

**WORLD LANGUAGE COURSES**  
**CHARLOTTE LATIN MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
**2022-2023**

Because World Language is an integral part of the curriculum, students will have a continuous and progressive sequence throughout the Middle School in a selected language. In seventh grade, students continue the language begun in sixth grade or have the option of taking Latin. In eighth grade, students continue the language begun in sixth grade and seventh grade or have the option of taking Latin. Students who are interested may sign up for an additional world language in place of an elective.

**COURSES OFFERED TO SEVENTH GRADE:**

**LATIN 7**

Are you ready to travel back in time? This course will introduce students to a "dead" language and provide a glimpse into the history, mythology, and daily life of the people who spoke it. In the process, students will discover much about their own language and the many ways our modern world has been influenced and shaped by the ancient Greeks and Romans. This course is not a prerequisite for Latin I. ***This course meets every other day for the year.***

**FRENCH 7 OR SPANISH 7**

In this course, the Middle School student will find an interactive and student-centered approach to acquiring vocabulary and language structures necessary for meaningful communication. Additional emphasis is placed on enhancing oral proficiency by means of utilizing contextualized writing, reading and listening comprehension activities from authentic resources. Students will continue to enhance their cultural fluency by being active participants in lessons that integrate the products, practices, and perspectives of the target cultures. ***This course meets every other day for the year.***

**COURSES OFFERED TO EIGHTH GRADE:**

**LATIN I**

This course introduces students to elementary Latin vocabulary and grammar and begins to build their ability to read simple Latin stories. Because Latin is the origin of over 60% of English words, students will gain valuable insight into their own language, and through integrated readings and presentations, will discover how Greco-Roman art, history, culture, mythology have influenced the modern world. Membership in the Junior Classical League offers optional opportunities for students to engage in academic, creative, and visual arts activities and competitions at the state and national level. No prerequisite; course assumes no prior knowledge of Latin. ***This course meets every day for the year.***

**FRENCH I or SPANISH I**

In this course designed for Middle School, enhancing the student's abilities in interpretive, interpersonal, and presentational communication will be the primary focus. Through an interactive and student-centered approach, students will experience growth in linguistic proficiency as well as cultural fluency. Units of instruction are thematic and will regularly integrate the products, practices, and perspectives of various Spanish or French-speaking cultures. A textbook will not be used for this course. Authentic materials such as news articles, various genres of music, and authentic audiovisual sources are used on a regular basis. Students will be encouraged to rely upon prior knowledge, make inferences, and take risks in order to communicate in real-world, contextualized activities. Numerous assignments will be holistically evaluated using teacher-produced rubrics. ***Prerequisite is French 7 or Spanish 7. This course meets every day for the year.***

## **2020-2021 ELECTIVE COURSES** **CHARLOTTE LATIN MIDDLE SCHOOL**

Seventh grade students select three elective courses and eighth grade students select two electives from the list below. Students may elect to take more than one world language. If a student chooses to take two level I languages as an eighth grader(French I, Latin I, or Spanish I), he/she will not have room in the schedule to take an elective. ***All elective courses meet every other day for the year.***

### **ELECTIVE COURSES OFFERED TO SEVENTH GRADE:**

#### **ART 7**

Students in 7th grade will be introduced to the concept of open studio. Students will have a greater freedom to choose subject matter and the direction of independent projects. Personal voice is highly valued and will be positively encouraged. Students will build on their foundations of painting, drawing, mixed media, and sculpture. New concepts introduced this year are linoleum printmaking, and introduction to Photoshop.

Students will be expected to maintain a sketchbook (provided) to nurture idea development as they pertain to projects. Lively classroom critiques will aid in the ability to foster articulation and editing of ideas. Projects will be followed up with a reflection element to further creative growth.

#### **BAND 7**

Rising seventh grade students who are performing on a wind or percussion instrument during the current school year are eligible to register for the Middle School Band. Students with limited or no prior experience will be considered for enrollment on a case by case basis. Any student interested must demonstrate a willingness to develop the necessary skills for successful participation.

This course features music using a wide variety of styles to promote continued development of individual and ensemble playing skills. Middle School Band students participate in formal evening concerts and other appropriate school and community performances. Whenever possible, the group will participate in adjudication events. Students also have the opportunity to participate in individual events such as solo recitals and All-District/All-State Honors Band auditions.

Individual progress is evaluated by performance of assigned material. Although there is not a given practice requirement, all students are expected to learn assigned material at home in preparation for evaluation. Participation in concerts and events is required.

#### **COMPUTER PROGRAMMING**

Programming Courses are designed to enhance analytical thinking through the use of computer languages. The areas of programming that are introduced are: Scratch, Python, Arduino, and Alice with emphasis on sequencing, looping, variables, and if/then statements. In addition to task analysis, students will experience interactions between hardware and software. There will be small competitive design challenges focused on increasing proficiency; students will work both independently and collaboratively throughout the course. Real world concepts will be introduced with the inclusion of an impact project throughout the course that will enrich or improve the lives of others. All work is documented on digital portfolios and is graded according to mastery. This course is a pass/fail course with light homework. There is a \$100 lab fee for enrollment in this course. **New this year - all Innovation and Design classes will be Co-Ed.**

#### **CONCERT CHOIR 7**

The Middle School concert choir is for rising seventh graders who enjoy singing and making music as a community. Everyone who has a desire to work hard to improve their vocal technique and explore various genres of choral music is welcome. The class meets every other day for a full year. Students in choir will learn healthy vocal production, sight-singing, and many other musical skills as they explore a variety of music for performance. There will be one public performance per semester as well as an adjudication event. Students in choir will also have the opportunity to audition to represent Charlotte Latin School at the North Carolina Middle School Honors Chorus and/or sing in the North Carolina All-State Choir. Participation in concerts and events is required.

## **ELECTIVE COURSES OFFERED TO SEVENTH GRADE (continued)**

### **DRAMA 7**

Students will learn the basic concepts of Theatre Arts in an imaginative, creative atmosphere. After several sessions of team building through fun Improv games and scenes, we will start focusing on Pantomime, which ends with a performance project. We enjoy guest teachers throughout the year varying from our resident Choreographer, Costume Designer, Props Master, and Alumni producing and performing! Students practice character change by exploring various vocal techniques and building upon the Monologue performance skills. Students will strive to improve their enunciation, projection and public speaking techniques in front of an audience during the Drama 7 Class Play. This class emphasizes group cooperation and creative problem solving through our collaborative Playwriting Project based on the themes we read in the riveting tale of *Cyrano de Bergerac*. Drama 7 is Pass/Fail, no homework, and though it is encouraged, there is no requirement to be part of the Middle School play or musical. Students who participate in this class have proven to be more prepared for the stage and extracurricular performances.

### **ENGINEERING 7**

Engineering 7 I is designed to teach fluency in the use of Fab Lab equipment. Students will learn the iterative process and begin learning how to troubleshoot and compete in small design challenges. They will be introduced to many types of engineering and learn how to draw and interpret isometric, orthographic, and scaled drawings for designs. All work is documented on digital portfolios and is graded according to mastery. This course is a course with light homework. **New this year - all Innovation and Design classes will be Co-Ed.**

### **SPEECH AND DEBATE**

Open to both Grade 7 and Grade 8 students, this course challenges students to think critically, speak confidently, and argue civilly. In the first semester students will develop confidence and poise through a series of fun, engaging, and sometimes student-chosen public speaking activities. Assignments may include persuasive speeches, TED talks, “Shark Tank” style pitches, etc. In the second semester, students will use these skills to engage in debates using the A-R-E (assertion, reasoning, evidence) framework. Students will use class time to write and research their topics while the teacher and peers provide direct feedback on style, writing, logic, and delivery. Whenever possible this class will use topics from other courses to extend the learning. Investigating genetic testing in Science? Let’s take the learning to the next level in Speech and Debate! Homework will be minimal to none as this course is intended to be low stakes, yet consistent with our commitment to developing students with moral courage and civility.

### **LEADERSHIP LAB:**

The Latin Leadership Lab: where 7th graders have the opportunity to experiment with concepts that inspire and transform the way they lead. Everyone has influence. Each person can lead in their own way. Using the Latin Leads with Honor framework, this course will examine the attributes of leadership while providing opportunities for students to put the skills into practice in the classroom and the community. Through collaborative and experiential methods, students will learn to connect and build relationships, identify and understand their individual leadership styles, develop leadership capabilities, strengthen their communication skills and learn essential techniques to examine challenges from different perspectives. Students will accomplish these goals through tailored experiences of self-discovery and self-awareness that create teachable moments. Guarantee: each student will be nudged out of their comfort zone at least once!

### **STRINGS 7**

The seventh grade String Orchestra will offer experienced string players continued instruction in ensemble playing. The focus is small group performance practice in a variety of styles from the classical musical tradition as well as alternative styles such as fiddling and jazz. Opportunity for solo and chamber music performance will be offered several times during the year.

Students with limited or no prior experience will be considered for enrollment on a case by case basis. Any student interested must demonstrate a willingness to develop the necessary skills for successful participation. There will be one public performance per semester, as well as an adjudication event. Participation in concerts and events is required.

## **ELECTIVE COURSES OFFERED TO EIGHTH GRADE:**

### **ART 8**

Eighth grade art is a studio class where students have the freedom to be expressive while independently, they develop their skills. The goal is to promote self-expression and personal voice in areas such as painting, drawing, and mixed media. Students will be encouraged to expand their knowledge base of the principles and elements of design through experimentation. Students will partner with the instructor to determine the individualized pacing needed for evaluation.

### **BAND 8**

Rising eighth grade students who are performing on a wind or percussion instrument during the current school year are eligible to register for the Middle School Band. Students with limited or no prior experience will be considered for enrollment on a case by case basis. Any student interested must demonstrate a willingness to develop the necessary skills for successful participation.

This course features music using a wide variety of styles to promote continued development of individual and ensemble playing skills. Middle School Band students participate in formal evening concerts and other appropriate school and community performances. Whenever possible, the group will participate in an adjudication event. Students also have the opportunity to participate in individual events such as solo recitals and All-District/All-State Honors Band auditions.

Individual progress is evaluated by performance of assigned material. Although there is not a given practice requirement, all students are expected to learn assigned material at home in preparation for evaluation. Participation in concerts and events is required.

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semester, as well as an adjudication event. Students in choir will also have the opportunity to audition to represent Charlotte Latin School at the North Carolina Middle School Honors Chorus and/or sing in the North Carolina All-State Choir. Participation in concerts and events is required.

### **DRAMA 8**

Drama 8 is a comprehensive theatre course covering acting, musical theatre, writing, design, and directing. The course is for students who wish to build upon the foundation of Drama 7, although Drama 7 is NOT a prerequisite. All the fun students had in Drama 7 will be reviewed from Improv to Monologues, but with a more challenging twist! Students will continue to perform for more audiences, including the Nest, their Class Play for peers, and possibly compete in the Shakespeare Competition at UNC-Charlotte, schedule permitting. This hands-on course will include performance work, audition preparation, musical theatre study and presentation, movement for the actor with our Resident Choreographer, and design and directing.. The final Film Directing Project allows students to direct filmed scenes from the novel based play, *The Outsiders*. Each student will leave with a portfolio of audition materials, original scripts, and directing plans. Drama 8 is Pass/Fail, no homework, and though it is encouraged, there is no requirement to be part of the Middle School play or musical. Students who participate in this class have proven to be more prepared for the stage and extracurricular performances.

### **ENGINEERING 8**

Engineering 8 is designed for students to develop critical thinking skills through digital fabrication and using the engineering design process. The focus continues to be hands-on, minds learning. Students will be exposed to numerous types of engineering throughout the semester, and they will prototype designs that are meant to improve the lives of others. All work is documented on digital portfolios and is graded according to mastery. This is a course with light homework. **New this year - all Innovation and Design classes will be Co-Ed.**

### **SPEECH AND DEBATE**

Open to both Grade 7 and Grade 8 students, this course challenges students to think critically, speak confidently, and argue civilly. In the first semester students will develop confidence and poise through a series of fun, engaging, and sometimes student-chosen public speaking activities. Assignments may include persuasive speeches, TED talks, “Shark Tank” style pitches, etc. In the second semester, students will use these skills to engage in debates using the A-R-E (assertion, reasoning, evidence) framework. Students will use class time to write and research their topics while the teacher and peers provide direct feedback on style, writing, logic, and delivery. Whenever possible this class will use topics from other courses to extend the learning. Investigating genetic testing in Science? Let’s take the learning to the next level in Speech and Debate! Homework will be minimal to none as this course is intended to be low stakes, yet consistent with our commitment to developing students with moral courage and civility. Students who previously took Speech and Debate in Grade 7 are not eligible for this course; please see the debate coaches for additional opportunities.

### **STRINGS 8**

The eighth grade String Orchestra will offer experienced string players continued instruction in ensemble playing. The focus is small group performance practice in a variety of styles from the classical musical tradition as well as alternative styles such as fiddling and jazz. Opportunity for solo and chamber music performance will be offered several times during the year.

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