**Middle School Elective Choices for 2021 - 2022**

Dear parents and students,

Please take some time to sit down together to discuss the elective choices available for grade students during the 2021-2022 school year. Consider your top FOUR choices. Students will ultimately be placed in two elective courses, based on the choices that are submitted. Please record your top FOUR choices. These courses are year long.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Elective</th>
<th>Course Description</th>
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<td><strong>Art</strong></td>
<td>The Middle School Art program provides opportunities for students to explore a wide range of media and techniques, such as drawing, painting, photography, multimedia arts, clay and sculpture. They also learn about art history, criticism and aesthetics. The program provides direct exposure to modern and contemporary art and design issues, as well as weaving in traditional methods. Students are encouraged to challenge themselves, take risks, and experiment with various media and ideas.</td>
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<td><strong>Theater</strong></td>
<td>The Middle School Theatre program is focused on three essential elements of theatre: creation, performance, and critical response. Students will acquire acting, directing and design skills as they learn how to form new theatrical works, interpret scripts, develop characters, and analyze roles. Through a variety of fun and challenging projects and performances, students will learn essential tools of the creative process and methods to effectively bring their ideas to life on stage. A great course for building self-confidence, creativity and imagination.</td>
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| **Choir** | Your voice is your instrument for life. The Middle School Choir program is built on the belief that everyone can sing and that it should be a lot of fun. Students learn to use and train their singing voices both individually and within an ensemble. This is done through a variety of music including popular songs, songs from musicals, songs in different languages and songs from different time periods. Students also develop skills in music theory and sight reading, leading towards musical independence. Choir students will be placed based on grade level.  
**Grade 6 Choir**  
**Grade 7 Choir**  
**Grade 8 Choir** |
| **Guitar** | Guitar is an all-level class exploring music theory and performance through the experiences of learning the guitar. Students start with the very basics of posture, right and left-hand technique, and procedures to tune the instrument correctly. The class will study pop music approaches to melodies and chord structures as well as improvisation and composition. The guitar ensemble is designed to be highly collaborative (large and small group work) with compositions and performances. Students will learn how to access the myriad of resources found online as well as develop independence by taking an interest in their own learning inquiries. |
### Band
The Middle School Band empowers students with the knowledge and skills necessary to develop confidence, creativity, and collaboration to compose and perform several concerts within a school year. Students are grouped by ability level and instrument interest, allowing inexperienced students to explore music in a safe and supported environment, and offers experienced musicians the opportunity for greater challenge. All band students investigate a variety of music repertoire, performance strategies, music theory, creativity, and document their responses to music learning with self reflections, videos, and recordings.

**Beginning Band - Click HERE to learn more about the instruments!**
No music experience is needed. First-time musicians welcome!

Beginning students will compare and contrast the instrument families in the band and select **one** of the following instruments to study:
- **Brasswinds options:** trumpet, trombone, euphonium, tuba
- **Woodwinds options:** flute, clarinet, bass clarinet, saxophone
- **Percussion:** xylophone, marimba, snare drum, bass drum

### Music Technology
The Music Technology course is an all-levels, project based learning class that introduces audio engineering, recording, and production. Students will use their devices to access an online recording studio called ‘SoundTrap’ and learn the fundamental vocabulary, audio theory, and editing tools that engineers, musicians, and producers use in real world studios. The online studio works with both PC and Mac devices. The course is designed to allow students the creative freedom to choose their own inquiry into recording and composing music, podcasts, jingles, soundscapes, sound effects for scenes, and more. Soundtrap is a highly collaborative online recording studio that allows groups of students to work in the same studio in real time, communicating with built in video and chat functions and provides hundreds of sounds and instrument options that inspire student creativity. Learning experiences are integrated with a portfolio of student video and audio recordings, and reflections. Opportunities for performance include live sound integration with musicians and recorded and pre-recorded audio and video presentations.

### Design Technology

**Introduction to Design Technology - Grade 6 and 7 only**
In this class, students will learn the work of product designers and develop an understanding of the design cycle. They will combine the practical workshop and technological skills with creative thinking to designing, creating and evaluating their own products. Several challenging design projects using a range of different materials, tools and manufacturing processes will be undertaken during the course of this semester.

**Introduction to Electronics and Robotics - Grade 7**
In this class, students will learn and develop skills in basic electronics circuits, designing and creating their own simple electronic products. They will also delve into the world of robotics, learning simple coding and programming language which will lead them into designing, creating and programming their own robot from a Lego Mindstorm EV3 kit for a design and programming challenge to navigate and function through an obstacle course.

**Computer Aided Design (CAD) and Graphics - Grade 8 only**
In this class, students will use the Design Cycle Process and Problem Solving to design their own products by learning 3D hand drawing skills such as sketching isometric and oblique renderings, as well as developing technical/mechanical drawing skills in the process. They will then convert those hand drawn designs into a digital design using the CAD program. The final design will then be made in the workshop lab using hand and power tool equipment. The students will also be challenged with other design projects and learn design principles and skills including digital applications such as SketchUp, Photoshop and Illustrator to fabricate designs on the 3D printer and laser cutter.
Yearbook

Yearbook is a middle-high school elective course. The major responsibility of the yearbook student staff is to produce a memorable school yearbook. HS and MS student-staff work collaboratively and incorporate personal creativity, art, computer technology and desktop publishing skills under the guidance and instruction of an advisor to produce a book that covers our entire school's day-to-day operations as well as major events in the school life of our student population ranging from our Early Years classrooms to our graduating seniors as well as our many staff and faculty that make up our AISC family. **Grade 8 only**

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**Elective Choices**

Please rank your top 4 elective choices for the next school year. It is important to note that, while every effort will be made to give students their first and second choices, in many cases, scheduling conflicts may prevent that and third and/or fourth choices will be scheduled.

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<th>Student Elective Choices</th>
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