

BEN FRANKLIN ACADEMY

Middle School Electives Course Selection Guide

2016-2017



Electives at Ben Franklin Academy are designed to provide students with diverse experiences across multiple disciplines. Students select two electives per trimester. Electives run on an A/B schedule, meaning that they rotate every other day. Students will only register for one trimester at a time, however we have provided all of the options that will be offered this year, so that students can plan ahead. Students will register online using the link that will be emailed approximately 3 weeks before the beginning of each trimester.

Students have the opportunity to indicate four choices for each trimester. If those classes are no longer available, Mrs. Simpson will contact the students personally to pick from other classes that have not filled up. Priority for registering for electives is as follows:

1. Eighth Graders who register by the deadline.
2. Seventh grader who register by the deadline.
3. Sixth graders who register by the deadline.
4. Students who register after the deadline will be registered first come, first served.

IMPORTANT TO NOTE WHEN REGISTERING:

1. If the class lists a fee on the description, then you will be billed for that elective approximately 3 weeks into the trimester.
2. Please note whether the class is offered on an A or B day.
3. If a student receives one of their top two electives for the trimester, they will NOT be allowed to switch mid-trimester.

Spanish is no longer an elective, as each student will have one semester of Spanish as part of the new specials rotation, therefore it is no longer offered as an elective. If you would like to pursue a different language other than Spanish, Rosetta Stone is being offered as an elective.

Class Title	Class Description	Fee	Days offered	Trimester offered
Comics	An in depth look at comic books as literature. We will start by examining genres of comics from superhero, to dramatic, to thriller. Students will then have a chance to develop their ideas of what makes a comic book literature and learn how to write, draw, produce, and publish their comic books.	\$3 for Pixton account	A	1,2,3
Build a Drone	Students research drones, drone parts, costs, and regulations and attempt to build and fly a drone.	\$20	B	1
8 th Grade Current Issues First Trimester	<p>Would you like to sharpen your debate skills while learning about important issues in the world today? This class will devote roughly three weeks each to three different main issues, the Middle East, Afghanistan, and Turkey. The class will include several fun activities to learn background information on the topics for 4-5 electives classes. Then, 2-3 electives classes will involve preparing for and conducting a role-play and debate based on what was learned. Some of the topics covered correspond to topics covered in the 8th grade history Core Knowledge Sequence.</p> <p>Special instructions:</p> <p>open to all 8th grade students</p> <p>Students who are not in Honors Social Studies or Language Arts will be considered after writing a letter of interest.</p>		B	1,2,3

8 th Grade Current Event Issues Second Trimester	Same description as above, except the topics to be explored are: - China on the World Stage, Russia's Transformation, and Cuba's Future		A	2
8 th Grade Current Event Issues Third Trimester	Same description as above except the topics to be explored are: - U.S. Foreign Aid, Human Rights, and International Trade		B	3
imovie Creation	Learn to make your own movies using iMovie. You will learn to import pictures, video and music into fun films, trailers, and short videos, as well as learn to export them using iTunes, YouTube, or a basic file to email or save to desk top. All students will have the option, and are encouraged to bring in their own digital pictures and videos to use for their projects. We will also use the green screen and learn to superimpose anything or anyone into any shot. iMovie Creations is a fun way to put your creativity into digital world of photography and movie making.		A	1,3
Disneyland Choir	These students will commit to a year-long elective to learn choral and sight-reading techniques. In April, we will travel to Disneyland to perform and to take a workshop with Disney performers. * You must have previously registered with Mrs. Johnson for this elective/trip.	Trip Fee	B	1,2,3
Guitar	Learn the fundamentals of playing acoustic guitar. Basic elements of music such as note reading and rhythm will be emphasized along		A	1

	with proper playing technique. Songs will be played as a guitar ensemble. You must provide your own guitar! See Ms. Johnson for where to rent/buy.			
Musical Theatre	Aladdin Based on the iconic animated film, students performing in Aladdin will send audiences soaring on a flying carpet ride filled with fun and adventure. We are looking for actors, singers and dancers to make this musical come to life!	\$ 10	A	2
Aladdin Tech Crew	The tech crew will be responsible for creating sets, props and costumes for the school musical. During the performance these students will run lights, sound, move props, run special effects and help with actors lines and entrances.		A	2
Technical Theater	BFA will be adding a stage equipped with lighting, and sound system. Come learn how to run these systems! Technical Theatre class will introduce students to the areas of stagecraft and theatrical production. You will climb ladders, lift things, build (no power tools), paint, work online, work with makeup, and handle very expensive equipment in this class. Students will design and produce all sets, lights and props for the elementary musical and act as their stage and film crew. The theatre elements to which you will be introduced will include: Lights and Lighting Design Stage Management Stage properties (props) Costumes/Makeup Scene Design		A	3

	Sound Engineering/Recording Filming and Editing			
Podcasting	Students will research various podcasts and work together to write, develop, and create a podcast that appeals to the lives of middle school students.		A	3
6 th Grade Math Madness	This class is invite only for students wanting extra help in Math. It will help catch students up in their current 6th grade math class and help prepare them for 7th grade. It is an invite only, so if you are interested in taking the class, please contact Ms. Svensen.		A	2
Debate	<p>This elective will encourage students to take issues and examine them from multiple perspectives in order to effectively take a stance and defend their position. The classroom debates are exercises designed to allow you to strengthen your leadership, interpersonal influence, team building, group problem solving, and oral presentation skills.</p> <p>Special Instructions:</p> <p>offered to 7th and 8th grade students</p> <p>Seventh grade students will be</p>		B	2

	considered after writing a letter of interest.			
Adventure Education	Adventure Education promotes learning through adventure centered experiences. In this class students will learn how to work cooperatively to accomplish whole class goals and smaller group goals. Students will learn how to take risks and trust others. Students will learn problem solving strategies. At the end of the trimester this class take a day long field trip to the Challenge Course at CU	\$60	A	1
Strength and Conditioning	In this class students will participate in a different workout each day. Some days will be geared a little bit more towards cardiovascular endurance and some a little bit more towards muscular strength. We will use dumbbells and other weighted equipment. Students will learn how to lift weights safely. Students will be required to bring their own dumbbells (5 - 10 lbs only) to class. They will be allowed to leave them here throughout the trimester.		B	1,3
Cardiovascular dance/yoga workouts	In this class students will participate in a different cardiovascular or yoga workout each day. We will be utilizing Insanity, Hip Hop Abs, Zumba, and P90X videos throughout the trimester as well as other planned dance workouts.		B	2
Field Day Planning	In this class students will decide on the theme for K-5 field day. They will then create a station for field day and run that station for each of		A	3

	the field days. If you want to take this class you need to make sure that you will be here the last 2 weeks of school. You also need to be the kind of student that can miss 3 mornings of school and be able to make up all of the work for those 3 mornings.			
Kids Boot Camp	Kids Fitness Boot Camp is a high energy fun filled exercise class for kids. This class strives to increase the overall health and fitness level of children in a fun, safe, positive and motivating environment by utilizing obstacle courses, fitness games, partner activities, body weight exercises, resistance bands, circuits and more.		A	1,2,3
Python Programming	An introductory course to Python, text-based programming language.		B	2
Journey Around the World	Do you love to travel? Come explore the world with us one country at a time! We'll learn about different cultures, landmarks, attractions, customs, foods, music, and more, both at popular travel destinations and places off the beaten path. Discover exciting new places and plan the ultimate travel adventure! Each student will plan a two-week trip to their chosen destination(s). Are you ready to explore the world?		B	1
Rosetta Stone	This is an online language program. Once the fee is paid, student may access the program from anywhere for 12 months. Students may choose from any of the languages offered.	\$85	B	1,2,3
Yearbook	This elective is both 1st and 2nd Trimester , so you are committed to two trimesters. Being a part of yearbook is being a part of creating a keepsake that families will cherish for years to come!	\$50/includes a field trip	A	1 and 2

	There is an application- If you are interested in this class, please fill out the attached application and email to Mrs. Simpson.			
BFA News	<p>A news studio is a wonderful opportunity to spotlight and challenge students to gain independence in planning, writing, producing, supervising, using technology and performing in television productions. Opportunities for diversified public speaking and production experiences are provided through a morning announcement routine. Included in the news show might include, but are not limited to, announcements, guest announcers, student/class performances, thoughts/quotes of the day, the 13 virtues review, art displays, sports, presentation of student awards, the pledge of allegiance, weather using the Weather Bug Station and more!</p> <p>Not only will students experience the world of news casting, but they will also get to work with Pixie, iMovie and Garageband software. Students will use these during News Cast film editing, but will also get a chance to be more creative with the tools. Students will work in small groups to produce an iMovie version of a sequel to a popular children's book, complete with dialogue and a soundtrack they create in GarageBand. The finished product will be distributed to younger students in other classes.</p>		B	1,2,3
Painting and Drawing	Students will learn to use graphite, pen and ink, watercolor, tempera and acrylic. Compositions will be from direct observation, photographs and pure imagination. Projects from previous years will be repeated.		A	1
Upcycling	Students will learn about being more environmentally conscious and use the virtue of frugality by turning trash into treasure. We will work with the Green Team to create	\$10	A	2

	and build "new" products using recyclable materials.			
Jewelry Making	Students will learn how to make earrings, bracelets, pins and necklaces. Projects will include using beads, <i>Sculpey Clay</i> , wire and hemp. Projects from previous years will be repeated.	\$20	B	1
Traditional Crafts	Students will learn the basics of many traditional crafts including mosaics, bookmaking, printmaking, hand sewing, calligraphy, weaving, paper making etc. Projects from previous years will be repeated.	\$15	A	3
Ceramics	This is a new elective and students will be the first middle school students to try out our new ceramics program. They will learn how to hand build clay and throw pots, use different glazing techniques and decorating styles.		B	3
Sculpture	Students will use wire, gesso, clay, plaster, foam and recycled materials to make fun art projects. Projects will be small, large, made individually and in groups. Some projects are repeated each year.	\$20	B	2
Arts and Crafts	Have fun creating basic types of arts and crafts. We will do things such as painting wood, creating sculptures, learning to make paper flowers, yarn pom-poms, keychains and bookmarks, or melting beads into new shapes and designs. Students will have the option to teach the class one craft of their own one day of the trimester. Students can take the ideas home and repeat or continue projects at home with our easy and fun ideas the students put together.	\$20	B	1
Holiday Arts and Crafts	Arts and Crafts just in time for the holidays. We will create fun ways to decorate the house, make gifts, learn to make gift bows, emboss		B	2

	and stamp cards, and do a variety of holiday activities and creations. With so many holidays spread out throughout the winter, the possibilities are endless in the fun we will create. The class will be very similar to the other Arts & Crafts class offered trimester 1 and 3 except we will be doing more holiday themed activities. Students will be given the option to teach the class one craft as well.			
BFA Biz	Learn the ins and outs of developing a business plan and executing the process. On the marketing side, students will work with different forms of advertisement to attract customers and increase their profit.		B	1,3
Running/Power Walking	Let's go outside at the end of the day and get some exercise and fresh air! We will walk/run off campus for fitness purposes, as well as to improve endurance. We will get off campus and go run or walk the trail that goes around flying B park.		A	1,3
Sports League/Tournament	This elective is for students familiar with the rules of Basketball, Flag Football, and Dodgeball, and want some friendly, sportsmanlike competition with their middle school peers. Students will be split up into teams for the trimester to compete in league style play, with a championship tournament to end each "league".	\$10	B	1,3
Ping Pong	Have fun learning technique and playing against your friends.	\$10	A	2
Fantasy Football	Do you like spending time crunching numbers and looking at trends? Do you like competing against your friends for bragging rights? If you answered yes to these questions then this is the elective for you. In this elective you will be asked to research numbers and players. You will be		A	1

	asked to turn in a starting lineup each week. You will be competing against your fellow classmates and even some staff member's. Prizes will be awarded each week and we will do a playoff and crown a champion for the 1 st trimester.			
Brain Break	Are you a student that meets all athletic and extracurricular activities with your GPA? Are you a student that does not have any incomplete assignments in your classes? If you meet these requirements, we have an elective for you; Brain Break. Lets rest that hard working brain and get outside to play. You must have the grades and no missing work to participate. If you are not one of these students that is ok, we will also give you a chance to reach this goal and get that extra break in your day. If you have missing assignments and need to pull that GPA up we will also be offering an extra study hall in your day to reach the goal of getting everything in place to enjoy the brain break outside. GPA and missing assignments will be checked everyday that we meet. If you meet the requirements you will be allowed to go outside and if you do not you will stay inside and work toward that goal.		A B	1 2,3
Chess	Learn how to play the ultimate strategy game, or build your skills in a competitive environment.		B	2
Golf	It's springtime; do you have your golf clubs dusted off for the summer yet? If golf is your sport or if you always have wanted to try it now is your chance. Mrs. Denham and Mr. Fourman will be teaming up to teach the basic rules/clubs and swings that it takes to enjoy the game of Golf. If you do not own clubs that is fine; If you have your own that is great, you can use them. We will be going over the rules and educate of golf and we will have access to the filed outside for swinging and hitting "birdie Balls". Since we are in		B	3

	walking distance to a golf course we will try and get over there to putt and hit balls at their ranger once before the Trimester ends. First day will be classroom work with no clubs. We will go over where your individual clubs will be stored and what to bring each day we meet.			
Cooking/Party Planning	Students will learn the basics of cooking: proper measurement, meal planning and technique. Students will learn how to execute basic recipes. Students will learn the basics of party planning: creating a theme, guest lists, invitations, decorations, menu and activities. These students will be instrumental in helping plan MS social events throughout the trimester.	\$10	A	1,2,3
Stock Market Experience	The Stock Market Experience is an investment simulation (run through the Colorado Council for Economic Education) that empowers student teams with their own virtual \$100,000 investment portfolio. Students work together to invest in stocks, mutual funds, bonds, and commodities on US and international exchanges over the course of the trimester. Students learn how to conduct research, allocate resources, complete analysis and work in teams while having fun trying to beat the Street!		A	1,2,3
Just Write	This elective will give students an opportunity to "just write" creatively. We will explore short stories, poetry and non-fiction. Write in whatever genre appeals to you,		A	1
Science Apps	Students will have fun building bridges, creating mouse-trap cars, hot air balloons, water rockets, etc.	\$30	B	1
Girls in STEM	In this elective, students will have hands-on opportunities to explore science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). Activities will include design challenges, experiments, forensic science, technology, gardening, architecture, and more. We will also invite guest speakers to share their experiences working in STEM	\$25	A	2

	fields.			
Building Balsa Models	Students will spend time building balsa models i(planes, space ships, etc.) n this elective. Each participant will need to purchase the model of their choosing, and bring it to class. Miscellaneous building supplies will be provided (glue, extra balsa, cutting tools, styrofoam, etc.)	\$5	B	2
Strategy Games	Students will learn the rules and strategy for several card and board strategy games.		A	3
Silent Study Hall	Silent study hall for students with after school sports/activities.		A, B	1,2,3
Natural Health	This class will offer students a chance to learn about different and more natural ways to be physically and mentally healthy. We will talk about and perform a little yoga, some hiking, experiment with chemical free products, and learn about the effects of nutrition and hydration.	\$10	A	1
Geeks who Think Trivia	Each week students will be given trivia categories to study and will be quizzed on them during a fun, team trivia game. Categories will encourage students to expand their knowledge of things like: current events, pop culture, sports, and anything from the Core Knowledge curriculum.		A	1
Leadership	What does it take to be a great leader? Students will examine the traits and characteristics of great leaders and develop their leadership skills through team-based activities. Problem solving challenges will give students opportunities to lead as well as play the role of supportive team members. Come discover the leader in you!		B	2,3
Talent Show	We will design and facilitate the end of year talent show for the last day of school. We will work on		A	3

	performance, emceeing, set design and sound technicality.			
Literature and Film Study Class	Students will identify devices of literature within films. They'll evaluate thematic elements and discuss directors' choices.		B	2
Clutter Clinic	This class is for students who are struggling with organization and have numerous late assignments. Mrs. Murphy will help establish both organization and motivational systems to improve academic achievement.		A	2,3
Flash Fiction	Students explore and practice flash fiction writing skills—flash fiction defined as creative writing (in this elective, short story writing) in one thousand or fewer words. Creative freedom is encouraged although prompts, guidelines, and examples are provided with each new writing challenge. The fundamentals of short story composition, such as traditional structure—as well as deviant structures—narration, dialogue, characterization, descriptive technique (showing and telling), are presented and practiced. A student will complete a minimum of the 8 to 10 flash fiction assignments to be compiled and bound in a flash fiction portfolio, a compilation writing practice, experimentation, and accomplishment. This course is for students who love writing and are in honors language arts in 6th, 7th, and 8th grade.		B	2,3
School Newspaper	We had a request from a student to start a school newspaper. Students will write, edit and publish a newspaper about current events going on at BFA as well as the community.		A	2,3
Teacher Assistant	In this elective, you will be assigned to a teacher or other staff member to help with any tasks they need. For example, you could be helping younger children with their homework, helping with experiments		A, B	1,2,3

	in a science lab, running errands for the office, helping a teacher with small projects like bulletin boards or paperwork.			
Student Health	Mr. Macias will help Students learn about food and nutrition and how to keep a healthy body. Develop an exercise program as well as a diet program to help keep your body in shape and nutritious.		B	2

Be a Member of the BFA Yearbook!

Student Application

Please fill out the application if you are interested in being in the BFA yearbook elective class. This elective is all year, so you are committed to three trimesters. Being a part of yearbook is being a part of creating a keepsake that families will cherish for years to come!

Please only fill this out if this is something that truly excites you!

Please return this application to: Mrs. Simpson

Student Name: _____

Student Grade: _____

Years at BFA: _____

Computer Use: Previous experience is not required- but please check the programs you have used before:

_____ Microsoft Word

_____ Google Documents

_____ Google Forms

_____ Photoshop

_____ iPhoto-or other photo editor

_____ iMovie

_____ Aurasma

_____ Walsworth Online Design

Photography Skills: Previous experience is not required- but please answer the questions below:

Have you ever used a digital camera? YES NO

Have you have used a DSLR camera? YES NO

Do you like to take pictures of family and friends? YES NO

Essay: On a separate sheet of paper that you need to attach to this application, please answer the following question:

Why are you interested in joining yearbook? What kind of skills do you have that will help in creating the 2015-2016 yearbook?