

BRANDON ACADEMY
UPPER DIVISION ELECTIVES 2018-2019

Please note what grades are open to electives choices

FIRST ELECTIVE PERIOD:

Visual Art – This SEMESTER course, students will explore a variety of techniques and mediums, while studying artists from around the world and across time. This course will combine both 2D arts (drawing, painting, printmaking) with 3D arts (weaving, ceramics, sculpture). Students will have the opportunity to experiment in mediums of their choosing while creating artworks surrounding broad themes and topics. The course will conclude with a formal art show representing student work. **This elective is for Grades 6-8.**

Robotics – This is a FULL YEAR elective. Come join the rookie year of Scorpion Robotics! We will use LEGO EV3 robots and Mindstorm software to become robot engineers. To be successful in this class you must be creative, able to think outside the box, able to work with others, and be self-motivated. Students in this class will have the opportunity to compete in robotics competitions throughout the year in an after school club. **This elective is for Grades 6-8.**

Design Thinking & Coding - In this SEMESTER course, students will be introduced to the principles of coding. Each student will have the opportunity based on his/her skill and understanding to create various coding programs. Activities such as logic games, Compare/Contrast popular apps, utilizing coding apps like Tynker, Scratch and Hopscotch, introduction to Web Design, use of 3d Printer and lite CAD design. **This elective is for Grades 6-8.**

Physical Education – This is a SEMESTER course. Take one semester or two if you would like. Enjoy games, skills and fun in P.E. class. Note: you may only take P.E. once each semester. **This elective is for Grades 6-8.**

Mythbusters – How can we recognize what is true science and what is pseudoscience? What is involved in a legitimate scientific investigation? This SEMESTER course will allow students to work together on multiple scientific inquiries, develop critical thinking and problem solving skills, submit weekly lab reports, and analyze investigations from the popular television show MythBusters. Students will explore myths in the fields of physics, optics, geology, chemistry, biology, architecture, as well as study epistemology (How we know what we know/Theory of Knowledge). At the end of the course, students will design their own investigation in "Bust Your Own Myth" for their final report. **This elective is for Grades 6-8.**

Virtual School Electives – Brandon Academy offers many courses through Florida Virtual School for high school students to enroll. Students, who wish to take a course, will submit their choice to the Upper School Head for approval. Course descriptions can be found at <https://www.flvs.net/flex/courses>

SECOND ELECTIVE PERIOD:

Spanish 1 & 2 – Both courses are a FULL YEAR course. Spanish 1 is prerequisite for Spanish 2 Honors. Students in the class will learn grammar and to converse in Spanish. The student will also learn about the wide variety of the Spanish culture. To help gain an understanding the students will host a Spanish Fiesta. This celebration allows them to understand Cinco de Mayo and the Spanish culture. Note: Students who complete Spanish 2 received high school credit. **This elective is for Grades 7-8.**

Yearbook – In this FULL YEAR course, students will design BA's yearbook. Students will learn about the roles and responsibilities of a publisher including attractive campaigns, meeting deadlines, and working collaboratively. Students will also gain knowledge in digital photography techniques, photo editing, and layout designs. **The elective is for Grades 6-12.**

Total Sound - In this SEMESTER elective, the class will conduct, teach, train, and transform singers into a finely tuned, choreographed vocal ensemble. Genres to be performed in this choir will range from medleys of modern and "legit" Broadway musicals, to pop/rock, to pieces from the standard choral repertoire. This group performs in many capacities throughout the fall semester and will also include off-campus performances. There may be times when it may be necessary for this elective to rehearse outside of school hours. **This elective is for Grades 6-12.**

Physical Fitness – This is a SEMESTER course. Enjoy games and skills along with nutrition in this class. **This elective is for Grades 10-12.**

Drama – In this SEMESTER course, we'll be working with all aspects of performance, from projection and enunciation to staging and sets. We'll work on getting into character, practice improvisation skills, and building performances from first reading to after-performance critique. We'll examine different genres and the different ways we approach them, as well as non-performance aspects such as set-building and costuming. All of this will culminate in a performance at the end of the semester. **This elective is for Grades 6-12.**

Psychology - This SEMESTER course is a broad introduction to the field of psychology. Students explore the key figures, diverse theoretical perspectives, and research findings that have shaped some of the major areas of contemporary psychology. This course also examines the research methods used by psychologists across these areas to study the origins and variations in human behavior. **This elective is for Grades 9-12**

Stock Market - This is a SEMESTER course. The stock market game is an online simulation of the global capital markets that engage students in the world of economics, investing and personal finance. It prepares students to be financially independent and responsible adults. The SMG teaches students how to properly invest money, so that they might grow it over time. In the SMG, students are given \$100,000. With this money they will build and manage an investment portfolio in a real world, dynamic marketplace. The students will then analyze and make decisions, explore the consequences of their choices, and seek new ways to strategize for success. **This elective is for Grades 6-12.**

Financial Literacy – This SEMESTER course is designed to alert, inform, and educate students in concepts of personal finance and money management. Students will begin to develop the skills and strategies that promote personal and financial responsibility related to financial planning, savings, investment, and charitable giving in the global economy. Effective money management is a disciplined behavior. It is

difficult to master, and much easier when learned earlier in life. This course will start students on a path toward being in control of their financial futures. Five broad topics will be the foundation of the course: college and career planning, money management, savings and investing, income, and spending. The course will teach students to search and assess college and career opportunities, identify and prioritize their personal money management goals, develop personal spending and savings plans, comprehend the impact of time on the value of money, understand the cost of using credit, and protect assets. **This class is for Grades 6-12.**

Design Thinking & Innovation - In this SEMESTER course, students will master the tools necessary to generate new ideas and quickly transform those innovative concepts into a worthwhile pipeline of new products or services. They will implement the five steps of design thinking, putting life into their generated ideas.

1. Empathy (define the problem)
2. Ideate (come up with ideas how to solve the problem)
3. Prototype (build something based on your ideas)
4. Test (what you build to see if it works)
5. Publish

This approach will allow students to take their ideas and turn them into award winning products, services or a way we think about something in society. Students will be challenged to come to class ready to initiate their learning, as what they study, create and complete can truly be up to them. **This class is for Grades 9, 10, & 12.**

Virtual School Electives – Brandon Academy offers many courses through Florida Virtual School for high school students to enroll. Students, who wish to take a course, will submit their choice to the Upper School Head for approval. Course descriptions can be found at <https://www.flvs.net/flex/courses>