

MVCS Junior High Electives

2017-2018 School Year

MVCS is committed to providing a diverse offering of elective classes to meet the interests of our 21st Century learners. In addition, we seek to prepare our students for success in high school. Our goal is to guide the students to discover their God-given talents whether it is in academics, in the arts, or in sports.

Creative Writing / Speech and Debate

Teacher: Peggy Seals



Food! Yes, food!!! Let's enjoy cookies as sweet inspiration as we have some fun getting creative with words...while we eat!

Creative Writing is designed for students to create original forms of descriptive writing, poetry, drama (through puppetry scripts), and fiction. Vocabulary development, creative writing techniques, and skills are explored. Students will be able to submit their work to local and national magazines. Chromebooks are used for composition. Writings are presented orally and in written form.

Speech and Debate is designed to instruct students with the basics of how to stand, speak, move, and make eye contact during any type of public speaking situation. This unit is designed to help students overcome the fear of speaking in public. This class unit will also cover the basics of researching, writing, and practicing a speech.

Leadership

Teacher: Brian Rothchild

Offered first semester

This course will introduce students to important Christian leadership skills. Larger areas of study will include: Lead by Example, Life Skills, Communication, Financial and Personal Management. Students will learn about these topics and complete tasks. Tasks will include an making an emergency preparedness home kit, geocaching and search and rescue techniques, along with many others. Students will learn appropriate responses to different types of natural disasters and home accidents. Students will learn some of the complexities that setting a budget involves and how to manage a credit card. This will be an exciting time of learning outside the box.

Computer Coding

Teacher: Morgan Silva

This course is an introduction to computer coding using building block programming. Students will spend time learning and practicing the basic terminology and concepts behind coding such as loops and events, algorithms, debugging, functions, etc. This course will primarily be using **Scratch** which is a computer programming curriculum designed by students from MIT and **CODE Academy**. Students will have the chance to create interactive media projects such as animations, stories, games, and more, and share those projects with others in an online community. The goal behind this elective is to give students access to exploring computer science in a fun, interactive, yet structured forum.

STEM Activities

Teacher: Ted Ehrheart

Digging deeper into the world of STEM, students will work in groups on a variety of STEM challenges. Through this elective, students will hone their skills in collaboration through their group interaction, problem solving by working through any challenges that come up in their projects and presenting by sharing their findings in a formal forum with the rest of the class.

Photography

Teacher: Rebecca Thacher

This intro to digital photography class, taught by professional photographer Rebecca Thacher will cover many basics of digital DSLR photography. Class curriculum will include learning how cameras work, about ISO, shutter speed and aperture, jpeg & raw file formats, photo editing, natural lighting, composition, color theory, portraiture, landscape and abstract photography, as well as a look into photojournalism and street photography.

Mixed Media Art

Teacher: Tish Witkin

Junior High Mixed Media Art focuses on covering the 5 elements of art: color, line, shape, texture, and value. Incorporated in the lessons are videos, lectures, and samples of current and historical artists. Projects include drawing, painting, sculpting, throwing on the wheel, glazing, and print making. Advanced students work on a more independent study basis, focusing on their personal artistic interests and areas of strength. Students will be graded on their completion of projects, work habits, and individual effort.

Stagecraft/Campus Services

Teacher: Robin Williams

Stagecraft is the art of staging plays. At MVCS this means learning to run the sounds, lights, and slides for chapels as well as helping with the Talent Show and other activities that will happen around campus. The class may include building sets and helping with setup and striking of events. Students will also learn some background history and techniques of technical theater. Students will be expected to arrive an hour before chapel times and be available to assist with at least one after school activity.

Ensemble Band/Worship Band

Teacher: Kevin Heydman

The beginning band class is comprised of seventh and eighth grade students with interest in learning about concert band instruments. Class time is spent learning about the different instrument families: brass, woodwind, percussion and the variety of musical styles these instruments function with -- classical, jazz, sacred, and contemporary. Class time will be spent learning fundamentals, performance techniques, and music appreciation. The overall goal is for students to gain a new appreciation for music by becoming active participants in the arts. Students may be asked to perform in afterschool and evening events. Students who wish to be in Worship Band can choose this class. The Worship Team will be made up of students from this class as well as other students as the rehearsal time for the Chapels will be in the off hours, during lunch, before or after school.