



5th - 8th Grade Electives

5th Grade Elective Course Descriptions

5th grade students attend electives 5 days per week and complete 6 electives during the school year (1 elective per 6 week term). All 5th grade students begin the first six weeks of school taking the Study Skills elective to help them acclimate to the Middle School schedule and workload. 5th-grade students will then select one of the following four electives: Art, Music, Spanish, or Math Games. Additionally, students will have a choice of taking either a Drama or STEM elective.

5th Art

Students can explore a wide range of creative and challenging projects that teach the formal elements of art, including line, shape, form, texture, value, space, and color, as well as the principles of emphasis, balance, harmony, movement, rhythm, proportion, and unity. Each project incorporates biblical connections, art history, and art criticism while offering exposure to various art mediums. Certain topics will be covered in the 5th grade curriculum, with others introduced in 6th grade.

5th Math Games

While various math skills will be applied, the primary focus will be on probability. Students will explore how probability can be used to predict outcomes and will also apply basic statistics to solve problems.

5th Music

Students will focus on writing, creating, and performing music in class. They will continue using recorders and ORFF instruments, such as xylophones and rhythm instruments, as they work toward playing on pitch, keeping a steady beat, and collaborating in group ensembles. Musicianship and performance skills will be developed through sight-reading notes, clapping/tapping rhythms, and vocal and instrumental warm-ups. Additionally, students will study music theory, including basic note reading and the musical staff, while applying the elements of music learned in lower school to small instrumental ensembles in middle school.

5th Spanish

Students will be introduced to basic Spanish vocabulary while exploring the rich diversity of Spanish-speaking cultures and how they vary across different countries. This course serves as an introduction to Spanish and helps prepare students for the more advanced high school-level courses they will take in 7th and 8th grade.

5th Study Skills (Required)

This course is the first rotation for all 5th graders and is designed to introduce key organizational skills, time management strategies, and essential information for navigating the Middle School environment. Homeroom teachers will guide students through using Google Drive, digital textbooks, and Schoology. While Middle School offers students greater freedom, it also comes with increased personal responsibility.

CHOOSE BETWEEN DRAMA OR STEM

5th Drama

Drama introduces students to the fundamentals of performance. They will develop skills such as memorizing lines, speaking clearly, using body language, and following stage directions in a skit. The class concludes with a Chapel performance, complete with costumes and props.

OR

5th STEM

This course offers an engaging, hands-on learning experience where students engage in projects inspired by Rube Goldberg ideas, incorporating math and science concepts. Projects vary each year—students might design paper airplanes to explore which features improve flight distance, or they could build popsicle stick bridges to test material strength and see which design holds the most weight. They may also experiment with insulation by designing mini coolers to see whose ice cube lasts the longest. Some projects take just a day or two, while larger projects may span more than a week.

6th Grade Elective Course Descriptions

6th grade students will attend electives 5 days a week. They complete 6 electives during the school year (1 elective per 6 week term). Students select one of the four following electives: Art, Music, Spanish or Logic. Additionally, students will have a choice of taking 2 of the following electives: Biomimicry, Drama or Tech.

6th Logic

This elective is designed to help students develop critical thinking, learning, and problem-solving skills to improve their performance in both academic and non-academic areas. The course focuses on strategies for acquiring, evaluating, storing, and retrieving information, as well as key critical thinking processes and problem-solving techniques. In Logic, students will engage in activities that emphasize writing, inquiry, collaboration, reading, and analysis to support their academic growth.

6th Art

Students can explore a wide range of creative and challenging projects that teach the formal elements of art, such as line, shape, form, texture, value, space, and color, along with the

principles of emphasis, balance, harmony, movement, rhythm, proportion, and unity. Each project integrates Biblical connections, art history, and art criticism while offering students exposure to a variety of art mediums. Some of these elements will be covered in the 5th-grade curriculum, with others introduced in 6th grade.

6th Spanish

Students primarily focus on developing their language skills while also exploring aspects of Hispanic culture. They will practice basic Spanish conversations through vocabulary drills and games. In addition, students will engage with artistic, cultural, and historical elements from various Spanish-speaking countries through diverse activities and vocabulary exercises.

CHOOSE 2 ELECTIVES FROM THE FOLLOWING FOR 6th GRADE:

6th Biomimicry

In this course, we'll learn about biomimicry, which means using ideas from nature to solve problems. Just as God designed animals and plants with special features, we'll see how these designs can inspire new inventions and help us in our daily lives.

6th Drama

In this elective, you'll have fun with improv, group games, and film clips while building confidence in your performing and public speaking skills. It's a great chance to shine and perform a skit during Chapel.

6th Technology

The Technology elective centers on programming. Students will dive into exciting projects like taking apart laptops to learn about their parts, building hummingbird robots, programming with Snap or Scratch, entering math formulas in Google Sheets, and mastering safe and effective internet research skills.

7th and 8th Grade **Elective Course Descriptions**

7th and 8th grade students will attend electives on Tuesdays and Thursdays. They will select 2 electives per school year (one per semester).

7th and 8th Archery

Students will learn and practice the fundamentals of archery, including safety, grip, stance, aiming, release, and follow-through. We'll use various types of traditional bows and arrows, such as English longbows, Cherokee flatbows, Comanche horse bows, and recurves. Scouts taking this class will have the opportunity to earn the Archery Merit Badge.

7th and 8th Art (Option for taking twice with art teacher's permission)

The Art Elective class will feature a diverse range of projects that explore the elements and principles of art. Students will have the opportunity to work on drawing, painting, ceramics, printmaking, fiber art, collage, and sculpture.

7th and 8th Calligraphy and Lettering

Students will learn the basics of hand-lettering with a specific focus on brush calligraphy. They will complete two main projects: a "coloring page" featuring an illustration inspired by scripture, and a multimedia project of their choice to display at home or in the classroom.

7th and 8th Chess

Perfect for all skill levels, students will learn the basics, develop strategies, and improve critical thinking through fun games and friendly competition. Enhances student memory and problem-solving skills while enjoying the camaraderie of fellow chess enthusiasts.

7th and 8th Cricut

This is a course that allows students to employ creativity and learn new design techniques. Students will design and create projects using software and Cricut machines. Projects include but are not limited to: Vinyl Stickers, Cards, Iron-On, Glass-Etching, and Leather Cutting.

7th and 8th Drama

In this elective, you'll have fun with improv, group games, and film clips while building confidence in your performing and public speaking skills. It's a great chance to shine and perform a skit during Chapel.

7th and 8th Leadership (only offered during the Fall semester and is reserved for the 12 House Leaders)

House leaders gain comprehensive knowledge of managing their respective houses, focusing on developing presentation skills and innovative ideas to foster community engagement through service initiatives and regular House meetings.

7th and 8th STEM

Dive into the dynamic realms of STEM and discover how these fields shape our everyday lives. In this engaging exploration, you'll research and analyze the impact of STEM on daily life, gaining insight into how innovations in flight, forensics, construction, telecommunications, and buoyancy affect the world around us. Engage in hands-on activities and projects designed to enhance your STEM skills while honing your critical thinking and problem-solving abilities.

7th and 8th Video Production

Learn mad skills from the master, himself. This elective teaches students techniques for editing videos to produce a polished product. Stop Motion Animation is included in this course along with traditional video editing.

7th and 8th Woodworking

If you like the idea of creating and building with wood, this class is for you. Hammers, nails, drills, hand saws, sand papers, oh, and wood are included. Learn how to plan a project so that your execution has a maximum chance of success.

7th and 8th World Explorers (only offered in the Spring semester)

Explore the world through the lens of cultures, environments, climates and even topography. Through research, interactive class activities and presentations, this elective provides students the opportunity to learn more about our world. Possible field trip.

7th and 8th Yearbook (year-long course, may be taken twice with teacher's permission)

Yearbook is a highly selective elective that requires students to work independently and as a class on tight deadlines. Students learn graphic design skills, photographic composition, color theory, and journalistic writing styles as they create the annual Cornerstone yearbook. Detail-oriented students with an interest in design are good candidates for this elective.