

## Junior High Elective Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Students may choose one elective for the first semester and one elective for the second semester. Please choose two alternate electives for each semester. Place a 1, 2, or 3 next to your choices. The following electives may only be chosen once during junior high: Mindfulness, Contemporary Fiction, Fantasy Fiction, Rocketry, Ecology, Microbiology, Computer Literacy, Threshold of Democracy, Mythology, and Life Skills.

### First Semester

\_\_\_\_\_ Yearbook  
\_\_\_\_\_ Contemporary Fiction\*  
\_\_\_\_\_ Rocketry\* \$  
\_\_\_\_\_ Ecology \*  
\_\_\_\_\_ Computer Literacy \*  
\_\_\_\_\_ Threshold of Democracy\*  
\_\_\_\_\_ Art  
\_\_\_\_\_ Drama  
\_\_\_\_\_ Choir  
\_\_\_\_\_ Logic Labyrinth  
\_\_\_\_\_ Jazz Band (Full year elective)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Percussion  
\_\_\_\_\_ PE  
\_\_\_\_\_ 0 Hour Band  
\_\_\_\_\_ 0 Hour Orchestra

### Second Semester

\_\_\_\_\_ Yearbook  
\_\_\_\_\_ Fantasy Fiction\*  
\_\_\_\_\_ Intro to Nutrition  
\_\_\_\_\_ Rocketry\* \$  
\_\_\_\_\_ Microbiology \*  
\_\_\_\_\_ Computer Literacy \*  
\_\_\_\_\_ Mythology\*  
\_\_\_\_\_ Art  
\_\_\_\_\_ Drama  
\_\_\_\_\_ Choir  
\_\_\_\_\_ Intro to Psychology -Grade 8 only  
\_\_\_\_\_ Jazz Band (Full year elective)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Percussion  
\_\_\_\_\_ PE  
\_\_\_\_\_ 0 Hour Band  
\_\_\_\_\_ 0 Hour Orchestra

\$ = There is an activity fee for the class.

\* = You may only take the class once during Junior High.

**Art:** Students will study 2D and 3D art. The 2D art will focus on a strong drawing element as well as painting and printmaking. On the 3D side, the students will engage in one sculpture per semester. The study in 3D will be focused on the process around sculpture components including; drawn image, construction of an armature, modeling, and patinas.

**Choir:** Choir will focus on the development of young voices. We will work as a team to create a unified sound, while studying varying repertoire, sight reading, and simple music theory. We will present two concerts per semester.

**Computer Literacy:** Computer literacy teaches the necessary and practical skills students need to use technology effectively inside and outside of the classroom. This course introduces the basics of using Windows, Microsoft Office, and other programs that help students succeed in their academic careers. Additionally, Computer Literacy covers topics such as internet safety, digital citizenship, keyboarding, and prepares students for future classes in coding.

**Contemporary Fiction:** This is a chance to investigate literature from our present-day era. In a literature circle approach, you and other like-minded classmates will consider such questions as, "How does what you have been learning in a classical school increase your understanding and appreciation of the truly great literature of our time? Will future generations refer to these books as "classic"? With your fellow book-lovers, we will ponder such young adult works as *The Outsiders*, *Holes*, *Wonder*, *The Giver*, *Ender's Game* and other award-winning contemporary works of literature.

**Creative Writing:** The purpose of creative writing is both to entertain and to share human experience. Writers seek truth about humanity through poetics and storytelling. This course is meant to spark literary interests, talents, and inclinations, so that students can walk away with a clearer image of who they are (or rather, who they might be) as a writer. We will explore literary elements of both prose and poetry, and students will practice employing those devices in their own writing.

**Drama:** Drama will take students on an introduction to Theatre. They will explore acting through character work, team building exercises, different techniques, and improvisation games. Will get a baseline for the history of theatre (Greek, Medieval, Classic, and Contemporary) and explore playwriting and directing.

**Ecology:** Ecology focuses on the relationships between living organisms. As such, this class would look at the ecosystems found in our immediate environment (campus) and around the world. This course will focus more on research, observations, and experiments. Students will be required to do many outdoor activities. This will include, but is not limited to, working in the dirt, measuring plants, finding, and working with invertebrates, taking measurements, walking around outside during minor inclement weather.

**Fantasy Fiction:** Fantasy Fiction will bring students on a fantastic journey through the magical worlds of Tolkien, Anne McCaffrey, C. S. Lewis, Brian Jacques, and many more. Along the way, students will learn about the lives of each author as well as the mythological and cultural roots of some of the most popular fantasy creatures and settings that have endured the test of time and continue to delight readers to this day. Alongside fiction both ancient and modern, students will enjoy films such as *The Dark Crystal*, *The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe*, and *The Hobbit*.

**Intro to Nutrition:** This one-semester course is a study of the basics of the field of nutrition, macro and micronutrients and related noncommunicable diseases, nutrient considerations through the human life cycle, and an overview of basic medical and nutrition research methodology. Students will gain practice in tracking and analyzing their dietary intake using a diet tracking program and submit a course completion diet project.

**Intro to Psychology (8th grade only):** Takes a modular approach to introduce important psychological concepts, including memory, emotion, learning, social psychology, and personality. Students will engage with concepts through exploratory and practical activities at appropriate cognitive levels where they can generalize learned skills to other subjects.

**Jazz Band:** This course is designed to be an advanced music ensemble course for students who want to focus on Jazz, Rock, and other contemporary music and instrumentation. This is an advanced course meant to challenge students beyond the traditional repertoire found in band class. Students will gain a greater understanding of the working musicians' world and career while getting real world experience in performance and execution of jazz standards and contemporary repertoire and musical improvisation. **This is a full year elective.**

**Logic Labyrinth:** The course aims to sharpen students' ability to analyze arguments, solve puzzles, and make sound decisions in everyday situations. By the end of the course, students will develop a stronger understanding of how to think clearly, reason effectively, and communicate logically.

**Microbiology:** Microbiology focuses on microscopic living things, ranging from bacteria to cellular processes in larger organisms. This course will focus more on research, observations, and experiments. This course will offer another option for an elective and allow students to choose a more focused science for their interests. Students will be required to create and run several in class experiments to observe microbiological processes. This may involve wearing proper lab equipment, handling lab materials properly, and may involve going outside as well.

**Mythology:** This mythology class offers the foundational knowledge of the myths of ancient Greece and Rome, which is essential for understanding the classical literature and fine arts of Western civilization. In this course we read, discuss, and interpret the primary mythological stories of ancient Greece and Rome; analyze sources for and historical context of Greek and Roman mythology; and research topics in ancient history, archaeology, language, and art related to the myths studied.

**Percussion:** Percussion class is not only a supplement to the greater Band and Orchestra programs, but an exploration of the rhythmic nature of percussion music from around the world. We will cover basic fundamentals as well as more advanced music from wind ensemble to jazz to percussion ensemble and world music. We will cover the hows, whys, whens, and whos in the percussive world. Students will participate in a minimum 5 concerts per year and join the wind ensemble in their trip to Elitch Gardens.

**Rocketry:** The rocketry elective will introduce students to the exciting world of aerospace engineering. Students will apply Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) principles to build and fly up to three model rockets of increasing complexity while learning the principles of rocket history, aerodynamics, propulsion, and craftsmanship. Rocket launches will take place on the fourth Saturday of each month in conjunction with the Colorado Springs Rocket Society (COSROCS). **\$50 activity fee**

**Threshold of Democracy:** Is a role-playing and strategy game that will introduce students to the disciplines of Ancient History and Philosophy, and Classics. Students will develop research, textual analysis, argumentative, and delivery skills through a series of short games--the game is won if students convince the class to vote for their cause. Students will get a baseline for the history of Athens during the time of the Oligarchs through sources such as Plato's Republic, and Pericles' Funeral Oration.

**Yearbook:** Students will create a junior high yearbook throughout the course. To be a part of this course, they will need to attend extracurricular events throughout the school year. Other than creating the yearbook, they will be learning journalism writing, photography, and design publication skills.

**0 Hour Band:** This program is designed to take the place of the instrumental music class. Welcome to the Vanguard Wind Ensemble, where students will be exploring music from all over the world and throughout history. Students will perform concerts several times throughout the year at a minimum of 5 concerts. We will also be making a trip to Elitch Gardens for a music festival. **This class is not for percussion or string instruments.**

**0 Hour Orchestra:** We're playing violin, viola, cello and bass. We will be diving in depth with musicality and expression, as well as refining our technique and our ability to blend and balance with other sections of the orchestra. We play music all the way from Baroque to a Modern Contemporary.