

## **Capital Day School**

### **Middle School Electives 2011-2012**

Most elective classes last for one quarter and are open to a limited number of students. There is currently no requirement for students to choose any particular mix of electives, so parents are encouraged to guide their children's choices. Elective course descriptions follow.

*Second quarter classes begin on Wednesday, October 26.*

#### **Art**

- Drawing – Students in the nine-week drawing course will study art history from the Chauvet cave drawings to contemporary work including cartooning and Japanese Anime. Students will use traditional and non-traditional drawing materials such as drawing pencils, pens, charcoal, and scratch boards to create drawings based on the unit studied. Students will be required to maintain and complete a visual journal/sketchbook that contains class notes, reflections, research, experiments, sketches and drawing exercises.
- Painting – Students in the nine-week painting course will study art history from the Gothic paintings of Giotto di Bondone to the paintings of the Abstract Expressionists. Students will work with traditional and non-traditional painting materials such as watercolors, acrylics, water-soluble oil pastels, and found objects on a variety of surfaces including paper, canvas, and silk fabric. Students will be required to maintain and complete a visual journal/sketchbook that contains class notes, reflections, research, experiments, sketches and art work.
- Printmaking – Students in the nine-week printmaking course will study art history from the beginnings of art printmaking with the wood cuts of Northern Renaissance artist Albrecht Dürer to the Super Realist thumb-print portraits of Chuck Close. Students will work with a variety of printing processes and materials such as linoleum cuts, foam prints, silk screen and Plexiglas. Students will be required to maintain and complete a visual journal/sketchbook that contains class notes, reflections, research, experiments and art work.
- Sculpture – Students in the nine-week sculpture course will study art history from early Greek and Roman bas relief sculpture and sculpture in the round to the contemporary recycle art of Vik Muniz. Students will experiment with a wide variety of materials such as tooling foil, papier maché, wire, found objects and books. Students will be required to maintain and complete a visual journal/sketchbook that contains class notes, reflections, research, experiments and art work.

#### **Drama and Music**

- Drama – Using drama games, activities, exercises, and the study of the history of theater, we will prepare a full/one act play. We will create basic costumes, scenery, and props for our performances. Also, the students will learn about interpreting and writing a play script. We would perform at least four school-wide performances of our play, and one video performance.

- Middle School Chorus – The students will learn vocal techniques, choral warm ups, the basics of 2-3 part choral harmony, and how to read a choral score. Our goal will be to sing pieces by various composers of different eras and explore the history and culture of each. We will also learn how to sing solos and prepare an audition in conjunction with the Kentucky All State Children's Chorus by using the computer program Audacity to create an audio CD. The CDS Middle School Chorale will perform 3-5 choral works on the Capital Day School Holiday Sing.
- Piano and Introduction to Music Theory – Students will prepare 4-6 piano pieces from level appropriate piano repertoire. We will learn the basics of Music Theory including: Intervals, Scales, Key Signatures/Circle of Fifths, I, IV, and V7 chords in each key, and Major and Minor concepts. We will utilize handouts and the computer game PianoMouse to practice these skills. Using a midi keyboard and the computer program Print Music!, students can use their theory skills to create and publish their own compositions. The students will perform two memorized pieces either from their repertoire list or their own compositions on a school-wide Recital. Also, we will use the computer program Audacity to create an audio CD of their performances.
- Guitar and Song Writing – Our goal will be to create a music video of original Guitar songs using Windows Movie Maker to be viewed on the Capital Day School Website. By playing familiar songs, the students will learn beginning and intermediate chords, multiple strum rhythms, single string work, bass note after strums, finger picking, and bar chord techniques. We will also explore lyric writing in teams. Using these skills, the students will create original songs with guitar and/or vocal scores. They can use the computer program Print Music! to enhance and publish their works. We will use a flip cam and Windows Movie Maker to create a story board and edit a Music Video of their choice for the Capital Day School Website.

## **Spanish**

### ***This class will be a semester-long class.***

- In this class, we will seek to cultivate an interest, knowledge, and appreciation of foreign languages and cultures through the study of the Spanish language and Hispanic cultures. Specifically, in this Spanish elective we will be incorporating the following vocabulary and grammar concepts into our knowledge base:
  - Vocabulary and expressions relating to: greetings and expressions of courtesy, classroom objects and commands, numbers, geography, house, family, animals, occupations, food, colors, time, date, weather
  - Grammar: subject pronouns; -ar verbs in the present; irregular verbs ser, estar, tener, hacer; agreement and placement of regular and irregular adjectives; possessive adjectives; prepositions.

## **Creative Writing**

- This course will give students an opportunity to explore their own creative writing abilities. We will write a variety of short stories, personal essays, poems, and plays as well as participate in various writing activities that will hone students' creative abilities. Two of the goals of this course will be to enjoy the writing process and to gain self-confidence, particularly in our writing abilities and own creativity. This course will be a great fit for any student who enjoys writing and using his or her imagination.

## **MathCounts**

***MathCounts regulations prohibit home school students from participating with CDS students unless they are enrolled for the majority of their classes at Capital Day School.***

- The MathCounts Competition Program provides the extra incentive and the perfect atmosphere for students to push themselves to achieve more in mathematics. Consisting of fun and creative problems that promote critical-thinking and problem-solving skills, the MathCounts competitions have written and oral rounds, as well as individual and team components. Though challenging and non-routine, the competition problems focus on the 6th through 8th grade standards of the National Council of Teachers in Mathematics.

MathCounts provides the materials for teachers and students to use as they prepare for the Competition Program. Participants advance through School, Chapter and State Competitions until the final 224 students are selected from 56 states and territories to advance to the MathCounts National Competition held each May. The National Competition adds an additional individual component called the Masters Round.

## **KUNA (Kentucky United Nations Assembly)**

***The number of students for this class is unlimited. Please note the required fee.***

- The Kentucky United Nations Assembly is a three-day experiential learning conference in which students participate directly in simulated international diplomacy. As Ambassadors emulating the culture and representing diverse interests of UN member countries from around the world, students dive deeply into the culture of another nation and are encouraged to reexamine the world from another perspective.

Students offer solutions for international issues by writing, presenting, debating, and voting on proposals. Students also celebrate cultural diversity by presenting aspects of their chosen country's culture at the Global Village and International Stage. Officers elected by students serve as conference leadership, supported by YMCA professionals, advisors, and parent volunteers.

Class time will be devoted to research about the country selected to be represented, development of proposals, and preparation of displays and presentations, culminating in the three day learning conference held in March, 2012, at the Crown Plaza Holiday Inn (formerly the Executive West) in Louisville. This program is similar to the KYA Program in which the all 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade students participate in December.

The cost will be approximately \$240 per student, in addition to tuition. This fee will include registration, all activities, rooms, two main meals, and a conference T-shirt. The fee will be added to your monthly bill if your child participates.

## **Fitness**

- This class will look at the 5 basic components of physical fitness. We will explore various types of activities in order to create a more fit individual. Some of the activities may be sport related. We will not be playing games and activities that we normally do during physical education classes. (Physical education classes are a requirement for all students. PE classes meet twice a week for the entire school year.) We will be doing cardiovascular movements, muscular strength and endurance movements, and flexibility activities. It will be a type of class involving dumb bell weights and resistance bands and body weight movements. There is a possibility of doing some fitness type DVD's such as P 90 X or other types of fitness programs as an additional tool. Students will need a small notebook to keep a record of their workouts during this class. We will be doing a pre and post test very similar to what we do in the regular physical education classes.

Students will be required to wear clothing appropriate for the class such as work out shorts, t-shirts and tennis shoes. Students will also need to bring a change of clothes that are school appropriate for the rest of the day.