ensemble 7/8

The primary goal of this course is to teach students authentic, performance-based musical skills and music theory through percussion ensemble performance. Playing percussion in Band consists of a multi instrument study including mallet instruments, snare drum, bass drum, timpani and other auxiliary instruments. This performance ensemble is open to students in grades 7th & 8th grade with a prerequisite of one year of piano class at HCA or two years of private piano lessons. HCA students who have studied percussion in Level 1 band in 5th & 6th grade will have already completed their piano prerequisite before joining percussion in level 1 band. Ensemble and solo activities are designed to develop elements of musicianship including, but not limited to, (1) tone production, (2) technical skills and rudiments, (3) intonation, (4) music reading skills, (5) listening skills, (6) analyzing music, and (7) studying historically significant styles of music literature. The curriculum also includes but is not limited to: marching band drumline at HCA school related events such as parades and pep band sessions, concert percussion throughout the academic year for formal concerts, commencement ceremonies and Java Jam. All percussion ensemble students must purchase a gum rubber single sided practice pad 10-12, a pair of Vic Firth SD1 drumsticks, a glockenspiel/bell kit for home practice, a pair of hard plastic/polymer bell/xylophone mallets and a drumstick case labeled with their name to transport mallets and sticks to and from school.

Intro to Business/Personal Finance

- Open to grade 8 students
- One semester course

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. Throughout are principles and practices which promote a Biblical view of generosity and financial responsibility.

Engineering

No prerequisite other than abstract aptitude, good math skills, and willingness to work hard. Students may select engineering as an elective semester 1, semester 2 or both semesters.

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.

Spanish 1 (Semester 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 (Semester 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.