MEMORIAL SCHOOL - Guidance Department
Descriptions for Enrichment Courses 2019-2020

- **Chorus: (Full Year: A-day)** Sing current and traditional songs in a choral group. You are expected to attend two evening concerts. Everyone is welcome. If you don’t know how to sing, we’ll teach you! There are no after school practices.

- **Concert Band: (Full Year: B-day)** Come hone your instrumental music skills by rehearsing current and traditional musical selections as part of our Concert Band! Concert Band is available for any student playing a traditional band instrument (flute, oboe, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, French horn, trombone, baritone, tuba, or percussion). Students should have a strong foundation on their instrument, however no audition is necessary. Additionally, students are required to attend one lesson per week and perform in the winter and spring concerts as part of their grade for this course.

The following will run one semester (1/2 year):

- **ASL – American Sign Language:** This course will introduce students to American Sign Language. Students will learn basics of the language and ASL communication skills as well as exploring Deaf culture.

- **The Art of Studying:** This course will be like a High School Study Hall. Students will have assigned seats with clear guidelines. They will learn to budget time, organize themselves, get ahead on projects, and complete work. This will be great for the student who is over extended outside of school and could benefit from time within the school day.

- **ARTspiration:** Are you an aspiring artist? Are you a creative person? Do you have hidden talents? Try our new enrichment and let art inspire you to create amazing and wonderful things. Learn how to express your thoughts and feelings through art. A picture is worth a thousand words!

- **Comics and Graphic Novels:** During this course students will bring their own stories to life using images that will efficiently aid in creating a short or long-form visual story. The assignments will touch on all the major aspects of developing original story and imagery for comics or graphic novels: writing, character and world building integration, among many other topics.

- **Creative and Contest Writing:** Ever want a relaxing space where you can just write the story, poem or editorial that’s been on your mind? Ever work so hard on a written piece and you just want someone to read it? Are you interested in submitting your work to national contests or teen publications? If so, you will enjoy this course. This is an opportunity to get meaningful feedback on writing that you create – just for fun! Bring your pencil and join us!
• **Design and Modeling (Project Lead the Way):** Do you like to tackle problems and design and build solutions? Are you interested in learning the skills that engineers use to design and innovate solutions to real world problems? Then Project Lead The Way is for you. Project Lead The Way is a nationally recognized STEM program that gives you, the student, the opportunity to experience the engineering design process. In addition to the drawing and measuring skills you will learn, we will also use engineering computer software to create 3D designs with the ultimate goal of solving a toy design challenge. If you are interested in learning more about what engineering is all about this is the class for you.

• **Espionage through American History:** Students will explore the role espionage played in American history. Students will examine excerpts from primary sources like diaries, newspapers and letters that show how spies gathered information/intelligence for America. Students will explore spies throughout the Revolutionary, Civil, and World Wars.

• **“Fake News”? Gender Bias? Political Propaganda?:** Learn about the above topics and more in this class which focuses on the ways we interact and contribute to the modern world of mass communications. As well as learning about the above topics, activities in the class include analyzing and creating commercials, researching different stereotypes and how they impact your world and exploring the ways social media influences your life.

• **Fantasy Sports in the Classroom:** Students will learn the basics of playing fantasy sports and gain a thorough understanding of the strategy and management they will need to run their teams successfully.

• **From Fiction to Film:** J. K. Rowling and Stephenie Meyer know something many other authors do not – the astonishing success of having their writing translated into film. This class will dive into such other young adult novels as Holes, Hoot and Matilda. Students analyze both books and films through interactive activities.

• **Games Galore:** Students will be introduced to a variety of games. When weather permits students will have the opportunity to learn and play backyard/beach type games. When the weather forces the class inside, the students will learn and play a variety of card and board games.

• **Game On:** Learn how to play games for 1, 2, or a few. We will work on logic puzzles, puzzles, card games, and board games. In a relaxed atmosphere we will share strategies and good times.

• **Geography Adventures:** What do escaping from zombies and going on treasure hunts have in common? Both require a sense of adventure, creativity, and knowledge of geography. Work with other students to complete both of the above activities, as well as many others that will teach you more about how to navigate and explore our wonderful world.

• **Girls Matter:** Students combine creative and intellectual abilities, and learn from each other to express and share thoughts with confidence. Students use their voices to discuss issues in our community and globally, especially as they relate to young women. We coordinate fundraising activities at Memorial for causes including breast cancer awareness and for people in our area who are less fortunate. Come join the fun in a relaxed but meaningful atmosphere!
- **Great Books**: Students work alone, in pairs, or in small groups for the sheer enjoyment of reading high interest novels such as *The Sun Is Also a Star*, *The Giver*, *The Assassin Game*, *Wonder*, *Chains*, *Positively Izzy* and many more. Students are given the option of working on a variety of activities to deepen their understanding of and appreciation for the novels read. From time to time, students will view a movie based on an interesting novel and discuss theme, conflict, etc.

- **Healthier Lifestyle: “Food Revolution”**: Do you know what are you eating? This class teaches students how to make healthier choices when eating meals and snacks. Students will learn to read food labels to differentiate between processed and non-processed food. Students will create a healthy meal plan and share new ideas with the class.

- **History through Movies I (7th grade only)**: History through Movies will be an excellent opportunity for each student to learn about historical events and people that changed the world in which we live. Background information will be discussed prior to and after viewing the full or excerpts of a movie. Students will analyze movies that are socially and historically current versus the director's interpretation. Subject themes include sports, adventure, civil rights movement, social acceptance, education, genocide, ethnicity and sociology.

- **History through Movies II (8th grade only)**: Students explore 5 or 6 topics in history through watching Hollywood movies. Students will learn about historical events and people. Background information will be discussed prior to viewing each movie. A few topics covered in this class include the Holocaust, WWI and WWII, September 11, 2001, in addition to others.

- **History through Technology and Media**: Students will bring the events of the past to the future through technology and media by creating activities through the use of tools like Google Slides, Drawings, Sites, My Maps and techsploration. Students will create and produce publications to share with the student body to see how history relates to the world today.

- **In the Zen**: If life is stressing you out, or you just want to learn some chill-out skills, this is the class you want. You will not only learn about a bunch of different ways to relax - you’ll also get to practice them in class. Just some of the topics we will learn about and try are meditation, yoga, coloring, and using humor to relieve stress. You’ll also participate in Zen Trivia, where you’ll put your knowledge to the test and compete with classmates in teams to see who is the most “zen.” Get ready to learn how to de-stress and have fun doing it.

- **Introduction to Psychology**: Students will be introduced to the field of psychology through a study of classic theories and experimentation.

- **Inventions**: Identify and analyze how simple machines work and why inventions change. Students will use problem solving skills and creativity to complete activities which could include Rube Goldberg devices, reverse engineering, robot building, egg drop devices, etc.

- **Italiano 101**: Be transported to a place that is timeless – Italy – and learn la bella lingua – the beautiful Italian language. Students will learn the enchanted culture and history of this old and modern European gem, discovering Venice, Florence, Rome, Palermo, Naples, Tuscany, the Alps, and more! The basic rules of pronunciation, the fundamentals of conversation, and basic grammar will be taught. Food and travel will be explored, and games will be played. Ciao tutti!
Keep Coding Part 1: Students in this introduction to coding class will learn the basic concepts of Computer Science with the Tynker Blockly (drag and drop programming). Lessons will include programming modules in repeat-loops, conditionals, functions, basic algorithms, and variables. Students will build these valuable technology skills and collaborate with others as they code, run, and share their programs.

Keep Coding Part 2: Students will learn the basics of JavaScript syntax with Tynker and other coding programs. Lessons will include programming modules in loops, conditionals, variables, events, and game design. A block-based coding course (Keep Coding Part I) is suggested as a prerequisite.

Knitting, Needlepoint and SEW Much More!: This enrichment opportunity is a chance to get those creative juices flowing! We will learn some basic skills in sewing and sew small projects by hand, learn knitting techniques to create useful items like hats, scarves and whatever else your mind can think up. We will also work with cross stitching and learn basic repairing skills or clothing (everyone needs to know how to sew a button back on, don’t they?). This class is open to your suggestions and new patterns as well. Some materials will need to be purchased by the student.


Mandala Coloring: With all the stress of life, students will get a chance to unplug and detach from their phones, tablets, and computers. One way to do this is by slowly concentrating on a complex image using soothing colors like blue, greens or purple. The ability to concentrate on one task allows the person to take his or her mind off everyday stressors because the brain is not allowed to multitask (color and stress).

Marvel, Movies, and Myths: Mythological stories and comic books brought to life on the big screen. Students will compare literature pieces to movie representations. Students will watch movies rated from PG to PG-13. Students will compare and contrast Greek mythology stories and movies. In addition, students will relate the Marvel universe to Norse mythology. If time permits, students may relate the Star Wars universe to various types of mythology.

Math Mysteries: Math is everywhere! Students will experience math through hands-on, real-life activities – plan a road trip, go on a shopping spree, calculate sports statistics, build a model… Students will explore how important and useful math is in our everyday lives.
• **Movies with a Message**: Throughout this course, students will watch and discuss movies that promote positive character traits. As students watch and discuss these movies, they will be encouraged to focus on the importance of themes such as respect, team work, work ethic, sportsmanship, leadership and many others. Some of the movies that we will watch throughout this course include: *Rudy, Remember the Titans, Pay It Forward and Miracle*, just to name a few.

• **PE Extensions**: Enjoy PE class? Want more? This class is for you! Students will play basketball, punch ball, volleyball, handball, waffle ball, flag football and more. **Students will need to change into a t-shirt, shorts and sneakers for this class.**

• **Personal Economics 101 (8th grade only)**: Students will develop an understanding of how to successfully manage personal finances, including an understanding of various bank accounts, balancing a checkbook, investment opportunities, and budgeting. In addition, students will learn about core economic principles, such as the “Law of Supply and Demand” and inflation. Finally, the Federal Reserve Bank system will be discussed, along with lending in general.

• **Poetry Writing Workshop**: If you are a lover of poetry, than Poetry Writing Workshop is the place for you! Study different forms of poetry such as sonnets, sestinas, and the blues; work out your pen crafting free verse; listen to published poets reading their works; memorize and recite your favorite poems; spend time developing your own meaningful verse; and share it with your peers for constructive criticism and praise.

• **Scrapbooking**: Unlike traditional photo albums, scrap booking allows you to display your photos in a unique and personal way. This is a hands-on course where students will learn layout design, photo cropping and more. **Most supplies for this class are to be purchased by the student.**

• **Taking Center Stage**: This course is for students wanting to conquer stage fright as well as the outgoing person who wants a chance to act. We start with basic public speaking with introductions, literature presentations, and informational and how-to speeches. Then we move into acting with theater games, improvisations, and short plays. Other possible activities include learning about adapting stories for stage or screen and writing original plays.

• **Tomorrow’s Teachers**: In this enrichment class, students will participate in activities all related to becoming a teacher: from discovering what is needed in order to become a teacher, to preparing and teaching their own lessons, as well as honoring the teachers in our own building. The students in this class should walk away with a solid foundation of all things teachers!

• **World Cultures**: Students will explore other cultures around the world by researching holidays and traditions, top places to visit while in that country, typical food, music, art and language. As a culmination, students will have a celebration to sample dishes from cultures around the world.

• **“WOW’ Science**: Relate “cool” or unique science concepts to interesting experiments. Some of the activities include: 1. building a rocket out of a soda bottle, 2. using KNEX to build a crash test car while protecting an egg inside and using KNEX to build a race car powered by a motor and 3. building a bridge out of pasta. **Additional materials will be required to be brought in by students.**
• **Your Brain: Trained and Explained:** Have you ever wondered why you do certain things? Or how to get better at things like brain teasers and solving mysteries? This class is for you. Individually and on teams, you will test your knowledge and problem solving skills with mind-bending questions, trivia, and other competitions. You will also learn how your brain is involved in things like optical illusions, fear, stress, trusting others, and more.

• **Vlogging, Blogging and Podcasting- Digital Communication in a Modern World:** Do you enjoy multimedia communication? Are you interested in learning how to create your own? How did these communication techniques develop? Where do we go from here? Come learn the in's and out's of modern communication!