

Del Mar Middle School

2021 - 2022
7th/8th Grade Electives

It is now time to sign up for next year's elective classes. This brochure will help guide you in selecting elective classes that best suit your interests and talents. We also have a [folder with videos](#) demonstrating what you will learn in several of the elective courses. Some courses may be offered as full year classes, some will be paired and structured into half year Wheel courses and some may be offered as half year Wheel and full year options (see **red notes** below descriptions)

Note: We may not be able to accommodate all students' top elective choices in our efforts to maintain balanced and small class size in all subject areas.



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**Spanish**

*\*Please note that Spanish is an academic elective, not required at Del Mar. To sign up for Intermediate Spanish, students must have completed Introductory Spanish and to sign up for Advanced Spanish, students must have completed Intermediate Spanish. Students who complete the advanced Spanish level will start in a higher high school placement.*

## **Introduction to Middle School Spanish**

Students learn how to talk about activities they enjoy, their friends, classes, favorite foods, drinks, and healthy habits. They use the regular present tense to converse with each other, act out skits, write poems, create art, and make presentations. Reading opportunities include the mini-novel "Isabela Captura Un Congo," articles and online content. Students experience Mexican history, culture, art, and music--for example, "El Día de los Muertos" and "El Día de Independencia de México." **Year long course.**

## **Intermediate Spanish**

Students must have taken Introductory Spanish to enroll in this course. In this 2<sup>nd</sup> year class, students learn to talk about what they are going to do in the future, describe families and celebrations, extend invitations to a party, order food in a restaurant, and shop for clothes. Students use regular and irregular present tense to speak with partners, read literature, write paragraphs and short essays, act out scenes, create digital presentations, and communicate

through other digital mediums. Students will research, discuss and learn about culture, celebrations, and traditions in the Spanish speaking world, including: “Quinceañeras”, a scary folk tale called “La Llorona”, “Songs of the Week” and much much more! **Year long course.**

### **Advanced Spanish**

Students must have taken Intermediate Spanish to take this course. In this 3<sup>rd</sup> year class, students learn to talk about extra-curricular activities, explain daily routines, state what they did over their past vacation, and explain what they were like as a child. By the end of the year, students will be able to speak and write in the present and the past tenses. Student work includes creating videos, conversing with partners, making presentations, and reading books and online material. Cultural influences include la Conquista, the impact of Muslims on Spanish language and culture, Mexican Independence Day, the influences of náhuatl on Spanish, and African influences on Cuban and New Orleans jazz. Current events are a significant part of the course, too. **Year long course.**

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Humanities

Creative Writing

Students will experience a variety of genres including fiction, historical fiction, Hero’s Journey, nonfiction, and various types of poetry. Products include free writing projects, memoir, screenplays, literary journalism articles, comic strips, and short stories. Within a Writer’s Workshop format, students experience the writing process through drafting, sharing, revising, and reflecting. Digital publishing opportunities and an annual Open Mike grant students the chance to share their work with real audiences. **Offered in 7th/8th Grade wheel.**

Leadership

Leadership class students are the voice of the student body at Del Mar. Being a leader and a part of this class lets you participate and organize the events we hold throughout the year. These events include assemblies, dances, the talent show, competitions, spirit days and more. We also direct student run activities such as working and running the Del Market, DJing friday music, running the Ball Cart and much more! We go to Reed School every other week during lunch to engage with the K-2 kids in and out of the classroom. We love to build off each others’ ideas and come up with new and fun ways to better our school. We also learn about qualities of leaders and how to cooperate with others all while creating better versions of ourselves!

*** Students who select this course will need to fill out an application after Spring break.

Offered as a year long course and 7th/8th Grade wheel.

Leadership (Environmental Focus)

The students in this leadership class will be creating positive environmental change at Del Mar and the greater Tiburon community. Leadership students will learn about important environmental topics, organize, create, and run environmental programs at school, create educational videos and posters, and be instrumental in making a lasting, positive environmental impact at school, the community, and the world! This class also allows students to develop their leadership skills, and offers opportunities to present to our



community. No prior environmental knowledge is necessary to take this class — just a can-do attitude and a desire to make the world a better place!

Offered in 7th/8th Grade wheel.

Speech & Debate

This course focuses on the mastery of public speaking, argument, and dramatic interpretation. On any given day, students may be giving an impromptu speech, delivering a heartfelt monologue, practicing their pitch and tone, debating the use of capital punishment, or filming their own TED Talk. Through practice, feedback, and reflection, students build confidence and fluency in the art of forensics. These skills are critical to student success and are the foundation of a healthy and well-functioning democracy. Students who are currently enrolled in speech and debate and elect to take the course for a second year must send a detailed email to Mr. Lynch explaining how repeating speech and debate will benefit them in 8th grade.

Offered in 7th/8th Grade wheel.

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## **Mathematics**

### **Real World Applications of Math**

This elective will engage students in challenging mathematics lessons and activities built around social justice issues, such as healthy eating, living wages around the world, access to clean water, fair trade, and even socially responsible investing. Students will explore critical issues while developing their skills in mathematics, gaining a broader understanding of the world, and fostering a lasting sense of both communal and personal responsibility. **Year long course.**

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Visual and Performing Arts

Advanced Art

This class is for the serious artist who has a passion for visual arts. Intermediate art experience is recommended but not necessary—anyone with a strong interest can apply. Advanced artists will be encouraged to find their artistic voice and express it in their work. They will have the opportunity to paint, draw, print and sculpt with teacher/student-designed projects throughout the year. During the last trimester they will explore their own interests as an individual artist and work on projects they have designed themselves.

Offered as a year long course and 7th/8th Grade wheel.



Drama 7/8

Drama is a fun, interactive, entertaining and creative place for all! Activities that teach valuable performance and presentation skills include improv, drama games, lip syncs, scenes, stand-up comedy, mime, Readers' Theater and working with props. Learn how to project your voice, use a



microphone, gain confidence and stage presence. We learn the “language of performance” and apply it to creating and watching shows.

Offered as a year long course and 7th/8th Grade wheel.

Guitar

Students will learn the three main ways of reading music for guitar: standard notation, tablature and chord symbols. Students will develop guitar technique to perform a variety of musical styles, including classical, rock, and folk. Students will perform in school concerts, class recitals and other community events.

Offered in 7th/8th Grade wheel.



Intermediate Art

We will focus on the history and various disciplines and techniques related to visual arts. Students will have an opportunity to practice and improve their skills in drawing, painting, sculpture, collage and printmaking. At the end of the year students will have the opportunity to develop their own individually-designed projects.

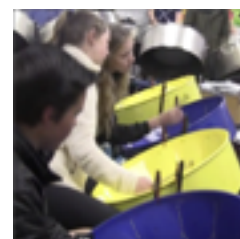
Offered in 7th/8th Grade Wheel.

Symphonic Band

Students will experience the excitement and enjoyment of creating amazing music with classmates. This class is open to new and returning students interested in studying a concert band instrument. It is never too late to learn an instrument! Students perform at school concerts, a music festival, and other community events. **Year long course.**

Steel Pans

This performance-oriented class consists of in-depth study of musical genres. Students play a variety of music that include: reggae, blues, and rock and roll. Culminating activities include playing in the winter and spring concerts plus special event performances. Students learn the value of working together as an ensemble to create memorable musical experiences. **Offered in 7th/8th Grade wheel.**



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## **Technology**

### **Design Lab – Robotics and Computer Coding**

This is a rotating 7/8th grade Wheel. Through project based learning, students will learn the engineering design process, basic



prototyping, CAD (Computer Aided Design) in 2D and 3D, circuitry, and robotics. Students will use laser cutters, 3D printers and vinyl cutters to design the future. Students will spend the second half of the year learning structured coding in fun and creative ways. Students will code apps and games and build a robot that they can control with a joystick. **Offered in 7th/8th Grade wheel.**

### **Design Lab – Robotics and Integrated Media Projects**

This is a rotating 7/8th grade Wheel. Through project based learning, students will learn the engineering design process, basic prototyping, CAD (Computer Aided Design) in 2D and 3D, circuitry, and robotics. Students will use laser cutters, 3D printers and vinyl cutters to design the future. The second half of the year students will learn how to use photoshop to create movie posters and inspiration for school spirit days. Students will design game pieces and playing cards and students will learn video production to create films. **Offered in 7th/8th Grade wheel.**



### **Multi Media and Digital Publications**

A course for beginning and intermediate film students and students who want to work on the School Yearbook. Students will make a variety of films during the year. Students will learn the elements that make up a good film and learn composition and framing techniques. They will learn



how to edit clips, add sound and create films that will go on the Del Mar TV show.

This class is also responsible for creating the School Yearbook. Students will use their photography skills to create memorable books for all of our students.

**Offered as a year long course and 7th/8th Grade wheel.**