

# Enrichment Class Registration Form for Grades 7 & 8

**Return Last Page to Middle School Office by April 30, 2015**

## Introduction:

Based on the feedback received from students, parents/guardians, and faculty, we are making some adjustments to the 7/8 Advisory/Enrichment Course program as follows:

- All 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will continue to take an enrichment class for 35-minutes every other day; however, each course (with the exception of Math Club) will be a semester in length, rather than a full year, thereby enabling students to experience two different areas in one year.
- One class day each week will be reserved for students to do homework, get help from their teachers, make-up tests, and do grade checks with their advisors. Our hope is that this dedicated study time will help students manage their workload and still have time for athletics, activities, and family/friends.
- The traditional advisory curriculum (non-cognitive skills development, organizational skills, etc.) will be covered in 7<sup>th</sup> grade seminar.
- Several new courses have been added to further reflect the needs and interests of our students. See below for course descriptions.
- Note: Class sizes will remain small to facilitate relationship-building among students, and between students and faculty.

## Course Descriptions:

- **Debate:** This class will focus on the fundamentals of debate. Students will work on persuasive speaking and writing, and how to build and present an argument through careful research and analysis.
- **Design Thinking:** This course is about believing we can make a difference, and having an intentional process in order to get to new, relevant solutions that create a positive impact. Students engage in hands-on design challenge that focuses on developing empathy, promoting a bias toward action, encouraging ideation, developing metacognitive awareness, and fostering active problem solving. It is human-centered, collaborative, optimistic, experimental, and fun.
- **Destination Imagination:** This program offers students the opportunity to select and solve a challenge in a creative, fun, and collaborative way. DI encourages risk-taking while incorporating STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics), the arts and service learning. Students learn patience, flexibility, persistence, ethics, respect for others and their ideas, and the collaborative problem solving process. Students may choose to showcase their solutions at a tournament in early spring.
- **Math Club:** This option is for students who love math, love a challenge, and are interested in participating in Mathcounts, the premier math competition for 7<sup>th</sup> and

8<sup>th</sup> grade students. Math Club works with problems and topics that students do not encounter during their math classes. Students who think hard math problems are fun and who participated in and enjoyed Math Masters will love Math Club!

- **Model United Nations:** Model U.N. is an innovative international education program that engages students in both classroom work and in simulations involving human rights, peace and security, economic factors, and sustainable development issues. Students have the opportunity to research a country and issue before coming together with classmates and students from across the state to brainstorm solutions in a simulated United Nations conference. For additional information, go to, [www.unamn.org](http://www.unamn.org).
- **Quiz Bowl:** This class serves to prepare students to compete in National Academic Quiz Tournaments (NAQT) throughout the year. The class generally centers on scrimmage play to build buzzer skills and knowledge bases. Students also do preparatory work in specific subject areas, particularly ones outside of traditional school curricula. Students, as part of the class, will also compete in 3-4 NAQT Tournaments throughout the year. For more information, go to: [www.naqt.com/ms/middle-school-quiz-bowl.html](http://www.naqt.com/ms/middle-school-quiz-bowl.html).
- **Reading and Writing Workshop:** This course is designed for students who love to read, and enjoy the craft of writing. Students will explore a variety of genres in this class, including poetry, short stories, fiction, non-fiction, and children's literature. The course is intended to broaden students' understanding of literature and writing by giving them additional opportunities to read, write, critique, and edit their work in an ungraded setting.
- **Science Olympiad:** Students interested in STEM-related fields will enjoy this course, which enables students to explore genetics, earth science, chemistry, anatomy, physics, geology, mechanical engineering and technology through active, hands on teamwork. Students may choose to compete in the spring in areas such as Disease Detectives, Dynamic Planet, Crime Busters, Bridge Building, and more. For more information, go to: <http://soinc.org>.
- **Speech:** This course will focus on the fundamentals of competitive speech. Students will be introduced to many different categories of public speaking, and will develop and hone their skills in the areas of speech writing, enunciation, facial expression, gesturing, and pacing.
- **Structured Study Hall:** Students who need additional support and guidance along with a quiet place to study during the school day will benefit from this time with the Learning Specialist. Ms. Kramer will provide extra help in the areas of time management, organization, and study skills to those who need it. Pre-approval from the Learning Specialist and MS Director is required. Students on Learning Plans will be given priority.

- **World Savvy:** This class enables students to delve deeply into a global theme, building their knowledge and understanding of what it means to be global citizens. Participants will then collaborate to showcase their knowledge through art and media projects, and will ultimately create a plan to take action locally, nationally or internationally. For additional information, go to: [www.worldsavvy.org](http://www.worldsavvy.org).

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

### Return to Middle School Office by April 30, 2015

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade in  
2015-16: \_\_\_\_\_

Directions:  
Students should rank their top three (3) choices for each semester.

Semester One Courses	Rank (1,2,3)	Semester Two Courses	Rank (1,2,3)
Destination Imagination		Debate	
Math Club*		Design Thinking	
Model UN		Math Club*	
Quiz Bowl		Quiz Bowl	
Science Olympiad		Reading and Writing Workshop	
Speech		Structured Study**	
Structured Study**		World Savvy	

\*Math Club is a year-round course.

\*\*Structured Study requires pre-approval from the Learning Specialist and the MS Director.

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_