



BEN FRANKLIN ACADEMY

Middle School Electives Course Selection Guide

FIRST TRIMESTER 2021-2022

Electives run on an A/B schedule, meaning that they rotate every other day. **Students will register for two electives (one A and one B).** The registration process will be online in the MySchoolBucks system on a seniority basis with 8th graders registering first, 7th second and 6th 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 over 400 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 vacant class.

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 9am 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: Wednesday, July 7th

7th grade: Thursday, July 8th

6th grade: Friday, July 9th

Registration will close at 10pm on Wednesday, July 14th. Students that don't sign up during their registration window will need to meet with Mrs. Boland to be placed into a vacant elective course.

If you have any questions, please email Mrs. Boland (sboland@bfacademy.org).

2021-2022 1st TRIMESTER

A DAY CHOICES

BACKYARD GAMES/Mares & Crespo/Upper Turf/Lightning Gym

Fee \$10

Limit 40 Students

There's nothing better than being outside, especially at the end of a long school day! Join Miss Mares in Backyard Games to participate in some friendly competition in the sunshine and fresh air. We will be playing games like Corn Hole, Spikeball, Kan Jam, Ladder Toss, Washers, and more!

BEGINNING LEVEL SPANISH/Connell/Maker Space

No Fee

Limit 20 students

Students in Beginning Level Spanish will be introduced to Latin culture basic conversational Spanish and basic grammar. This will be an introductory course, where students will start by learning greetings, the alphabet and pronunciation. Then focus on how to use the verbs ser and estar and how to form basic sentences with gender agreement of nouns and adjectives. This beginner Spanish class is designed for those students who are new to the language.

BOY'S SOCCER/Svensen & Tickle/Large Turf Field or Svensen's Room

Fee \$10

Limit 40 Students

Boys Soccer is a great way to practice your soccer skills and have fun playing 4v4 with other middle school boys. Each day will consist of some practice drills with a lot of touches on the ball, and then we'll move on the turf for a 4v4 tournament the second half of the class. On Fridays we will have full field games. Boys playing fall soccer are encouraged to join the elective, but it is not mandatory, and it is not restricted to those playing for the school teams. Any boy may sign up. Whether you've played for years or you want to try it out for the first time, this is a great opportunity to come have fun!

DRAMA/Johnson/Music Room & Stage

No Fee

Limit 20 Students

In the Drama offering, students explore the fundamentals of acting as the actor uses his or her voice, mind, and body, through the utilization of exercises and games, through which the students develop ensemble and individual performance skills. As a final, students prepare and perform scenes from various plays. Students will have an opportunity to attend ThesCon, theatre conference and workshop (extra fee).

FIBER ARTS/Pierce/Pierce's Room

Fee \$15

Limit 20 Students

Bring your creativity and craftiness to this class! Fiber Arts is an elective that involves using textiles such as yarn, string, and other synthetic fibers to create art such as woven wall hangings, string art, knitted, and crocheted blankets (if time allows), and even friendship bracelets and lanyards! Students in this elective will also learn about how these materials are made.

GIRL'S VOLLEYBALL/Murphy/Thunder Gym

No Fee

Limit 22 Students

Girls interested in playing for the BFA team are encouraged to join this elective, but it is not a requirement to be on the school team. The additional practice time will allow for more work on skills and get more touches and bumps on the ball. All participants must wear sports attire and athletic shoes. We will also introduce the game, rules, strategies, and practice the game through several mini tournaments. The elective will only be offered to girls. Boys Volleyball will be offered in the spring.

MAN-UP!/Macias & Knudsen/Knudsen's Room

Fee \$15

Limit 45 Students

Our objective is to provide tools for the middle school boys on how to be productive members of our society and how to become young men by discussing various topics. For example, hygiene, respecting one another, nutrition, conducting interviews, being coach-able, harmful substances, demonstrate directions (light-rail, bus, car, walking/riding a bike directions) and community service. We will go on a field trip to the Rockies game if the time and day is available.

MIDDLE SCHOOL MATH-a-PALOOZA/Harlow/Harlow's Room

No Fee

Limit 20 Students

Middle school specialized math help, from Saxon Course 1 and 2 to Pearson Course 3 (pre-Algebra), Algebra, and beyond. Any and all math help will be available. We will work on difficult concepts by exploring different approaches to help you understand and grow.

PAINTING AND DRAWING/Hinkle/Hinkle's Room

No Fee

Limit 24 Students

Students will learn to use graphite, pen and ink, watercolor, tempera and acrylic. Compositions will be from direct observation, photographs and pure imagination.

SCIENCE APPS/Denham/Denham's Room

Fee \$30

Limit 20 Students

Can you build a catapult that will launch a bean bag the farthest? How about creating a hot air balloon that will float above the school or a balsa bridge that will hold the most weight? In this elective, we'll be putting science applications into fun creative activities and contests. Get some experience using some basic power tools.

STUDENT COUNCIL/Poleschook/Poleshook's Room

No Fee

Students must apply for student council

The first trimester will be an elective where we set up plans for the year including: officer elections, middle school socials, dances, and house system plans. The following trimesters there will be no elective, but members will be required to commit to meetings during Advisory and on rare occasions, before school. StuCo is a great opportunity to make your mark on BFA, as well as learn leadership, collaboration, and initiative skills. Plus, we'll have a lot of fun!

STUDY HALL/Fritzsche/Commons

No Fee

Limit 15 Students Per Grade Level

Students in this elective will have the additional time to complete homework and work on their academic assignments.

TEACHER ASSISTANT/Murphy/1st Meeting, Murphy's Room (then in partner teacher's room)

No Fee

Limit 7th and 8th Grade NJHS Students Only

Students in the elective will be paired up with a teacher and will assist this teacher in several different capacities. Students will receive the required Service Hours for this elective.

TRADITIONAL CRAFT MAKING/Erbaugh/Erbaugh's Room

Fee \$15

Limit 24

In this fun elective, students will explore traditional crafts including: sand art, creating mandalas, DIYs, woodworking, sign design, and weaving.

2021-2022 1st TRIMESTER

B DAY CHOICES

ART HISTORY/Hinkle/Hinkle's Room

No Fee

Limit 26 Students

In this class we will study different periods of art. We will use worksheets, presentations and some practical projects to enhance the learning experience

BEGINNING LEVEL SPANISH/Connell/Maker Space

No Fee

Limit 20 students

Students in Beginning Level Spanish will be introduced to Latin culture basic conversational Spanish and basic grammar. This will be an introductory course, where students will start by learning greetings, the alphabet and pronunciation. Then focus on how to use the verbs ser and estar and how to form basic sentences with gender agreement of nouns and adjectives. This beginner Spanish class is designed for those students who are new to the language.

CURL UP AND READ/Salberg/Salberg's Room

No Fee

Limit 25 Students

Do you love to be whisked away to worlds beyond your imagination? Are you captivated by a good book? If you answered yes, then this is the elective for you. You will spend each class reading any book you like in a blissfully silent room. Read for the pure joy of it. Are you READY?

FLAG FOOTBALL/Crespo & Macias/Large Turf Field or Thunder Gym

Fee \$5

Limit 48 Students

Flag Football starts off with sports conditioning, and the mile run. Participants will be required to run the mile in 10 minutes or under before they can join a team. This elective is for students already familiar with the rules and skills of Flag Football and who want some friendly, sportsmanlike competition with their middle school peers. Students will be split up into teams for the trimester to compete in league style play, with a championship tournament to end the trimester. Students are required to participate fully with a good attitude each day. First offenses of these rules will result in a lower daily grade, multiple offenses will result in being asked not to join the elective the following trimester.

GUITAR/J. Johnson/Johnson's Room

No Fee

Limit 20 Students

Learn the fundamentals of playing acoustic guitar. Basic elements of music such as note reading and rhythm will be emphasized with proper playing technique. Songs will be played as a guitar ensemble. You must provide your own guitar! See Ms. Johnson for where to rent/buy.

MIDDLE SCHOOL MATH-a-PALOOZA/Harlow/Harlow's Room

No Fee

Limit 20 Students

Middle school specialized math help, from Saxon Course 1 and 2 to Pearson Course 3 (pre-Algebra), Algebra, and beyond. Any and all math help will be available. We will work on difficult concepts by exploring different approaches to help you understand and grow.

STRATEGY GAMES/Babb/Babb's Room

Fee \$5

Limit 24 Students

This class is a great way to have fun at the end of the day while sharpening your critical thinking skills. Join Mr. Babb in Strategy Games to play some of your favorite board games and maybe to learn a few new ones. We will play games like Chess, Risk, Settlers of Catan, Ticket to Ride, Clue, Stratego, Othello, and several more.

STUDY HALL/Schmit/Commons

No Fee

Limit 15 Students Per Grade Level

Students in this elective will have the additional time to complete homework and work on their academic assignments.

TEACHER ASSISTANT/Murphy/1st Meeting, Murphy's Room (then in partner teacher's room)

No Fee

Limit 7th and 8th Grade NJHS Students Only

Students in the elective will be paired up with a teacher and will assist this teacher in several different capacities. Students will receive the required Service Hours for this elective.

TOUCH TYPING/Konesky/Konesky's Room

No Fee

Limit 26 Students

Focus is on proper form with fingers resting on the home row keys. Learning to type without looking at the keyboard increases your speed and accuracy which makes typing more fun and enables you to get homework done faster! If you type under 30 words per minute consider this course.

WALK/RUN THE TRAIL/C. Johnson & Dychus/C. Johnson's Room & Fly'n B

No Fee

Limit 40 Students

Students will be walking off campus to the Fly'n 'B' Park and the High Line Canal Trail. If you enjoy walking, or just want to get outside for a while this is the perfect elective for you. Parents will need to sign a permission slip to allow students to be off campus. We are also looking for parent volunteers to help monitor the students while we are out on the trail.

WATERCOLOR PAINTING/Inman/Inman's Room

Fee \$20

Limit 25 Students

Relax and create paintings using watercolor paint while listening to music. We will quickly discuss the symbolism of a specific painting and then try to recreate it. Occasionally we will have free choice painting time.

WEEBLY BLOGS and WEBSITES/Tickle/Tickle's Room

No Fee

Limit 26 Students

Design your own blog/website using Weebly. In this elective you will get your creative juices flowing with your writing, videography, photography, and maybe tap into some new interests!

YOGA/Poleschook/Upper Turf

No Fee

Limit 20 Students

Take some time out of your day to relax and stretch. Yoga has been proven to help decrease stress and anxiety and to provide physical health benefits. Distress tolerance skills will accompany yoga instruction to help students use these skills during the regular day.

ZEN ZONE/Pierce/Pierce's Room

Fee \$15

Limit 262 Students

Let's get our zen on! In this elective, students will practice strategies that increase self-awareness while also calming their minds and refocusing their attention. We will be meditating, zen doodling, exploring quiet fidgets, and other mindfulness practices. The students will also learn how to apply some of these tools in their other classes, when appropriate.