

Countryside Montessori High School
Elective Courses
Fall 2010

Debate

The debate elective at CMHS is designed to introduce the argumentative processes of analysis, argument construction and refutation, evidence, and reasoning inside the framework of a debate. Students will practice each of these skills in individual and group environments. Multiple formats of debate will be introduced. Students will learn logical and ethical components of debate, appropriate analysis of propositions and evidence, and reasoning skills. The ultimate goal is for the student to be able to construct a cohesive argument based on fact and thorough research.

Digital Photography I

(Digital Camera Required)

This course will introduce students to contemporary digital photography, including artistic expression, composition, camera usage and image editing. It will cover a basic exploration of the different types of photography, including journalism, portraiture, art photography and commercial photography. It will incorporate hands-on experience, problem-solving, portfolio development; dealing with deadlines and helping the student consider his or her artistic voice/viewpoint. The class will include creation and editing of photographic images, classroom discussions, learning how to effectively critique and related reading, writing and presentations. The class also will consider the history and cultural context of photography, and ethical and legal issues including image manipulation and digital truth, copyright and intellectual property issues.

High School Music Appreciation Chorus:

This class emphasizes proper vocal technique, choral technique and music reading. Study will include various elements of music such as: sound, pitch dynamics, voices, instruments, rhythm, melody, harmony, and musical form. It will involve different periods, styles, artists, and composers including Jazz, Traditional and Pop styles. Finally, the student will work on performance skills, which will be practiced during live performances

Introduction to Sign Language I

Students will begin their study by learning Signed Exact English (SEE) which is a manual representation of the English language. As there is no written form of SEE, all activities will be highly interactive and will focus on real life scenarios and conversations. The cultural component of this course will focus on deaf issues, practical aspects of life as a deaf person, and the study of notable historical and contemporary deaf figures. Students will be encouraged to use their acquired proficiency to interface with the local deaf community.

Music Theory & Songwriting 1:

This class is designed to give music students an introduction into the terms, structure and function of music. Through this course of study, students will learn to analyze, and create music with an understanding of various techniques. Students will also learn the basic skills necessary to hear written music parts without playing or singing, and transcribe music that they are hearing for the first time. This course will take the learner through the simplest building blocks of contemporary hits in order to begin to put their own songwriting techniques to work. Finally, the student will complete a presentation of a completed new song.

Newspaper

Students learn basic aspects of journalism techniques and are responsible for the production of the student newspaper. Students will understand the process required to produce a periodical publication, improve their ability to organize tasks around a deadline, and refine skills to read and evaluate submissions as editors. Class work includes all aspects of journalistic techniques including design, layout, editing, revising. Students will also be involved in the planning and distribution of the paper as well as have independent writing assignments.

Psychology

Psychology introduces the study of the psychological terms and concepts and engages the class in exploring the background of human behavior, determinants of human behavior and personality characteristics of individuals. Students also examine some methods used by professional psychologists to study human behavior. Students focus on human growth and

development, human learning, effects of emotions on behavior, and human adaptation to and interaction in different environments.

Yearbook I and II

Yearbook gives students marketable experience in print media publishing. This course solely works toward the completion and selling of Countryside's yearbook. In class, students compose, construct, and edit all elements of computerized text layout, graphic art, and digital photography. Students also learn to improve their writing, reporting, editing, photography, graphic design, advertising, public relations, leadership, and time management skills. Out of class and after school, students will be required to attend sporting events and social gatherings to acquire needed photography.