

BRANDON ACADEMY
UPPER DIVISION ELECTIVES 2020-2021
(Semester 1)

Please note what grades are open to electives choices

DAY “A” ELECTIVE PERIOD (HIGH & MIDDLE SCHOOL):

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. This looks great on a college application. **The elective is for Grades 11 & 12 only.**

Physical Fitness – This is a SEMESTER course. Enjoy games and skills along with nutrition in this class. **This elective is for Grades 11 & 12 only.**

STEM Career Exploration - This SEMESTER elective will allow students to deep dive into several careers in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. We will interview professionals from several fields. Students will research steps they can take now to prepare them for their future as well as college programs of study available. This class will also give students first hand experiences in some of these fields through field trips and in-class experiments with Arduino, Vex Robotics and other technology. When you have selected this elective, please email wallen@brandon-academy.com with career fields you are interested in. **This course is for Grades 9 & 10 only.**

Film Critiquing – In this SEMESTER elective Students will learn how to analyze and evaluate films, and suggest recommendations aimed at consumers. **This elective is for Grades 9 & 10 only.**

Life Skills – This SEMESTER elective focuses on essential skills for daily life. Students will learn how to do the following: Manage Personal Finances, Household Managing, Knowing and Exploring Occupational Options, Appropriate work habits and behavior, Sewing, and Employment (Resume building).

This elective is for Grades 9 & 10 only.

Creative Writing – This is a SEMESTER course will offer students the opportunity to refine their writing skills while exploring their imaginations. They will write in various different genres, from fiction to nonfiction to poetry to drama, learning about styles and techniques as they try them out themselves. Students will also learn how to give constructive feedback that remains positive while offering suggestions, apply feedback they receive on their own work, and to work as a team on collaborative projects. **This elective is for Grade 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 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 (empathy, ideate, prototype, test & publish), putting life into their generated ideas. This 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. **This class is for Grades 7 & 8 only.**

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 Grade 7 only.**

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 7-12.**

Computer Applications – The purpose of this SEMESTER course is to assist students in keyboarding, word processing, electronic presentations, computer hardware familiarity, Internet searching and ethics, introductory spreadsheet, and skills for business applications to provide the skills necessary to ensure increased productivity and efficient utilization of equipment. Instruction and learning activities are provided in a laboratory setting using hands-on experiences with the equipment, materials and technology appropriate to the course content. **This elective is for Grade 6 only.**

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>

DAY "B" 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 7-8.**

Drawing and Painting – This SEMESTER course, students will explore a variety of techniques and mediums, while studying artists from around the world and across time. 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 Grade 8 only.**

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle - In this fun SEMESTER elective, students will learn about our environment and importance of conservation. Through videos, readings, hands-on activities, and field trips, students will examine topics like the human impact on air, water, and land pollution, the extinction of animals, global warming, and the impact of plastic in our oceans. The goal of this elective is for students to become knowledgeable on the issues that are currently impacting our planet and to participate and create solutions. **This elective is for Grade 8 only.**

Song Lyric Writing - Do you want to write songs or instrumental music? Are you really interested in making your songs better, or learning more about the craft? Then this SEMESTER class is for you! We will spend a lot of time looking at songs that have been successful or withstood the test of time, particularly in rock, hard rock, and popular music, and analyzing what works about them. We will watch analysis videos together, and also periodically go over each other's projects to give feedback. We will go over some basic concepts of music theory to help you have a better tool kit to

use in writing music. We will touch on sound engineering issues and some on writing words, but this will not be the focus of the course- the course will be primarily focused on how to construct effective songs and music. **This elective is for Grade 8 only.**

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 Grade 7 only.**

Forensic Science – This SEMESTER elective will be designed to explore the workings of the police, courts, the corrections system. The purpose is for students to gain experience in the major investigative techniques currently used by forensic scientists and crime scene investigators, and to develop an understanding of not only the basics but scientific concepts which serve as the basis for these techniques. Topic examples: evidence collective, hair analysis, fingerprint analysis, ballistics. **This elective is for Grade 7 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 Grade 6 only.**

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