

## Middle School Language Arts

Number your selections from 1-3. 1 is your first choice, 3 is your last.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Short Stories** This course will focus on reading and analyzing many short stories from a variety of writers. The text for this book will be the Prentice Hall 9<sup>th</sup> grade literature book which includes works such as "The Gift of the Magi," "The Most Dangerous Game," and "The Cask of Amontillado." By the end of this course students will be able to identify the major and minor components of short stories such as plot, characterization, and setting, and learn how to apply these components to longer pieces of literature. Literary terms such as metaphor, irony, and allusion will also be addressed. Students will be given an opportunity to rewrite the endings of popular short stories and to complete those with cliffhanger endings to extend the writing component taught in the first semester.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Drama** To be or not to be is NOT the question! The question is do you want to have an awesome time learning about literature in an interactive class that allows you not only to read and analyze literature, but to jump right in and become Shelby or Annelle from *Steel Magnolias* or Puck from a *Mid-Summer Night's Dream*? Do you want to hold the fate of the accused in your hand? Do you want to feel what it is like to be a teenager on the run and then come home again, safe and sound; a little bit wiser about the world? Middle School Drama will look at the development of all components of a story through the reading and acting of several plays over the semester. Students will act and direct these plays while learning about setting, theme, character development, plot and conflict resolution. All the world's a stage and Middle School Drama is a class act!

\_\_\_\_\_ **Mythology** Think you know everything there is to know about the Greeks and the Romans? Challenge your knowledge of the ancients in this humanities course! Using a variety of sources, you will learn about the language, philosophy, literature, arts, religion, and history of these ancient cultures. You will also learn about the role mythology played in these cultures and will create and perform myths of your own.

## Middle School Science

Number your selections from 1-3. 1 is your first choice, 3 is your last.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Green Gardening and Initiatives** The class will be researching, designing and building a "green" garden and one that uses "non-green" methods and comparing the two in terms of cost, taste, ease, and output. We will also look for ways to help the school be a better steward for the environment. The students will research ways to implement "green initiatives" in the school, present their ideas to the administration for approval and then implement them.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Experimental Techniques in Science AKA : Science in Pop Culture** "Could that really happen?" Have you ever asked that question after watching a movie? This is your chance to find out. In this class, students will begin by learning about experimental techniques. They will explore simple questions in the fields of biology, chemistry and physics, and perform guided experiments to answer these questions. After learning the basics, students will then explore a variety of situations illustrated in television, movies and books. The class will be charged with exploring the scientific principles behind these phenomena, and ultimately answer the question, is this possible? This will involve students performing research, designing and performing experiments and in the end presenting their findings to the world. As a culmination of this class, students will choose and explore a scientific "fact" on their own, design and perform their own experiment and present this to an audience of peers, faculty and parents.

\_\_\_\_\_ **CSI DDS** What can you tell about a person just from their bones? How can you use bugs to determine time of death? Can you frame your identical twin for a crime you committed if you leave behind your fingerprints? What about your DNA? How can you tell if someone has been poisoned with arsenic? All of these questions, and many more, will be analyzed in Crime Scene Investigation-DDS. This course provides an introduction to Forensic Science. Students will be introduced to techniques and technologies used in crime scene investigations. Specifically, students will investigate fingerprint analysis, forensic entomology, forensic anthropology, DNA analysis, and drug and toxin analysis. Students will learn about current technologies used in DNA analysis, including Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR), Short Tandem Repeat (STR) analysis, and electrophoresis. They will learn the bones of the human body, and understand how forensic anthropologists can determine age, gender and race by looking at specific bones. This course incorporates a lot of science and logic into a format that students find interesting and fun.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Advisor \_\_\_\_\_

