DeLaura Middle School
Elective Course Descriptions
25-26 School Year

General Electives

PE: Develop the knowledge and physical skills necessary for a healthy and active lifestyle. The middle school PE curriculum includes team sports, extreme and alternative sports, wellness, and fitness. PE is a required elective in middle school. *Talk to your school counselor if you need to request a PE waiver.*

Environmental Field Science: Students will advance their science skills through hands-on exploration of the local ecosystem. Students will conduct field studies and collect data while investigating local plants, animals, water quality, and soil composition. Emphasizing scientific inquiry and critical thinking, this course will build a strong foundation for higher-level science courses in high school and beyond and foster environmental stewardship through real-world learning. *Open to all students-no application required.*

Creative Writing: Unlock your imagination and express yourself through the art of writing! In this class, students will explore various genres, including fiction, poetry, and drama. Through fun and engaging activities, you'll learn how to develop characters, create vivid settings, and craft compelling plots. Whether you're a budding author or just love to tell stories, this class will help you enhance your writing skills and discover your unique voice.

Science Research: This class allows you to independently study an in-depth science or engineering topic of your choice. Are you interested in 3-D printing, medicine, animals, chemistry, human behavior, or even our own Indian River Lagoon? Compete at the state and regional level for recognition and award money. Gain computer, laboratory, and field experiences and join us on field trips. You will be challenged and do amazing things in science research, while making some close friends along the way. *Electronic application required.*

Yearbook: In this class, students will learn how to write copy, take pictures suitable for print in the yearbook, make pages in the yearbook (each student is assigned individual pages they are responsible to create), and design a cover product. Students are responsible for working on and completing the DeLaura Middle School yearbook. *Electronic application required.*

TV Production: This class is for students who want to film school events and learn how to report the news. Use editing software to make videos that inform the DeLaura community. Lights, camera, ACTION! *Electronic application required.*

Foreign Language- High School Credit

Spanish I: This course introduces students to the target language and its culture. The student will develop communicative skills in all four modes of communication and cross-cultural understanding. Emphasis is placed on proficient communication from Novice-Low to Novice-Mid levels in the language. An introduction to reading and writing is also included as well as culture, connections, comparisons, and communities.

Spanish II: This course reinforces the fundamental skills acquired by the students in Level 1. The course develops increased listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills as well as cultural awareness. Specific content to be covered is a continuation of listening and oral skills acquired in Level 1. Reading and writing receive more emphasis, while oral communication remains the primary objective.

Career and Technical Education

Coding: This course provides the foundational knowledge and skills related to computer coding and software development. Instruction and learning activities are provided in a lab using hands-on experiences with equipment, materials, and technology appropriate to the course.

Computer Applications for Business 1 & 2: This course teaches students how to use typical business software programs in the workplace. Students will also learn how to think like an entrepreneur and will study patterns in business that yield both challenges and success.

Digital Information Technology (DIT) High School Credit: This course provides you with the foundational skills needed for future careers in a variety of technical fields. You will learn to navigate through Microsoft Office software and understand the basics of emerging technologies.

Exploring Technology: This course is a study of the "designed world." Students engage in hands-on activities and use the engineering design process and computer engineering software to fabricate prototypes and projects to solve practical problems and gain an understanding of the effects of technology on our everyday lives. The course content includes technological products and systems, energy and power, manufacturing, communication, construction, and medical and biotechnologies.

Exploration of Transportation Technology: The transportation industry is growing and evolving in how it delivers services. Students will learn the unique skills needed in transportation technologies. The curriculum includes understanding the impact of the industries that move goods and people world-wide by air, land, and sea.

Art

Digital Media/Multi-Media Foundation: This course provides competencies in presentation production issues, basic computer knowledge, digital still photography, and photo editing software.

2-D Studio Art: This course explores and refines techniques previously learned in elementary art classes. Students create a variety of two-dimensional (2-D) artworks through developing skills in drawing, painting, printmaking, and collage. Students practice, sketch, and manipulate the structural elements of art, use the art criticism process, and investigate artworks from Western and non-western cultures for a deeper understanding and appreciation of the role of art in global culture.

3-D Studio Art: Students explore the structural elements of art used when creating 3-D forms. Materials may include clay, wood, plaster, found objects, and paper mâché, with consideration of the workability, durability, cost, and toxicity of the media used. Student artists examine the effects of attention to detail, size, position, overlapping, visual pattern, and texture and focus on safety procedures for process, media, and techniques. Students use an art criticism process to evaluate, explain, and measure artistic growth in personal or group works.

Music

Beginning Band: Students with little or no instrumental experience develop foundational instrumental technique, foundational music literacy, and aesthetic musical awareness through rehearsal, performance, and study of high-quality band literature. Instrumentalists work on the fundamentals of music notation, sound production, instrument care and maintenance, and personal and group rehearsal strategies. *No audition necessary.*

Intermediate Band: Students with previous band experience build on instrumental technique, music literacy, and aesthetic response through rehearsal, performance, and study of a variety of high-quality band literature. Instrumentalists expand their knowledge of music notation, music theory, sound production, and personal and group rehearsal strategies. *No audition but experience necessary.*

Advanced Band: Students with previous band experience expand on their instrumental technique, music literacy, and aesthetic response through rehearsal, performance, and study of a variety of intermediate-level, high-quality band literature. Instrumentalists extend their knowledge of music notation and theory, sound production, and personal and group rehearsal strategies. *Audition required.*

Beginning Guitar: Students will learn the basics of guitar playing, including how to read music, play chords, and strum simple songs. The class will cover essential techniques such as finger placement, tuning, and basic music theory. *No experience necessary.*

Jazz Band: Students who have completed one year of secondary band and play jazz instruments (saxophone, trumpet, trombone, bass, piano, guitar, percussion) can audition for jazz band. Students will learn the basics of jazz style, theory, and history as it relates to U.S. history and popular music. Rehearsals and performances may be expected outside of the school day. *Audition required.*

Intermediate Orchestra: Students who have some previous orchestral experience focus on the development of instrumental technique, musical literacy, performance skills, and increasing aesthetic awareness through study, rehearsal, and performance of a variety of high-quality orchestra literature. *Audition required.*

Boys Chorus: Students with little or no choral experience develop beginning vocal technique and skills, critical and creative thinking skills, and an appreciation of music from around the world and through time. Public performances may serve as a culmination of specific instructional goals. Students may be required to attend and/or participate in rehearsals and performances outside the school day to support, extend, and assess learning in the classroom. *No audition necessary.*

Girls Chorus: Students build on previous choral experience to expand vocal, technical, musical, and ensemble skills through rehearsal, performance, and study of high-quality choral literature. Singers focus on increasing knowledge of music theory, music literacy, and aesthetic response. Public performances may serve as a culmination of specific instructional goals. Students may be required to attend and/or participate in rehearsals and performances outside the school day to support, extend, and assess learning in the classroom. *No audition necessary.*

Advanced Girls Show Choir: Students with previous choral experience build intermediate-level knowledge of vocal technique, musical literacy, ensemble skills, and related musical knowledge through rehearsal, performance, and study of a variety of high-quality 2-, 3-, and 4-part choral literature. Public performances may serve as a culmination of specific instructional goals. Students may be required to attend and/or participate in rehearsals and performances outside the school day to support, extend, and assess learning in the classroom. *Audition required.*

Vocal Ensemble Girls & Boys: Students with previous vocal ensemble experience continue to build musicianship and performance skills through the study, rehearsal, and performance of high-quality ensemble literature in a variety of styles. Student musicians learn to self-assess and collaborate as they study relevant musical styles and time periods. Public performances may serve as a culmination of specific instructional goals. Students may be required to attend and/or participate in rehearsals and performances outside the school day to support, extend, and assess learning in the classroom. *Audition required*