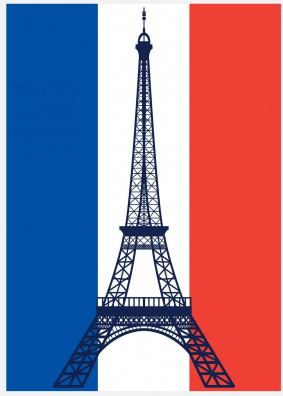


2023-24 Electives for 7th and 8th Grade

The following pages provide a brief description of elective courses offered to 7th and 8th grade students. (Courses may change based on enrollment and/or district budget.)

***** Elective Courses *****



French 1A and 1B (Each is a one **year** course)

Bonjour! Learn spoken and written French as well as French culture in a fun and lively environment. Students learn French through conversation, songs, games, skits, virtual tours for travel, cultural projects (food, art, etc.) and movies/videos. Please ask Madame Gavello if you have any questions.

- If students complete 2 years, they may (with teacher's approval) continue with French 2 in high school.
- 8th grade students completing 1 year can take French 1A at JM.

French 1A

First year students are introduced to oral and written language focusing on basic conversation and relatable subjects such as: personal description, family, friends, school, interests and food). Students are exposed to written language through reading short texts based on class discussion and basic exercises. The first year focuses mainly on France and varied aspects of the culture, with an intro to the French-speaking world.

French 1B

Second year students continue building their oral and written skills with more emphasis on immersion, reading more advanced stories, and writing small paragraphs. In addition to subjects from the previous year, students have a fashion and travel unit. The second year students do a more in-depth study of France and other French-speaking countries around the world.

Spanish 1A and 1B (Each is a one **year** course).

It is necessary that students wishing to take Spanish have demonstrated a high level of achievement in past language arts classes. Both Spanish 1A and Spanish 1B are full year courses. Students are expected to complete the full year and may only discontinue with teacher and parent approval.

Spanish 1A = the 1st half of Spanish 1; Prerequisite: "B" or above in English
Spanish 1B = the 2nd half of Spanish 1; Prerequisite: "B" or above in Spanish 1A



If both Spanish 1A & 1B (2 years) are successfully completed, a recommendation will be given for the student to begin Spanish II in the ninth grade. For advanced placement (AP) it is imperative to begin your study of Spanish in the 7th grade. It is recommended that 7th graders selecting Spanish 1A have the intent of completing both years for advanced placement by the 9th grade. 8th graders selecting Spanish 1A will be well prepared for the faster paced Spanish 1 in 9th grade.

Students practice listening, speaking, reading and writing about our school, home, social life, sports and recreational activities in Spanish. Students also learn to communicate about health, travel and culture. Learning is reinforced by skits, video, CD drills, cultural activities and group/partner visual projects. Our pace gives time for a variety of practices to reinforce vocabulary and the structure of language. Class time is allowed to work on assignments and/or work together with other students. Regular study and memorization is necessary to succeed and enjoy the class. Our goal is to be able to communicate about our- day-to-day life in Spanish and to have fun. Bienvenidos a Español!

Mandarin 1A (full year course)

This course is an introduction to Mandarin Chinese, the official language of China. The emphasis will be on spoken Mandarin. Students will learn how to handle everyday situations, explain their life, family, interests, pastimes and more and they will also learn how to inquire about the same. Although oral communication will be our focus, learning to read and write traditional Chinese characters (and pinyin) will also be an important part of the class. Together we will explore many interesting aspects of Chinese culture and history. Students are expected to complete the full year and may only discontinue with teacher and parent approval.

Mandarin 1B (full year course)

Mandarin 1B is designed for students who have already finished Mandarin 1A. Students in this course continue learning essential vocabulary, practicing pronunciation, understanding simple grammatical structures, and examining how culture and language interact in China. This knowledge prepares students to effectively communicate in Mandarin on a limited range of topics related to everyday situations, such as family terms, physical descriptions, pets, hobbies, nationality, food, etc. In-class activities and course assignments aim to assist students as they develop the oral proficiency and confidence necessary to initiate simple conversations.

Concert Band (full year course: one year experience recommended, but not required)

Open to 6th-8th grade students with less experience playing woodwind, brass, and percussion instruments. Music will be selected from classical, folk, novelty, and other genres. Emphasis is on developing a solid group sound and building on individual skills. Concert Band will participate in 3 major concerts and a possible weekend competitive festival. NOTE: Previous experience is NOT REQUIRED! 6th, 7th, or 8th grade students, who are interested in learning to play a band instrument and are willing to work hard, are encouraged to meet with the instructor to develop a personalized learning program for participating in band!

Concert String Orchestra (full year course: one year experience recommended, but not required)

Open to 6th-8th grade students with less experience playing bowed string instruments. Music will be selected from classical, folk, novelty, and other genres. Emphasis is on developing a solid group sound and building on individual skills. Concert Band will participate in 3 major concerts and a possible weekend competitive festival. NOTE: Previous experience is NOT REQUIRED! 6th, 7th, or 8th grade students, who are interested in learning to play a string orchestra instrument and are willing to work hard, are encouraged to meet with the instructor to develop a personalized learning program for participating in orchestra!



Symphonic Band (full year course: one or two year's experience needed)

This is a select group of 7th and 8th graders at the intermediate and advanced level on woodwind, brass or percussion. The music performed will be chosen from Grade II and III materials. Traditional, pop, classical, and novelty pieces will be learned. Some evening concerts and a weekend festival performance are required.

Orchestra Sinfonia (full **year** course: one or two year's experience needed)

This is a select group of 7th and 8th graders at the intermediate and advanced level on violin, viola, cello or bass. The music performed will be chosen from Grade II and III materials. Traditional, pop, classical, and novelty pieces will be learned. Some evening concerts and a weekend festival performance are required.

Chorus (**year**)

Open to 6th-8th grade students interested in singing. Music will be selected from classical, folk, novelty, pop and other genres. Students will also build music fundamentals such as note reading, chord progressions, and phrasing. Choir will participate in several co-curricular after-school concerts and a possible weekend festival. Repetition of this elective is strongly encouraged to maintain and build on skills and quality!

Video Production & Animation (a one **year** course)

Be the face of the on-air bulletin! Would you like to create images that move? Is "stop-motion" one of your favorite phrases? In this combined class you'll create both videos and animations in support of the JM News. You'll learn broadcasting skills, photography skills, a variety of software applications, and get to play with various kinds of animations. Be part of a team in creating the broadcast and your own animations. No experience necessary.



Debate/Public Speaking (**year**)

Improve your skills at public speaking and communication. Learn elements of persuasion, presenting information and entertaining. Each quarter provides a different focus so there are many opportunities to practice your craft in different ways. You will get to experience debate, mock trial, speech and drama. Teamwork is an important part of the class, so come ready to work in teams, partners and individually.

Yearbook Design (**year**)

This class is designed for motivated students who wish to contribute to creating our school yearbook. Students will develop skills in digital photography, web-based design, Photoshop elements, and layout. Students will work hard, but have fun recording memories of our year. Towards the end of the second semester, once the yearbook has been completed, students will be engaged in photography projects and learn even more about Photoshop elements. To make another award winning yearbook we need a mix of artists, photographers, graphic designers, and creative thinkers that can work successfully in a self-paced environment focused on teamwork. This class is open to students who will be in 7th and 8th grade next year who have strong grades, skills in working with a team, and self-motivation. Please fill in this short [google form](#) to express your interest to Ms. Pandelopoulos.

Leadership (year)

Open to 7th and 8th Graders, Leadership students must exude responsibility & integrity on campus. They need to be able to work independently on projects from the beginning stages of organization to the final details and have excellent time management skills. These responsibilities include: organizing community and school service projects; engaging their peers in monthly spirit days and activities; scheduling talent shows, lunchtime activities, and homeroom contests. Students in Leadership are responsible for rallies and assemblies which honor and show appreciation towards all students of JM. Above all, students in this class must be dedicated to making a positive difference in our school climate by promoting enthusiasm across all grade levels. They will work with staff, administration, their community and peers in solving real problems and making important decisions. ***Interested students must submit a half-page essay describing what would make them a good Leadership student and why they want to take the class to Ms. Contreras via School Loop.***

CC 7 Math Support (year)

CC 7 Math Support is an elective designed to provide support to students who are enrolled in CC 7 Math. This course will provide students a second daily period of math. Emphasis will be placed on building number sense, reinforcing daily lessons, pre-teaching concepts, test preparation, test correction, extra practice and review. Students will also be encouraged to build their perseverance and confidence in math. Individual and small group help will be provided. Teacher recommendation is required for this course.

CC 8 Math Support (year)

CC 8 Math Support is an elective designed to provide support to students who are enrolled in CC 8 Math. This course will provide students a second daily period of math. Emphasis will be placed on building number sense, reinforcing daily lessons, pre-teaching concepts, test preparation, test correction, extra practice and review. Students will also be encouraged to build their perseverance and confidence in math. Individual and small group help will be provided. Teacher recommendation is required for this course.

Reading Support (year) This course is designed to help students strengthen and develop reading skills. This course will provide students a second daily period of reading instruction. Emphasis will be placed on building reading fluency, comprehension and vocabulary. Students will practice and review reading strategies and gain confidence with fluency. Individual and small group help will be provided. Teacher recommendation is required for this course.

Math Competitions (year)

For students who have a special interest in mathematics and who wish to extend their problem-solving skills. Students will complete puzzles, play games and engage in mathematical competitions both within the class and against other schools. Individual skills and team performance will be developed. Students will compete in the AMC 8, AMC 10, Math Counts, and Math Olympiad contests. There will be no homework for this course. Grades will be based on effort and class participation.

Office Aide (year)

This course is for responsible eighth grade students who will be assisting in the main office. They will receive training in the use of telephone procedures, office equipment, assisting students and parents and other miscellaneous duties. Limited to one student per period. Office approval required.



Library Aide/TA (year)

This is an opportunity for responsible 8th grade students who want to assist in the library and textbook office. Students will manage book displays, help with book processing, shelve books and assist in other library tasks. Librarian approval required.

Teacher Aide (TA's) (semester or year)

8th grade students are eligible to be Teacher Assistants. Each student must receive approval from the teacher they wish to assist via email to the Assistant Principal.

Robotics/Coding (year, classes switch at semester, can be in either order)

One semester, the Robotics elective is for students who want to learn about engineering and design and be introduced to coding. Students will build VEX robotics as they learn about mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation, and computer control systems. They will design, build, and write RobotC computer code for real-world objects such as toys, traffic lights, toll booths, and robotic arms. The projects involve creative thinking and problem solving skills. Most projects involve working in groups. The emphasis is on “learning by doing”. The atmosphere is friendly, relaxed, while students share ideas and learn from one another.

Another semester, students will study Coding. Video games are cool, right? But can you build one? Stop living on borrowed code, and challenge yourself to become the creator of some of the most exciting technology of the future! You’ll start off the semester by building a website to house all of our class projects and allow you to connect with your friends in a virtual classroom.

Experience the stories of the people who changed the world by developing the computer (from 1822-present). Get an overview of circuits, binary, Boolean logic, information theory; algorithms, and networks. Learn the basics of the Python coding language to start writing simple console programs, and by the end of the semester, we’ll be making complete video games and apps in Python using graphics, sounds, and controls.

Foods (year)

Are you a foodie? Do you love cooking and trying different kinds of food? Then this introductory cooking, food preparation and nutrition course is for you. Students will learn about kitchen safety and sanitation. Students will have their own kitchen all semester to cook and taste desserts, breakfasts, lunches, snacks, dinners, and foods from different ethnic cultures. Students will even eat food harvested from the JM garden. Sign up and learn to cook: a skill that will last a lifetime!

Magic of Electrons/Design & Modeling (year, classes switch at semester)

Do you want to use hammers, drills, soldering irons, LEDs, and more to create electronic projects that you can take home and enjoy? The Magic of Electrons elective is a hands-on course where students will create simple motors, electromagnets, Morse code machines, and circuits. Students will learn to solder and build electronic decision makers, memory games, night lights, flashlights and video games. Through these projects, students will explore electricity, the behavior and parts of atoms, and sensing devices. They will gain knowledge and learn skills in basic circuitry design, and examine the impact of electricity on the world around them. There is no homework for this course.

Another semester, students will study Design & Modeling. Do you ever wonder how a certain product was designed so thoughtfully? Do you ever think you could make improvements to a certain design? Maybe Design & Modeling is for you? In this elective students will solve problems and understand the influence of creativity and innovation in their lives. They will work in teams to design a foot orthosis and other things, capturing research and ideas in their engineering notebooks. Numerous individual challenges will be assigned to master the different sketching and designing skills. Using SketchUp® design software, students create a virtual image of their designs and produce a portfolio to showcase their innovative solutions. Students will learn the design process, measurement, sketching, Computer Aided Design and small tool use.

Clay Rocks! A Ceramics Experience/Armaking (year, classes switch at semester, can be in either order)

One semester students will take Clay Rocks! Take a spin on the potter's wheel! Learn to throw pots and sculpt everything from animals to your favorite foods in this hands-on exploration of clay. Learn about the historical role of ceramics and about ceramic artists working today. No experience necessary.

Another semester, students will study Armaking. In this class you'll have a chance to create drawings, make 3-D artwork, paint a mural, weave, design books and try your hand at printmaking. You will learn different artistic styles and gain an appreciation for a variety of artists from different historical periods and cultures.

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