



7th & 8th Grade Electives Course Offerings

SEMESTER COURSES:

Designed to provide enrichment and exposure to a variety of curricula. Students will take a combination of two 18-week classes in a broad range of the Fine and Practical Arts. The following is a list of classes that may occur in the pairing.

Class	Description
Art	Explore the foundational skills of art through a series of engaging projects that progressively increase in complexity and scope. This hands-on course offers a diverse range of mediums, including watercolor, colored pencil, oil pastel, paper mache, clay, tempera paint, and more, allowing students to develop their creativity and technique across various artistic forms.
Ceramics	Explore the creative possibilities of clay through a series of engaging ceramic projects that build foundational hand building skills. This hands-on course introduces students to the art of ceramics while developing techniques such as shaping, joining, and surface design. Throughout the semester, students will create a variety of functional and decorative pieces including cups, bowls, jars, figurines and more. Each project encourages students to express their creativity and personal style while strengthening their craftsmanship.
Culinary, Design, and Education (CDE) Careers	In this hands-on, semester-long course, students dive into real-world skills they'll use for a lifetime! From creating delicious dishes in team kitchen labs to mastering food safety and sanitation, students learn what it takes to succeed in the kitchen and beyond. But that's just the beginning! Students explore smart nutrition choices, clothing care basics, essential money management skills, and complete a creative hand-sewing project they can be proud of. Along the way, they'll discover career

	opportunities connected to culinary arts, fashion, hospitality, and financial fields. This life skills course builds confidence, teamwork, and independence – all while having fun and making great food!
Technical Processes	This course provides students with the opportunity to strengthen their 21st century skills while exploring a variety of technologies. Students are able to participate in topics like programming, computer-aided design, audio/video production, engineering, graphic design, photography, flight simulation (earned from good work habits/completion of projects), 3D printing, and computer animation. The goal of the class is to provide an opportunity for students to experience as many types of technology as possible so that they can begin to make informed decisions about future classes and careers.

YEAR-LONG COURSES:
 Designed to give students the opportunity to dive deep into the subject matter and gain advanced skills.

Class	Description	Pre-reqs or criteria for class?
Art Advanced	Dive into the world of art as this course takes your skills to the next level! Explore a variety of exciting mediums—colored pencil, watercolor, acrylic paint, and clay—while mastering advanced techniques and unleashing your creativity. Each project will not only sharpen your artistic abilities but also immerse you in the fascinating world of art history and appreciation. With a focus on collaboration and cross-age projects, you'll work alongside others to create stunning, one-of-a-kind masterpieces. Get ready to transform your passion for art into incredible works of expression!	
Culinary, Design, and Education (CDE) Careers Advanced	This year-long course is perfect for students who love food, creativity, and hands-on learning! Designed for aspiring chefs and future hospitality leaders, this class brings the kitchen to life through friendly food competitions like <i>Cupcake Wars</i> and high-energy <i>Food Truck Races</i> , as well as student-led cooking demonstrations where creativity takes center stage. Students explore the art	High score on Application (demonstrating basic culinary proficiency)

	<p>and science of food – from mastering plating techniques and food photography to understanding the chemistry behind baking and the strategy of meal planning. Beyond the kitchen, students build practical life skills including clothing care, hand sewing, and using a sewing machine to design and create their own apron. Learning extends beyond the classroom through meaningful community service projects and special partnerships with their LRES “little buddies,” building leadership and mentorship skills along the way. This comprehensive life skills course also strengthens financial literacy and smart consumer decision-making, while introducing students to exciting careers in culinary arts, hospitality, fashion, and business. It’s a fun, fast-paced class that builds confidence, creativity, teamwork, and real-world skills that last a lifetime.</p>	
<p>Drama</p>	<p>This is a year-long class with the focus on producing a play for an audience. Students learn acting skills through the process of creating a play from page to stage. Along with the introductory acting skills needed for a play, students also participate in production jobs such as directing, lighting, sound, set design, costuming, stage management, and hair and make-up. Additional activities include a field trip to Disneyland to attend the Disney Broadway Magic Workshop and to local venues to view plays and musicals. If you enjoy acting and love being in front of an audience, this class is for you! If you want to be part of an ensemble that is a family where everyone belongs, this is the class for you!! No experience necessary.</p>	
<p>Spanish 1 (8th Grade only)</p>	<p>The main emphasis of the language is placed on (1) the mastery of the sound system, which is basic to pronunciation, (2) simple conversation and practical expression, (3) basic grammatical concepts necessary in speaking and (4) an introduction to the short, simple reading selections. Students who receive a yearly cumulative grade of “A” or “B” will be recommended to advance to the second year of the language. These students will receive “course credit” toward meeting the foreign language requirement for college admission. Students will not, however, receive “unit credit” toward meeting the required 220 units for high school graduation. Requirements: “B” grade or better in Language Arts/English class.</p>	<p>B or better in 7th Grade Language Arts/English class</p>

<p>Stage Craft</p>	<p>In this hands-on course, students will explore the behind-the-scenes magic of theater production. From set design and construction to lighting and prop creation, students will learn the essential skills needed to bring a performance to life. Through creative projects and teamwork, they will gain practical experience in stagecraft while developing problem-solving and technical skills. Whether interested in designing, building, or running a show, this class offers a fun and engaging introduction to the world of technical theater! This class will collaborate extensively with Drama.</p>	
<p>ASB</p>	<p>This class teaches the principles and dynamics of student leadership. Students who are elected/appointed to leadership positions will be enrolled in the year-long class. Students will interact directly with the student population at LRMS in real-time, real-world, problem-solving situations.</p> <p>Student body officers will perform a variety of services throughout the school year such as: welcoming students to our school during orientation, creating our school's budget, conducting business meetings, and running the school-wide fundraiser. Students will also plan and organize school-wide activities such as dances, spirit weeks, student recognition using the Prize Wheel, lunchtime games/activities, sports tournaments, the talent show and the 8th grade dance. Fostering interpersonal relationships and communication skills, community awareness and involvement, and applying problem-solving and critical thinking skills to social situations are the primary focus.</p>	<p>Application Interview Teacher Recommendations</p>
<p>PAL</p>	<p>Our PAL students help develop and foster a school community based on kindness, and help ensure that every student feels safe and welcome here at LRMS. PAL focuses on teaching students how to help their peers and the broader community through service learning. Over the course of the year, students will develop interpersonal and communication skills, foster community awareness, and apply problem-solving and critical-thinking skills to peer, social, and personal situations.</p> <p>PAL students' responsibilities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Hosting PAL ROAR ● Hosting gatherings for students who are new to LRMS ● Planning and organizing activities for Red Ribbon Week. 	<p>Application Interview</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organizing and planning monthly Student of Character awards • Organize and manage the Care Closet • Heritage Month celebrations • Host weekly lunch games and activities at LRMS • Keep in contact with the 6th-grade buddy and plan events • Four weeks of activities for Kindness Month • Various drives for both the school and the Ladera communities • Plan and host school-wide assemblies • Coordinate with ASB and Video Production to foster a community of kindness and respect at LRMS • Provide weekly teacher help <p>Interested students will need to complete an application and an interview.</p>	
Video Production	<p>Students in this course will dive into the exciting world of video production, learning the basics of storyboarding, lighting, video editing, and on-camera presentation. They'll get hands-on experience creating a variety of fun and creative projects, including music videos, green screen effects, and public service announcements. Plus, they'll take on the challenge of producing Lion News Network (LNN), our weekly broadcast news show! Along the way, students will work together, think outside the box, and build the skills needed to bring their ideas to life on screen.</p>	Application Video Sample
Virtual Enterprise - Junior Ventures (VE-JV)	<p>In this interactive course, students launch and manage a virtual company, taking on key roles in marketing, sales, finance, and more. Through a hands-on business simulation, they develop teamwork, problem-solving, and financial literacy skills while creating marketing campaigns, setting prices, managing inventory, and interacting with other student-run businesses nationwide. Using an online platform, students gain real-world business experience in a fun, career-focused environment, preparing them for future success in high school and beyond.</p>	
Yearbook	<p>Step into the world of yearbook production and gain hands-on experience in every exciting phase of creating a school yearbook! From planning and designing to the final publication, students will dive into the latest technology</p>	Application

	used for online yearbook creation. You'll develop key skills in writing, photography, photo editing, page layout, copy editing, and interviewing—all while learning the art of storytelling. Explore journalistic styles from newspapers, magazines, and other yearbooks, and put your creativity to work as you craft a lasting memory for your school!	
Chorus Intermediate (7th Grade)	This class is designed for students who would like to continue their studies in music or voice. Greater attention will be devoted to improving vocal skills, building confidence and stage presence and interpretation of music as a soloist and choir singer with a focus on songs from musicals, pop and classical repertoire. The choir will attend festivals as well as singing appearances at school and throughout the community. Attendance at all choir events is required.	6th Grade Chorus or Music Intro
Chorus Advanced (8th Grade)	This class is designed for students with some singing experience who wish to continue their study in voice. Greater attention will be devoted to improving vocal skills, building confidence and stage presence and interpretation of music as a soloist and choir singer with continued focus on music theory and notation. Songs and choral music of all styles and time periods will be studied. The choir will attend festivals as well as singing appearances at school and throughout the community. Attendance at all choir events is required.	7th Grade Chorus or Music Intro
Band Advanced (7th Grade)	This course is designed for students who have mastered the basic music skills and concepts presented in Band 6 and wish to continue to develop greater musical understanding and mastery of their instruments. Music of increasing difficulty will be presented with instruction designed to increase the range, flexibility, endurance, tone quality and artistic interpretation of the student. The Advanced Band is a performing group, and attendance at school and community concerts is required.	Band 6 or by audition
Wind Ensemble (8th Grade)	This course is designed for students who have mastered the music skills and concepts presented in the Advanced Band or Concert Band, and wish to develop advanced musical understanding and mastery of their instrument. Students will be challenged by the performance of advanced middle school music requiring more sophisticated understanding of rhythms, key signatures, and musical terminology. Students will gain an increasing ability in aural	Band 6 or Band Advanced equivalent or by audition

	discrimination, and expanded awareness in the understanding of music from a variety of stylistic periods, in addition to gaining increased proficiency and technique on their instruments. The Wind Ensemble is a performing group, and attendance at school and community concerts and festivals is required.	
Orchestra Advanced (7th Grade)	This course is designed for students who have mastered the basic music skills and concepts presented in Orchestra 6 and wish to continue to develop greater musical understanding and mastery of their instruments. Music of increasing difficulty will be presented with instruction designed to increase the range, flexibility, endurance, tone quality and artistic interpretation of the student. The Advanced Orchestra is a performing group, and attendance at school and community concerts is required.	Orchestra 6 or by audition
String Ensemble (8th Grade)	This course is designed for students who have mastered the music skills and concepts presented in the Advanced Orchestra or Concert Orchestra, and wish to develop advanced musical understanding of the mastery of their instrument. Students will be challenged by the performance of advanced middle school music requiring a more sophisticated understanding of rhythms, key signatures, and musical terminology. Students will gain an increasing ability in aural discrimination, and expanded awareness in the understanding of music from a variety of stylistic periods, in addition to gaining increased proficiency and technique on their instruments. The String Ensemble is a performing group, and attendance at school and community concerts and festivals is required.	Orchestra Advanced or by audition

Non-Discrimination Statement

The Capistrano Unified School District prohibits discrimination, intimidation, harassment (including sexual harassment) or bullying based on a person's actual or perceived ancestry, color, disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, immigration status, nationality, race or ethnicity, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or association with a person or a group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics. For questions or complaints, visit [Non-Discrimination Complaints](#).