

## **MIDDLE SCHOOL ELECTIVE COURSES**

*The following courses have previously been offered at Cole Valley Christian School and are not necessarily offered every semester. Elective choices each year are based on teacher availability and student interest.*

**Art:** This course is designed to teach students to recognize and successfully employ art vocabulary, the elements and principles of design, various art media, and tools and techniques while expressing themselves visually. Students will learn problem solving skills and will be able to describe, analyze, interpret, and make judgments about works of art, including their own.\*

**Band:** (full year class; marching band first semester and concert band second semester)

Students develop music skills on the instrument of the student's choice. Students provide their own instruments, with the exception of specifically assigned instruments. Students are expected to meet minimum assigned practice requirements and participate in all band performances.\*

**Colorguard:** The Colorguard works closely with the band program. We strive to provide a Biblically based opportunity for student growth, development, and understanding of music, color, and movement through individual devotion and group participation. Colorguard instruction includes choreography and equipment training related to "Sport of the Arts" (example: flags rifles, dance, and ribbons) with equipment supplied by the CVCS Instrumental Music Department. Performances are required and occur at selected sporting events, marching competitions, parades, festivals, and winterguard/showcases.\*

**Dance:** This course is for both beginning and seasoned dancers. Students will have the opportunity to learn the skills of dance while improving their technique, poise, self-confidence and creative ability. Students will gain exposure to a variety of dance styles, including Ballet, Modern, and Jazz dance. Through their own dance compositions and expressions, students explore the creative process, translating ideas, thoughts, and feelings into original pieces of choreography. Classes will include warmup, cool down, conditioning, stretching and injury prevention. Students will need to be in approved dance or athletic attire.

**Domestic Skills:** students learn basic home management skills, including cooking, sewing, budgeting, and family menu planning through hands-on activities and group projects.

**Film Making:** Do you have a favorite area of interest you would like to share? Maybe a hobby, a time in history, a non for profit or something you would like others to know about? In this elective you will research a topic of your choice, draft a script, film and collect video to create, edit, and showcase in a brief documentary. You will use many tools offered by Microsoft and a few other options, as well. Some will work in groups, others on their own. If there is time, there may be an opportunity to create a virtual fieldtrip or vacation of your choice.

**Future City:** Future City starts with a question—how can we make the world a better place? To answer it, students imagine, research, design, and build cities of the future that showcase their solution to a citywide sustainability issue. This flexible, cross-curricular educational program allows students to work on teams and gives them an opportunity to do the things that engineers do. It culminates with a regional competition at BSU in January. We have taken teams to compete in Future City for the past 4 years.

**Health:** (Required elective in 8<sup>th</sup> grade, unless student is taking a full-year elective like Spanish or band)

The Middle School-level health course is gender specific. Students study the major components of health: spiritual, physical, mental, emotional, and social. Life skills will be developed throughout this class with an emphasis on decision-making and refusal skills.

**Music:** Middle School choir students will learn to use their voices to create a correct and pleasing singing sound. In addition to learning proper vocal technique, students will also learn music reading skills, and performance skills. This is a performance-based class. Participation in a concert performance outside of regular class hours is required.

**Physical Education:** For PE, students participate in a variety of physical activities. We focus on team sports and individual activities. Some semesters, we offer strength and conditioning instead. JH strength and conditioning covers the most basic movements of weightlifting. Student focus on form, stretching, and conditioning. This is an entry level class to the high school strength and conditioning class.

**Spanish:** (This is a full year class)

Students will be introduced to pronunciation, phrases, and beginning conjugation of Spanish. Students will also learn about Spanish speaking countries and culture within this country. By the end of the class, students will be able to carry on a simple conversation in Spanish read in Spanish correctly.

**STEM:** Middle School STEM will push younger scientist/engineers into a wide variety of challenges in which students must provide a working solution. Students will sharpen their math, science, creativity and teamwork skills during this semester long class. They will learn how to design, build, test, analyze and correct a wide variety of topics including but not limited to; rocketry, cardboard carpentry, 3D design and printing, simple machines, mechanical efficiency, and much more. This class is designed to offer advanced students with opportunities to apply their scientific understanding. It does *not* replace the JH Science courses.

**Study Hall:** This class allows students time to stay on top of their studies and work on their homework. The expectation is that students always come with something to do and work independently the entire class period. If they do not have homework, they need to come with a book.

**Theater:** This class focuses on learning the basic principles of theater, such as staging, pantomime, improv, and costume characterization. This class will explore each person's creative artistic expression and emphasize the study of acting as a discipline. It will cover the fundamental techniques of acting through project-based experiences that will ultimately lead to a final performance of small group scenes.

**Yearbook:** This class gives students experience in planning and creating a school yearbook. They design and create the Middle School yearbook for the current school year.

*\*Supply fees may apply to some elective classes.*