

Course Options 2016-2017

Communications and Band: 7th and 8th grade options for the 2016-2017 academic year

Course Descriptions

COMMUNICATIONS

The first semester of this course will introduce students to the art of communication. Students will develop skills in understanding, analyzing, performing and producing ideas intelligently for an audience. The class includes communication theory as well as persuasive and informative speech preparation and delivery. The use of visual aids, verbal and nonverbal language, listening, and group dynamics are highlighted. As a summative assessment the students will be asked to present a short TED talk.

The second semester of this course will introduce students to the fundamentals of theatre and acting. Students will participate in various activities including script analysis, character development, improvisation and movement. Through these activities, students will learn physical and vocal presentation skills and develop a basic knowledge of theatre arts. The summative assessment for this portion of class will be a scene performance.

BAND

The band course will focus on playing your instrument in the context of a group. Students will learn instrumental techniques, will perform at various concerts, and will perfect the art of reading and playing music. Students will utilize some technology in order to inform their practice. Students who do not currently participate in band during the school day are welcome to join the band class, regardless of skill level. The decision to participate in the band program will require additional fees as follows:

\$250	Includes band rehearsals and weekly lessons
\$50	Includes band rehearsals only
\$100	Optional school instrument rental

Please note that families will pay **either** the \$250 or \$50 participation fee. Financial assistance is available for students interested in this program. If you have question regarding the finances of the band program, please contact Brenna Warrell at bwarrell@lcsaints.com.

Note: Advanced band and jazz band will remain extra-curricular activities.

Course Options 2016-2017

Performing and Visual Arts: 8th grade options for the 2016-2017 academic year

Learning Objectives

As an IB Middle Years candidate school, we have specific targets for learning in the Visual and Performing Arts. These targets are referred to as objectives. While each art course approaches learning in specific ways, our aim is for students to be able to grow in the following four general areas:

- 1. Knowing and understanding**, which refers to the study of specific art forms, use of specialized terminology, understanding the role of art, and making informed artistic decisions in the creation of art.
- 2. Developing skills**, which refers to the acquisition of skills specific to the art form studied.
- 3. Thinking creatively**, which refers to the process of planning, creating and sharing artwork.
- 4. Responding**, which refers to responding artistically to the world, critiquing one's artwork or the work of others, and transferring learning to new settings.

Course Descriptions

MUSIC

Eighth grade music will begin with a unit on world music, leading into two American music units - jazz and rock and roll. The jazz unit will include a blues composition project, to be shared with peers, an in-depth study of the swing era, including swing dance, various jazz musicians (including a group project), and many audio and video samples. The rock and roll unit will encompass the late 1940's through the early 1980's. It will include an independent study of an assigned artist or group, analysis of song lyrics, the examination of various subgenres, a rock and poetry project, audio and video samples throughout, and a final project and presentation that allows students the opportunity to express their personal preferences within the genre while demonstrating the knowledge they have gained. Students will also keep a process journal throughout the year, which will be used to record ideas, notes and reflections on various experiences, provide feedback to others and engage in self-reflection, note details regarding their artistic intentions, and organize an outline of their growth and development.

Note: Choir will remain an extra-curricular activity and will be available to all students in grades five through eight.

ART

Eighth grade art will focus on a few main topics this coming year: Graphic Design, Photography, Digital Artwork, Pop Art, Sculpture, and Portraits. Students will start off with a graphic design unit, focusing on logo design, visual communication, and packaging design. The focus will then move to the Pop Art movement of the 1960's, with an emphasis on sculpture, photography and collage. Lastly, students will be learning about the topic of portraits in the art world. Their inquiry will explore why portraits were originally made, and how they have changed throughout art history. Students will also explore the various expressions of the self portrait, and how self portraits can be both realistic and abstract, or implied. Art projects for the year will be shared with peers for a group display and a group critique of the artwork. Students will also keep a process journal (sketchbook), which will be used to sketch out ideas for projects, used for outside of class assignments, notes, reflections and feedback. Overall, the process journal will be used to show the artistic process of each unit in detail.

Note: Art club will remain an after school extra-curricular and still be offered on Mondays, from 3-4pm for students in grades 6-8.