



**Taylor Middle School**  
Elective Classes

2024-25



**Music Electives (Year long)**  
**Grades 6, 7, 8**

<b>Beginner Instrumental</b>	Students who want to learn a band or orchestra instrument, but have no or very little experience on their chosen instrument. There will be at least 2 concerts during the school year where students can participate in a Solo and Ensemble event.
<b>Concert Band</b>	This is a performance-based class that engages the students with musical literature appropriate for their age and ability level. Concert Band is a performing group for students who have played a wind or percussion instrument for at least one year. Students will participate in all school concerts and events. Students will be graded on class participation, school performances, and home practicing.
<b>Orchestra</b>	Students will join the Taylor String Orchestra as a student who has already started to play a string instrument (violin, viola, cello, and bass) for at least one year. Orchestra is a performing group and will participate in all school concerts and events. Students will be graded on class participation, school performances, and home practicing.

**6th Grade Elective Wheel**

Students are placed in a class based on the Master Schedule. Students on the elective wheel do not get a preference of which classes they would like to take.

<b>Architecture</b>	This class introduces students to the world of architecture and construction. Students take on the role of an architect as the floor plan and 3D model of a two bedroom home. They will use what they have learned to build a scale model of their home. Math is used to calculate the cost and students are encouraged to make the best use of the outside space.
<b>Coding</b>	Students will learn to create computer programs that will help them collaborate with others, develop problem solving skills, and persist through difficult tasks. They will study programming concepts, computational thinking, digital citizenship, and develop interactive games or stories they can share.
<b>Cryptography</b>	This class is an introduction to cryptography skills that complement a reading novel <u>The Blackhorn Key</u> . Students will learn the basic 12 types of ciphers and how to encode and decode them. Students will receive lessons in introductory Latin as well in order to better relate to the main character in the book who is fluent in this ancient language.
<b>Greek Myths</b>	Gods, Goddesses, Heroes, and Monsters...This class will expand student knowledge and understanding of Ancient Greek myths with an emphasis on reading and writing. Students will learn about Greek myths, the Hero's Journey, and how this culture was able to teach their ideals and values through myths. Students will realize the relevance and influence in popular culture.
<b>Theater Appreciation</b>	Students will be offered a creative outlet to explore acting, storytelling, and stagecraft. It provides an opportunity to develop confidence, teamwork, and communication skills through hands-on activities and performances.
<b>Poetry</b>	Students will study poems on various topics then write poems inspired by those topics. Students will also learn about various poets whose emphasis is on striving for diversity, contemporary poets, and many of whom have been awarded the NCTE Award for Poetry for Children. Students will also participate in writing ekphrastic poems and poetry analysis with a Poetry PARTS graphic organizer.
<b>Spanish</b>	This class is designed as an introduction to learning a new language. Students will practice some basic phrases and vocabulary, and will complete projects based on many cultural topics. This exposure to Spanish class will help the students decide if they would like to continue with Spanish 1A and 1B courses offered in 7th and 8th grades.

### 7th-Grade Elective Course Descriptions (year-long)

Year long classes require an application and/or performance. Students will be ranked based on performance and ability to best perform the tasks required for that specific class. There is no guarantee that students will be enrolled in the year-long class upon request.

<b>Drama</b>	This class provides students with creative and improvisational games to improve performance and group skills. Students will explore themselves and the world around them through performance, set and costume design and construction, and more. Students will have the opportunity for different roles whether on the stage, or behind the scenes. Students in this class will rehearse and perform in the two main stage productions at Taylor- one in the fall and one in the spring. <u>Some after school rehearsals are required to participate in this class.</u>
<b>Spanish 1A</b>	Spanish 1A introduces students to the target language and its culture. Students will learn beginning skills in listening and speaking and an introduction to basic skills in reading and writing. Also, culture, connections, comparisons, and communities are included in this one-year course. This course, along with Spanish 1B, is intended to prepare students for high school Spanish and possible advanced standing.
<b>KTLR</b>	Learn from the ground up how to perform all the tasks it takes to put on our 8-minute daily news broadcast. Script writing, graphic creations, anchoring, technical director, computer technician, sound technician, camera operator (in studio and in the field), music coordinator etc. This course is open to seventh and eighth grade students, by admin and teacher approval only. Students will be trained to serve three communities: Taylor Middle School staff, teachers, students, and families; the local Millbrae community; and the global community.
<b>Student Leadership</b>	This course is open to seventh and eighth grade students, by application and teacher approval only. Students will be trained to serve three communities: Taylor Middle School staff, teachers, students, and families; the local Millbrae community; and the global community. Students will utilize leadership skills and will work collaboratively to develop action plans to carry out service projects, school spirit activities, and student governance as described in the Bulldog Associated Student Body (ASB) Constitution. Students will be able to run for ASB Officer, Class Officer, and Director positions within the ASB Student Government and will be able to select and join various committees organized to carry out fun, engaging, and spirit oriented projects and activities on behalf of the Taylor Middle School Student Body.

### 7th Grade Elective Wheel

Students are placed in a class based on the Master Schedule. Students on the elective wheel do not get a preference of which classes they would like to take.

<b>Art</b>	An exploratory class designed to help improve students' basic art skills; drawing, painting, design using a variety of media and techniques, develop students' creativity and self-expression that relates to culture and concepts learned in Grade 7 Social Studies.
<b>Music Appreciation</b>	Students will learn how to interact with music in the world, as well as basic music theory and music history.
<b>Theater Appreciation</b>	Students will be offered a creative outlet to explore acting, storytelling, and stagecraft. It provides an opportunity to develop confidence, teamwork, and communication skills through hands-on activities and performances.

### 8th-Grade Elective Course Descriptions (year-long)

Year long classes require an application and/or performance. Students will be ranked based on performance and ability to best perform the tasks required for that specific class. There is no guarantee that students will be enrolled in the year-long class upon request.

<b>Drama</b>	This class provides students with creative and improvisational games to improve performance and group skills. Students will explore themselves and the world around them through performance, set and costume design and construction, and more. Students will have the opportunity for different roles whether on the stage, or behind the scenes. Students in this class will rehearse and perform in the two main stage productions at Taylor- one in the fall and one in the spring. <u>Some after school rehearsals are required to participate in this class.</u>
<b>Spanish 1B</b>	Spanish 1B sustains students' introduction to the target language and its culture. The student will further develop communicative and written skills and will develop a deeper cross-cultural understanding. Emphasis is placed on proficient communication in the language. An introduction to reading and writing is also included as well as culture, connections, comparisons, and communities. This course, along with Spanish 1A, is intended to prepare students for high school Spanish and possible advanced standing.
<b>KTLR</b>	Learn from the ground up how to perform all the tasks it takes to put on our 8-minute daily news broadcast. Script writing, graphic creations, anchoring, technical director, computer technician, sound technician, camera operator (in studio and in the field), music coordinator etc. This course is open to seventh and eighth grade students, by admin and teacher approval only. Students will be trained to serve three communities: Taylor Middle School staff, teachers, students, and families; the local Millbrae community; and the global community.
<b>Student Leadership</b>	This course is open to seventh and eighth grade students, by application and teacher approval only. Students will be trained to serve three communities: Taylor Middle School staff, teachers, students, and families; the local Millbrae community; and the global community. Students will utilize leadership skills and will work collaboratively to develop action plans to carry out service projects, school spirit activities, and student governance as described in the Bulldog Associated Student Body (ASB) Constitution. Students will be able to run for ASB Officer, Class Officer, and Director positions within the ASB Student Government and will be able to select and join various committees organized to carry out fun, engaging, and spirit oriented projects and activities on behalf of the Taylor Middle School Student Body.
<b>Teacher's or Office Assistant (TA/OA)</b>	Teacher/Office Assistant positions are open students, by application and teacher approval only. Teacher and Office Assistants must be reliable, trustworthy, private, and dedicated to serving the course/office and the teacher/staff to whom they are assigned. <i>You must have C's or higher in order to enroll as a TA/OA and to keep the TA/OA position for the 2022-23 school year.</i>

### 8th Grade Elective Wheel

Students are placed in a class based on the Master Schedule. Students on the elective wheel do not get a preference of which classes they would like to take.

<b>Journalism</b>	Students will learn the historical importance of journalism, and the basic principles of print, broadcast and online journalism. They will examine the role of printed news media and photojournalism in our society with a focus on community and global sustainability. Students will then create a school newspaper that will be available to the Taylor community in print and digital form. This publication will not only provide an opportunity for students to gain journalist experience, but will also serve as a way to foster connections between students, staff and family.
<b>Theater Appreciation</b>	Students will be offered a creative outlet to explore acting, storytelling, and stagecraft. It provides an opportunity to develop confidence, teamwork, and communication skills through hands-on activities and performances.

<b>Music Appreciation</b>	Students will learn how to interact with music in the world, as well as basic music theory and music history.
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