

2010-2011 9th Grade Course Selection Form

Directions:

- 1) All rising 9th grade students must complete this form. It should be signed by a parent and returned to the Middle School Director by **Monday, March 22**. Students new to Tandem and their parents should make an appointment to discuss scheduling with Upper School Director Nura Yingling (951-9306.)
- 2) All students must take at least six classes, five of which should be in the academic disciplines (English, history, science, mathematics, and foreign languages.)
- 3) After listing required or requested academic classes, please list your elective preferences. Elective choices are listed on the bottom of this form.
- 4) This document is available on the Tandem website under Quicklinks/School Forms.

Student's Name: _____

Parent's Signature

All 9th graders take **English 9, World History 9, and Biology**. Please fill in your:

- foreign language choice (either continuing to the next level of your current language or taking Spanish I or French I)
- students wishing to take 2 foreign languages should indicate as such on their form; we will try to accommodate in scheduling.
- math course (based on your current math teacher's placement recommendation and/or placement by the Tandem math department)

Foreign Language: _____

Math: _____

Please list elective course preferences in order of preference. List several since there is no guarantee that you will be given your first or second choice.

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____

Below is a listing of elective courses offered in the fall to 9th graders. Course descriptions are included on the next/back page. Some elective courses will be offered only if there is sufficient enrollment.

Fall semester electives:

Arts
Ceramics
Photography
Digital Film
Publications
Drawing
Mixed Media
Guitar
Rock and Roll
Acting Shakespeare

Full year electives:

Jazz Ensemble

Fall 2010 9th Grade Elective Course Offerings

MUSIC ELECTIVES

Jazz Ensemble (Full Year)

This is a year-long, performance-based course. Students should be competent in sight-reading on their instruments. The class will learn music ranging from classical to jazz.

The Guitar: all styles (Fall semester)

The guitar is a great instrument to start the study of music. Like the piano, it is a harmonic instrument--one person can be a full orchestra or band. This course can work for a broad range of knowledge, for everyone will be going at his/her own pace. Through studying the basic musical language and chords students will be able to accompany themselves on songs and be able to read and play a musical score. The class is designed to work with individual interests.

Rock and Roll (Fall semester)

Explore the incomparable genre of R&R from the 1950's to now. The class will include history, theory and performance and is open to all levels of musicianship including beginners. Drummers, bass, guitar and keyboard players are especially welcome.

VISUAL ARTS:

Ceramics

This is a semester-long studio class designed to expose students to the various methods of pottery construction. Students learn hand-building as well as wheel work. In this context, they are challenged by three-dimensional composition and the differing clay properties. Once students have mastered the construction techniques, they are required to create a number of forms, selecting that technique best suited to their design. They are expected to experiment with texture, shape, and color in the final execution of their form.

Photography

This is a semester-long studio-field class in which students learn basic photography skills, the use of a 35mm camera, and developing black-and-white negatives. Functional darkroom manipulation, such as dodging and burning in, and the use of filters, will be explored. Emphasis is on technical skills, such as clarity and contrast of prints, as well as an introduction to composition.

Drawing

This is a semester-long studio class in which students are introduced to a variety of media and drawing techniques. Various exercises are used to develop eye-hand coordination as well as observational skills. Students learn how form reflects light, and how the depiction of light and shadow can delineate form. They will work on different surfaces and learn how to best convey their ideas through selection of style, media, and ground.

Mixed Media

This is a semester-long class in which students survey numerous media. Projects are quite varied and often determined by the students at the beginning of the course. Examples of media and techniques covered include stained glass, batik, sculpture, printmaking, bookbinding, etc. Emphasis is on technique and developing an awareness and appreciation of art surrounding us. Students will gain proficiency in a variety of media and learn to utilize and maintain various tools and equipment in a studio environment.

Publications

Publications will be a one-semester course offered during the spring and fall semesters. The focus will be on yearbook and graphics publications for the school. Students will create all posters, t-shirts, brochures, etc. for theater, film, and athletic events and, in conjunction with the English Department, put together a digital literary magazine for the school. The basis of graphics creation will be Photoshop, but students may also explore other aspects of CS2 (Illustrator, PageMaker, etc.) as our needs evolve. Students will also be heavily involved with digital photography, and will take all (most) yearbook photos and do the subsequent editing, etc. This course will be limited to 10 upper school students per semester (or will depend on the number of computers in the Mac Lab).

Digital Film (Two Semesters, taught and enrolled in independently)

Semester One: The documentary.

Documentary filmmaking has quickly increased in popularity as amateur and professional artists alike take advantage of lower equipment costs and an increased demand for reality-based, unbiased storytelling. This class offers an overview of digital documentary filmmaking. This class will cover philosophy, production and editing. It will address storytelling methods, research, scripting and interviewing techniques. This will be a mix of screenings and hands-on work, while

focusing on what it takes to effectively tell documentary stories using digital media.

Semester Two: The mockumentary.

The mockumentary film grows out of the documentary tradition. Instead of pretending to capture reality, the mockumentary blatantly distorts reality and follows the rules of satire and parody. In addition to regular attendance, participation and timely preparation of assigned readings, students will be expected to respond in writing to our primary text, *Faking It*, and to the films screened. Participants will also complete a final project: a mockumentary video or a script for a mockumentary and a written artist's statement describing their goals.

Examples of the Mockumentary genre: *This is Spinal Tap*, *Waiting for Guffman*, & *Zelig*

DRAMA:

Acting Shakespeare

Acting Shakespeare will include the basics of all acting approaches: text, character and production. Students will read and analyze three plays: *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Winter's Tale*, and *Comedy of Errors*. Students will learn and perform monologues and short scenes. Shakespeare wrote for actors and for an audience. He gives the actor the opportunity to grow, express and find the enormous pleasure available in expressing great passion. This class is open to all students. No experience necessary. This will be great preparation for our spring production of *Romeo & Juliet*. If you don't like Shakespeare, yet, this is the class for you!

OTHER:

Psychology Class

Students will pursue, in greater depth, a few topics from within a traditional Psychology 101 curriculum: Emotional Intelligence, Abnormal Behavior (Psychological Disorders and Treatment) and States of Consciousness (Waking, Sleep and Dreams, Hypnosis, Drugs, Near-Death). The class will include regular short readings, research, film, discussion, experiential learning, service learning and written assignments

Computer Applications (Fall semester)

In this course students will work on developing proficiency with word processing, presentation, spreadsheet, and graphics applications, and become familiar with various email and Web browsing tools. Students will also use peripherals such as the scanner and the digital camera. On the World Wide Web students will evaluate websites for both content and design, find and download interesting files, and work on research methodologies. They end up by designing and creating their own websites to learn how to present information in an organized fashion on the web. The class is project-based, which is to say, the grades are based mainly on these in-class projects which utilize and display mastery of the skills needed to develop. All the work is done in class, so there is no homework, and the projects are expected to be as simple or as complex as the ability of the individual student dictates, so the course is appropriate for almost any level of proficiency. Along the way, students will also fulfill the Tandem Computer Skills graduation requirement. Open to students in grades 9-12.