8th Grade Elective Course Descriptions
2017-18
Electives meet two times per week for one semester

Inquiring Minds: A Project-Based Science Elective
Inquiring Minds is a science elective that will provide the opportunity for students to become involved with a variety of science and technology related projects. The program is divided into different topics that lead students to design and discover more about the world God has created. There will be an additional charge for materials for this elective.

Speech and Debate
Want to sharpen up your public speaking skills? Then this fun, fast-paced class is for you. We'll prepare and present the pet peeve speech, the informative speech, and the persuasive speech. We'll also explore the fundamentals of debate, dramatic interpretation, and storytelling.

3D Art
Students will concentrate on creating 3-dimensional art, exploring a variety of media. Good composition and the application of the principles of design will be stressed. They will also explore and experiment with a variety of art techniques and art styles.

Creative Writing
Discover the short story writer in you, the poet in you and the emotion (dramatic, tragic, comedic writing) in you. Find ways to develop the feelings and expression that rest inside each of us. Everyone has stories to tell. Come tell yours.

Math Enrichment
“Mathematics is the language in which God wrote the universe” – Galileo Galilei. Come explore the beauty and eloquence of mathematics. In this course we will look at the world around us and “discover” the mathematics that exists. We will work with different types of mathematics—giving students exposure to various topics including but not limited to, the Fibonacci sequence, tessellations, codes and cyphers, tanagrams, and Pascal’s triangle. We will answer burning questions like “Why can’t you divide by zero?”, “If there is no real solution, how about the imaginary one?” and “When is the shortest distance between two points not a straight line?” We will see why math can be so fun. (This course is not a math help course.)

8th Grade Programming
This class teaches students the computational thinking that goes into programming. The students will learn to think like a programmer through games and activities. Students will create mini programs using Python and Raspberry Pi. Students will work in a team to make a robot move through a course. Students will have various assignments both in class and outside of class to reinforce these skills. Students who take this class should be able to devote time outside of class to work on the mini projects and the one group project.

Lifetime Fitness
In this class students will be exercising and working out with the focus on strength and cardio activities. Students will also be exposed to some lifetime sports such as tennis and bocce. This is not a team sports oriented PE class.

Chapel Music
Make a joyful noise unto the Lord! Students will select and prepare music for chapel and help lead the worship time by singing, playing instruments, and/or speaking. If you sign up and play guitar, keyboard or percussion, please indicate your instrument on the form.
Student First Name: __________________________ Last:____________________________________

Choose One:

_____ Chorale

_____ Band (wind and percussion instruments only)

Instrument: __________________________________________________________ Years of experience: __________

_____ Music and Media

This is a class that strives to tell the AACS Middle School story through video, music, pictures and words. We will gain a greater appreciation for music and how it can enhance many areas of our life. Students will use i-Movie, Garage Band and Audacity to produce video and music. Students will be mixing music to place into videos. Some students will work on producing the yearbook for part of the year. This class meets three times a week for the entire year. Students will need to purchase a set of headphones that will remain in class.

Spanish 1B - Spanish is a two year course with the first half taught in 7th grade. Successful completion of 7th grade Spanish is the prerequisite to taking 8th grade Spanish. **Skip to the next section if you did not take Spanish in 7th grade.** Spanish is scheduled three days per week during the elective period. This means that students will not have all of the electives that other students have. Students will still have their music choice.

I would like to take Spanish: YES NO

Please rank **ALL** of the following electives from 1-8, 1 being your first choice: **(See class descriptions on the back)**

_____ Inquiring Minds

_____ Speech and Debate

_____ 3D Art

_____ Creative Writing

_____ Math Enrichment

_____ 8TH Grade Programming

_____ Lifetime Fitness

_____ Chapel Music (Please indicate if you would like to sing or play an instrument)

___________________________Sing _____________________________Instrument

Yearbook is now incorporated in the Music Exploration class

Parent Signature________________________________________ Phone____________________

Questions: call or e-mail Mrs. Litschewski litschewski@aacsonline.org

BRING FORM TO THE OFFICE BY MAY 22