

MILL VALLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL

Elective Descriptions

We currently offer Spanish, French, Step-Up Drama, and Study Skills classes at middle school. Parents and students should read the class descriptions and make choices that they feel would be most appropriate for their child.

Spanish and French 1 and 2

These classes are communication-based and aimed at the development of the four skills of language learning: listening, speaking, reading and writing. Frequent oral work in pairs and small groups will be used to reinforce acquisition of the new language. Homework is assigned most days and there will be projects that will be completed outside of class. Students who successfully complete Spanish 1/French 1 in 7th grade will proceed to Spanish 2/French 2 in 8th grade. This program is designed so that students who successfully complete the 2-year course of study here are eligible to enter the second year of Spanish or French as high school freshmen.

Step-Up Drama

Learn the basics of pantomime, improvisation, voice and body work, characterization, stage secrets, puppetry and acting techniques in a non-threatening environment. Discover more about yourself as we read teen centered plays and stories aloud, as well as create our own scripts, act them out and film them. Learn about the film-making process as we go to Studio 7 lab to create fun film credits, add music, edit our group scenes and create a polished film. Watch a famous film from the perspective of actors, directors and the film crew. Learn to feel confident while doing oral activities and work on your fluency as a speaker and writer. Learn while having fun doing a variety of theater activities and games, and discover the world of the stage with knowledge about stage blocking, body positions and the expressive use of body and voice.

Study Skills

An academic support class designed to provide additional time during the week to complete homework, do research and get additional help on assignments. Students who are in this class must be able to work independently and maintain a sense of academic responsibility. Counselor or administrative recommendation and/or approval will be required.

Math Tutorial

This is an academic support class in lieu of foreign language, which provides support for the student's current math class.