



## Middle School Electives\*

### 2009-2010

#### **Art**

The art curriculum is focused on a yearly theme, which is developed through hands-on experiences with drawing, watercolor, collage, and other media. Students are taught the elements of design and principles of composition and use them to develop their own work and to increase their appreciation of art history. Art skills and creative expression are both encouraged.

#### **Band**

Band is a twice per week, zero period elective. This course will expand the students' knowledge of notation and terminology. Students will be challenged to expand their range and stamina on their instrument through the rehearsal of more challenging music. Emphasis will be on individual development by emphasizing the importance of a regular practice schedule. Instruction will continue on the care and maintenance of their instrument as well as all accessories necessary for each rehearsal.

Students will also study music theory applied largely through performance.

Students will be graded on their preparation for each rehearsal, demonstration of teamwork and effort shown in mastering the assigned music and exercises.

#### **Drama**

Introduction to Drama is a semester elective course for middle school students. In class, students can expect to learn theater skills — voice, characterization, intention, and movement — and explore various aspects of drama: theater sports, improvisation, scene work, set building, and performance. The curriculum is designed to expose students to drama and teach students real life presentation, communication, and cooperation/teamwork skills. In theater, students are asked to challenge themselves by taking risks in front of their peers and to work together to put on a production. Ultimately, this experience builds self-confidence, which resonates far beyond the classroom.

Students in Drama will select, produce, create sets, and take part in one theater production each semester which will be performed for students and families on both campuses.

#### **Choir**

Choir is a twice per week, zero period elective. Students learn, practice, and become familiar with the repertoire of songs used in Catholic Liturgies at St. Joseph School and surrounding parishes, and other choral music for performance. Students learn the simple basics of choral singing: breath control, blending, harmony. Students review musical concepts and elements such as beat, rhythm, melody, harmony and form. Choir students provide musical leadership at school liturgies — including psalmists — and are encouraged to participate in the choirs in their home parishes.



## Middle School Electives, PE and 8th Grade Leadership 2009-2010

### Robotics

The robotics elective will utilize the Lego MINDSTORMS NXT robot system to teach students about robotics and the processes involved to get from concept to completion. During the first trimester students will work towards competing in the FIRST Lego League (FLL) robotics competition. This year's regional competitions will be held December 5<sup>th</sup>. In the second and third trimesters students will learn more about building and programming robots. Students will have the opportunity to participate in challenges within the class, one of which will be to build a robot to compete in a Sumo style robot wrestling.

For the Lego League competition, students will be divided into two teams of no more than 10 students each to design a robot to compete in the competition, prepare a presentation for a panel of judges and share their findings with the community.

### Spanish

The Spanish elective will introduce the students to the culture of Spanish speaking countries, their history, similarities and differences. Since the majority of the people living in these countries are Catholics, we will be learning to pray in Spanish.

Students will also learn about: numbers, the alphabet, food, clothing, flags, and families. In addition to Spanish culture they will learn basic vocabulary (through research on the internet, books, games and songs.).

\*These courses are subject to change depending on student interest and instructor availability.

### Physical Education

Students participate in daily exercise through participation in traditional sports and organized games. These activities encourage physical fitness, sportsmanship, cooperation/team work, and leadership skills. The importance of daily physical activity is stressed as a life skill and an important component to a healthy individual developing the mind, body and spirit.

### 8th Grade Leadership

All eighth grade students at St. Joseph School participate in our Student Leadership Commission. This opportunity is designed to teach and strengthen student organizational, planning and presentation skills. The Student Commission consists of five areas: Religious Activities, Finance, Resource Management, Spirit and Outreach.

Students plan and orchestrate school wide assemblies, activities, outreach projects, and fun-filled activities for the Snoqualmie campus. The goal of this program is to develop and enhance leadership skills, providing a solid foundation for students as they enter high school.