

Course Descriptions for New MCHS Elective Courses 2018-19

Digital Story Telling

This course examines techniques of story production through a range of digital media which will lead to the development and production of original digital stories by students. Students will increase their knowledge and skill level as a storyteller. Various applications will be introduced to and become proficient in the creation and delivery of digital stories for smartphones, tablets, laptops, video (e.g., YouTube), and online. The art of story writing (or narrative) and using illustration, sound, motion, music, journalistic writing, and other creative elements of literature to enhance digital stories will be explored through professional examples and original student work throughout the semester.

Comic & Graphic Novel Writing

In this course students will learn all the necessary tools for creating great character-driven stories using the format and art of comics and graphic novels. The history of comics and graphic novels will be explored and professional examples will be used as models for students to create their own original comics and graphic novels. Students will learn about: character design, comic storytelling, storyboarding, writing dialogue, comic formatting, comic artwork and design, as well as publishing and marketing. If you love reading comics and graphic novels, watching DC and Marvel Comics movies, or ever dreamt of writing your own comic or graphic novel, this is the course for you.

Entrepreneurship & Investing (Personal Finance)

In this introductory business course, students will learn the basics of planning and launching their own successful business. Whether they want to start their own money-making business or create a non-profit to help others, this course helps students develop the core skills they need to be successful. They will learn how to come up with new business ideas, attract investors, market their business, and manage expenses. Students will hear inspirational stories of teen entrepreneurs who have turned their ideas into reality, and then they plan and execute their own business.

Students will also learn the basics of financial literacy, investing, and trading. Financial literacy includes the basics of personal finance, including planning, taxes, debt avoidance and wealth building. The investing portion introduces the student to investing strategies that have worked over time. The trading portion introduces the student to the mechanics of trading stocks, bonds and other securities. Students will create and analyze their own investment portfolios using various analysis and trading tools.

Global Studies & Current Events

This course incorporates the study of history, geography, government, religions, foods, economics, and cultures from around the world. While focusing on key global issues, students will develop their critical thinking, decision making, data gathering, and problem-solving skills. Some global issues that will be explored include food insecurity, water insecurity, the digital divide, climate change, and causes of poverty.

Introduction to Debate

This course covers a variety of skills for effective public speaking and debate and gives students practical experience through participation. Introduction to Debate is for students who want to learn to think, speak, and debate quickly, clearly, and persuasively before an audience. This course is designed to develop students' ability to support and present logical, researched, argument. Students are provided several opportunities to increase their effectiveness, persuasiveness, and self-confidence as a speaker and debater.

Web Design

Do you want to create your own personal place on the Internet to start an online business or personal social site? In this Web Design course, students will use a variety of design software to organize, create, publish, and manage a web site. Course content includes creating a variety of graphic elements including video, animations, rollover effects, backgrounds, and page images.

Fashion Design

Fashion and Design class is a study of the current fashions and styles best suited to the individual student, fashion careers, fashion history, merchandising, and clothing care. This course will aide in wardrobe planning and developing beginner sewing skills. Students will also be given the opportunity to create their own line of clothing and accessories and will learn how to professionally present and market their goods.

Computer Graphics & Design

Graphic Designers develop the overall layout and production design of magazines, newspapers, journals, corporate reports, and other publications. They also produce promotional displays, packaging, and marketing brochures for products and services, design distinctive logos for products and businesses, and develop signs and signage systems—called environmental graphics—for business and government. An increasing number of graphic designers also develop material for Internet Web pages, interactive media, and multimedia projects. Students will learn and practice the process of graphic design by completing the same type of projects professional graphic designers do.

Yoga

In this class, students will utilize yoga practices to become more physically, mentally, energetically, and emotionally fit. You do not have to already practice yoga to take this class—anyone can learn yoga! This class will present various basic techniques in yoga and emphasis will be placed on correct alignment and safe practice. Yoga students will learn concepts of physical fitness, identify stress reduction techniques, gain an increased ability to concentrate, and develop a Personal Fitness Plan to support a lifetime of fitness.

Weight Training

Weight Training and Conditioning course is designed to educate students in key areas of health and fitness. Main areas of focus include muscular strength and endurance, cardiovascular endurance, power, flexibility and balance. Students will learn weightlifting techniques and will be able to design a weight training and conditioning program that is realistic and attainable for their specific goals.