



## **ELECTIVES 2017-2018 FOR GRADES 6-8**

Parents and students may use this sheet to consider and plan elective programming for the coming year. Key points to guide the planning:

- The purpose of all electives is to grant opportunity for students who have talent and/or passion to pursue an area of study in further depth.
- These electives are beyond the competition opportunities that stem from the classrooms. When planning electives, careful consideration of other programs beyond daily homework is important: grades 5-6 science fair, grades 7-8 science competition (new), History Day, MATHCOUNTS, and writing projects. By curricular design, science fair or competition is required in grades 5-8 and History Day is required for grades 7-8. History Day is optional for grade 6.
- If students are not in an elective, they will have a study hall which is an integral aspect in the development of study skills and organizational habits. This is a valid elective choice.

### **INCOMING GRADE 6 STUDENTS – OVERVIEW OF ELECTIVE OPTIONS**

**Instrumental Music Ensemble** – Two days/week. Sign up by May 30.

*NEW - Advanced ensemble with the seventh and eighth grades is now open to sixth graders for the first time. See sign-up sheet (below) for prerequisite skills.*

**Spanish I** – Once per week. Sign up by May 30 (see next page).

*NEW – An introduction to a formal Spanish I course. For the first time, this class for sixth graders is **optional** and students **must sign up** to take it. This course follows a sequence that continues through seventh and eighth grade. Students may not join in seventh or eighth grade.*

**Computer Coding – Semester Course** – Two days/week

*NEW – Computer class in coding expanded to two sessions/week for one semester. Other computer applications are infused into subject area courses. Students will be assigned a semester. Whether its first or second semester, students may opt out after two weeks. Prerequisite: Type 30 words per minute.*

**Choir** – Once per week. See sign-up sheet (below) for prerequisite skills. Sign up by May 30.

**Future Problem Solving** – Once per week. Explanatory note and sign up in the fall.

### **INCOMING GRADES 7-8 – OVERVIEW OF ELECTIVE OPTIONS**

**Instrumental Music Ensemble** - Two days/week. Sign up by May 30.

*See sign-up sheet (below) for prerequisite skills.*

**Choir** – Once per week. See sign-up sheet for prerequisite skills. Sign up by May 30.

**Future Problem Solving** – Explanatory note and sign up in the fall. Once per week.

**Power of the Pen** – (beyond LA class – second and third quarter). Once per week.

*Explanatory note and sign up in the fall.*

**Spanish I or II** – Spanish class is an elective. Two days/week.

*This is a high school Spanish course for students who wish to continue language instruction they received in earlier years and who desire to pass out of Spanish I. Students who begin the cycle in seventh grade and continue in eighth grade will pass out of Spanish I or sometimes Spanish II.*

**Computer Curriculum** – All seventh and eighth grade students will participate in technology options one day/week that include coding, graphic design, virtual reality design, video creating/editing. There is no need to sign up ahead of time, but a prerequisite to participate in class is to pass a typing test: 35 words per minute for seventh and 40 words per minute for eighth. Students not able to comply should see Mrs. Waldal for a link to practice over the summer.

## MUSIC ENSEMBLE ELECTIVES

**Sign-up by May 30 (email Mrs. Chu at [chu@birchwoodschool.org](mailto:chu@birchwoodschool.org))**

Next fall we will offer a few musical options including 1) instrumental ensembles – including strings, woodwinds, recorders, percussion (limited to one player by audition) and keyboard (limited to one player by audition), and 2) choral. Note that the prerequisites must be met in order to audition for a place in one of the ensembles. **Please use form below to consider your choices.**

The following are the prerequisites and expectations for ensemble participation:

**Instrumental Ensemble** – Requires instrumental study for at least one year, private lessons and regular practice.

Other skills and behaviors:

- Able to sight read the notes and count the beat by yourself.
- Willing to cooperate with other members in the ensemble.
- Able to be attentive to the instruction of the director.
- Prepared for rehearsal.

**Choir**

- Able to sight sing the music, count the beat, and sing in tune.
- Willing to cooperate with other members in the ensemble, listen to the instructions of the director, and practice own part before the rehearsal.

**We will have auditions for all the applicants during the first two weeks of September.**

*Note that enrolling in a music elective is in lieu of a study hall. Instrumental Ensemble members will have two sessions per week.*

Questions may be addressed to Mrs. Chu at [chu@birchwoodschool.org](mailto:chu@birchwoodschool.org).

There will be instrument teachers for private after school piano, violin, viola, cello, flute, and guitar lessons for a fee. If interested, contact Mrs. Konopinski at [shulamite.konopinski@gmail.com](mailto:shulamite.konopinski@gmail.com).

## SPANISH I ELECTIVE GRADES 6-8

**Sign-up by May 30 (email Señora Rodriguez at [rodriguez@birchwoodschool.org](mailto:rodriguez@birchwoodschool.org))**

**Spanish I or II** – Beginning in sixth grade, Spanish class is an elective. This course, a high school Spanish curriculum, is for students who wish to continue the language instruction they have received in earlier years at Birchwood and who desire to pass out of Spanish I in high school. Students who take this cycle through eighth grade will pass out of Spanish I and sometimes Spanish II.

Questions may be addressed to Señora Rodriguez at [rodriguez@birchwoodschool.org](mailto:rodriguez@birchwoodschool.org).

**ELECTIVES 2017-2018 FOR GRADES 6-8  
SELECTION FORM**

**Turn this form into the main office by May 30.**

Please email Señora Rodriguez at [rodriguez@birchwoodschoo.org](mailto:rodriguez@birchwoodschoo.org) whether or not your child(ren) will be taking Spanish.

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**Register for music ensembles by filling out the form below:**

Student name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

I play \_\_\_\_\_ instrument(s) for \_\_\_\_\_ year(s).

At the present time I study with \_\_\_\_\_ teacher(s)  
for private lessons.

**You may choose one or two:**

I am interested in string and wind ensemble and my choice of instruments is:

Violin  Viola  Cello  double bass  Flute  Clarinet  percussion  keyboard

I am interested in the choir. I can sing:

soprano  alto  tenor  bass