



**Middle School
Elective Course Guide**

2021/2022

We are excited to bring back our Elective Course Guide even in this reduced form. Arizona Charter Academy is committed to prioritizing core academics for all students by having a built in Acceleration Period for every grade level where we will have time to individualize addressing student academic gaps. Where we would usually have an elective period for all students, we felt it important to switch focus to help students grow in the areas they need the most help.

Elective Descriptions

Design Challenge

Design challenge will empower students to think outside of boundaries and conventional practices while learning how to collaborate, work in teams, and understand bias to action. Students will gain empathy in order to help others, determine best design practices, learn from mistakes and increase speaking, writing and listening skills. Students will establish high level critical thinking skills, learn research based best practices and implement several design processes.

Yearbook

Yearbook staff will choose the theme, pick the colors, and decide what is featured in next year's book. In yearbook students will learn how to take pictures and design pages for the middle school yearbook for purchase at the end of the school year.

Drawing

This course will introduce students to basic drawing techniques and is designed to increase observational drawing skills. Emphasis is placed on the fundamentals of drawing and 2-dimensional design using a variety of art materials and tools. In this course we will discuss and build on fundamentals of drawing in a project-based design. Upon completion, students will have a better understanding drawing techniques and skills. Art can be learned, but it isn't easy! I will expect every student to come ready to work hard and learn to try again and again!

Musical Theatre

Non-Audition 6th-8th grade mixed choir. This choir performs at the winter concerts and Spring Showcase and is a perfect place to try out choir for the first time! Singers will work together to learn music in multiple languages and even some popular music! Some dancing and movement make the performances pop!

Harmonic Vision

Seventh and eighth grade audition only choirs. Meet every other day for the whole year. Choirs performing multiple performances in both the fall and the spring sing a different repertoire in different languages. Classes are comprised of warming up and saying, as well as performing and dancing pieces!

Bulldog Bellas

Seventh and eighth grade audition only choirs. Meet every other day for the whole year. Choirs performing multiple performances in both the fall and the spring sing a different repertoire in different languages. Classes are comprised of warming up and saying, as well as performing and dancing pieces!

Studio Art

Designed for students who are seriously interested in the practical experience of art and wish to develop mastery in the concept, composition, and execution of their ideas. Studio Art is not based on a written exam; instead, students submit portfolios or evaluation at the end of the semester. In building the portfolio, students experience a variety of concepts, techniques and approaches designed to help them demonstrate their abilities as well as their versatility with techniques, problem solving, and ideation. Upon completion, students will have developed a portfolio in which they will show mastery of techniques, skills and creativity. Art can be mastered, but it isn't easy! I will expect every student to come ready to work hard and learn to try again and again!

World Music

This course explores the ways that music is both shaped by and gives shape to the cultural settings in which it is performed, through studying selected musical traditions from around the world. Students learn and perform songs from other countries, cultures and languages.

Show Choir

The course will explore and understand the musical theater genre. For eighth graders only. Meeting every other day for the whole year. Students will perform pieces from musical theater shows. The amount of performance will be determined upon the level of participation and interest in this new course. The goal will be to put on scenes and pieces from famous musicals

Empower

Each unit is designed to combat prejudice among our nation's youth while promoting equality, inclusiveness and equitable learning environments in the classroom. This course utilizes the Southern Poverty Law Center's Teaching Tolerance and the Journeys in Film curriculum. These curriculums enhance critical thinking skills and meet the Common Core standards. Students will learn how to make a difference in their community while preparing them for high school and college. The curriculum requires students to have a high level of maturity and desire to learn about issues that have changed the world we live in.

Sign Language

This course is designed to acquaint students with the methods and techniques of learning and using American Sign Language (ASL). It will also introduce students to Deaf culture and its history by comparing and contrasting ASL with spoken English

Sculpture

This course is an introduction to three dimensional form and space, exploring the aesthetic and conceptual possibilities of a variety of materials such as wood, clay, plaster and metal. Students will deal with form, space and structure.

Design and Modeling

Students discover the design process and develop an understanding of the influence of creativity and innovation in their lives. They are then challenged and empowered to use and apply what they've learned through the unit to design projects for a given scenario.

Cross Training

Also referred to as circuit training, cross training students will learn combinations of exercises designed to develop athletes. This course will include elements of cardio, strength and flexibility training.

Dance

In this course students will learn an overview of dance movement, along with various injury prevention techniques and standard dance terms. The class will focus on stretching and conditioning as well as learning combinations.

Team Sports

The purpose of this course is to provide learning experiences that will lead to the development of basic skills in team sports. Students will be able to demonstrate team play concepts and strategies in mini game play.

Mixed Media Art

This class introduces students to a wide range of techniques in drawing, painting, collage and two and three-dimensional design. Students will experiment with media including watercolor, paint, cut-paper and graphite over many support materials including mylar, photographs, magazines etc.