

JUNIOR HIGH ELECTIVE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS 2009 – 2010

LANGUAGE ARTS ENRICHMENT CLASSES : Choose three

Young Authors – Nothing improves writing like practice! This class will give students the opportunity to improve their written communicate through a variety of writing genres. Their confidence will increase as they learn to write clear, coherent essays and to edit and critically analyze their own writing.

Literary Circle – Students, together with a teacher, will read and analyze a book. They will discuss elements of the story such as character and plot development, use of vocabulary, foreshadowing and symbolism. Along with the reading, students will learn to write effective responses to the literature.

Word Power – Nothing says “smart” like a strong vocabulary. Reading, writing and test taking are all easier when you have the right words at your disposal. Students will strengthen their vocabulary with new strategies, word games and on-line resources.

Cultural Literacy – The ability to recognize and understand the idioms, colloquialisms and collective knowledge that is part of our culture will enhance a student’s comprehension and appreciation of literature while improving their ability to communicate effectively.

Original Speech – This class will give students an opportunity to learn more about how to express themselves through persuasive writing and oral communication. We are hopeful that some of our students will present their finished product at the ACSI Junior High Speech Meet.

Language Mechanics – Where to put the commas and the quotation marks once your story is written can be a daunting process. This class will provide a great review of the rules for punctuation and the parts of speech to improve your written communication.

OTHER CLASSES: Choose six

Garageband – Students will join Mr. Evans and Mrs. Miralles in the computer lab where they will learn how to create music in different genres using the computer program, *Garageband*.

Webpage Design – Learn how to maximize the internet, effectively access information and create a webpage of your own. Students will discuss proper internet use, browsing, etiquette, and advanced search methods. They will become familiar with HTML, graphic conversion and basic webpage design.

Computer Animation – This challenging technology class offers students the opportunity to learn how computer animation is done and to explore their own creativity through animation.

Video Production – Students will learn to work both in front of and behind the video camera. Concepts include; writing, story- boarding, directing , editing, special effects, performing, lighting, using a digital video camera and exporting to tape and DVD. Strong emphasis will be placed on working in groups.

Geography – Get a jump on high school geography. Students will gain a visual understanding of our world, including the location of important land formations, countries and capitals. They will learn more about different cultures and some valuable world travel tips.

Logic and Rhetoric – Have you ever watched a commercial, heard someone debate, or read an argument and knew it didn’t make sense? In this class, students will learn how to identify “logical fallacies.” Don’t confuse a silly argument with an intelligent debate; learn the difference while developing critical thinking skills.

Girls' Life Skills – Students will identify the qualities necessary to be a woman of God in today's society. In this class they will discuss real issues and learn some practical life skills including etiquette, money management, babysitting and cooking.

Boys' Life Skills – Like its counterpart, this class will help young men understand what it means to be a man of God in today's culture. They will discuss real issues and learn practical life skills including etiquette, money management, mechanics and cooking.

Faith in Action – This class will be looking at what it truly means to live a life of faith where belief becomes active. Students will identify where God is at work around them in the community and in the world and look for practical, creative ways that they can partner with Him as they put servant leadership into practice (may involve outside involvement).

Study Hall – If outside activities prevent you from giving adequate time to your studies or you just need a jump on your homework, you would benefit from taking a study hall as one of your elective choices. Students will be required to come to class prepared to work or additional work will be assigned by the monitoring teacher. Please remember that students are limited to two study halls per school year.

Study Hall/Word Processing – Some students have expressed that they would benefit from a typing class that would help them improve their word processing skills. If this is you, you should consider this class that will combine typing practice with some time set aside for homework/study.

Student Services – Opportunities for involvement will include teacher assistants for elementary classes and junior high classes as well as office support.

Please note: PE for boys and girls will be offered each quarter. Students will be enrolled in two of these classes during the school year. You may be exempt from this requirement if you are playing on a FCS sports teams or are involved in a league outside of FCS (verification is required).