

Electives Explorer

Robinson Secondary School

2018-2019

5035 Sideburn Road Fairfax, VA 22032

An Insider's Guide to Robinson's Electives

Welcome to Robinson! The *Electives Explorer* was created to help students select electives. There are over thirty elective classes offered to middle school students, and choosing the right classes for you can be overwhelming. Hopefully this guide will help you make an informed choice.

When choosing electives, keep your interests and hobbies in mind. For example, if you enjoy acting, you could try Drama. If you're interested in music, you could sign up for Band, Orchestra, or Chorus. However, trying something new could be fun as well. Robinson offers five different languages for students to study. Which one do you want to try?

Trying out a variety of electives is a great way to explore possible career fields you may have an interest in. For example, if you are considering reporting or writing, try out Creative Writing, Yearbook Journalism, or Newspaper Journalism. If you would like to explore fields involving technology, check out the Computers in Art, Digital Input Technology or Technology Education courses.

While most electives offered are semester electives (two quarters), there are some electives that are year-long. Examples are the middle school Band, Yearbook Production, and World Languages. Even though languages are electives, they are high school courses and require good study habits and skills. Because languages are high school courses, the grades you get while taking them will count in your high school grade point average.

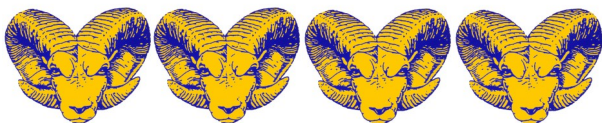
Some electives require a recommendation, application, and/or an audition, such as Advanced Band and Yearbook Production. Although a few electives require a lot of work and prior knowledge, there are tons of electives that are available for novices to take.

When it's time to choose your electives, your counselors will talk to you outside of class, and you'll be able to rate semester electives of your choice from one to fifteen – one being your top choice, and fifteen being your last choice.

How many electives do you get to take? Well, this all depends on the electives you choose. Here are your options:

- Two full year electives
- One full year elective and two semester electives
- Four semester electives

Selecting just the right electives for you with so many choices available can be difficult. Read on to see what Robinson has to offer YOU!



"I came to Robinson last year with two distinct electives in mind-art and creative writing. A lot of my previous teachers said that I should pursue my talent in writing, and I just really liked art. I wrote down those two as my top elective choices-and I got them. However, it is a good idea to look over the *Electives Explorer* first if you don't have a distinct set of electives in mind. Also, remember to find alternatives to the classes you want, because you might not get them."

~Anton Sheridan-Kuchmek

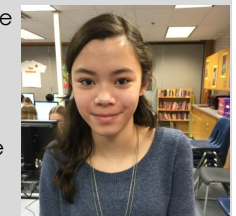


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"Choosing electives can be a hard thing to do. I think what a lot of people don't realize is that electives are entirely up to you. You can choose whatever elective you find most interesting or the one that fits what hobbies you enjoy doing. Electives are a great way to try new things as well as have fun. I also like how you are allowed to choose how many electives you want to take in a year, whether it's 2, 3, or 4 different ones."

~Sofia Rosales



Men's Chorus

Man Choir

Length of Course: Semester or Year
Prerequisites for Course: None
Course Description: Men's Chorus is a great opportunity for new and experienced singers to mix in a large choral environment. You may have the opportunity to sing with men from the high school chorus.
Course Highlights: Men's Chorus participates in several major concerts throughout the year and may have the opportunity to be involved in the spring trip to Busch Gardens.
Benefits: Students who take this class will gain confidence in singing and meet a new group of friends with a shared interest. They will have excellent preparation for the high school ensembles and a solid understanding of vocal technique, music reading, and sight-singing.
A word from the teacher: Men's Chorus is a wonderful singing experience for both 7th and 8th graders! Students will learn trust and teamwork within a musical environment.
Homework Requirements: There are few homework assignments; most work is done in class.
Who should take this course: Any male student who enjoys singing, wants to improve his voice and be a part of a fun group in the process.



Students in Men's Chorus enjoy harmonizing together.

Women's Chorus

Length of Course: Semester or Year
Prerequisites for Course: None
Course Description: The Robinson Women's Chorus is a wonderful opportunity for both new and experienced singers to mix in a large choral environment and learn how to develop their singing voices.
Course Highlights: Women's Chorus participates in several major concerts throughout the year and has the opportunity to be involved in the spring trip to Busch Gardens. Women's Chorus is the largest choir offered at Robinson Middle School.
Benefits: Students who take this class will gain confidence in singing and meet a new group of friends with a shared interest. They will have excellent preparation for the high school ensembles and a solid understanding of vocal technique, music reading, and sight-singing.
A word from the teacher: Women's Chorus is a wonderful singing experience for both 7th and 8th graders! Students will learn trust and teamwork within a musical environment.
Homework Requirements: There are few homework assignments; most work is done in class.
Who should take this course: Any female student who enjoys singing, wants to improve her voice and be a part of a fun group in the process.



Singing together is a lot of fun and a great way to make friends.

Advanced Treble Chorus

Length of Course: Year
Prerequisites for Course: Successful audition.
Course Description: The Advance Treble Chorus is an intermediate chorus for 7th and 8th graders who are passionate about singing. In this class, students will learn a large variety of music as well as how to properly develop their voices. Members perform at all regular school concerts and enjoy the spring trip to Busch Gardens.
Benefits: Students who take this class will be prepared to be a part of the high school choral program and have a good understanding of vocal technique, musical basics and sight-singing.
A word from the teacher: Members of this choir can expect an environment where student want to improve as an individual singer and as a choir. All rising 7th and 8th graders are welcome to audition, regardless of experience.
Homework Requirements: There are few homework assignments; most work is done in class.
Who should take this course: Any one who loves to sing, wants to become a better musician, and has a positive attitude.



Instruments are provided by the program

Guitar 1

Length of Course: Year-long
Prerequisites for Course: Offered to 8th grade students.
Course Description: This course starts at the beginning . . . it is a great choice for students with little to no prior music experience, or self-taught guitarists who want to refine their technique and work on note-reading skills. You will learn to play many current and classic rock tunes; learn the

fundamentals of soloing and finger-style guitar, music theory and song writing.
Course Highlights: Students will learn basic performance technique for guitar and learn both chords and classical guitar beginning styles. Students with previous guitar experience will be encouraged to expand on what they know and try new skills and music.
Benefits: Students who take this course will learn basic to intermediate music literacy skills, as well as how to put those skills to

use by writing their own music. You can look forward to a collaborative environment while you explore your guitar playing skills.
Homework Requirements: Students who stay on task during class time will likely not have any homework in this course.
Who should take this course: Any student who enjoys music, wants to learn the basics of performing on guitar and wants to explore the methods behind music composition.

Beginning Orchestra

Primo Orchestra

Length of Course: Full year
Prerequisites for Course: None
Course Description: Year-long instruction on one of the four string instruments (violin, viola, cello or bass) in a small group setting.
Course Highlights: The ability to quickly learn to play a string instrument and reach a performance level by December!
Benefits: You will make great and lasting friendships in orchestra. On top of that, you'll have the joy of being able to perform fun and exciting music with a group of your peers.
A word from the teacher: We welcome all students who would like to learn a stringed instrument to take this class. Come join in the fun!
Homework Requirements: Daily practice on instrument.
Who should take this course: Any 7th or 8th grader may sign up. No experience required.



Intermediate Orchestra

String Ensemble

Length of Course: Full year
Prerequisites for Course: Successful audition
Course Description: Full year instruction in a string orchestra setting. String Ensemble is designed for students that have prior experience on their instrument, but are working on basic techniques, such as proper instrument position and bow hold, good intonation, and note reading.
Course Highlights: Five concerts per year, including District Orchestra Assessment and a performance at Busch Gardens. Students can look forward to learning new notes and finger patterns, new bowing techniques, and shifting.
Benefits: You will make great and lasting friendships in orchestra. You'll also have the joy of being able to perform fun, exciting music with a group of your peers. Get ready to make a ton of progress on your instrument, too!
Homework Requirements: Daily practice on your instrument.
Who should take this course: Any 7th or 8th grader who has had a successful audition.



Intermediate Orchestra

Concert Orchestra

Length of Course: Full year
Prerequisites for Course: Successful audition in which the student demonstrates a mastery of basic techniques and a readiness to learn more advanced techniques.
Course Description: Full year instruction in a string orchestra setting. Concert Orchestra is designed for students who have either played their instrument since the start of the string program in 4th grade or have had quick success and a positive audition.
Course Highlights: Five concerts per year, including District Orchestra Assessment and a performance at Busch Gardens. Learning new skills such as vibrato and shifting are major highlights of the year.
Benefits: You will make great and lasting friendships in orchestra. You'll also have the joy of being able to perform fun, exciting music with a group of your peers. Get ready to make a ton of progress on your instrument, too!
Homework Requirements: Daily practice on your instrument.
Who should take this course: Any 7th or 8th grader who has had a successful audition.



Additional Orchestra Info: In addition to having fun while learning to play an instrument, orchestra students also perform at Busch Gardens in the spring and have a great time at the park following the performance.

Advanced Orchestra

Sinfonietta

Length of Course: Full Year
Prerequisites for Course: Placement by audition only. Students must have mastered basic performance skills on an orchestral string instrument.
Course Description: Sinfonietta is a performing ensemble that concentrates on advanced string techniques and preparing for performances.
Course Highlights: Sinfonietta presents five concerts per year including District Orchestra Assessment and a competition at Busch Gardens, Williamsburg, in May.
Benefits: Students will forge new and lasting friendships in this class and will perform great music. Sinfonietta students continue to learn advanced techniques, including shifting, tone production, advanced articulations and vibrato. Students also have the opportunity to audition for Junior District Orchestra (a one-weekend-only Honors orchestra that performs in January) and will perform for all of the 6th graders for their field trip to Robinson!
A word from the teacher: The benefits of a musical education are numerous. Not only will you exercise your brain in ways you never knew possible, but you'll be doing that amongst some really great peers. Orchestra is a rich academic and social experience! Come and join the orchestra!
Homework Requirements: Because this is an Advanced Level Orchestra, you are expected to practice at home to reinforce all of our classwork. You will be excited to practice the music that we perform!
Who should take this course: Students who have been in their advanced strings classes in elementary school should plan to audition for Sinfonietta. 7th and 8th graders who study privately should consider performing in this Advanced Ensemble.



Beginning Band



Band members rehearse in preparation for their upcoming holiday concert.

Length of Course: Year
Prerequisites for Course: No prior band or music experience is required for participation in Beginning Band.
Course Description: Beginning Band is offered to both 7th and 8th grade students. With the help of the band teacher, students select an instrument and use method books and sheet music to learn how to play the instrument.
Course Highlights: Beginning Band performs several times during the year. They perform at two school concerts per year, and they perform at the annual spring trip competition in Williamsburg, VA.
Who should take this course: Anyone who has an interest in playing a band instrument and making music is encouraged to participate in Beginning Band!



The spring trip to Williamsburg for a competition and a day at Busch Gardens is a great way for band, orchestra, and chorus students to end a year of hard work.

Benefits: Having the skill to perform a musical instrument has been one of the most cherished accomplishments throughout history. Students who decide to learn to play an instrument can use this skill and knowledge for the rest of their lives. Music offers an exciting challenge to the student to take on responsibility, hone problem solving skills, and strengthen their individual work ethic. Participation in band also builds teamwork and social skills within a wide and diverse social circle. Music builds self-confidence, self-esteem and a sense of accomplishment. Continued participation into high school meets the fine arts graduation requirement.

A word from the teacher: Learning music is like learning a language, but one that is understood by everyone internationally. It is a way to express emotions and thoughts without words and when words cannot easily describe our thoughts. It is remarkable to see a group of students work together and support each other to truly become one unit as a band. Everyone brings their own strengths and talents and together something magical is created. The thrill of performing for an audience and for ourselves is in many ways unmatched by any other experience.

Homework requirements: Home practicing is integral to a student's success in band and regular practice is required. Home preparation is vital for successful concerts and occasional performance evaluations, as well as for continued individual improvement.

Additional Info: The spring music trip includes a day at Busch Gardens Amusement Park. Also, "the College Entrance Examination Board says those who take more than four years of arts (such as music) score 34 points higher on the verbal portion of the SAT and 18 points higher on the math portion than those who take less than a year." (NEA Today, 1991.)

Check us out on the web at: www.robinsband.org or on Facebook at [Robinson Secondary School Bands](#)

Intermediate Band

Length of Course: Year
Prerequisites for Course: Prior band experience and a successful audition are required for participation in Intermediate Band.
Course Description: Intermediate Band is offered to both 7th and 8th grade students. Students participate in band rehearsals and work on advancing instrument and ensemble techniques through method books and sheet music.
Course Highlights: Intermediate Band performs several times during the year. They perform at two school concerts per year, and they perform at the annual spring trip competition in Williamsburg, VA. Intermediate Band students are encouraged to participate in the District Solo and Ensemble Festival and also have the opportunity to audition for the Robinson MS Jazz Band, which meets once a week after school.
Who should take this course: Anyone who has had successful experience playing a band instrument for at least a year is encouraged to participate in Intermediate Band!



Band members focus on hitting just the right notes as they practice for their concert. This is a great opportunity to show what they have learned.



"I Enjoy band very much, it's a great experience! I am learning to read music without the notes written in and I love the feeling when I pick up my clarinet and the music just comes out. I don't have to think very hard about it. I enjoy Intermediate Band much more than the Elementary Band because it's more of a challenge. I would recommend band to anyone who loves music because it's one thing to hear music, but completely different thing to play it."

~Nicole Walther

Advanced Band

"Without band, it's just school!"
~RBSS band student

Length of Course: Year

Prerequisites for Course: Prior band experience and a successful audition are required.

Course Description: Advanced Band is made up of both 7th and 8th grade students. Students participate in band rehearsals and work on advancing instrument and ensemble techniques through method books and sheet music.

Course Highlights: Advanced Band performs several times during the year including: two to three school concerts, the District XI Band Festival, and at the annual spring trip competition in Williamsburg, VA. Advanced Band students also have the opportunity to participate in the All-District Honor Band and the District Solo and Ensemble Festival. Also, students from Advanced Band generally make up the majority of the Jazz Band, which meets once a week after school.



Students in band enjoy working together as a team and participating in multiple concerts per year.

Who should take this course: Anyone who has had successful experience playing a band instrument for at least two years is encouraged to participate in an Advanced Band.

"Band is an awesome elective! It's so much fun to get to learn new music. I love being able to practice with the entire band every other day, and getting to meet great people. Band is an elective where you can sometimes joke around and have fun, but you end up wanting to mainly focus on the music. I highly suggest taking band!"

~Brigid Piowar



Piano Lab

Length of Course: Semester

Prerequisites for Course: Offered to 7th and 8th grade students.

Course Description: Have you always wanted to take piano lessons? Do you need more time to practice for piano lessons you already take, and want some extra help? Do you want to try playing duets or group songs with other students? Then Piano Lab is the place for you!

Course Highlights: Students will learn

basic performance technique on piano and learn beginning to intermediate repertoire. Students with previous piano experience will be encouraged to expand on what they know and try new skills and music. There will be a recital for your principals at the end of the course.

Benefits: Students who take this course will learn basic to intermediate music literacy skills, as well as how to put those skills to use by writing their own music. You can look forward to a collaborative environment while you explore your piano playing skills.

A word from the teacher: Piano Lab is a great class to come enjoy making music in a relaxed environment. All levels are welcome. This is a great way to supplement your piano or other performing ensemble experience.

Homework Requirements: Students who stay on task during class time will likely

not have any homework in this course.

Who should take this course: Any student who enjoys music, wants to learn the basics of performing on piano and wants to explore some of the methods behind music composition.

"What I most like about Piano Lab is that you get to be in your own personal bubble and can practice at your own pace without anyone having to bother you. I think it has helped me improve my piano skills because as I play for Mr. Horanski, he has helped me with any mistakes I have made. This class has given me another opportunity in piano because I now feel more confident as my hands play."

~ Ariadna Tucker, 7th



"Piano Lab is a great and a fun way to learn how to play piano. It is a very laid-back class, and everyone can go at the same pace. I would definitely recommend taking Piano Lab, especially to someone who enjoys music."

~ Zach Morris, 8th



Peer Helping



Students work together melting crayons over a pumpkin as they create an unusual gift to present to teachers to show appreciation for their hard work

Length of Course: Semester

Prerequisites for Course:

Recommendation of elementary/middle school counselor

Course Description: This is an elective course designed to train and facilitate a peer helper program in the middle school. The course provides an opportunity for students to develop their support and leadership skills in assisting others.

Course Highlights: Students are taught to help peers by learning to be more effective listeners, developing friendship skills, becoming group leaders, and being positive role models. They also enjoy serving as guides on Back to School Night, Electives Expo night, and at the rising 7th grade student and parent visits.

Benefits: Peer Helping is a fun way to learn and practice really useful skills. Student activities may include mentoring, support to peers, orientation of new students, elementary outreach, and community service programs.

A word from the teacher: Course topics may include self-esteem and self-exploration, goal setting, school success skills, effective communication skills, peer refusal skills, and decision-making and problem-solving techniques.

Homework Requirements: Very little.

Who should take this course: Anyone wanting to learn better communication and leadership skills.



Peer Helpers serve as guides at Robinson orientation events.

Art Foundations

Length of Course: Semester

Prerequisites for Course: None. Open to 7th and 8th graders.

Course Description: Students in Art Foundations explore techniques and art processes such as drawing, painting, sculpture, and printmaking.

Course Highlights: Projects range from painting tee shirts, to drawing people and animals, to writing comic books, to creating clay sculptures.

Benefits: A fun way to learn new skills. Foundations artists often explore topics studied in other classes, like endangered animals, global warming, and drawing to illustrate poems written by other students or themselves. Everyone can succeed in art!

A word from the teacher: We are "hands-on" and learn by doing! Come join us!

Homework Requirements: None

Who should take this course: Anyone! This elective will foster individual creativity and teach lots of hands-on art skills.

Additional Info:

Art work is displayed throughout the school during the year. All art students will have work displayed in the Robinson Pyramid Art Show in the spring.



"Creating art gives children an opportunity for self expression. In a group setting there is also the opportunity to share their work with others, practicing socialization skills and developing relationships with adults and with peers."

- From Harvard's Project Zero, on the importance of Art Education

Art Extensions

Length of Course: Semester or Year
Prerequisites for Course: For the **semester** class, students must have completed the Foundations course. The **all-year** course is only open to students who have completed Art Foundations and is available only to 8th grade students.

Course Description: This course is a continuation of learning initiated in Art Foundations and is geared toward serious artists who wish to be challenged technically and creatively. Students study art techniques and processes and create their own unique art projects.



"Art Extensions is fun because you can do a lot of cool stuff. You get more creative freedom than you have in the Art Foundations class."
 ~Cooper Law

Students in Art Extensions enjoy drawing people and fantasy pictures using media like charcoal and pastels. Other projects include large sculptures, bookmaking, and crafts

Course Highlights:

Students in Art Extensions enjoy drawing people and fantasy pictures using media like charcoal and pastels. Other projects include large sculptures, bookmaking, and crafts

like weaving, macramé, and clay. More advanced painting skills in watercolor and acrylic are also introduced.

Benefits: Enjoy hands-on learning that uses skills from core classes in fun ways. This is a class with no limits to what students can learn and achieve in art.

A word from the teacher:

Art Extensions is a good course for focused students who are *seriously committed* to learning many art skills and techniques in a fun way.

Homework Requirements: Very little.

Who should take this course: Students who seriously like art and are interested in continuing to learn new techniques and processes with other students who share their passion for art should consider Art Extensions.



Additional Info: It's fun! All art students will have work displayed in the Robinson Pyramid Art Show in the spring. And we take a field trips to a museums during the year!!!!

3-D Art Exploration

Length of Course:

Semester

Prerequisites for Course: None

Course Description: 3-D Exploration Art students work in 3-D drawing skills, clay, sculpture, crafts, and architecture.

Course Highlights: This is a hands-on, fast-moving, fun class making everything from 4-foot tall paper mache sculptures to designing jewelry and wearable art like tee shirts.

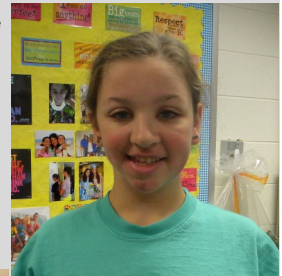
Benefits: Uses skills from the core classes in fun ways.

A word from the teacher: Intro "grads" and beginning 8th grade artists are welcome and encouraged to have some really creative fun with us! We do all kinds of 3-D art and drawing, it's never boring!

Who should take this course: Students who like art and are interested in continuing to learn new sculpture techniques and processes should consider this elective.

Additional Info: All art students will have work displayed in the Robinson Pyramid Art Show in the spring.

"I took this class because I love art and it's a way for me to get my feelings out and express myself. I like how our teacher lets us be creative without too many guidelines. I would recommend this class if you like clay and sculptures. My favorite project was when we did clay vessels."
 ~Ilara Pritchard



This 3-D Art Exploration student works on his Six Piece Project. Students are given six items and must create something using all of the pieces.

Computers in Art



"I really loved this class. We learned tons of new things. After taking this class, I can do things like stop motion and edit a picture with Adobe Photoshop. It's really cool to think of all the things I can do now."
 ~Victor Hoyseith,

Students in this class will develop a strong foundation in Adobe Creative Suite Programs.

Length of Course: Semester

Prerequisites for Course: None

Course Description: Students are introduced to the use of the computer as a production tool for creating original artwork and animations. Students will learn valuable skills using the Adobe Creative Suite programs.

Course Highlights: Computers in Art involves student learners in both hands on art processes as well as showing students how an art process/product translates into digital (computer) art work.

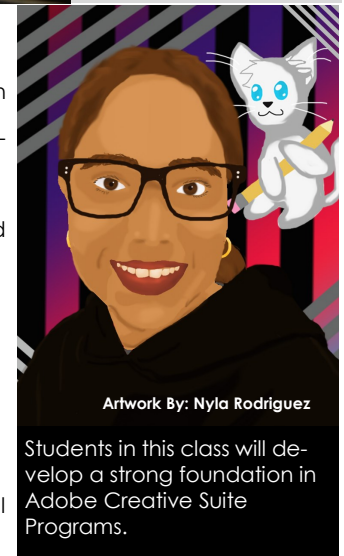
Benefits: A really fun way to see how computers are changing the world of art!

A word from the teacher: This course offers students an opportunity to learn about the many professional uses for computers in the world of art and design.

Homework Requirements: Occasional picture taking at home with personal or school camera.

Who should take this course: Anyone who likes computers and wants to learn about graphic design, cartoons, and stop motion animation.

Additional Info: Students work with industry standard graphics software, including Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator, and Windows MovieMaker. We have our own laptop lab in middle school art in addition to an art studio space. We also use graphics tablets and pens, digital cameras and scanners.



Artwork By: Nyla Rodriguez

Students in this class will develop a strong foundation in Adobe Creative Suite Programs.

TV BROADCASTING Mass Communication

Length of Course: Year
Prerequisites for Course: None

Course Description: TV broadcasting is expanding in the middle school in a big way with the launch of a student-produced news show! Be an On-Air Broadcaster, Classroom Reporter, Broadcast Technician and a Producer by joining the news broadcasting team! This class is geared for students who have a drive to ask important questions, get to know people in the middle school, and find solutions to problems or issues facing the school community. Students will work to develop their own ideas for news stories, conduct on-camera interviews, set up and use professional broadcast equipment, and edit video clips into a final, polished and professional, news story for broadcast on a new, middle school-only TV news program.

Course Highlights: Be in the center of the action as Robinson reignites a long tradition of TV journalism excellence in the middle school. Be featured on camera. Serve the middle school community with your news updates. Be involved in the events and activities of the Robinson community.

Benefits: Journalism encompasses the basic skills required for people to achieve success in today's world, such as an ability to seek truth and communicate information accurately, to act independently and be accountable, to strive for fairness, and



to act with empathy and respect the humanity of others. These principles are essential concepts that encourage success in all walks of life, academic and professional. People who participate in journalism gain experience in applying these essential principles in all areas of their lives.

A word from the teacher: A primary component of this class is the creation of a sense of teamwork and camaraderie. My goal is to create a team of students who are comfortable and supportive of one another as they pursue their interests in telling the stories of people in the school community. This course will introduce students to professional technology, but the underlying elements of the course are compassion, accountability and the importance of organization and focus to accomplish our personal goals. Anyone is welcome. Anyone can succeed. Everyone will learn and overcome challenges together.

Homework Requirements: Students may work on their planning on their own, but time will be provided in class to accomplish all requirements.

Who should take this course: Students who are curious about the world and are motivated to find the answers to their questions should take this course! While anyone can succeed in this course, this class is ideal for students who like to meet and talk with people, who like to hear about other people's lives, who are interested in

Yearbook Production

The Sentry Staff

Length of Course: Year
Prerequisites for Course: Must be recommended by 6th or 7th grade English teacher.

Application: E-mail Mrs. Forte with questions or for an application at: amforte@fcps.edu

Course Description: This class creates the Sentry yearbook from start to finish. Students decide on a theme, design a cover

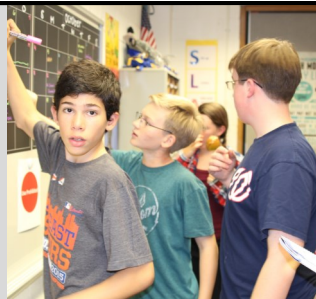
and the layout and content of the pages. Yearbook students

take most of the pictures used in the Sentry and decide on which pictures to use. This is most likely the biggest group project students will ever do.

Course Highlights: Students are given the opportunity to attend the National Scholastic Press Conference in November.

Benefits: Students gain real-life skills in this elective. Deadlines have to be met and they have to take responsibility for the section or pages they are in charge of. It is a tremendous thrill for students to see all their efforts come together in May when the books arrive. There is nothing more special than seeing your work in print.

A word from the teacher: The students in this class become a family, and the yearbook room, a home. They are all working



Busy staffers working on the production calendar.

thing they can continue in high school and perhaps a career in journalism.

Homework Requirements: Some homework required.

Who should take this course:

- Do you want to help create a lasting product that wins national awards?
- Are you a good writer? Do you like real responsibilities?
- Do you want to get first-hand journalism production and leadership experience as part of a winning team?

Additional Info: Since we are a "family" and things can get rather stressful around deadline time, we celebrate a great deal in this class including birthdays, completed deadlines, holidays, and sometimes just for fun.



Yearbook staff members work together to create a memorable book RMS students will look back on for years to come.

toward a common goal, and for many of them, it becomes a passion. This is some



Staffers celebrating October birthdays. Daily hot cocoa or coffee from our Keurig is another perk of being on staff.



Creative Writing

Length of Course:

Semester

Prerequisites for Course: None

Course Description:

Creative Writing offers students the chance to write about anything they want to write

about...fairy tales, science fiction, dystopian short stories, poetry, realistic fiction, etc. The sky is the limit! Students develop their writing talents with an emphasis on revision and learning to accurately evaluate their own writing.

Course Highlights:

Focusing on writing skills in the first part of the semester, students write short stories and enjoy receiving feedback from fellow students on the class blog. Students work on individual and group writing projects for the second nine weeks and enjoy choosing their own topics and genres through the entirety of the course.

Benefits: Frequent conferencing with the teacher and peers can increase writing skills dramatically over the course of the semester. Daily writing warm ups are a fun way for students to experiment with writing. Many of these warm ups develop into

full fledged stories!

A word from the teacher: Students enjoy choosing their own topics to write about in Creative Writing and also enjoy frequent group writing activities. Music, computers for everyone, as well as a laid back environment help to create the perfect writing atmosphere for students.

Homework Requirements: NONE!

Who should take this course: This class is perfect for students who love to write AND for students who wish to improve their writing skills in a fun, non-threatening environment.

What is your favorite genre to write?

My favorite genre to write is realistic fiction because I like to base my characters on my friends or family in real life.

What style of writing do you prefer?

I personally like to write either long stories, or just scenes that I come up with in my head.

What is your favorite thing about the class?

I love everything about it. I mean, I just love to write, so coming up with new ideas is fun. Mrs. Forte is an amazing teacher and the atmosphere in the classroom makes me feel relaxed and happy. **-Creative Writing Student**



Newspaper Journalism

The Medallion Staff

Length of Course: Semester

Prerequisites for Course: None

Course Description: Students in this elective are the newspaper staff for the middle school's online newspaper, *The Medallion*. In class, students learn basic publication and journalism skills focusing on writing articles and creating infographics. Students publish their work on the school's online news site, *The Medallion*.

Course Highlights: Students in Newspaper Journalism enjoy:

- Interviewing students, teachers and faculty members.
- Writing articles and creating infographics about topics that interest them...sports, technology, school news, books, etc.
- Staying up to date with current events and discussing what is happening in the world.
- Using Piktochart to create infographics.

Benefits: Students will improve their writing ability over the course of the semester. Completing articles for *The Medallion* and other in-class projects provide students with the time and practice needed to develop and perfect writing skills. Journalism is a deadline-based activity, and it teaches real-life skills.



A word from the teacher: My goal is to provide students with every opportunity to develop as writers and journalists. Because students choose their own topics to report on and know that they will be published, they are enthusiastic about their writing. Student journalists work very hard at the revision and editing process to ensure their article is just right.

This class provides a perfect opportunity for students to sharpen writing, research, and editing skills in a fun and stimulating environment.

Homework: NONE!

Who should take this course:

- Students who enjoy working in groups with friends.
- Students who wish to be published in the school's online newspaper.
- Students who are thinking of making journalism a career.
- Students who would like to be a part of a fun, enthusiastic, and busy newspaper team.

Additional Info: Sign up today, it's FUN!!!



Interviewing students in the cafeteria



Theatre Arts Appreciation

Length of Course: Semester

Prerequisites for Course: None

Course Description: Students develop an appreciation of the art and the ability to perform through an introduction to the basic concepts and skills of acting. Through viewing and participating in a variety of performance activities, students will enhance imagination, poise, and confidence.

Course Highlights: This class focuses on creating a warm, supportive, inclusive atmosphere so that students feel free and confident to express themselves! Included in this course is a field trip to the Kennedy Center to see a professional show. Students will work on creating scenes, pantomime, improvisation, playwriting, storytelling, costuming, and much more; including performing for their peers here at RMS.

A word from the teachers: Our goal is to provide young people with an environment where they can just be KIDS - and be brave and bold as they explore their creative selves in a risk-free and supportive atmosphere. We applaud the student who dares to make mistakes and cheer the young person free enough to act like a fool! We know how difficult the 7- grade transition can be, and also remember the importance of one's

"cool" factor in 8. grade. We provide an outlet where students take pride in their individuality and imagination and can feel comfortable and self-confident while doing so.

Homework Requirements: None!

Who should take this course: Everyone! Great for the shy student to build confidence, poise, and make new friends while trying new things! Great for the "ham," the curious, or the performer looking for an outlet and an audience while learning how to train their natural talent into a useful skill! Keep in mind that this course is a prerequisite for both the full year and semester Advanced 8th grade drama courses.



Students write, direct and act in their own original plays.



"I really love drama because the feel and kind of group of people might feel awkward or different at first but after the first few classes you feel right at home. I personally liked the Improvisation unit we did because we did a lot of fun games like freeze and space jump. The thing I like the most about drama though is that all sorts of energy levels and personalities work and that there isn't EVER a wrong answer. I recommend taking drama if you're really interested in acting or if you just want to have fun!" ~Cole Terra

Advanced Theatre Arts Appreciation (Full Year)

Length of Course: Year

Prerequisites for Course: Successful completion of Theatre Arts Appreciation in 7th grade and/or recommendation of the theatre teachers. Offered to 8th grade students.

Course Description: Students who are continuing the study of theatre arts for a second year will be able to apply and expand the skills developed in the introductory class. They function as a professional theatre production company and address all new units of study as an en-

semble player. This course is designed for the serious theatre student who is interested and committed to a full year of in depth theatre exploration.

Course Highlights: Advanced Drama highlights include working as a company through production, and investigating careers in the arts. Students will also participate in a variety of authentic, performance based projects like: **Learning to Audition!** Auditioning workshop for dedicated performers that will help them with skills necessary to land a role! **Shakespeare!** field trip to the Folger Shakespeare Library to compete in their annual Student Shakespeare Festival; stage fighting and more! **Performances** for Robinson assemblies, elementary students, and for other FCPS Theatre departments! **Short plays, one-acts**, playwriting, technical theatre, directing, improvisation, theatre sports, dramatic history and...**New York, New York!** At last, an opportunity at the end of the year for 'A' students to join us on an overnight trip to NY for shows, professional acting

workshops, and more!

A word from the teacher:

Through the year-long, intensive theatre class we work together as a family and the students are truly there because they want to do the hard work necessary to succeed. This is a place where students participate, learn, grow, and SHINE. Advanced Drama is a memorable full year opportunity for the dedicated theatre person.

Homework Requirements: Production work such as memorizing lines, gathering audition information, and reviewing performances will be required.

Who should take this course: This course is intended for focused, passionate theatre students.



Advanced Theatre Arts Appreciation (Semester)

Length of Course: Semester

Prerequisites for Course: Successful completion of Theatre Arts Appreciation in 7th grade and/or recommendation of the theatre teachers. Offered to 8th grade students.

Course Description: Students who are continuing the study of theatre arts for a second year will be able to apply and expand the skills developed in the introductory class. They will participate in a variety of dramatic activities and perform for various audiences. This course is designed for students who are interested in an expanded study of theatre arts and oral communication.

Course Highlights: Advanced Drama highlights include expanding on the basics explored in Theatre Arts Appreciation. Students will participate in a variety of authentic, performance

based projects like the Elementary School Performance Field Trips and more!

A word from the teacher:

This fun ensemble class is where you are able to apply all of your learned acting skills to a specific production! Rehearsed during class time, this play then tours numerous times to large audiences.

Homework Requirements: Character development work, memorizing lines, and preparing for performances.

Who should take this course: This course is intended for ***focused theatre students*** who enjoy the theatre, but cannot commit to the Full Year Advanced elective.



Students who take Advanced Drama (semester) enjoy furthering their drama skills by playing theatre games and performing for live audiences.

How can drama electives help you?

Some valuable skills performing arts students cultivate everyday are: creativity, focus, team building, confidence, poise, professionalism, preparation, time management, self control, discipline, self expression, positive attitude, and acceptance. Colleges around the country look for that well-rounded, self-confident, and creative student, and some schools have even begun listing the performing arts as a required subject for admission. The benefits of an arts education are invaluable, and lifelong!

For more info, check out our website: www.robinsondrama.org

Reading

Length of Course: Semester

Prerequisites for Course: None

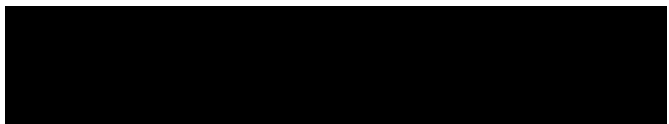
Course Description: This is a class for students who like to read and often feel they don't have enough time to do so. It is also for those students who don't mind reading, but may have trouble finding books they like.



Course Highlights: Students spend the class reading most days. In addition, they watch movies that are based on books, and enjoy teacher read-alouds. Students are permitted to go to the Media Center on a regular basis.

Benefits: Reading is a skill, the more you do it, the better you get at it. People who are avid readers generally write better, have well developed vocabularies, and do better

A student enjoys reading during class.



in school.

A word from the teacher: I love to read and have all my life. I read young adult fiction constantly and am always "selling" books to kids. My aim in this class is to make lifelong readers out of all of my students. I believe enthusiasm for reading can be infectious.



Homework: NONE!

Additional Info: Some students enjoy this class so much, they take it in

"Reading is a fun class to take, especially if you enjoy reading. In class, you basically read for the entire period. After you read a book you have to fill out a form to prove that you read it and to get credit for the pages, but that only takes about 15 minutes. We are allowed to read whatever we want to read."

~Reading Student

both seventh and eighth grade.



Students work on sewing aprons. They will complete 3-4 projects over the semester.

Family and Consumer Science 7

FACS 7

home or eat. Successful projects increase self esteem. It is reported that 90% of students feel good about themselves when they cook for others. Students work cooperatively in FACS and utilize peer support.

A word from the teacher: The focus of the class is to have a good time while learning life skills. Students are up and moving around in class while working on projects. We are serious when we need to be, but we have fun. This is one of the most important classes a student can take as it will help students learn to be healthy, improve their relationships and people skills, and prepare them for independent living in the future.

Homework Requirements: The only homework assigned is to enhance class activities. There are fewer than three assignments per quarter. Students are encouraged to repeat at home what they have learned in class. Often students make class recipes for their families so they can share what they have learned.

Who should take this course: Everyone who wants to learn life skills and who would like to see a practical application for the math, science, history and writing that they are learning in all oth-

er classes should consider FACS. Take FACS 7 if you would like to...

- cook for yourself.
- become familiar with kitchen safety and sanitation practices.
- make wise choices when choosing food and clothing.
- learn to make or mend clothes.
- understand how to care for yourself and others.
- discover how to express yourself with clothing.

Additional info: Everyone who tries in FACS is successful. We learn from mistakes and correct them. No one fails if they try, and we all help each other. The projects are fun and the food is fantastic!

Length of Course: Semester

Prerequisites for course: None, open to all seventh graders.

Course Description: This is a hands-on class that focuses on time and material management in a fun and often edible way. FACS 7 reinforces math and science concepts, incorporates the social sciences and strengthens writing skills. It also offers students the chance to socialize in a positive atmosphere and develop leadership skills.

Course Highlights: Students in FACS 7 spend 6-7 weeks in food preparation. Students participate in teacher demonstrations and then prepare recipes with a group. Students then spend 6-7 weeks sewing, making at least two projects to take home. Other topics include seasonal activities and how to care for young children.

Benefits: Course material is presented using projects that the student can take



Engineering Design & Modeling

Tech Ed 7

Possible Course Highlights

Length of Course: Semester
Prerequisites for Course: None

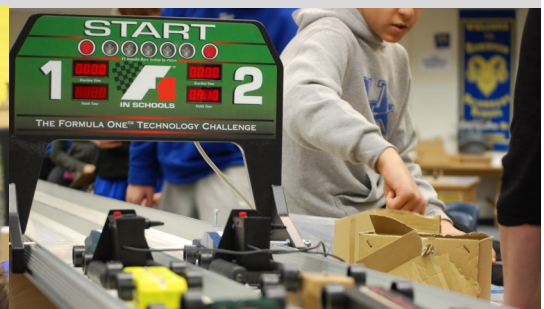
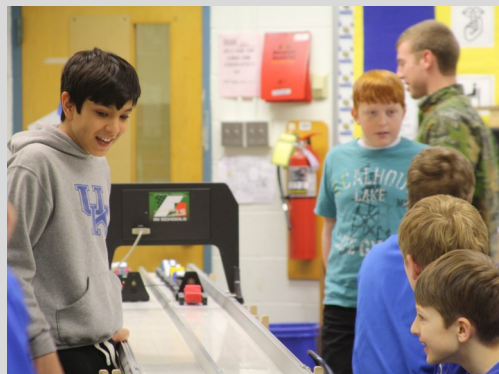
Course Description: Tech Ed is an educational, challenging, and fun elective using hands on activities to learn about technology and engineering.

Benefits: The work in Tech Ed class correlates with SOL topics covered in math and science classes. The class benefits every student and is especially helpful to those who might pursue careers in engineering, graphic design, math or science.

A word from the teachers: Engineer Your Future with Technology Exploration!

Homework Requirements: Class time is given for all activities. In the event of an absence or other circum-

- Students learn the physics of rocketry by building and launching a hydro-rocket.
- Program a robot to perform a set of activities and challenges using Lego NXT Mindstorms.
- Using modeling software, students design and test their model bridges to determine the efficiency of their structure.
- Students learn about hydraulic and pneumatic systems by making a robotic arm which moves in three directions.
- The semester ends with students making a model dragster propelled by a CO2 cartridge which moves their car down a 50 foot track at a speed of over 40 mph!



Students enjoy racing the dragsters they created down a 50 foot track.



Students work together in the kitchen to create some tasty treats. These students are making scones.

Length of Course: Semester
Prerequisites for Course: None
Course Description: Family and Consumer Sciences (FACS) at the middle school level prepares students to begin their journey toward becoming independent, productive citizens of school and the world. The Middle School Curriculum includes standards essential for ALL students. The aim of FACS courses is that all students increase their ability to act responsibly and productively, create solutions to everyday problems, utilize technology and equipment effectively and maintain healthy lifestyles as well as relationships in personal and family settings.
Course Highlights: The FACS curriculum includes the following units of study: Nutrition and Wellness; 5-6 weeks, Clothing Construction; 5- 6 weeks, Personal Development

Family and Consumer Science 8

FACS 8

opment & Relationships; 2 weeks, Teen Room Design; 2-3 weeks, and Career Exploration; 2 weeks. Exploration of each of these units will provide a bridge needed by all students to deal with life issues. During the Nutrition and Wellness unit, students will prepare a variety of foods and learn to work as a team. Individual sewing projects such as PJ's, boxer shorts, or pillows will be constructed. A special project for a teen bedroom will be completed during the Teen Room Design unit. Each unit has a unique opportunity for every student to demonstrate their creativity and skill.

Benefits: Family and Consumer Sciences (FACS) prepares students to acquire personal skills now and plan ways to transfer those skills to the workplace, assume appropriate individual and family roles, learn how to balance work and family life and acquire skills and attitudes that contribute to the good of community and society.

A word from the teacher: If you are creative, enjoy sharing ideas and have a desire to learn skills that will benefit you for a life time – **FACS Wants You!** Sign up! Come and enjoy learning new

skills while having a good time!

Homework Requirements: Very minimal homework requirements, however, two home projects may be assigned to emphasize and reinforce classroom learning. The home projects will also provide an opportunity for your family to observe what you have learned as they enjoy your deliciously prepared meal or room design project!

Who should take this course: This course is designed for students who wish to learn, help others, complete various hands-on sewing or cooking projects, and how to make smart life choices now as well as plan for the future.



Engineering Simulation & Fabrication

Tech Ed 8

Length of Course: Semester
Prerequisites for Course: None

Course Description: Tech Ed is an educational, challenging, and fun elective using hands on activities to learn about technology and engineering.

Benefits: The work in Tech Ed class correlates with SOL topics covered in math and science classes. The class benefits every

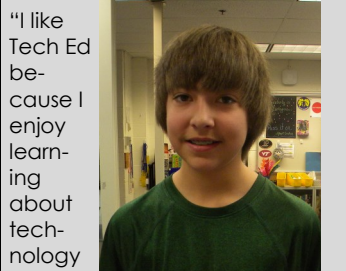
student and is especially helpful to those who might pursue careers in engineering, graphic design, math or science.

A word from the teachers: Engineer Your Future with Technology Exploration!

Homework Requirements: Class time is given for all activities. In the event of an absence or other circumstances, homework may be given.

Possible Course Highlights

- Students use and explore cutting edge technologies such as laser engraving, sublimation and 3D printing!
- Students construct and launch a solid fuel rocket and develop their understanding of the physics and mathematics of rocketry.
- Design your own chocolate bar starting with computer aided drawing. The CADD designs will be 3D printed and then vacuum formed to create a mold. Yummy!
- Students will learn the basics of electronics. Students will build solderless circuits and solder a printed circuit board.
- Students design and construct a muscle car. The fastest car per class will receive a trophy!



"I like Tech Ed because I enjoy learning about technology and love the hands on projects. My favorite project so far was making the snowflake because I had fun using the computer to design it on Inventor. We then laser engraved it on wood. I would recommend this class to people who like to build and do math."
 ~Kip Morriss



After building solderless circuits using a breadboard and learning about electric components, students learned to solder and build an electronic game.

World Languages

Students have the opportunity to earn 5 credits of World Language before they graduate from Robinson. Seventh grade students may enroll in any of the five languages offered at Robinson (Chinese, French, German, Latin and Spanish). Students complete level 1 part A in 7th grade and level 1 part B in 8th grade. Successful completion of 1A/1B awards students one year of World Language high school credit. Spreading the course over the space of two years gives students a firm foundation for future years of study and is an enjoyable way to introduce students to World Languages. In the event that enrollment does not allow a language to have a 1A class those 7th grade students will be enrolled in the Level 1 course and receive a full HS credit with successful completion of the course. 8th grade students can enroll in any of the five languages and earn one high school credit after one year of language.

The workload of a World Languages class is rigorous, like other high school courses.

- Students will have nightly homework (of about 15-20 minutes a night).
- Students will have projects that must be completed at home.
- They will need to memorize vocabulary and study for tests in addition to the nightly homework assignments.
- They will be required to keep their materials organized.



Chinese I

Length of Course: Year
Course Description: The course is a beginner's course introducing stu-

dents to the Chinese culture and language. The following themes included are: Personal and Family Life, School Life, Social Life and Community Life.

Course Highlights: Students enjoy learning about the beauty of this ancient culture through art, writing, and more.

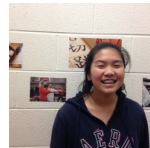
Benefits: One of the benefits of this course is learning about a language and culture that is rapidly expanding throughout the world. **A word from the teacher:** Learning Mandarin helps you have a great future!



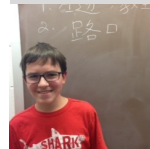
Robinson students with their teacher on a trip to China in 2016.

Homework requirements: There are regular homework assignments to help improve upon the skills learned in class.

Who should take this course: All students!



"Chinese is a great elective to take. Since Chinese economy is growing stronger, it is essential to know the language if you want to do business. You also learn about the culture and daily life in China. The teacher, Mrs. Linzer, is very nice and makes Chinese fun. If you take Chinese you can go to China over spring break with the teacher and other students. Chinese language is very beautiful and pleasing to look at. Learning to write the characters is very fun. Though it isn't easy, if you work hard it isn't that bad. I would highly encourage anyone to take this class." ~Madeline Lee



"I think Chinese is a really great language to take. It is really fun to take, and the grammar is very easy to learn. Ms. Linzer is a great teacher and she makes Chinese very easy to learn. China is becoming a very powerful country and Chinese is structured very differently from English. This is creating a high demand for people who can translate things to and from Chinese. Chinese is so much fun to write and it looks very beautiful. Some people might say that Chinese is very hard, but if you work hard it isn't that bad. Taking Chinese was one of the best decisions I made and I will keep taking it through all of high school." ~Patrick Gilles

Latin I

Length of Course: Year
Course Description: *Salvete and welcome to Latin!* You are about to join the company of Caesar, Cicero, Horace, American presidents, Albert Einstein, literary figures, and many more who have studied Latin. Learning the Latin language and culture will be an incredibly rewarding experience for you. So, as the Roman poet Horace instructs, *carpe diem* (seize the day)!

Course Highlights: Latin is a language for everyone. In addition to studying the language, students will learn about the history, culture, mythology, daily life, art, and architecture of the Romans, and will also study Roman influences in Western Civilization.

Benefits: The study of Latin is a good way to raise your verbal SAT scores. Latin study helps everyone learn the more difficult vocabulary words needed for academic courses in both high school and in college. And Latin is particularly helpful for students whose native language is not English.

A word from the teacher: Latin is both ancient and modern. Spoken by Romans 2000 years ago, today it forms the basis for more than 60% of English vocabulary. The study of Latin can



Latin students enjoy each others' company as they feast at a Roman Banquet.

enhance your ability to read and write in English, broaden your perspective of Western culture, and introduce you to vocabulary used in the fields of medicine, law, literature, science, and technology, while helping you build vocabulary for the tests such as SAT and TOEFL. **Homework Requirements:** About 20 minutes per class meeting.

Who should take this course: Latin I is a world language elective for everyone, especially those who want to work on vocabulary improvement for SAT tests. Students who plan to get an IB diploma

should begin foreign language study in grade 8 if at all possible.

Additional Info: We have a Latin (Classics Club) here at Robinson. Among the activities are: Saturnalia, state convention, certamen, New Year's cards for nursing homes, toga bowling, and Greek dancing. We also have tutoring through our Latin Honor Society as well as opportunities for scholarship and study abroad.

German I

Length of Course: Year
Course Description: *Willkommen to German!* You are about to embark on a journey with Mozart, Einstein, the brothers Grimm and countless others from the world of music, science, sports and the arts! Learning the German language and culture will be an incredibly rewarding and fun experience for you. Just remember that German and English are both Germanic languages, which means they have many similarities, making German relatively easy to learn.

Course Highlights: Not only do we prepare you to speak, read and write in the German language, we also prepare you for foreign travel to Germany, Austria and Switzerland in one of the world's most culturally interesting regions!

Benefits: Have you ever heard of BMW? Mercedes-Benz? Audi? Volkswagen? Porsche? Siemens? Bosch? Do you like Nestle Crunch? All of these companies are from German speaking countries and they need people who speak both German and English to work for them.

A word from the teacher: German is an academic elective in the world language department. Students must remember that this class will go onto their high school transcript. Yes, it is fun, but daily completion of homework is a necessity in order to achieve success in this class.

Homework Requirements: About 15-20 minutes per class meet-

ing, not including projects and studying for tests.

Who should take this course: Everyone! German is fun, the food is great and the teachers are passionate about the language. If you have a desire to travel through Europe, to order in German at a Viennese café, or just to learn something a little different, then you should take German.

Additional Info: German Club offers fun after-school activities such as Gingerbread House building, German Café, baking pretzels, Oktoberfest, and other fun events that further our knowledge of the culture and beauty of all German-speaking countries! Robinson also has a sister school in Germany, and every year the German students visit our school and we travel to Germany to visit them in the summer.



German Exchange students come from Dortmund, Germany each October for two weeks.

Spanish I

Length of Course: Year
Course Description: The course is designed for the student who is willing and ready to meet new people

and develop friendships with the fastest growing population in the United States. The primary goals of the Spanish program are to ensure that students:

- Communicate in Spanish in the major language arts skills: speaking, reading, writing, listening, and comprehension.
- Gain knowledge and understanding of the Spanish language cultures.
- Develop insight into the nature of the Spanish language and culture.
- Participate in multicultural communities at home and around the world (Fairfax County Program of Studies, 2004).

Course Highlights: One of the most exciting features about learning Spanish is how quickly the learner is able to use the language in most aspects of everyday life.

Benefits: There are many benefits to enrolling in Spanish I, but



Students enjoy sampling some traditional food during a cultural learning activity.

the most enriching one is the advantage of completing five years of Spanish language study before leaving high school!

A word from the teacher: Learning Spanish is fun and practical. And, learning Spanish requires practice and motivation!

Homework Requirements: Homework is assigned regularly. Online practice is recommended for its many benefits.

Who should take this course: This course is for anyone and everyone ready to communicate in Spanish from day one!

IMPORTANT: Students who **speak Spanish in their home** but have **not** had formal classes in Spanish language should sign up for **Spanish for Fluent Speakers 1** (8th grade and above) or **1-A** (7th grade), **not the regular Spanish 1 class!**

French I

Length of Course: Year
Course Description: *Bienvenue!* French 1 introduces students to the cultures of a variety of French

-speaking countries in Europe, the Americas, and Africa. Students work on reading, writing, comprehension, and speaking skills. This class includes hands-on activities such as games, projects, and music. Our excellent book shows what it is like to live in a French-speaking country.

Course Highlights: Students create their own cafés and take on the roles of server, chef, and customer. They make up skits and create the food, atmosphere, menus, and even costumes for the occasion. We use music as an enjoyable way to help learn the language.

Students enjoy participating in the annual French cafe.



Benefits: French is one of the world's most beautiful languages, and it is spoken on five continents, so it's a useful language. Knowledge of French culture is important to anyone's understanding of world

culture. Learning about and tasting delicious French food is fun!

A word from the teacher: Much of our English vocabulary comes directly from the French language, so there are many words that are familiar to English speakers. The pronunciation differs from English, but the result is so beautiful that French is considered the language of romance.

Homework Requirements: Expect about 15-20 minutes of homework per class meeting, not including projects and studying for tests. The workload is consistent and students know in advance when assignments are due.

Who should take this course: Everyone! Do you want to save the world? French is spoken in many developing countries in Africa. Do you want to travel or study in Europe or Québec? French is useful there as well. Do you want to order delicious French food? You'll learn how in French 1.

Additional info: Robinson has a well-established exchange program with a school in Provence, France. In the spring of 2016, French students from our sister school toured our area, came to school and stayed with our students for 10 days. During spring break of 2017 Robinson students will visit Paris and will stay with French families in Provence, touring that spectacular region. French Club offers a variety of activities including a French holiday concert and party, build-an-edible monument day, crêpe making, and other holiday celebrations. French Honor Society offers tutoring during RAISE and does other service projects.

Computer Solutions

Length of Course: Semester, open to seventh and eighth graders

Prerequisites for Course: None

Course Description: Computer Solutions provides students with the necessary skills to use the computer as a problem-solving tool and to complete a variety of projects. Basic touch keyboarding instruction is provided in the course as well as an introduction to Microsoft Office software applications.

Course Highlights: In Computer Solutions, students gain a foundational knowledge of the Microsoft Office Suite: Word, PowerPoint, Excel, and Access.

Benefits: Computer Solutions is a course that teaches valuable computer skills that will be used both in high school and college. As a result of taking this course, students will quickly see a positive change in their ability to use the computer to enhance school projects and improve their ability to clearly communicate their ideas through reports, charts, and visual presentations.

A word from the teacher: Students who have taken Computer Solutions frequently stop by



Students learn how to use Microsoft Office. Teachers often comment that they can tell which students have taken Computer Solutions by the quality of work that is handed in.

taking Computer Solutions. I am repeatedly told by core teachers that they can always tell if a student has taken Computer Solutions and they wish the course were a requirement for all students.

Homework Requirements: NONE!

Additional Info: Did you know that 95% of all jobs in the future will require computer skills? Prepare yourself by taking this elective!

my classroom or e-mail me telling me that this course has been one of the most valuable courses they have taken, as they use the skills they learned everyday in their personal lives as well as for creating projects, reports, and various documents for their classes.

Who should take this course: Everyone! No student should leave middle school without



Coding and Innovative Technologies



Speech recognition headsets are one of many digital devices used in class.

Length of Course: Semester, open to seventh and eighth graders

Prerequisites for Course:

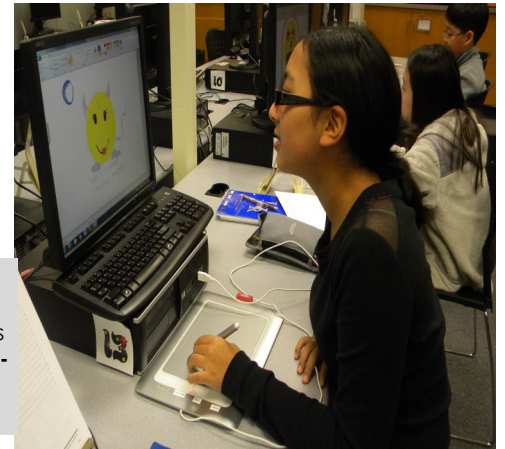
Computer Solutions
Course Description: Coding and Innovative Technologies introduces students to coding and emerging technology through hands-on projects. Students learn introductory coding concepts using a variety of apps and interactive web sites. In addition, students actively use digital devices to complete small

group or individual projects. Students become confident in their ability to adapt to new technology as it changes and will be prepared to use tools that are becoming standard in the workplace and everyday life.

Course Highlights: Students learn the basics of coding using a variety of apps and websites. Hands-on projects are completed using digital devices such as speech recognition headsets, digital cameras, digital tablets, iPads, and digital video cameras.

Homework Requirements: None
Who should take this course: Students who enjoy working with computers and enjoy hands on projects.

Learning to use technology is one of the highlights and benefits of **Coding and Innovative Technologies.**



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Christopher Farmerie (2018-2019)
7th grade Principal

Sharon Newcome (2018-2019)
8th grade Principal

Jennifer Miley,
Director of Student Services

Middle School Counselors

Richard Bevilacqua
Jamee Lyons
Dolores Malloy
Anecia Robinson



ROBINSON
SECONDARY SCHOOL

