

Community School Middle School Friday Group Electives

Our unique middle school elective program provides in-depth, hands-on explorations of subjects not normally introduced in middle school. These electives typically extend from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. each Friday for six-week sessions, allowing time for off-campus learning, guest speakers, community service projects, and productions. Some half-day classes are also available each year.

Topics span subjects from the fine arts, language arts, social studies, and STEM fields, to community service and athletics. Many of the electives are interdisciplinary and involve project-based learning. The classes are multi-age so that all middle school students can select from a wide-range of topics and benefit from the interaction with younger and older students.

Students select their top three preferences from a list of six to seven classes each session. Teachers try to match students with their top preference, but may occasionally need to place students in their second or third choices due to the popularity of a particular class or the need to provide a more well-rounded experience.

Examples of electives include those topics listed below. Elective topics vary from year to year.

Fine Arts	STEM Subjects & Nature Studies	Language Arts & Social Studies	Community Service, Athletics, Other
Intro to Photography, The History of Photography	“Punkin Chunkin” (The Engineering of Medieval Warfare)	Japanese Culture	First Aid with Red Cross Certification
Rock Bands and the History of Rock & Roll	Flight	The Crooked Road Music Trail & Appalachian Culture	Senior Buddies with Local Nursing Home Residents
“Star Trek” Spoof Performance	Architecture	Creative Writing	Local Hero Award Creation
Teaching Art to Preschoolers	Basic & Advanced Robotics, Musical Robotics, Robotics and STEM Careers for Girls	Shakespeare	Practical Life Skills, Food and Nutrition
Performance Making (Creating Original Theatre)	Animal Tracking & Behavior	Radio Plays	Penmanship & Handwriting Analysis
Native American Arts & Crafts	Bird Watching	Debating	Ballroom Dancing, Tennis Lessons, Swimming Lessons, Biking the Greenways
Filmmaking & Editing, Stop-Gap Animation, TV Commercial Making, Film Analysis	Herpetology	Exploring the First Amendment	Community Outreach with Local Nonprofit Agencies
Music Marketing	Favorite Local Hikes	19 th Century Homesteading (Simulation)	Literacy Buddies with Head Start Preschoolers
Quilting	Nature Exploration: Local Flora & Fauna	Local History through Cemetery Studies	Dungeons & Dragons (probabilities & problem solving)
Set Production	Raptor Silhouettes	Ethics and Photojournalism	Camping Skills