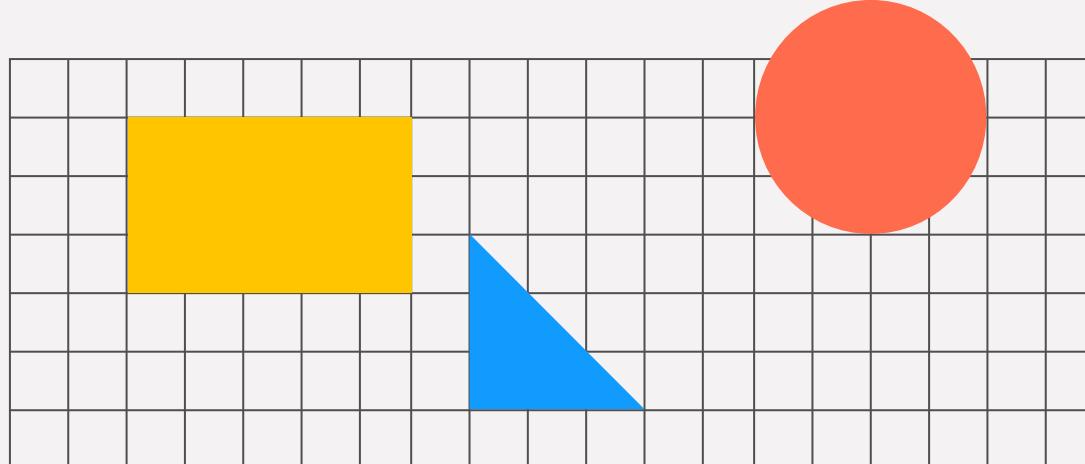


JM Electives

2026-27 School Year



****All Courses are Yearlong****

Check with current elective teachers if you have more questions



Visual &
Performing
Arts



STEM



Humanities



World
Languages



8th Grade
Only

Visual and Performing Arts



- **Band:** learn to play Woodwind, Brass, or Percussion in Cadet Band or play with more experienced musicians in Intermediate/Advanced. Perform both in-school and evening concerts. (grades 6-8)
- **Orchestra:** learn to play Violin, Viola, Cello, or Bass in Beginner Strings or play with more experienced musicians in Intermediate/Advanced. Perform in-school & evening concerts. (grades 6-8)
- **Chorus:** all levels of singers from beginner to advanced are welcome. You will perform both in-school and evening concerts. (grades 6-8)
- **Guitar:** learn the fundamentals of guitar at your own pace and select the music you learn and play.

Visual and Performing Arts (Continued)



- **Art/Ceramics:** learn or further develop your skills with drawing, painting, mixed media. Make pottery on the pottery wheel. Learn about art history, and create a digital portfolio of your work.
- **Drama:** Learn the basics of performance, dramatic structure and theater production through: performing monologues, dialogues, skits, scenes and full plays; reading and writing plays; designing sets, costumes, scenery, lighting, and staging.

Science Technology Engineering & Math(STEM)



- **Coding/Robotics:** (1 semester for each course) Video games are cool, right? But can you build one? In coding you will learn the history and fundamentals of coding and create your own games and apps along the way. In Robotics you will learn how to design, build, and program your own robots. The emphasis is on “learning by doing”.
- **Magic of Electrons/Design & Modeling:** (1 semester for each course) Do you want to use hammers, drills, soldering irons, LEDs, and more to create electronic projects that you can take home and enjoy? Do you ever wonder how a certain product was designed or how you could make improvements to a certain design? Then this course is for you. Gain knowledge and skills in basic circuitry design, the design process, measurement, sketching, Computer Aided Design and small tool use. There is no homework for this course.

STEM (Continued)



- **Math Competition:** This course is for students who have a special interest in mathematics and love working on challenging math problems. Rather than traditional instruction, students will learn through exploration, inquiry and teamwork. Students will compete in multiple contests. Students should be comfortable openly sharing their thought processes with classmates. This course encourages curiosity, perseverance, and a growth mindset.
- **Foods:** Are you a foodie? Do you love cooking and trying different kinds of food? Then this course is for you. Students will learn about nutrition, kitchen safety and sanitation. Students will have their own kitchen all semester to cook and taste foods from different cultures. Sign up and learn to cook: a skill that will last a lifetime!

STEM (Continued)



- **Environmental Science:** Environmental Field Science & Sustainability is a hands-on, semester-long elective that uses the Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School campus as a living laboratory. Students conduct field investigations, analyze real operational data, and design solutions related to biodiversity, water use, energy conservation, waste systems, and environmental health.

Humanities



- **Debate/Public Speaking:** Improve your skills at public speaking and communication. Learn elements of persuasion, presenting information, and entertaining. You will get to experience debate, mock trial, and speech. Come ready to work in teams, partners, and individually.
- **Yearbook Design:** To make another award-winning yearbook we need a mix of artists, photographers, graphic designers, and creative thinkers that can work successfully in a self-paced environment focused on teamwork. You will develop skills in digital photography, web-based design, Canva elements, and layout.
Students requesting this course will need to attend an informational session and submit an application.

Humanities (continued)



- **Journalism:** Are you a storyteller or love to write? Join journalism to tell the story of our school and the world around us. This class will dive deep into informational writing, interviewing, editorial writing, and interpersonal skills. Students will work hard, meet deadlines, and have tons of fun reporting on the news around our campus, community, and world.
- **Team Sports:** develop the physical skills necessary to be competent in many forms of movement and knowledge of team sports concepts. Units may include, but are not limited to, the following sports: Volleyball, Kickball, Ultimate Frisbee, Flag Football, Team Handball, Touch Rugby, & Basketball. This class is taken in addition to grade-level PE and would be a second PE class.

World Languages



- **Mandarin, French, and Spanish:** for all of our world languages, if you take 1a as a 7th grader and 1b as an 8th grader you will complete the equivalent of the first year of High School language. This will allow you to start in the second year of your language of choice when you enter high school. All of our World Language courses offer both rigor and enrichment – students learn a new language, and they learn about the history and culture associated with that language.

8th Grade Only



- **Leadership:** Leadership students must embody responsibility & integrity on campus. They need to be able to work independently on projects from the beginning stages of organization to the final details. Above all, students in this class must be dedicated to making a positive difference in our school climate by promoting enthusiasm across all grade levels. *Students requesting this course will need to attend an informational session and submit an application.*
- **Front Office Aide/Library Aide:** for responsible students who will assist in the main office or library. They will receive training in a variety of skills needed to run an office or library. Limited to one student per period. Office/Librarian approval required.