MEMORIAL SCHOOL - Guidance Department
Challenge Courses 2019-2020

► **Challenge Art:** *(Full Year)* Students will be encouraged to work cooperatively and individually to visually problem solve and think creatively. They will be expected to enhance and develop their thinking process and take risks in order to engage their creative expression. Some of the projects may include oil/acrylic painting, printmaking, sculpture, ceramics, plaster, glass/tile mosaics, and calligraphy. Come ready to have fun and open doors to new possibilities for your thinking and artistic expression. *A challenge course application is required. Students must supply a sample of their work with the challenge course application.*

► **Challenge Best Buddies:** *(Full Year)* In Best Buddies, one-to-one matches are created between students with and without disabilities. These buddy pairs will spend time together communicating in a structured environment to promote socialization inside and outside of school. The goal of Best Buddies is to create a more inclusive school culture. This course is intended to allow new friends the opportunity to meet and grow their friendship, all while teaching leadership skills and providing opportunities for students to connect, engage, and plan their own events. This course is linked to the Best Buddies Club held after school (membership is required to participate).

► **Challenge Get a Leg Up: Early SAT Writing and Language Prep** *(8th grade only):* *(1/2 Year)* Do you need to hone your grammar skills? Would you like to build your lexicon? Could you strengthen your thesis writing abilities to be more successful when writing timed essays? If so, this class is for you! We will explore Khan Academy's online SAT questions of the day and its video lessons that focus on specific SAT grammar skills. Some days we will play Kahoot or create Quizlets for common SAT vocabulary words to build up our lexicons. Other days we will practice SAT-like editing and revising tests. Students will also design and teach one lesson that focuses on a common SAT writing skill.

► **Challenge Jazz Band:** *(Full Year: A-day)* Jazz Band provides an opportunity for exceptional musicians to study and perform music from all styles of the jazz idiom. Students who play saxophone, trumpet, trombone, or rhythm section instruments (piano, bass, drums, and guitar) are eligible to audition. Students will learn appropriate performance techniques, and gain an understanding of chord structure and progression as it relates to improvisation. *Students who make Jazz Band will be required to take Band unless taking another Challenge course. A challenge course application and audition are required.*

► **Challenge Memorial Singers:** *(Full Year: B-day)* This is a gifted and talented choral group with approximately 60 members. In order to join, a student must be able to sing independent harmony. No after school rehearsals. *Students who make Memorial Singers will be required to take Chorus unless taking another Challenge course. A challenge course application and audition is required.*
**Challenge TV Technology:** (1/2 Year) Work with others to produce a daily news show incorporating announcements, sports news, and feature segments. Learn most aspects of hands on TV production, both in front of and behind the cameras. Write scripts, incorporate creativity, and develop leadership responsibilities and improve verbal and non-verbal communication skills. **A challenge course application and audition are required.**

**Challenge Science Olympiad:** (full year) Do you like science, problem solving, and the thrill of competition? If so, then Science Olympiad is for you! Here you will prepare for a STEM based and academic competition in a variety of areas and aspects of science. Events could include knowledge of specific topics such as anatomy, meteorology or the solar system, hands-on activities such as crime busters, experimental design, and write it-do it and construction based events such as tower building, roller coaster and battery buggy. This is an academic based course and students will be expected to participate in the regional tournament in January with hopes of advancing to a statewide tournament in March; students will be required to bring materials from home and spend time after school preparing for their events. Be prepared to apply science knowledge, work on problem solving skills and grow as a scientist. **A challenge course application and completion of a design challenge/audition are required.** For more information on Science Olympiad, please visit the following: New Jersey Science Olympiad – [www.njscienceolympiad.org](http://www.njscienceolympiad.org) or National Science Olympiad – [www.soinc.org](http://www.soinc.org)

**Challenge Spanish:** Challenge Spanish is a two year course offered every other day during the enrichment period. The course is broken into two sections and upon successful completion of the requirements for both years students are eligible to advance to Spanish II in their 9th grade year. Challenge Spanish I (7) will be a prerequisite for taking Challenge Spanish I (8). **A challenge course application for 7th grade only is required.**

- **Challenge Spanish I (7) - Year 1 of 2 Year Program:** (Full Year) This course is offered to incoming 7th grade students. Students must make a two year commitment in order to complete the program. Students who choose to participate in this program will use the same text and curriculum as Shawnee High School. This course is conducted like an honors course and will require students to complete homework, projects and tests. Students are expected to be able to push themselves independently. Students who earn a “B” or better will have the opportunity to move on to Spanish II in 9th grade.
**Challenge Citizen Science Education Program (CSEP):** CSEP is a one of a kind program with a real world mission that extends beyond the classroom and school environment. It emphasizes the mastery of 21st century workforce skills, while learning science and engaging in STEM activities. CSEP students have received local, state, national and international recognition for their work with scientists and community members. SY 2019-2020 will be the seventh year CSEP is offered as a challenge course at Memorial. Check out [www.csepcentral.org](http://www.csepcentral.org) for more information about the program.

**If you join CSEP for SY 2019 - 2020, you can expect the following opportunities.** Some are required of all CSEPers. Other opportunities are optional and might be first come-first served or merit based.

- Participate in the Toshiba/NSTA Exploravision Contest. Click [here](http://www.csepcentral.org) for more info.
- Perform actual science protocols for scientists as part of the GLOBE program. This includes working closely with NASA and NOAA scientists and officials. The GLOBE protocols and research for next year include Mosquito Habitat Mapping and using Earth Observing Satellite data to analyze local and global weather and climate situations. Click [here](http://www.csepcentral.org) for more information about GLOBE.
- Participate in the GLOBE program International Virtual Science Symposium. CSEPers will conduct team research and then complete a scientific research report and submit to a panel of distinguished judges for review and comment. Click [here](http://www.csepcentral.org) for more info.
- Travel to the GLOBE program Northeast/Mid Atlantic Student Research Symposium and present team research (in person). In 2018, students traveled to Buffalo, NY. In 2019, students traveled to Boston, MA. Click [here](http://www.csepcentral.org) for more info.
- Conduct science education outreach for county residents at the 2020 Burlington County Earth Fair, Smithville Park, Eastamptont, NJ. Click [here](http://www.csepcentral.org) for last year’s flyer.
- Travel to the GLOBE program Annual Meeting and work with students from all over the world to complete a field research project. In 2018, the annual meeting was in Killarney, Ireland. In 2019, the annual meeting is in Detroit, MI. Click [here](http://www.csepcentral.org) for info about this year’s meeting.
- Join additional projects and programs, as they become available/as they are offered in SY 2019 - 2020.

**Additional advantages to being a CSEPer.**

- Become a more confident junior scientist and critical thinker.
- Improve public speaking skills and communication effectiveness.
- Engage in scientific research opportunities as a middle school student that normally don’t present themselves until college or graduate school.
- Enhance your academic experiences and resume.
- Stretch the limits of your potential and practice an innovative science learning philosophy.

Students accepted into the CSEP Challenge Course will accomplish much of the research and planning for the program during the school day. However, there will be occasion to stay after school, and in certain situations, students must be available during the evening and weekends. **A challenge course application is required. Applicants will not be judged solely on grades, but rather on motivation, and desire to be a part of such a great program!**