

Grade 7 & 8 Enrichment Course Descriptions

Building and Beyond *(New for 2018-19)*

If you enjoy building, designing, and using tools to create, then Building and Beyond is the course for you. Here you will develop hands-on engineering and manufacturing skills by designing products, reading and creating blueprints, and constructing projects. Come work with tools from rulers and compasses to drill presses and belt sanders. You will create simple and complex projects and identify a construction project you would like to undertake to help people in our community.

Creative Connections

How does art help us to understand different people, places, and cultures? How does art make us aware of ourselves and the needs of a community and motivate us to action? In this course you will learn about the ways that people use the arts to communicate and solve big issues that are of concern to all. You will interact with visiting artists and art students from around the world that will inspire you in your own art making process. By the end of the course, you will investigate and develop your own creative plan to help a community of your choice. One innovative thinker can make a difference!

Digital Media

If you are interested in scripting, filming, editing, or producing videos, then Digital Media Productions is a great option for you. You will learn to take on different roles as you produce interviews, movie scenes, "How-To" videos, advertisements, PSAs, and a community video project. Working in groups, you will learn how to use video equipment such as cameras, tripods, and microphones to film, and programs such as MovieMaker and iMovie, to edit. Students will take ownership over all aspects of production in their approach to film and media and celebrate the viewing of each video project with classmates. Digital Media Productions: *Collaborate. Create. Capture!*

Gaming & Coding

Would you like to create your own video games, interactive stories, and animations? In this course, you will learn key programming concepts (loops, conditionals, variables, even program debugging) and then design your own programs. We will use the computer language, Scratch, developed by MIT professors, to create and design programs, pursue personal interests, and interact with peers through imaginative collaborations.

Leaders of Tomorrow

"Leaders aren't born, they are made." Everyone has what it takes to be a successful leader! In this course, you will learn how to become a positive leader in your school, in your community, and throughout your life. You will engage in a variety of team-building activities. Our Leaders of Tomorrow will first explore examples of local, national, and international leadership throughout history, entertainment, sports, and politics and then take leadership action to impact a cause you feel is important.

Math & Science Research

What color frequencies do ants detect best? How do fruit flies raised in different environments react to light? Have you ever wanted to explore your own questions about the world? In this course, you will team up with your peers and conduct an original research project in science and/or math. Working with a science and a math teacher, you will have an opportunity to learn, have fun, and enter competitions!

(Over)

Newsroom *(New for 2018-19)*

Broadcasting live from Commack Middle School! Are you interested in current events? Proud of your Commack community? Curious about the behind the scenes of newscasting or want to experience being in front of the camera? Then come on into the Newsroom! You will have the opportunity to broadcast and deliver school, community, and global news to the middle school building through blogs, podcasts, and video announcements. Using web programs and audio/video equipment, students will produce written and audio/video news presentations. This course is great for anyone interested in the ins and outs of a newsroom. Newsroom: reporting on the pulse of Commack - our school, our community, and our news.

Objective Detectives: Forensics

Have you ever wondered how experts solve mysteries, perhaps even catch and convict criminals? In this course, we will investigate the basics of forensic science and how it is used to study, evaluate, and analyze crime scenes to unlock hidden clues and solve cases. Students will master investigative skills to determine and control a crime, design an examination plan, process physical evidence, and solve mysteries through the amazing world of forensic science.

Robotics

Imagine it, design it, build it, and code it! Come explore the exciting world of robotics! You will learn concepts and gain skills that are needed to use the technology of the future. In this course, we will problem-solve while working in groups with three different robotic systems: Moss Robotics, littleBits, and NAO. Bring your creativity and imagination and prepare to have fun!

S.T.E.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math)

Would you like to explore real-life problems then research and use your knowledge of science, technology, engineering, and math to create solutions? In this hands-on course, you will learn and use your abilities to design, test, and evaluate original products of your own.

Theatre

Acting and performing are exciting ways for you to express yourself and develop a meaningful understanding of your world. This class allows a form of expression where you will reach your audience through storytelling, movement, design and interaction. Working with your teacher, you will explore the different aspects of theater, including set design, costuming, performance, and culture. You will also have opportunities to perform both individually and in groups.

The Writers Studio

What is your story, your message, your passion? In the Writers Studio, there are no wrong answers and no limits to what you can create. You have the freedom to write about what interests you. Together we will explore stories, movies, anime, editorials, poetry, fiction, or any genre you are passionate about. Through Writers Studio you will self-publish a book that you can take home and add to your bookcase. Imagine how it would feel to be a published author... what will your voice be?

World Activists *(New for 2018-19)*

“It is in *your* hands to make a difference.”- Nelson Mandela.

World Activists is a course that will provide you with the unique opportunity and the resources to make a positive change in the world. Together we will address, discuss, and create action plans to find solutions for worldwide needs and issues. Through technology and social media, we will communicate with international pen pals and foster relationships with teens all over the world. In this class you will experience various cultural traditions, cuisines, music, and rituals, as well as examine and reflect on your own cultural customs in order to grow into an open-minded citizen of the world. Come be a world activist and use your leadership skills to make your voice matter. It is your turn to change the world.