



## 7/8th 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.

All of the 7th and 8th grade elective classes are offered as full year courses.

**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.



~~~~~

### Spanish

*\*Please note that Spanish is an academic elective, not required at Del Mar. To sign up for Intermediate Spanish, students must have passed Introductory Spanish with a C or better. Students who complete the advanced level will start in 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 present digital shows. Students read the mini-novel "Isabela Captura Un Congo" and experience the culture, art, food, and music from Mexico ("El Día de los Muertos," "El Día de Independencia de México.")



#### **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 this weekend, describe their family 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, act out scenes, create digital presentations, and communicate through online blogs. They experience cultural celebrations about Central America, such as participating in a kite flying ceremony from Guatemala. They also read "Piratas," a mini-novel set in the Caribbean Sea.

## **Advanced Spanish**

In this 3<sup>rd</sup> year class, students learn to talk about extra-curricular activities and volunteerism, 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 complex sentences using extended vocabulary in the present and the past tenses. Students will create videos, converse with partners, and blog with friends in foreign countries. They will learn about South American cultures through creating Incan pots and reading the mini-novel “Casi Se Muere,” which is set in Chile.

---

## *Humanities*

### **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.

### **Creative Writing**

Students will experience a variety of genres including fiction, drama, nonfiction, and poetry. Products include free writing projects, movie posters, graphic novels, travel/food blogs, screenplays, literary journalism articles, and short stories. Within a Writer's Workshop format, students experience the writing process through drafting, sharing, revising, and reflecting. Digital publishing opportunities grant students the chance to share their work with real audiences.

### **Leadership**

Leadership class students are the voice of the student body at Del Mar. Leadership students will organize the school dances, talent show, Del Mar TV show, spirit days, student led tournaments, and be instrumental in our Student Council and Restorative Justice programs. They will learn effective project management skills by thinking critically and creatively.

### **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 (like recycling and composting), create educational videos and posters, and be instrumental in making a lasting, positive environmental impact at school, the community, and the world! 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!



---

## *Visual and Performing Arts*

### **Advanced Orchestra**

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.



### **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.

### **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.



### **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.

### **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.



### **Intermediate Drama**

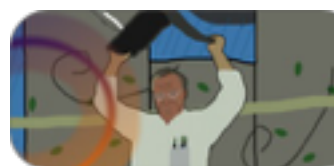
Drama is a fun, interactive, entertaining and creative place for all! Activities that teach valuable performance and presentation skills include improv, drama games, lip syncs, scenes, stand-up comedy, mime, Readers' Theater and working with props. Learn how to project your voice, use a microphone, gain confidence and stage presence. We learn the "language of performance" and apply it to creating and watching shows.



## *Technology*

### **Design Lab and Computer Coding**

Students will spend half of the year learning structured coding in fun and creative ways and the other half in the Design Lab where they will use the physics of simple machines to design, build, and create.

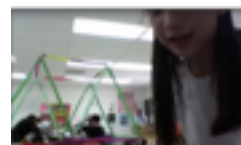


### **Design Lab and Integrated Media Projects**

Students will spend half of the year learning skills in Photoshop, film, animation, VR, and other digital projects. Students will spend the other half of the year in the Design Lab where they will use the physics of simple machines to design, build, and create.

### **Design Lab**

Students will spend the entire year in the Design Lab where they will use the physics of simple machines to design, build, and create. Projects include programming microcontrollers, calculating the physics of our machines, and learning how to become an engineer.



### **Integrated Media Projects**

This course emphasizes the application of Principles of Design in multimedia art and publications. Students are encouraged to focus on and specialize in self- and group-designed projects according to their personal interests and/or to help communicate and promote school-wide projects and goals. Areas of focus may include creating original compositions incorporating digital imaging, sound, and video.



### **Del Mar TV, Digital Publications, and Yearbook**

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.