



# Middle School Course Catalog 2023-2024

## **Welcome to the Middle School Course Catalog for the 2023-2024 school year!**

The purpose of this catalog is to provide you with a description of the elective courses available for middle school students. Students will have the opportunity to select their elective choices through a survey. The elective survey is for current 5th through 7th grade students. We highly encourage parents to discuss with their students the elective course options and assist them in making the most appropriate choice. We will do our best to ensure that students will have their first choice of electives, but this is not always guaranteed. **Keep in mind that some students may be assigned our Math Mastery course based on benchmark scores (i-Ready or NWEA MAP, teacher recommendation, and/or math grades).** If the school determines a student is in need of extra support in math, they will have one elective class, Math Mastery, for remedial math. These students will have priority for their first choice of electives. **The deadline to complete and return the last page is Friday, May 12, 2023.**

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## **Middle School Electives Courses:**

Students will rank the elective course offerings below from 1 to 6 (1 being their most preferred and 6 being their least preferred). Students will be enrolled in two elective courses for the school year (unless Math Mastery is assigned). Each course is a 60-minute class block, which the students will attend several days per week (Mondays/Thursdays and Tuesdays/Fridays). Electives are chosen on an annual basis; therefore, each year students have the option to continue on in an elective study or to choose a different elective course to pursue. Students will also be enrolled in an Exploratory course for the entire school year each Wednesday. Students will rank the exploratory course offerings below from 1 to 4 (1 being their most preferred and 4 being their least preferred). Following is a descriptor of each course offered.

### **Chorus:**

Middle school students are eligible for the LTCS choir, regardless of previous choral experience. This group will perform a varied repertoire of music, including classical, folk, pop, and musical theater. They will perform a number of concerts during the year, which could include both after school, on campus, and off campus performances. The ensemble will also collaborate with other music groups. Skills and topics will include:

Developing the Voice and Proper Technique, a Variety of Repertoire and Genres and Languages, Sight Singing, Ear Training, Music Theory, History of Music.

### **Band:**

Middle school students are eligible to take Band, regardless of previous experience. There is a 6/7th class and a 7/8 class. Like the Chorus, this group will perform a number of concerts throughout the year, which could include both after school, on campus, and off campus performances. These performances may also include collaborations with the Chorus group and other grade levels. Families are responsible for instrumental rentals. Liberty Tech may have some available, but our supply is limited. Information concerning this process will be provided. Skills and main topics for the instrumentals course will include: Proper Technique, Music Reading, Music History, Music Theory, solo and ensemble repertoire.

### **Exploratory Guitar/Piano Class:**

On Wednesdays, the LT Upper school students have the opportunity to select a third elective class. The music option will include a Guitar class for the first half of the year (ukuleles and classical guitar) and then switching to Piano for the latter half.

### **Visual Art:**

The visual art elective course introduces students to the Elements of Art and Principles of Design, while developing drawing skills and painting techniques. Studio experiences in the classroom will give students opportunities to experience a variety of media (pencil, pen, ink, charcoal, pastel, watercolor, and tempera paint) while developing the student's individual style and creative problem solving skills. Students will demonstrate their ability to respond, to analyze and to interpret their own artwork and the work of others through discussions, critiques, and writings. Attention is also given to understanding the historical context of art works and art movements introduced in the class, so art history is also part of our curriculum and lessons are often tied to history and literature.

### **Computer Literacy:**

The computer literacy class will equip students to interact safely and confidently with the digital world. Students will continue to enhance their understanding of digital citizenship through topics such as online safety, digital etiquette, cyber bullying, protecting an online reputation, social networking, and much more. Throughout this course, students will become fully proficient using the Google Suite of apps, including Docs, Sheets, Slides, and more. The class will also examine different career paths and choices as students begin to form ideas about their futures. Mrs. Caldwell is excited to welcome students with a love of and passion for technology!

### **Exploratory: Digital Publishing**

On Wednesdays, Mrs. Caldwell will facilitate a class that focuses on technology tools used for publishing. We will work cooperatively to compose the Liberty Tech 2023-2024 Yearbook, as well as create flyers and brochures for events taking place at our school and in the community. There will be a heavy emphasis on graphic design concepts, and we will host speakers from the workforce to give us hints and tips on fine-tuning these skills. We will also create slides and scripts for the morning announcements, working to be sure the LTCS community is well informed about all the amazing things happening at our school.

### **Exploratory : Literary and Arts Magazine**

On Wednesdays, Mrs. Murphy will facilitate a class that provides a hands -on model for publishing a literary and arts magazine which will feature the work of LTCS students. The class will explore the publishing process, including editing, layout and composition. Students will write and create work in class for publication as well as

seek and edit work submitted from students outside the class at all grade levels. The magazine will be called *C'est Moi*, which translates to "it's me" as it is a showcase of our students' creative expressions. It is hoped that we can produce, with help from experts and members of the community, at least two editions this year.

### **STEAM Lab:**

The STEAM Lab course will engage students in various hands-on/minds-on activities and problem-solving processes while using math and technology to research, track, and analyze data. Students will work collaboratively to solve real-world based inquiry problems. The goal of this course is to foster a learning environment in which students are guided to produce original ideas, objects, and structures according to certain specifications using concepts and skills from Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics. Possible units of study may include 3D Printing, Engineering Career Exploration Challenges, Laser Engraving, Environmental Research and Robotics!

### **Exploratory Culture Awareness/PBL:**

Mrs. Golubeff and Mrs. Robinson will team up to offer a Culture Awareness class. This course is designed to expose students to Spanish speaking countries and their culture by using a project based learning approach. Middle School students in 6th through 8th grades are eligible to take Culture Awareness regardless of previous experience. In this course, students begin by studying Spanish speaking countries through research, writing, and project learning. The in-depth project based learning will expand their understanding of Spanish speaking countries and their culture.

### **Spanish:**

This course is designed to prepare students for Spanish at the high school level. Middle School students in 6th through 8th grades are eligible to take Spanish regardless of previous experience. In this course, students begin to communicate in Spanish through interpersonal speaking and writing, presentational speaking and writing, and interpretive reading and listening. The course will be conducted heavily in Spanish with a goal of helping students become more competent communicators. They will also explore in-depth themes in order to expand their understanding of Spanish speaking countries.

### **Spanish I: \*There is a minimum number of students required for this course.**

The Spanish I course is a high school credit course for 8th grade students who qualify. This means that students enrolled in the course will earn a high school credit on their transcript upon successful completion of the course. Also, the students' grade in this will reflect onto their high school transcript, thus being calculated into their high school GPA. While not required, it is highly suggested that students take Spanish in both 6th and 7th grades before taking the Spanish I course. At the beginning of the course, the teacher will assess students who have enrolled to determine eligibility to continue in the course.

Check this out for more information: [LTCS Electives Teachers 23-24](#)



## 2023-2024 Middle School Electives Form

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

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

All middle school students will take two elective courses for the 2023-2024 school year. Elective classes run on a Monday/Thursday and Tuesday/Friday schedule. Wednesday classes are exploratory classes with the exception of Spanish I. **Spanish I is offered to 8th graders only who have completed at least one full year of Spanish.** Spanish I classes are Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. There is a minimum number of students required for a Spanish I class. Elective courses are graded and count towards a student's GPA (grade point average). **Please complete and return this form to your homeroom teacher no later than Friday, May 12, 2023.**

### Elective Courses:

Rank the elective course offerings from 1-6 (1 being your most preferred and 6 being your least preferred).

\_\_\_\_\_ Chorus                      \_\_\_\_\_ Band                      \_\_\_\_\_ Visual Arts                      \_\_\_\_\_ STEAM Lab  
\_\_\_\_\_ Computer Literacy                      \_\_\_\_\_ Spanish                      \_\_\_\_\_ **Spanish I (8th Grade ONLY - Meets 3 days per week)**

\*\*\*\*\* Math Mastery (As assigned by the school - You will be notified if your child is enrolled in Math Mastery.)

### Exploratory Courses (Wednesdays Only):

Rank the exploratory course offerings from 1-4 (1 being your most preferred and 4 being your least preferred.) **Note: 8th Graders taking Spanish I do NOT need to choose an exploratory course.**

\_\_\_\_\_ Guitar/Piano                      \_\_\_\_\_ Creative Writing  
\_\_\_\_\_ Digital Publishing                      \_\_\_\_\_ Exploratory Culture Awareness/PBL

**This form must be completed and turned in to your homeroom teacher no later than Friday, May 12, 2023. If this form is not turned in, electives and exploratory courses will be chosen by school administration.**

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name (Print): \_\_\_\_\_

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