

Here are brief course descriptions for some of the electives offered at WGMS in 2017-18.

Leadership: is an exciting elective designed to help develop leadership skills through direct participation in the planning and implementation of a variety of student and staff activities. The curriculum also includes teacher-led lessons on topics such as goal setting, communication, decision making, leadership styles and parliamentary procedure. Students plan many fun events, including dances, rallies, fundraisers, and spirit weeks!

Choir: Willow Glen Middle School choir is a class for students learn how to sing as an individual, in a group, and how to compose music. The Willow Glen Middle School applause show choir is a group that also does singing and dancing. An audition is required to be accepted into the applause choir. Auditions will be on June 1 from 3:30 to 5 PM and H104. More information on choir, and auditions, can be found at go.sjUSD.org/willowglenchoir

Our semester long creative writing elective is filled with fun, laughs, and lots of writing. Students in this class write in all kinds of styles and all kinds of genres. From writing a modern-day fairy tale to researching for an I-Search project, they will do it all. At the end of the semester, students leave with a portfolio of their best work and the confidence in knowing they are writers.

PLTW Engineering: Is a rigorous semester long STEM elective that feeds into the high school PLTW program for students looking to go into engineering and technology courses in college. This fast-paced class takes students through the Design and Modeling module. Copyrighted curriculum includes 5 units: What is engineering, Design Process, Measurement, Sketching and dimensioning, Design for production. This is a hybrid course where students are expected to have good math/measuring skills, and be adept at using technology to turn in assignments online [Google drive/docs preferred]. The class involves very detailed group work to solve real world issues. Students must be motivated to work in groups and think outside the box to become effective problem-solvers. For example, students get to work on Autodesk Inventor program to create 3-D designs on the computer. Students use what they have learned on a final exam in which they are given a mystery 3-D design to create on the computer using the Autodesk Inventor program. This one-semester course flips with PLTW- biomedical class the following semester.

Biomed PLTW: Students play the role of real-life medical detectives as they analyze genetic testing results to diagnose disease and study DNA evidence found at a "crime scene." They solve medical mysteries through hands-on projects and labs, investigate how to measure and interpret vital signs, and explore how the systems of the human body work together to maintain health.

This is a computer-based class and covers 3 modules during one semester, including

1. What is a Medical Detective?
2. Mysteries of the Human Body Systems
3. Murder Mystery

Biomed is a fast-paced, student-driven class. Assignments are completed in small groups and are completely digital. Students must possess some knowledge of Google Docs and Slides and be comfortable on the computer.

Robotics: Do you like to build things? Do you enjoy remote controlled vehicles? Are you fascinated by the idea of having things respond to your commands? If you responded yes to any of these questions, then robotics is the class for you. In the WGMS Robotics class you will build robots, some from building instructions and others of your own design. You learn to drive a remotely controlled robot and work on getting it to complete a series of tasks. You will also learn to program your robot to respond to input from sensors and navigate a field all on its own.

Introduction to Computers: Drawing! Music! Animation! Coding! Video Games! If you enjoy these types of computer-based activities, then the WGMS Intro to Computer class is the elective for you!

Yearbook: is a year-long collaborative program where students learn design techniques, computer programs, communication skills, and teamwork in order to produce our yearbook. Students become more involved with campus activities and form strong relationships with their peers. It's best suited for students who enjoy collaboration, creativity, and responsibility. Applications are in the main office and require the recommendation of a core (Social Studies/Language Arts) teacher as well as a 2.0 in Language Arts.

French Electives – Venez parler français!

Introduction to French: This semester class allows students to build on the French from the Wheel and to learn how to learn a language. We cover basic concepts (family, classroom, numbers, colors, home) and look at the geography and culture of France. Students will participate in some conversations, begin writing in French, sing songs, and develop an appreciation for the French-speaking world. This class is an excellent bridge between the Wheel and the first-year high-school level French class.

French 1-2 HE: This yearlong class is a High School Equivalency class that fulfills one year of the high school graduation requirement for world language. Successfully completing the class and pass the exit exam in May can earn students 10 high school

credits. This rigorous class focuses on all four proficiency areas – speaking, listening, reading, and writing. While learning to express themselves in French, students are also introduced to the culture of the French-speaking world through songs, videos, and cultural activities.

Please note: Seventh-grade students in this class should also be enrolled in Advanced Math or Algebra. In the eighth grade, they will attend classes at the high school for both Algebra/Geometry and HE French. Eighth-grade students in this class may be enrolled in any level math class.