# BRANDON ACADEMY

# UPPER DIVISION ELECTIVES 2019-2020

***Please note what grades are open to electives choices***

***FIRST ELECTIVE PERIOD (HIGH & MIDDLE SCHOOL):***

*HS Robotics Competition Team* – This FULL YEAR course will focus on the building and programming a VEX robot for competition. Students will learn Robot C coding language, the VEX robot building system, how to work as a team, and using the engineering design process. Participants in this elective will commit to being on the HS robotics team. This includes after school practices, Saturday tournaments and other activities. For questions, email [wallen@brandon-academy.com](mailto:wallen@brandon-academy.com). **This course is for Grades 9-12 only.**

*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 9-12 only.**

*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 only.**

*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.**

*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.**

*Photography* – In this SEMESTER elective, students will be designed to develop an understanding of the fundamentals of photography while providing a hands-on experience to produce an individual photographic style. Students will study not only the basic elements of a photo (composition, lighting, etc.) but the impact photography holds in modern history. Students will further their knowledge by producing and analyzing their own photography together with their classmates. **This 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 9-12 only.**

*Traveling the World* – This is a SEMESTER course. This course will explore (through images, videos, group activities, articles, documentaries, podcasts, movies, research, presentations, lectures and discussions) the most important countries all around the world, and their cultures. As we travel through each continent, the students will learn about the highest ranked influential regions and why they hold such power. They will also learn about each country’s location, brief history, customs, economy, languages spoken, religion, political system, important past and present figures, music, food, current events, etc. **This elective is for Grades 6-8 only**.

*Spanish 2 Honors* – This FULL YEAR course is the second year of Spanish. This course is open to 8th graders who have completed Spanish 1. Students taking this course will further enrich their understanding of Spanish language and the Latin Culture. This class will complete the credit for the first year Spanish class in High School. To help gain an understanding the students will host a Spanish Fiesta. This celebration allows them to understand Cinco de Mayo and taste the traditional Spanish food. **This elective for Grade 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 (MIDDLE SCHOOL):***

*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.**

*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.**

*Spanish 1* – This is 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 receive high school credit. **This elective is for Grades 7-8 only.**

*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.**

*Creative Writing* – This is a SEMESTER course. Students will explore the art of writing poetry, plays, and short stories. They will also have the opportunity to write a feature film. **This course is for Grades 6-8.**

*Cryptography* - This SEMESER course is the practice and study of techniques for secure communication in the presence of third parties. By disguising/scrambling the information, you can secure it from being read by unauthorized parties. Only authorized recipients would have the information to decrypt/reveal the message. Throughout the course, students will have the opportunity to encrypt and decrypt messages, invent their own ciphers, discuss relevant historical events and literature, and learn some mathematical concepts that are often not seen until college! **This course is for Grades 6-8.**

*History of Western Music* – This is a SEMESTER course. This will be a very hands-on and project-based exploration of the history of Western music. Each week students will focus on a particular period, artist, or aspect of musical history, working our way through as much of musical history as possible. At times, we’ll explore making various instruments from household materials in order to get a feel for the music. **This elective is for Grades 6-8**

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