



Electives, 7th/9th grades, Fall 2025

General Information: These electives meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays during 6th or 7th periods. All students must take two electives per year - one each semester. Electives are worth ½ credit, graded Excellent/Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory, and do not affect GPA. 8th graders take choir during fall semester.

Beginning Cross-stitch - *Alida Craig* - This class is an introduction to the art of cross-stitching. You'll learn about the history of cross-stitching, the type of fabric you'll use, how to prepare it, and how to do the stitches. The first project we work on will be the same for everyone in order to learn the fundamentals. The next project will be the student's choice. All of the materials for the first project will be provided.

Chess - *Caleb Courtney* - This semester's chess elective will merge lessons about the history of chess with tactics. Students will learn about the development of chess through modern history, beginning in the 1600s through to modern day, and how events in history affected the game of kings. Throughout the semester, students will deepen their understanding of tactics as well, learning to think critically and simplify concepts in complex positions to help make logical decisions over the board.

Intro to Illustration - *Meg Antkowiak* - This course explores how to translate written or spoken stories into visual art. Students will build foundational skills in drawing figures, environments, objects, and creatures, with an emphasis on composition, perspective, linework, and color theory. We will also examine selected works from art history to better understand how artists can convey stories effectively using nuanced visual language (all through classroom discussions—no essays or reports assigned!). The class includes regular short drawing exercises and practical work time, leading to a final illustration project. Work will primarily be done in pencil and ink, with some painting elements introduced during color theory assignments. **All skill levels welcome. Materials fee: \$30**

Keyboarding - *Andy Carlson* - Students aim to become more proficient at the skill of typing by progressing through online typing lessons using a class set of Chromebooks. Pacing is individualized since students start from various levels of experience. Basic formatting will also be taught, and a major goal is that students leave the class better able to efficiently complete their impending research papers.

Memory Skills - *Knox Merkle* - This elective introduces students to ancient and powerful memory techniques—useful in any subject—and applies them specifically to memorizing the Word of God. Rooted in classical antiquity, the art of memory was the central tool of a classical education for centuries—the hook on which grammar, logic, and rhetoric were hung. It harnesses what the human mind remembers most readily—spaces, images, and associations—for the retention of more difficult material. Students will use tools such as the Memory Palace, the Major System, and spaced repetition to memorize three to five chapters from the New Testament. These skills are a ready handmaid in any subject, but above all, they equip the Christian to treasure up the Word of God in his heart.

Write Poetry - *Jesse Sumpter* - In this elective, students will learn how to write various poetic forms: sonnet, shape poems, blank verse, and others. Students will learn poetry techniques by reading and discussing great poets: Homer, Virgil, Dante, Beowulf, Spenser, Shakespeare, Milton, Tennyson, and others. Students will hone their skills with weekly written poetry assignments. They will also complete one larger poetry project.