



BEN FRANKLIN ACADEMY

Middle School Electives Course Selection Guide

THIRD TRIMESTER 2024-25

Electives run on an A/B schedule, meaning that they rotate every other day. **Students will register for two electives (one for A day, and one for B day).** The registration process will be online in the MySchoolBucks system on a seniority basis with eighth graders registering first, seventh registering second, and sixth graders last. All registrations are on a first come first served basis, so it is crucial that parents sign up when they are allowed.

Within the classes offered each trimester, there are spots for more than 350 students. However, every class has a limit to the number of students per class. As you are registering, if the class is not showing in the list, that means it is full and you will need to select one of the open classes.

Several classes require pre-approval from the teacher, so please take that into consideration. These are noted in the class descriptions below. If you register for one of these classes and do not have pre-approval then you will be moved to a class with a vacancy.

We are also limiting the number of students who can sign up for Study Hall, as each student has an advisory class during their schedule each day. This advisory class generally allows students additional time for studying and homework.

The following dates are when the registration window will be available by grade level. **Registration will open at 9 a.m. on the dates listed.** Again, the registration process will take place online in the [MySchoolBucks](#) system by grade level seniority. All registrations are on a first come first served basis. If the elective you wanted isn't listed, that means it is full and you must choose another class.

8th grade: February 10

7th grade: February 11

6th grade: February 12

Registration will close at 12:00 p.m. on February 14.

Students that don't sign up during their registration window will need to meet with the MS Assistant Principal to be placed into a vacant elective course.

If you have any questions, please email Jjones@bfacademy.org.

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A DAY CHOICES

3D Modeling

Ms. Konesky/Ms. Konesky's Room 278

No Fee

Limit 20 Students

Take your 3D modeling skills to the next level! Whether you learned the basics in 7th grade STEAM class or have experience from outside the classroom, this class is your chance to dive deeper into the world of 3D design. Using SketchUp, you'll create detailed models for real-world applications, from architectural designs to imaginative projects.

If you're ready to go beyond the basics and explore the possibilities of 3D modeling, this class is for you!

Focused Skills: design, collaboration, innovation, code learning

8th Grade Spanish

Ms. de Bedout/Ms. Hayes' Room 262

Fee paid 1st Trimester

8th GRADE STUDENTS ONLY THIS IS A

YEAR LONG ELECTIVE

Students pre-registered and do not sign up for an A Day Elective

Immerse yourself in the dynamic world of Spanish language and culture with this introductory elective course. You'll develop a strong foundation in basic Spanish vocabulary, grammar, and conversational skills through engaging activities and interactive lessons. Additionally, explore the rich traditions, music, and cuisine of Spanish-speaking countries, enhancing your global perspective.

Focused Skills: listening comprehension, speaking, pronunciation, vocabulary, memorization, conversational skills

Advanced Fiber Arts

Ms. Pierce/Ms. Pierce's Room 144

Fee \$20

Limit 20 Students

Requires Teacher Approval

Students pre-registered and do not sign up for an A Day Elective

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Designed for students passionate about textile-based art and with prior Fiber Art experience at BFA. This class will move at an accelerated pace and introduce more sophisticated projects and complex techniques. Advanced-level projects may include woven wall hangings, hand embroidery on clothing, and chunky yarn projects. Teacher approval is required to ensure participants have the foundational knowledge and dedication to succeed in this elective.

Focused Skills: fine motor skills, attention to detail, designing, creative thinking

Beyond the Hour of Code

Ms. Tickle/Ms. Tickle's Room 277

No Fee

Limit 26 students

During this elective you will work with many courses from Code.org. The Hour of Code is a global movement reaching tens of millions of students in 180+ countries. Anyone, anywhere can organize an Hour of Code event or try any of the 100 one-hour tutorials, available in over 45 languages. In this elective, you will go beyond the Hour of Code and be able to code in different courses and expand your knowledge of coding, computer science and AI.

Focused Skills: design, computer technic, coding, language

Broadway Through the Ages: A Musical Journey

Ms. Welling/Music Room

Fee \$15

Limit 20 Students

Step into the spotlight and embark on a high-energy journey through the history of Broadway! In this dynamic class, students will explore musical theatre's evolution by performing iconic songs and dances from different eras, from the golden age to today's blockbusters. Through singing, dancing, and acting exercises, students will bring theatre history to life while building confidence and performance skills. By the end of the course, you'll have a deeper understanding of musical theatre's evolution and a chance to shine on the "Broadway" stage of the classroom!

Focused Skills: critical thinking, contrast and compare, vocal arts and performing

Ceramics

Ms. Hinkle/Ms. Hinkle's Room 286

Fee \$15

Limit 16 students

Get your hands in the clay and discover the art of ceramics! In this hands-on class, you'll learn how to mold, sculpt, and glaze your own creations, turning raw clay into beautiful, functional works of art. Whether you're making pottery, sculptures, or decorative pieces, ceramics gives you the freedom to express your creativity

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while mastering essential artistic skills.

Whether you're new to ceramics or have some experience, this class is the perfect opportunity to grow your skills, experiment with new techniques, and create one-of-a-kind pieces you'll be proud to show off!

Focused Skills: design, clay technique, creative and critical thinking, presentation, artistry

Financial Literacy

Mr. Knudsen/Mr. Knudsen's Room 272

No Fee

Limit 20 Students

This comprehensive class equips students with essential skills to navigate the intricate landscape of personal finance. From budgeting and investments to understanding credit and building a solid financial foundation, this course empowers individuals to make informed and strategic decisions, fostering a lifetime of financial well-being.

Focused Skills: listening comprehension, math and budgeting, strategic planning, memorization, conversational skills

Flag Football

Mr. Russell and Mr. Macias/Turf

No Fee

Limit 30 students

Get ready to jump into the action with our Flag Football elective!

Students will develop teamwork, communication, and leadership skills while mastering the basics of passing, catching, running routes, and defensive strategies. This class is for those that have experience playing and should be able to understand the concepts of football.

Each session will include skill-building drills, engaging mini-games, and exciting scrimmages that promote sportsmanship and physical fitness. Come join us on the field and experience the thrill of the game!

Focused Skills: team building, sportsmanship, fitness and hockey fundamentals

Girl Up

Ms. Johnson & Ms. Svensen/Middle School Commons

Fee \$50

Limit 30

7th & 8th Grade Students

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This one's for the girls! Girls, get ready to grow up knowing you have the ability to accomplish anything you put your mind to. We will focus on emotions, peer pressure, mindfulness, and maintaining confidence throughout our teenage years. We will learn about healthy lifestyles, and take a field trip to The Institute where their top coaches will teach us to use the weight room. We will also bring in guests for a day of yoga and take a different day to learn self-defense skills appropriate for teenage girls. We will also learn to navigate around a strange city, and take the light rail downtown using maps and paper directions. We will also focus on skills useful now as well as later in life such as budgeting finances, getting ready to be hired for your first job and navigating social situations needed for middle school and high school. Discussions and activities will be geared toward mature students, and some families may want to wait to take the class. A permission slip is required.

Focused Skills: team building, mindfulness, healthy lifestyle and budgeting

Golf: The Greatest Game Ever Played

Mr. Babb/Mr. Babb's Room 172

Fee \$10

Limit 24 Students

In this engaging and interactive elective, students will explore the history of golf through a mix of films, literature, and hands-on practice. The class will watch and discuss four inspiring golf movies: *Tommy's Honor*, *The Greatest Game Ever Played*, *The Legend of Bagger Vance*, and *The Long Game*. Each film highlights different aspects of golf's rich history, from its origins and legendary players to key moments of triumph and adversity.

In addition to the films, we will read and discuss *The Match* by Mark Frost, a captivating book that delves into a high-stakes golf match between two of the game's greatest players, showcasing the sport's deep-rooted traditions and the personalities that have shaped it.

As the weather warms up, students will also have the chance to practice their skills with some chipping and putting on the school grounds (when time allows), giving them a hands-on connection to the sport they've studied. By the end of the course, students will have a deeper understanding of the history of golf, the importance of sportsmanship, and the connection between the game and broader social and cultural movements. Whether you're a golfer or a newcomer to the sport, this class offers a fun and dynamic way to learn about one of the world's oldest and most beloved games.

Focused Skills: golf skills, critical thinking, and contrast and compare

Middle School Comedy: Creating Laughter On Stage

Ms. Gelley/Thunder Gym & Stage

Fee \$35

Limit 15 students

Get ready for a fun and laughter-filled journey into the world of comedy theater! In this course, students will work together to bring a comedic play to life. Through games, improvisation, and character work, students will

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learn the basics of comedic timing, physical comedy, and ensemble performance. We will learn to develop comedic timing and delivery, work on character creation, practice improvisation, learn about stage presence and how to command attention, collaborate as a team, and perform in a comedy production. By the end of the course, students will have a blast performing a fun, lighthearted comedy while developing their acting skills and confidence. Whether you're a natural comedian or just looking for a fun way to express yourself on stage, this course is the perfect way to dive into the world of theater and comedy!

Exact title to be determined - this will be updated as soon as possible. We are waiting on rights to perform the show, but I promise, like last year, it will be a blast! Trust me!

Focused Skills: performing, reading, public speaking, and vocal arts

NJHS Teacher Assistant

Mrs. Murphy/Initial meeting in Murphy's Classroom (otherwise in assigned classroom)

No Fee

Limit 12 students - 7th and 8th Grade NJHS Students Only

Students pre-registered and do not sign up for a A Day Elective

Students in the elective will be paired up with a teacher and will assist this teacher in several different capacities. Students will receive 35 hours of individual service hours for this elective.

Focused Skills: volunteerism, teaching training, youth development, reading/writing, assisting classroom

R.E.A.D. for Success!

Ms. Salberg/Ms. Salberg's Room 246

No Fee

Limit 12 Students

Students who are pre-registered for this elective, do not sign up for a B Day Elective

Does your student struggle with reading? Could they benefit having an elective where they have more time with teacher assistance, iReady and/or Lexia? This elective is designed to foster a love for reading while increasing comprehension and critical thinking skills. This course aims to create a supportive environment where students can grow as confident, thoughtful readers and apply their skills to both academic and real-world contexts.

Focused Skills: critical thinking, reading comprehension, analyzing, group discussion

Running Club

Mrs. Nichols/Lightning Gym

No Fee

Limit 15 students

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This class will focus on ways to improve your abilities as a runner. Whether you're a beginner just getting into the sport or if you are looking to build a stronger base going into high school, this class will focus on speed, strength, stretching, agility and endurance to help you improve upon your running abilities.

The class will require some long distance runs, but will do so in a relaxed environment. The goal is to see improvement, but more importantly have fun.

Focused Skills: physical and emotional well-being strengthen resilience, appreciation of outdoor running, increase self-confidence, physical activity

Study Hall

Mrs. Fritzsche/Middle School Commons

No Fee

Limit 8 students per grade level

Students in this elective will have additional time to complete homework and work on their academic assignments. There will be **24 spots total per A or B day - 8 per grade level**. This is not an off period.

Focused Skills: time management, organization, reading & writing, fostering independence, accountability

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B DAY CHOICES

7th Grade Spanish

Ms. de Bedout/Ms. Hayes' Room 262

Fee paid 1st Trimester

7th GRADE STUDENTS ONLY THIS IS A
YEAR LONG ELECTIVE

Students pre-registered and do not sign up for a B Day Elective

Immerse yourself in the dynamic world of Spanish language and culture with this introductory elective course. You'll develop a strong foundation in basic Spanish vocabulary, grammar, and conversational skills through engaging activities and interactive lessons. Additionally, explore the rich traditions, music, and cuisine of Spanish-speaking countries, enhancing your global perspective. Focused Skills: listening comprehension, speaking, pronunciation, vocabulary, memorization, conversational skills.

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Augmented Reality & More!

Ms. Tickle/Technology Lab Room 277

No Fee

Limit 26 students

During this elective you will work with the Augmented Reality and AI programs on Tynker. Many students have worked with Tynker before, but there will be new courses and levels. Students will learn different concepts and begin to add on to their knowledge of coding basics with more challenging Tynker courses.

Focused Skills: design and program, learn to code, problem solving, teamwork

Art History

Ms. Hinkle/Ms. Hinkle's Room 286

No Fee

Limit 20 students

Step into the fascinating world of art history! In this class, we'll journey through time to explore the masterpieces that have shaped cultures across the globe. From ancient masterpieces to the bold expressions of modern art, you'll explore how artists have conveyed ideas, told stories, and captured significant moments throughout history.

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Whether you're an art lover or new to the world of art history, this class will inspire you to see the world through the eyes of artists from the past and present.

Focused Skills: analyzation, creative and critical thinking, presentation, artistry

Backyard Games

Ms. Harms & Ms. Erbaugh/Lightning Gym, Courtyard and Turf

Fee \$15

Limit 28 students

Get ready to have fun, stay active, and build skills in "Backyard Games"! This course focuses on learning and playing a variety of engaging outdoor games, all while building teamwork, problem-solving, and sportsmanship using the Colorado state physical education standards.

Focused Skills: team building, sportsmanship, fitness, strategy and fundamentals

Creative Writing

Ms. Murphy/Ms. Murphys Room 276

Fee \$15

Limit 20 students

Unleash the power of your imagination in our Creative Writing Workshop, an engaging and dynamic elective designed for middle school students with a passion for storytelling. This course provides a supportive and inspiring environment where budding writers can explore and develop their unique voices while honing essential writing skills.

Focused Skills: essential writing, storytelling, proofreading, creative and critical thinking skills

Esports

Ms. Inman/Ms. Konesky's Room 278

Fee \$35

Limit 15 Students

Join us to explore competitive e-sports through the lens of Rocket League, a high-paced, physics-driven game that blends soccer with vehicular acrobatics. Students will develop advanced gameplay strategies, teamwork, mechanical skills, and game sense essential for high-level competition. Through structured training, analysis of professional gameplay, and hands-on practice, students will improve their aerial control, positioning, rotations, and decision-making.

Focused Skills: critical thinking, teamwork, analyzing, group discussion, mechanical skills

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Exploring Dramey

Ms. Welling/Stage

Fee \$35

Limit 15 Students

Step into the world of dramedy—a unique blend of drama and comedy—where students will explore how humor and heartache can coexist on stage. In this class, we'll come together to bring an exciting dramedy to life. Students will learn how to balance the light and the heavy, creating characters and scenes that are both funny and emotionally resonant. We will learn to explore the art of dramedy, develop strong characters, practice emotional range, work on scene structure, engage in collaborative storytelling, build confidence on stage. By the end of the course, students will have gained experience in performing a rich, multi-layered production that showcases both their acting chops and their ability to engage with different tones. Whether you're drawn to comedy, drama, or both, this class will give you the tools to bring complex, relatable characters and stories to life in a fun and creative environment.

Focused Skills: critical thinking, contrast and compare and presenting

Field Day Planning

Ms. Nichols/Thunder Gym

No Fee

Limit 26 Students

In this class, you will work together to create the elementary field day t-shirts and stations. You will be responsible for running a specific station for the K-5 field day. You must fill out this form before signing up for this class. You will miss one or two days of classes so your classroom teachers will have input before acceptance into this class. Students need to fill out the [Field Day Planning Form](#). **Application is due by Friday, February 7th.**

Focused skills: planning and developing, leadership skills, fitness, coordinating

Improv & Collaborative Theater: Building Performance from Scratch

Ms. Gelley/Ms. Erbaugh's Room 174

Fee \$10

Limit 25 Students

This hands-on course invites students into the world of improvisation and collaborative performance creation, also known as Devised Theater. Focusing on the power of ensemble work, the class will guide you through the process of building original theater pieces through group exploration and spontaneous creativity. We will master improvisation techniques, collaborate as an ensemble, develop original performance works, explore physicality and vocal expression, learn storytelling and structure, practice creating with limited resources. By the end of the course, students will be equipped to create live performances from the ground up, while embracing the process of collaboration, experimentation, and trust. Whether you're an actor, writer, director,

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or theater enthusiast, this class will expand your creative horizons and deepen your understanding of theater as a shared, dynamic art form.

Focused Skills: performing, reading, public speaking, and vocal arts

LEGO Robotics: Build, Code, Create!

Mr. Astler & Ms. Dychus/Ms. Dychus' Room 264

No Fee

Limit 20 Students

Unlock the world of engineering and technology with our LEGO Robotics class! Designed for curious minds in middle school, this hands-on course combines creativity, problem-solving, and teamwork to bring your own robotic creations to life. Using LEGO Spike Prime, you'll build robots and program them to complete real-world tasks like navigating mazes, solving challenges, or even competing in mini-competitions!

Whether you're a first-time builder or already a robotics enthusiast, this class will fuel your curiosity, teach valuable STEM skills, and inspire you to innovate and think like an engineer.

Focused Skills: design & build, learn to code, problem solving, teamwork

NJHS Teacher Assistant

Mrs. Murphy/Initial meeting in Murphy's Classroom (otherwise in assigned classroom)

No Fee

Limit 12 students - 7th and 8th Grade NJHS Students Only

Students pre-registered and do not sign up for a A Day Elective

Students in the elective will be paired up with a teacher and will assist this teacher in several different capacities. Students will receive 35 hours of individual service hours for this elective.

Focused Skills: volunteerism, teaching training, youth development, reading/writing, assisting classroom

Percussion Ensemble

Ms. Johnson/Ms. Johnson's Room 184

No Fee

Limit 20 Students

Percussion ensemble is a performance-based class that emphasizes the study of a variety of cultures and percussion instruments from around the world as well as nontraditional percussion instruments such as bucket drumming. Students will perform and create music in a hands-on approach. Music theory, composition, and cultural references will also be explored. Previous experience playing an instrument is not necessary.

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Focused Skills: music comprehension, performance, music theory, memorization, gross motor skills

Sports History

Mr. Case and Mr. Macias/Mr. Case's Room 244

No Fee

Limit 25 students

This course delves deep into the riveting stories of individuals who not only mastered their chosen sports but reshaped their very essence. Uncover the remarkable journeys, triumphs, and enduring legacies of these pioneers, as we examine the pivotal moments that forever altered the landscape of sports, leaving an indelible mark on the history books.

Focused Skills: critical thinking, contrast and compare and presenting.

Study Hall

Mrs. Fritzsche/Middle School Commons

No Fee

Limit 8 students per grade level

Students in this elective will have additional time to complete homework and work on their academic assignments. There will be **24 spots total per A or B day - 8 per grade level**. This is not an off period.

Focused Skills: time management, organization, reading & writing, fostering independence, accountability

The Swift Effect: Taylor Swift's Life, Music, and Impact

Ms. Pierce/Ms. Pierce's Room 144

Fee \$15

Limit 24 Students

Students will explore Taylor Swift's life, career, music, and cultural influence. Along the way, we'll investigate her groundbreaking business moves, such as re-recording her albums, and examine her philanthropy, including her support for disaster relief and education. Through activities like breaking down the lyrics of All Too Well (10-Minute Version, of course), creating promotional campaigns inspired by her album rollouts, and brainstorming a class charity project, students will discover how Taylor Swift's influence extends far beyond music. And, of course, there will be friendship bracelets.

Focused Skills: listening comprehension, business strategies, fine motor skills, critical thinking, conversational skills
