

# OLF Elective Offerings for Junior High 2023-2024



# OLF Elective Classes

Every student in grades 6-8 is given one elective class option per year in addition to PE. Elective classes are held on a yearly time period.

- All 6th grade students will attend PE on Tuesday and Thursday.
- Those 7th grade students who attend Creative Arts, Life Skills for Success, Art II, or Computer Programming will attend PE on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.
- Those 7th grade students who attend Band or Chorus will attend PE with the 8th grade students on Tuesday and Thursday.
- All 8th grade students will attend PE on Tuesday and Thursday.
- If the need arises, a lottery will be held for student placement

<b>Elective</b>	<b>Grade Offered</b>	<b>Days</b>
Art I	6	M, W, F
Band - Level 2	6	M, W, F
Chorus	6	M, W, F
Technology	6	M, W, F
Fitness for Life	6	M, W, F
Reading Workshop	6	M, W, F
French - Part I	6	M, W, F
Art II	7	T, Th
Band - Level 3	7	M, W, F
Chorus	7	M, W, F
Creative Arts	7	T, Th
Life Skills for Success	7	T, Th
Computer Programming	7	T, Th
Disciples for Christ	7	T, Th
French - Part I	7	T, Th
Art III	8	M, W, F
Band - Level 3	8	M, W, F
Disciples for Christ-Campus Ministry	8	M, W, F
Chorus	8	M, W, F
STEM-Robotics	8	M, W, F
Speech & Drama	8	M, W, F
Broadcasting/Journalism	8	M, W, F

## Class Descriptions

### Art I-Design and Photography

Art I will offer 6th-grade students an opportunity for self-expression while gaining relevant artistic skills through design thinking. 6th-grade art will be an opportunity to dive deeper into principles of design and how to make what is on your paper look good compositionally. Using photography, 2D, and 3D design, you will learn how to make your artwork appealing to the viewer's eye through pattern, balance, contrast, unity, and more while exploring multiple art mediums. While learning all of this, multiple projects will be created throughout the year that you can take home and display for years to come.

### Art II-Drawing

Art II will offer 7th graders a deeper dive into the art of drawing. Students will focus on learning how to draw what they see by focusing on objects and transferring it to paper. 7th graders will also dive deeper into using drawing mediums such as colored pencils, oil pastels, chalk pastels, pencils, and more. Gain confidence in your drawing abilities while exploring art throughout history. While learning all of this, multiple projects will be created throughout the year that you can take home and display for years to come.

### Art III

Art III will offer 8th grade students an opportunity for self-expression, while gaining relevant skills for the 21st century learner. This in-depth experience will provide students a necessary means to foster and develop art making skills, while practicing various art techniques. Printmaking, painting, drawing, sculpting, and mixed media are among the areas of concentration that will be investigated over the course of the school year. Additionally, students will explore the world of art through the avenue of history, aesthetics, and art criticism.

### Band Level 2

This is a skills-oriented class. Emphasis is placed upon the continued development of those fundamentals introduced in the beginning band, such as: tone production, technical proficiency, and rhythmic skills. Prerequisite: One year of beginning band or by special permission from the teacher. No after-school rehearsals are required, but there are two mandatory evening performances: Christmas and Spring Concerts. Additional performance opportunities may include the school pep rally and the Fatima-Cathedral football game.

### Band Level 3

This is a performance-oriented class. Emphasis is placed upon ensemble playing skills and sight-reading. Students are encouraged to switch to secondary instruments to achieve proper instrumentation in the ensemble. **Prerequisite:** two previous years of band or by special permission from the teacher.

**No after-school rehearsals are required, but there are two mandatory evening performances: Christmas and Spring Concerts. Additional performance opportunities may include the school pep rally and the Fatima-Cathedral football game.**

### Broadcast /Journalism

This course will be a combination of developing students' skills and an introduction to broadcast journalism. Basic principles will include writing captions and headlines, digital photography, creating scripts for news stories and creating live broadcasts. Students enrolled in this class will be responsible for weekly newscasts that will be shown on the Fatima Channel. Students will need a basic understanding of Garage Band, iMovie, Green Screen production, as well as be required to do some work outside the time of class.

### Chorus- 6th,7th, and 8th grade

Our Lady of Fatima Chorus is a vocal music class in grades 5-8. Students may enter the program at any grade level, and no prior experience is necessary. Classes meet on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Emphasis is placed on vocal and performance techniques, as well as basic music theory. No after school rehearsals are required, but there are 2 mandatory evening performances (Christmas concert in December and Spring concert in May). Other performances throughout the year include Solo and Ensemble Festival, Children's Choir (optional), and singing at weekly school masses and liturgies. There is a \$30 class fee, which includes music/supplies, Solo and Ensemble Festival fees, chorus spirit shirt, and a spring concert shirt.

### Computer Programming

In this elective, students will learn programming in Python and programming an Arduino. During the first 12 - 18 weeks, students will learn to program in Python. Python is a widely used high-level programming language for general-purpose programming. For the remainder of the year, students will use their knowledge of programming to program an Arduino. Arduino is a microcontroller that can be programmed to create interactive objects or environments. This class has a \$50 fee, which will be used to purchase an Arduino Uno. The students will be able to take their equipment home at the end of the year. Students choosing this elective must have a final grade of a B or higher in both science and math.

### Creative Arts

Students in this class will step into the world of creativity and tap into their innovative imaginations! In this elective, students will develop a variety of projects, such as creative writing, dramatization, poetry theater, and digital newspapers involving interviews and photography. Additionally, students will create Keynote presentations, graphic designs, and "DIY" videos using greenscreen and iMovie. This class is for the student who wants to stretch his imagination and reach for the stars. It is also a great stepping stone for Broadcasting, which is offered in 8th grade.

### Disciples of Christ

Rooted in the Corporal Works of Mercy, students will be given the opportunity to respond to their baptismal call of service allowing them to be witnesses to Jesus' Gospel message and enabling them to embody virtues through daily discipleship. This class provides

leadership formation, which prepares the student to effectively lead others in the tradition of Jesus Christ. Students are encouraged to develop and use personal skills, talents and knowledge. Leadership is demonstrated through liturgies, prayer services, retreat experiences, service activities and example. Through spiritual reflection and guidance, Disciples for Christ can unite the entire school into what all of us are called to be, the Body of Christ.

#### Fitness for Life: Middle School

This course will provide a foundation for students to be physically active and fit throughout their whole lives. In Fitness for Life, students will follow the recommendations of the Physical Activity Pyramid to perform the correct amounts and kinds of activities. They will also learn skills like how to assess their own fitness levels and develop plans for improvement using short- and long-term goals. They will develop skills to help them build self-esteem, communicate effectively, deal with peer pressure and handle other social concerns and they will understand how their bodies work so they can move more effectively and efficiently. In all, Fitness for Life: Middle School will not only set the stage for high school by exposing middle-schoolers to a variety of developmentally appropriate and fun physical activities, but it will also help prepare them for a lifetime of health and fitness.

#### French - Part 1

This will be an introductory course offered to both 6th graders and 7th graders this school year. Learning conversational French and the basics of the language will be the focus of this elective all while having fun and exploring French and Cajun culture. Taking two consecutive years of French as an elective in junior high at OLF will allow students to earn a high school credit for French I at St. Thomas More. There will be a fee of \$35 for this elective course.

#### Life Skills for Success

This course is designed to teach students how to conduct themselves with confidence in various social situations. It will focus on character building skills, manners and etiquette, respect and courtesy, dining skills, appearance and presentation, communication skills, and sportsmanship. Students will come away with a greater sense of self-confidence, life skills for success, how to use good manners and proper etiquette, and how to treat others with kindness and respect. The class will use the knowledge gained to participate in a dining experience at one of Lafayette's finest restaurants during the dining skills session. This class has a \$35 fee for supplies.

### Reading Workshop

The purpose of this course is to learn the organizational skills necessary for survival in the 21st century. Students will continue to build upon their reading foundation while receiving tips on how best to study and organize their time and work. Students will be encouraged and given time to work on the A.R. reading and testing and will engage in literary discussions that will facilitate a better understanding of the texts read in the reading classroom.

### Speech and Drama

Students in Speech and Drama will participate in a number of performances throughout the year that will expose them to public speaking and better prepare them for their future. All students will present autobiographies, along with monologues, storytelling, and movie monologues. Halloween skits for the lower grades and a “Grand Finale” for the parents will also be developed and presented. Please note that while a few performances will be presented with a partner or in a small group, most performances will be monologues which help build self confidence.

### STEM - Robotics

In the Robotics elective, students will use science, technology, engineering and math skills to design and program Lego Mindstorm robotics equipment. The objective of this course is to introduce the students to basic programming as well as problem solving strategies. This course will involve students in the development, building and programming of an autonomous robot. Students will work hands-on in teams to design, build, program and document their progress. Student-designed robots will be programmed to operate in various situations where students will apply the scientific process to test and revise their design. Students will compete in the First Lego League competition. Students' grades will be based on research, quizzes, programming, and projects. Students choosing this elective must have a final grade of a B or higher in both science and math and must score at least average on standardized testing in both science and math. There is a \$30.00 class fee for this elective for necessary tools and supplies.

### Technology

Students in this technology class will practice keyboarding on a regular basis to achieve proficiency as well as develop basic computer skills that will help them in the future. Students will learn to create documents and spreadsheets in Google Docs, Microsoft Word, Excel, Keynote, and Pages. To tap into the creative side, we will work with programs such as PowerPoint, Google Slides, and iMovie, with the “Green Screen” effect. Additionally, students will create PodCast radio shows and develop their creative writing skills using “Story Jumper”. To ensure excitement and motivation, skills are taught through an exciting, innovative process.

