

Electives 2018-2019

Electives are open to all grades unless indicated otherwise.

Advanced Topics in Chemistry (Ledoux) (grades 11-12)

Chemistry is a vast topic only glanced during your eleventh-grade experience. This course aims to delve into topics such as organic chemistry, biochemistry, nuclear chemistry, electrochemistry, reduction-oxidation reactions, and many more. In addition, we prepare for the Advanced Placement (AP) Chemistry exam in May. Only the most capable chemistry students (11th and 12th graders) are encouraged to take this course. During a typical three-week cycle, you will learn about a given chemistry topic, conduct an experiment related to the topic, and prepare for the AP exam. The third trimester is student-driven and enables you to direct the class toward a variety of more complex topics such as chemical use in history and current events.

Animate! Stop-Motion Claymation and Video Exploration (Moffat) (grades 9-12)

Create creatures in clay and bring them to life! Develop a concept, create a storyboard, and animate using stop-motion techniques to create multi-media presentations. Further projects using video cameras and iPhones will be explored. Students work in teams and individually.

Beekeeping (Leveque)

Students will assist in the management of the school's honeybee hives. The course provides students with a closer look at the life cycle of the honeybee and the challenges that they face, through a series of experiments, and hands on projects in the bee yard, kitchen, and woodshop.

Boys' Chorus (Yankee)

The Men's Chorus continues to grow and develop, but has now established itself a group that is eclectic, entertaining, and skilled. Healthy vocal technique and music theory are taught through a focused rehearsal process while learning a wide variety of repertoire—from sea shanties, to Gregorian chant, to doo-wop, and much more. The group is open to all male students, whether their voice has changed or not—in fact, it is crucial for a young man to sing while approaching adolescence: it is key for a lifetime of singing growth and enjoyment. Performance opportunities include the annual Falmouth Academy concerts, Cape and State chorus festivals, collaborations with Falmouth Academy Women's Chorus, run-outs, gigs, and more. Open to male students in all grades.

Ceramics, Beginners (Burns) (grades 8-12)

This class teaches the basics of clay work. Students learn the six stages of clay as well as wedging, glazing, and firing of clay. They make the most basic and earliest of clay forms: the pinchpot. The pinchpots of Paulus Berensohn are used as inspiration. The coil pots of the Anasazi Indians are the models for making coil projects. Students learn to use the extruder and slab roller, and are assigned slab work and the proper way to attach clay parts. Using the wheel, students will learn

and practice making cylinders and bowls. They will practice making multiples of mugs and bowls. Additional skills taught include making handles, trimming, and proper glazing techniques.

Ceramics, Advanced (Burns) (grades 9-12)

With some mastery of the basic hand-building and wheel-throwing techniques under their belts, students will continue to practice and improve their art work. Sgraffito, slipwork, and bas relief as well as other decorating techniques are added to the students' repertoire. They will make matching mugs and bowls and attempt to make larger pieces such as vases and pitchers on the wheel. Lids and spouts will be demonstrated and the final project for advanced students will be to make a fully functioning teapot. Covered casserole dishes will be assigned. The work of various potters such as Hamada, Brother Thomas, and Maria and Tony Clennell will be used as inspiration. Raku firing outdoors is done in the Fall and Spring.

Chess/Strategic Games (Wells)

The goal here is exposure to well-known life-long games. In addition to Chess, students will learn Backgammon, Cribbage, and trick-based card games.

Creative Writing (Manchester)

In this elective, students become editors of the school's literary magazine, Resonance. Throughout the year we consider poetry and prose, written by students, faculty, and staff. The Resonance staff members read each submission together and make editorial suggestions. At the end of the year, the written submissions, along with student artwork, are compiled to create the magazine. Resonance is printed at the end of the third term and distributed to the school community on Recognition Day.

Curling (Jones) (grades 9-12)

Sweep! Hard! Hard! If you were wondering what these terms mean and how they effect a stone on ice, or if you were curious why the sport is called curling, or if you are interested in learning how to play a truly life-long sport, sign up for curling. In this elective, students will be able to walk to the Cape Cod Curling Club during fourth period in order to learn the rules, techniques, and strategies of curling.

DECA's Comprehensive Learning Program (Lott) (grades 9-12)

The challenges by the Distributive Educational Club of America (DECA) provide DECA members opportunities to demonstrate the knowledge and skills learned in the classroom through innovative challenges in partnership with several corporate partners. Each challenge has a unique focus and specific set of required tasks.

Drama I / Middle School Play (Prosser)

The Middle School Play Drama elective is your chance to participate in the Middle School Play! Students learn all the basics of performance while creating their very own original show which is performed in our school's theater in February. This elective emphasizes improvisation, character-building theater games, creative playwriting, and performance technique. Students work together collaboratively, creating a safe environment for students of all theatrical levels to bring what each individual has to offer to our unique process. This elective meets weekly as a regular elective throughout the year, but has a mandatory

after-school rehearsal schedule MON-THURS during the month of January. Students participating are also agreeing to be available for tech and dress rehearsals as well as workdays.

Drama II (Ledwell)

In this class, student actors focus on advanced improvisation techniques, as well as scenes and monologues, touching on a variety of eras. Actors learn about theatrical styles from other periods in history and how to apply these styles to their improvisational scenes. There is an increased focus on vocal and physical preparation in this class, as well. Whenever possible, Drama II students view live performances, both in and out of school, and analyze the effectiveness of the choices made by actors, directors, and designers. Students may take this class multiple times, as the special projects rotate through the years.

Drawing, Intro to (Nelson)

This course, designed for students with little or no formal training in drawing, will focus on the traditional techniques of draftsmanship. Projects include working with graphite, charcoal, pastels, and colored pencils. Emphasis is on the process of making art rather than on the final product; students will push their boundaries and work outside of their comfort zones.

Drawing, Advanced (Nelson) (grades 9-12; prerequisite "Intro")

Students will utilize the toolkit of skills acquired in Introduction to Drawing, including scaling & proportion, linear perspective, how to create a dynamic composition, and value, and learn how to create work that goes beyond technical mastery. Materials include charcoal, colored pencil, prisma-color markers, ink, graphite, and pastels. Students have the opportunity to do figure drawing and portraiture from a live model. Emphasis is equally on the process of making work and the finished product.

Engage: Local and Global Service (DiFalco/Swanbeck)

To emphasize with others and make a difference in their lives, students in this elective will connect with Falmouth residents in community service; plan and lead Falmouth Academy students in service projects; participate in the Cape Cod Human Rights Academy, creating a project that will enhance student understanding and invite action.

Farm and Garden Arts (Sperduto)

Farm and Garden Arts is a hands-on elective where students learn about proper practices and techniques involved with planning, planting, pruning, and culture the of ornamental landscape, fruit, and vegetable gardening. They learn how to identify native and invasive species and how to help to minimize the spread of the latter. The school has a small vegetable garden and a 14 x 24 ft. greenhouse that is used to start seedlings and grow a variety of vegetables throughout the year. The elective also helps to maintain a small fruit orchard with a dozen pear trees and half a dozen grape vines. Hardscape construction with stone, brick, or timber is also introduced when repairs or installations are necessary.

Falmouth Academy also has a small flock of layer hens that offers an introduction to chicken management. Visits to Peterson Farm, Spohr Gardens and other local gardens to volunteer and learn about different animals and garden styles are regular annual field trips.

Film (Ledwell)

Students in this elective study the art of film: writing, cinematography, editing, design, directing, and acting. They learn how to spot trends and homages to earlier films and how to watch movies with a discerning eye. They discuss classics and modern films, paying close attention to how the historical context, the artists' goals, and the various film disciplines have influenced filmmakers' choices. They will also create their own short stop-motion films and film scenes in class, giving them the chance to practice their new skills. Open to students in all grades.

Fitness for Life (Andrade)

Fitness for life is an elective for the student who is interested in a weekly workout at the Falmouth Sports Center. Students will have an opportunity to work out with supervision for 60 minutes and have use of the complete Health Center. Participants must adhere to the Health Club rules and be respectful of the club environment and work out safely when using equipment.

Forensic Science (Ledoux) (grades 10-12)

Forensic science is a dynamic and interactive course where you can learn the ins and outs of being a forensic scientist. In the first trimester you are put in the role of a criminal investigator collecting evidence and mapping crime scenes. In the second trimester you are a lab technician analyzing evidence such as handwriting, fingerprints, and blood spatter. In the third trimester you are an expert witness testifying in the courtroom.

Girls' Chorus (Yankee)

Students in the Women's Chorus develop healthy vocal technique, learn musical skills, and gain personal confidence while making wonderful music and bonding as an ensemble. Musical selections are drawn from all periods and styles, including classical, folk, world music, jazz, Broadway, and contemporary. The Women's Chorus also sings combined pieces with the Men's Chorus throughout the year. Performances include the annual Falmouth Academy Music Department concerts, programs for local nursing homes and clubs, and FA Graduation. Adjudicated choral festivals and guest appearances at outside concerts are also considered. All singers are encouraged to participate in regional and state choral festivals. Open to female students in all grades.

Graphic Design, Intro to (Borden/Leveque)

This elective will introduce you to Adobe InDesign 2017, a graphic design and page layout software application. InDesign's flexible layout and integrated design tools provides a platform to combine your writing skills with your artistic side. The course will be completely hands-on. A few of the design challenges will include brochures, posters, business cards, postcards, and magazine layouts in both print and digital format.

Interconnected Biology (Lafaver McCarron)

The purpose of this elective is to explore how human and animal biology mirror other aspects for the natural world. Exploring how repeating patterns and structure allow for a variety of functional outcomes. Example: how pressure and time and heat allow for metamorphic rock to form which has similarities to how bones within the body harden and ultimately heal from injury.

JML Care Center (Earley)

Students in grades 7 through 12 may volunteer to go during one fourth period per week to the nearby JML Care Center. JML has an adult (senior) day care program, where volunteers may play games or work on craft projects with the men and women there. In the full-care area of JML, volunteers may help pass out mail, read to residents, help them write letters, or just chat.

Latin, Advanced (Jones)

This higher level Latin course is for students who have previously studied Latin. The class is tailored to the interests and backgrounds of the students and puts particular emphasis on being able to appreciate Latin literature in the original language. A great course for the student who wants to understand that “carpe diem” should not be translated as “seize the day,” and that “alumni” can be used with any group that contains at least one man. Students in Advanced Latin will have the opportunity to participate in the National Latin Exam in March and are also encouraged to join the FA trip to Rome or Greece (held every three or four years). Open to students in all grades with Beginning Latin as a prerequisite.

Middle School Play

(see Drama I)

Mixed Instrumental Ensemble (Weller)**Mixed Instrumental Ensemble, Advanced (Scharr)**

Students at Falmouth Academy sign up for one or more of four instrumental ensembles: String, Rhythm (piano, guitar, bass and percussion), Mixed Ensemble and Advanced Mixed Ensemble. All students study and perform from the classical, jazz, rock and pop genres. Ensembles may play as a “stand-alone” unit but also play as part of the overall larger ensembles of Symphony and Jazz.

Each section meets once a week for 75-minutes and students may sign up for more than one section. Participation in Advanced Mixed Ensemble are asked to audition for a music festival of their choice but we recommend All-Cape. All instrumentalists are asked to engage in outside private lessons to help them become more proficient on their instrument and keep up with the class. Open to students in all grades.

Mullen Hall Volunteers (Leveque) (grades 9-12)

Students in grades 9 through 12 have the opportunity to volunteer at the nearby Mullen Hall School (K-4th grade). The volunteers, once a week during fourth period, will assist the classroom teacher in several ways, varying from week to week; they may work with a group or with an individual student; they may help students with art or poetry projects, among other possibilities. Students also have the opportunity to work with first grade classes in the Mullen Hall Learning Garden.

Painting, Intro to (Nelson) (grades 8-12)

Beginning Painting is designed for students with experience in drawing techniques. As this class is devoted to observational painting, students work from life in most assignments and exercises. The emphasis is on process, not product. Exercises in class include under-painting, value studies, color theory via color mixing, and painting from a still life. Basic fundamentals of drawing will be incorporated into the general lessons of the year, including how to develop a dynamic composition

using entry and exit points, linear perspective and scaling and proportion. At the end of the year, students have a firm grasp of various techniques in acrylic painting, knowledge of supplies, and the ability to instigate their own painterly investigations.

Painting, Advanced (Nelson) (grades 9-12; prerequisite “Intro”)

This course is designed for advanced students who have taken an introductory course in both drawing and in painting. Using the toolkit of technical skills acquired in the introductory, students are able to explore abstract ideas and modes of communication via paint. At the start of each project, the teacher presents a brief history of the topic and introduces artists who have explored similar themes, both formally (the way in which the work was completed) and conceptually (the ideas within the work). Students are required to conduct independent research with each topic in order to enrich their understanding as well as to add depth to the final painting. There will be equal emphasis on exploring the process of making work and on the finished product.

Photography, Intro to (Moffat)

Through the lens of a 35mm camera, Introduction to Photography offers students a new way to see and control light. They learn how to use a camera, develop film, and print in the darkroom. Projects include: the camera obscura, various shooting assignments on and off campus, and exposure to other photographers, both contemporary and historical. Students build on technique and vision. In-school 35mm loaner cameras are available.

Photography, Intermediate (Moffat) (prerequisite: “Intro”)

With a knowledge of camera basics, Intermediate Photography students complete assignments designed to build on vision and technique. Both traditional darkroom and digital projects using Adobe Photoshop will be covered. Students have the option to work in one or both mediums. Projects include challenges in seeing in new and unique ways; book binding; and shooting nature, sports, fashion, reportage, commercial, and environmental portraiture. Students will choose a photographer to research, create a slideshow, and present to the class.

Photography, Advanced (Moffat) (grades 9-12) (prerequisite: “Intermediate”)

Given their acquired base of Intro and Intermediate Photography classes, students are able to take their work to the next level. They’ll develop a personal vision and experiment with technique, make slideshow presentations of historical and contemporary photographers, create a solo-exhibition in the gallery, try alternative darkroom techniques, learn how to critique the photographic image, and create a final video project. Students can choose between darkroom and digital photography. The Advanced Fine Arts Trip to major Boston museums and galleries takes place each fall.

Programming, Intro to (Borden)

Students will learn the language of Python, a general purpose language widely used in scientific computing and data science. Students will work through a series of short activities designed to build confidence and gain an understanding of the syntax of the language, the structure of a working program, and the ability to “debug” their work. The course will also explore physical computing using [Hummingbird](#) circuit boards, motors, servos, and a variety of sensors to conceptualize, build, and program models to move and react to inputs.

Recreational Games (Andrade)

Rec Games is a less structured recreational class. In a cooperative atmosphere, students must be prepared to participate in a multitude of activities from invasion games to more traditional activities such as wiffle ball, basketball, volleyball, badminton, capture the flag, flag football and more. Participants are to display positive sportsmanship. Students are required to wear proper non-restrictive attire other than school wear and proper footwear.

Rhythm Section (Scharr)

(see Mixed Instrumental Ensemble)

Stagecraft (TBD)

In Beginning Stagecraft, students will learn the basics of technical theater: sets, lights, properties, costumes, and sound. The class work focuses around the three plays put on during the school year, and students in the Stagecraft classes form the core of the student stage crew for the plays and concerts. Students learn how to use basic hand tools including electric drills, paint sets and props, hang and focus lights, operate the lighting board, and operate sound when required. Open to students in all grades.

String Ensemble (Scharr)

(see Mixed Instrumental Ensemble)

Studio Arts, Intro to (Nelson)

This beginner's course is designed for students with little or no experience in art. Students have the opportunity to experiment with a variety of 2-D and 3-D media throughout the year with a focus on understanding the historical techniques of art making. This class is devoted to developing observational skills; all of the assignments and exercises work from life. Many of the assignments are focused on developing hand/eye coordination and critical observation. Students learn to see with their eyes and not with their mind or memory. The emphasis of this course is on the process of making work, not on the finished product. Projects that could be considered failures are just as important as the successful ones!

Taekwondo (TBD)

Taekwondo is a Korean martial art famous for its dynamic kicks and practicality for self-defense. This martial art trains people physically and mentally. Male and female students of all grades meet and interact as they learn the skills and rituals of Taekwondo from their fifth-degree black belt instructor. The instructor also has the required equipment available for purchase.

Woodworking (Leveque) (grades 9-12)

Through a series of independent projects, students will learn how to safely work with a variety of hand and power tools to construct projects that they design.

Yearbook (Knowles)

In the Yearbook elective, students produce the annual yearbook publication (Mainsail) as a pictorial history of campus activities and memorable events for the current school year. They are required to create page layouts, take photographs, and write brief descriptions of events. They also learn how to use Jostens Yearbook Avenue, an online yearbook system, to upload photos and edit yearbook pages.

Yoga for Teens (Riddiford)

Yoga is very beneficial for both the body and the mind. We'll use simple yoga postures to strengthen, tone, and relax the body, and we'll bring calm to the mind through brief meditation at the end of class. This elective will introduce teens to the benefits of yoga and teach them how to incorporate the lessons into their busy, stressful lives.