

Elective Offerings Brief Descriptions

Creative Writing: Beyond various writing projects, the students would have the opportunity to interview published authors. Students will participate in a reading at Rice University's WATA ceremony, where they would share their work with the public. Students interested in applying to art schools like HSPVA could use their work for their application portfolios. This class would be ideal for students who already have an interest in writing.

Chess: For students who are interested in learning/playing chess. Students will attend Houston scholastic chess tournaments.

Digital Media Exploration: Explore the world of digital media! Learn photography, video editing, graphic design, and more while unleashing your creativity and digital skills!

Sports and Wellness: an opportunity for students to further their understanding of athleticism and personal wellness.

Keyboarding: Students will develop their typing skills using a software program with challenges and reward systems. They will master the qwerty keyboard and learn basic shortcut strategies for word processing and spreadsheets.

Latin and Greek Words Electives: This is an elective that gives a good foundation with Latin roots, prefixes, and suffixes, along with specialty words utilized for Spelling Bees.

HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America): A student-run organization and club that students take as an elective. HOSA teaches students how to achieve individual and team goals, lead school wide health activities, and serve others. In the process, students gain insight into health careers through lessons provided by professionals and conversations with professionals. HOSA members compete in state and national competitions.

Gardening and 4-H: Students study the connection between agriculture, environment and human health. They learn to garden and grow nutritious food using good environmental practices. Students work in the school edible garden and orchard and prairie and pollinator patch as part of an EcoUSA and National Wildlife Federation program. Students also become members of 4-H, a local and national organization that “empowers youth to reach their full potential, working and learning in partnership with caring professionals.” The 4-H pledge-- *I pledge my **Head** to clearer thinking, my **Heart** to greater loyalty, my **Hands** to larger service, and my **Health** to better living, for my club, my community, my country and my world.* 4-H members have the opportunity to compete.

Culinary Chemistry: Students will discover a new love for food and science as the two disciplines come together to show that as wonderful and awe inspiring as delectable cuisine is, it is not about magic: it is all about passion and chemistry!