

2018-19 JA Specialist Course Selection  
8th grade students



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

**Indicate your top 3 preferences.**

\_\_\_\_\_ **8th grade Band**

Students enrolled in the concert bands students will not only learn how to play their instrument (alone and as an ensemble), but they will learn about the different characteristics used to create the music and how to apply these characteristics in a performance setting. DECS band students are expected to spend 20 minutes each day practicing their rehearsal/lesson assignments and concert music. Weekly group lessons are provided and concert participation is expected.

\_\_\_\_\_ **8th grade Choir**

Choir is an ensemble-based course in which students must work together as a team to develop their vocal skills. In choir, students will work on singing with proper vocal technique, develop rehearsal skills, learn how to read music, and improve ear training skills. Each student will develop independent singing and reading skills to attain a high level of musicianship and confidence. Students will explore a variety of styles of music, including world music, art songs, contemporary music, and pop music. Weekly lessons are provided and there will be two mandatory performances each year.

\_\_\_\_\_ **8th grade Music Appreciation**

Music appreciation is an extension of music class in the elementary grades. Students sing, discuss, complete projects, and play classroom instruments (world drumming, ukuleles, Orff instruments, etc.) to learn about musical elements, styles, time periods and composers. Students do not perform in formal school concerts.

\_\_\_\_\_ **8th grade Spanish**

Students acquire fundamental listening, speaking, reading and writing skills. The course presents elements of the cultures of the Spanish speaking world, and prepares students for Spanish 2. Topics are introduced that enable students to talk and write about themselves and their world. Reading, writing, and conversation will center on everyday life situations and will be enriched by the study of diverse Spanish speaking world cultures. **High school credit for Spanish I will be given for students who average a C or higher over the 4 quarters.**

\_\_\_\_\_ **8th grade Art**

In this traditional art class, students will create art in a variety of mediums including drawing, painting, collage, paper mache, plaster, clay, ink, fibers, media arts and more. Projects in middle school are structured around theme based units with a cultural component and/or focus on personal expression. It is important that students are engaged and participating in the planning, creating and reflecting processes of their work. Students will have a specific focus on the elements and principles of art. Students will learn artistic techniques, concepts, vocabulary and critical thinking strategies.

\_\_\_\_\_ **8th grade Art - Beginning Photography**

This specialized class is for students who enjoy photography and would like to learn more. It is an introduction to basic digital camera use, including lens operation, creativity, and image editing software. It is encouraged that students have their own digital camera. However there will be a few cameras that can be shared.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Community Service Learning (CSL) - Application Required**

CSL requires students who are ambitious, responsible, resourceful, self-disciplined, and motivated to work in a service or leadership position in the school. Students selected for this class must maintain a minimum GPA of 2.0 and be able to work independently. An application and letters of recommendation are required and will be used to determine which applicants are best suited for this class. 8th grade students may choose to work in one of the following CSL areas: STEAM Lab, Peer Tutoring, Primary/Elementary Classroom aide, Office Assistant, Band/Choir Assistant, or Art Assistant.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Study Hall**

\*Course selections sheets will be used to determine final course offerings.  
In the event it is not possible to schedule your top four choices due to schedule conflicts, please list at least one alternate course.

Alternate #1 \_\_\_\_\_ .

- Requests for schedule changes should be addressed to the homebase teacher, including the reason for the change.
- Schedule change requests will be considered during the first two weeks of the school year.
  - Requests made after the first two weeks will be considered at the beginning of the 2nd semester.

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_