



AMERICAN SCHOOL
OF PARIS Founded 1946

Please return to the Middle School Office as soon as possible. (cpapin@asparis.fr)

Middle School

Specialist Courses Sign-up Sheet 2010-2011

Every Middle Schooler has two periods of specialist courses every day – a total of nine periods per week.

Some Specialist Courses are required and are assigned automatically:

- **Physical Education** – three times per week;
- **Health** – for one term for grades 7 and 8;
- **Drama Discovery** – for one term for grades 7 and 8 (unless you're taking Ensemble Theater); and
- **Writers' Theater** – twice a week for one term for grade 6.

Elective Courses

Here, you get to choose the courses that you would like to take. See course descriptions on the next page. **Choose carefully!** Some Fine Arts and Music courses are required.

In the spaces, check off each course you would like to take. We strongly recommend that each student give high priority to at least one of the yearlong performing arts courses: Band, Choir, or Ensemble Theater.

The Arts (Choose 2)

- Ensemble Theater** - yearlong
- Ceramics** - if interested in more than one term, please check the box
- Studio Art** - if interested in more than one term, please check the box

Music (Choose 2)

- Band** – yearlong The band instrument I play is: _____
- Choir** – yearlong
- Digital Music** – grades 7 and 8 only; one term only
- Guitar** – one term only
- Piano Keyboarding** – one term only

General (Choose at least 4, no more than 6)

- Yearbook** - yearlong
- Video Production** - if interested in more than one term, please check the box
- Debate** - if interested in more than one term, please check the box
- Claymation** – one term only
- Computer Graphics** – one term only
- Digital Animation** – one term only
- Robotics** – one term only

Name: _____

Grade in 10-11: _____

Parent name or signature: _____ Date: _____

Course Descriptions

The Arts:

Ceramics— We start each term with a simple project using the slab-building technique. This first project will demonstrate the cycle in which a piece is built, decorated, and glazed. Students also work on projects using the pinch pot and coil-building techniques. Most students will have an opportunity to work on the potter's wheel as well. Projects are designed to accommodate beginning as well as more experienced students. (two periods per week per term)

Studio Art -The three terms are divided into units of drawing, painting and sculpture. Drawing includes the media of graphite, pastels and inks. Painting explores the use of watercolor, and acrylic and gouache paints. Sculpture involves colored paper, plaster, papier-mâché, wire and recycled objects. There is instruction in color theory as well as informal art history. (two periods per week per term)

Ensemble Theater— Students investigate ways of seeing, feeling, hearing, and thinking, and eventually learn to bring their ideas to an audience. Many different themes, relevant to our lives, are explored. In creating a working theater ensemble, students develop a sense of responsibility to the group and to appreciate each member's contribution. (two periods per week; yearlong)

Music courses:

Band— To take this course, students must already play a band instrument* and read music. Pieces, from classical to jazz, are prepared for performance. Students also learn music theory and develop performance techniques for their instrument. Each grade works separately during the year, but the three grade-level bands combine for the two yearly concerts. (*Piano and strings are not band instruments.) (two periods per week; yearlong)

Choir— No experience is required! The music represents different historical eras, styles and cultures. Singers develop the physical, intellectual and social skills required to be able to create fine music. The three grade-level choirs combine for the December and June concert performances. (two periods per week; yearlong)

Digital Music— Employing pre-recorded loops and entering input with digital piano keyboards, students use Apple's *Garage Band* program to create recordings of their own songs. They learn how to structure a song, along with basic elements of music theory. No music background is needed. (two periods per week for one term)

Guitar— An introductory course whose main goal is to teach basic playing skills. Students also learn about the history and performance styles of the classical and popular traditions. Taking a hands-on approach, they also learn the fundamentals of notation and music theory. This should not be taken by anyone who has studied guitar beyond the beginner's level. (two periods per week for one term)

Piano Keyboarding— An introductory course whose main goal is to teach basic playing skills. Students also learn about the history and performance styles of the classical and popular

traditions. Taking a hands-on approach, they also learn the fundamentals of notation and music theory. This should not be taken by anyone who has studied piano beyond the beginner's level. (two periods per week for one term)

General:

Claymation— This course introduces students to the mechanics and art of animating with clay. Using malleable clay, digital cameras, and software tools such as *Windows Movie Maker*, they create sophisticated animated sequences. Special emphasis is placed on the planning, design, and structure necessary for creating cohesive projects. Students also publish their animated work in an electronic format. (two periods per week for one term)

Computer Graphics— This is a basic orientation to the concepts and tools of graphic design. Students use graphic tools such as *Adobe Photoshop Elements* to manipulate digital photographs, add on graphic elements, and create original visual products. Emphasis is placed on the artistic principles of visual design. (two periods per week for one term)

Digital Animation— This course introduces students to the basic tools of the animator -- storyboarding, timelines, 'tweening,' etc. Using industry-standard animation software such as *Macromedia Flash*, students integrate graphic and audio elements to create original animations. (two periods per week for one term)

Robotics - An introduction to the basics of creating simple robotics. Using *Lego NXT*, students will write sophisticated programs, design and assemble robots, and work collaboratively to solve problems and overcome challenges. (two periods per week for one term)

Video Production - This course teaches all of the stages of video production: planning, shooting, editing, and publishing. Digital cameras, scanners and other tools are used. (two periods per week per term)

Yearbook - ASP's hardcover yearbook comes out each June with thousands of photos and as many memories. The Middle School has its own section and members of this class create it by learning how to take great digital pictures, edit them, interview and report on the main events, and finally design the actual pages. They will be well trained in using *Adobe Photoshop* and *INDesign*. Students seriously interested in creative publishing have a chance to become part of ASP history! (yearlong)

Debate— Do countries have the right to pollute? Should we always tell the truth? Is the death penalty ever justified? Should there be a right to immigrate freely? After selecting an issue, students do research, take a stand, and then debate an opposing team. The goal is to develop listening skills, speaking skills and logical thinking, as well as enjoying the process of debate. (two periods per week per term)