

Lanier Elective Course Catalog 2024-2025

Language Acquisition

Lanier offers Mandarin Chinese, French, and Spanish.

6th grade: ALL students must take a full-year *introductory* course in one of the languages.

7th grade: Students select which (one) language they would like to take for the next two years. It does not have to be the language they took in 6th grade.

A placement exam is required for placement in the Spanish Native Speakers course for 7th grade

8th grade: Students will continue with the same language they took in 7th grade. During this time, they will have the opportunity to earn one high school credit through foreign language, as well as earning college credit with a score of 3 to 5 on the Advanced Placement Exam (if applicable).

Performing and Visual Arts

Beginner Band: Open to **6th, 7th and 8th grade** students. You don't need any musical experience to play in Beginner Band, and you do not have to own an instrument. In the first days of school, students get to try out any or all the band instruments and choose the instrument that is the most appealing to them. Then they begin to learn the skills necessary to play notes with a good tone, and how to play enjoyable music together. By the end of the school year, students will have basic skills in rhythms and note-reading, dynamics, phrasing, articulations, instrument maintenance, and scales, have proper playing posture, and demonstrate appropriate rehearsal and concert behavior. Beginner Band students who can play all twelve major scales and the chromatic scale by memory have the opportunity to move up to the Honors Band if their schedules allow it.

Band

Symphonic Band: Open to **6th, 7th, and 8th grade**. This band is for students who can already read music, know some of their major scales, can create characteristic tones on their instruments, and have experience working on beginner band-level pieces. The symphonic band performs 6-8 times a year at concerts, pep rallies, football games, and attends competitions. Students who qualify for the All-City Band and All-Region Band also perform with these ensembles. By year's end, every member of the Symphonic Band is expected to have improved enough, and demonstrated the appropriate personal maturity, to qualify for the Honors Band, if their schedules allow it. Entry into the Symphonic Band is only by director recommendation.

<p>Band (cont.)</p>	<p>Honors Band: Open to 6th, 7th, and 8th grade. This is the top-performing band at Lanier. Honors Band students show a high understanding of music notation, sight reading, high-quality tone production, intonation and eagerness to perform difficult music and take private lessons. Students in this group show a robust interest in playing and performing at a high level and learn how to work well with other students who are also high-energy. The band performs at least seven times a year, at concerts, football games, pep rallies, the UIL competition, and at special events. Students who qualify for All-City Band and All-Region Band also perform with these ensembles. Entry into the Honors Band is only by director recommendation.</p>
	<p>Guitar: Open to 6th, 7th, and 8th grade. Students do not need any prior musical experience to be in this class. School guitars are available to use, or students may bring their own. Students learn how to hold and tune their guitars and develop the skills necessary to play songs individually and in a group: reading notes and fingering them correctly on the fretboard, strumming chords with a steady beat, scales and chords, understanding rhythms, dynamics, style, basic musical terms, instrument maintenance, playing posture and rehearsal/concert behavior.</p>
<p>Orchestra</p>	<p><i>Orchestra involves the following four main stringed instruments: Violin, Viola, Cello, and Bass</i></p>
	<p>Beginning Orchestra: Open to all grade levels. This orchestra is for students in all grade levels who have no previous experience on a stringed instrument. They don't have to have any musical experience at all! We teach the basics in this orchestra. We focus on proper instrument posture, note reading, rhythms, and bow technique.</p>
	<p>Concert: Open to all grade levels. This intermediate level orchestra class is for students who have been playing for 1-2 years. This class will focus on developing intonation, rhythm, shifting, vibrato, bow technique, ensemble performance, and sight-reading skills. Concert orchestra also plays a wider variety of world, popular and classical music.</p>
	<p>Philharmonic: Open to all grade levels. This intermediate/advanced level orchestra class is for students in all grade levels with 2-3 years of previous experience on a stringed instrument. We focus on many intermediate skills in this class, including intonation (pitch), rhythms, shifting, vibrato, bow technique, and ensemble performance. Students are accepted into this orchestra by audition only. This orchestra participates in UIL and there are occasional morning sectionals before school.</p>
	<p>Sinfonia: Open to all grade levels. This advanced level orchestra class requires a high level of commitment from its members. Students are accepted into this orchestra by audition only. We focus on skills such as: two-octave scales, advanced shifting and rhythms, and advanced bow technique. Students are expected to be</p>

<p>Orchestra (cont.)</p>	<p>able to read music proficiently. All 7th and 8th grade students are required to audition for the region orchestra. There are morning sectionals before school, as well as after-school rehearsals from time to time. This orchestra also participates in the Lanier Symphony Orchestra (LSO) with members of the band.</p>
<p>Art</p>	<p>Piano/Keyboard: Open to all grade levels. This is for students in all grade levels that have no previous or some experience with a piano/keyboard. In fact, they don't have to have any musical experience at all! We teach the basics in this class.</p> <p>6th grade: Students are introduced to a variety of media and techniques to explore the differences in working with: Observation vs. imagination; Organic vs. Manufactured Form; 2D VS 3D Form; Black and White vs. color and Realism vs. abstraction. In addition, through analyzing their work and others, students practice deconstructing how works of art are put together.</p> <p>7th grade: Students will apply the elements and principles of design to create artwork from direct observation, imagination, and personal experience. Subject units will include one and two-point perspective, visual storytelling, and art history. Students will also learn to use descriptive vocabulary accurately while making informed judgments about personal artworks and the artworks of others.</p> <p>8th grade: Students will expand their knowledge of the elements of art and the principles of design with continued exploration of basic art media and techniques, such as drawing, painting, graphic design, ceramics, collage, and sculpture. This course will consist of a more in-depth study of art criticism, aesthetics, and art history. Students will develop an ability to talk about their work and the work of others in classroom critiques.</p> <p>8th grade (high school credit): <i>This course requires students successfully complete two consecutive years of middle school art (6th grade and 7th grade art). This course expands upon the elements of art and the principles of design with continued exploration of basic art media and techniques, such as drawing, painting, graphic design, ceramics, collage, and sculpture. This course will consist of a more in-depth study of art criticism, aesthetics, and art history. Students will expand their ability to talk about their work and the work of others in classroom critiques. Students will have many opportunities to explore careers in the arts, showcase their artwork in the community as well as compete in competitions such as the Rodeo Arts Showcase, Bayou Art Festival, Scholastics, HISD Spring Showcase, HISD Holiday greeting card competition, and more! After successfully completing this course students will be able to sign up for upper-level art classes as Freshmen in High School and/or rest easy knowing that they have completed the credit before getting to 9th Grade.</i></p>
<p>Theater Arts</p>	<p>6th Grade Theater Arts 1: This course is an introduction to performance and design, with an emphasis on building and working in an ensemble. Students will focus on stage movement, improvisation, scene-writing, and character development. <i>No previous theatre experience is required.</i></p> <p>7th Grade Theater Arts 2: This course builds Theater Arts 1, with a particular focus on stage lighting, sound, props, costumes, and performance techniques. <i>Theater Arts 1 is a pre-requisite; if there is available space, students</i></p>

<p>Theater Arts (cont.)</p>	<p><i>who did not take Theater Arts 1 may audition with Ms. Foster. Audition information will be sent after the student has submitted course selections.</i></p> <p>8th Grade Theater Arts 3: This course focuses on the production process from start to finish. Students will write or adapt their plays. They will design and build sets, props, and costumes. And they will design and operate sound and lights to create fuller theater productions. <i>Theater Arts 2 is a pre-requisite; if there is available space, students who did not take Theater Arts 2 may audition with Ms. Foster. Audition information will be sent after the student has submitted course selections.</i></p>
<p>Creative Writing</p>	<p>Lanier Creative Writing is an engaging multi-disciplinary elective that allows students to develop their writing skills in a supportive and challenging environment. Workshop-driven and TEKS-supported, this unique course subscribes to the MYP IB standards, while also reinforcing the 6-8 ELA targeted objectives. Additionally, Lanier Creative Writing promotes creativity and human ingenuity, risk-taking and open-mindedness, and a deep appreciation for reading and writing.</p> <p>Students enrolled in Lanier Creative Writing will survey diverse classical and contemporary texts, appreciate a variety of mentor documents, and they will become familiar with regional, national, and international authors.</p> <p>Lanier creative writers will become more proficient writers of poetry and prose. They will apply the theories applied in this course and become more confident, informed, and dynamic lifelong readers and writers.</p>
<p>Design</p>	
<p>Debate</p>	<p>6th grade: Public Speaking - The class is an introduction to competitive speech and debate that covers a variety of areas such as debate, speech, and interpretive events. There is also a unit over George Orwell's Animal Farm. Students will have the opportunity to compete in tournaments.</p> <p><i>Sixth graders do not have to be in the class to join the team. The afterschool 6th-grade debate club is open to all 6th graders regardless of whether they are in the rotation class and is the best way to join the team.</i></p> <p>7th grade: Contemporary Issues - This is for any 7th grader wishing to compete on the debate team. Students on the team are eligible to compete for spots on the national team as well. When not preparing for tournaments, 7th graders spend time giving daily speeches and taking weekly current event quizzes. Major projects include Original Oratory, the Presidential Presentation, and group projects related to various domestic issues facing the United States.</p> <p>8th grade (High School Credit): Debate Team - This is for any 8th grader wishing to compete and there is no pre-requisite. Students on the team are eligible to compete for spots on the national team. When not preparing</p>

Debate (cont.)	for tournaments, 8 th graders spend time giving daily speeches, taking weekly current event quizzes, and participating in a mock government. Major projects throughout the year are centered on various countries. The 8 th graders are also responsible for the recruitment and training of the 6 th graders who join debate.
Technology Applications	6th Grade Tech Apps: The 6 th grade Technology Applications course is a first-year computer science course introducing the basics of programming, the basics of designing a web page, and how information is represented digitally and sent over the Internet. Students will learn to code using blocks to drag and drop, but they can switch between blocks and text as desired. Students will create a personal portfolio website showing projects they build throughout the course. With a unique focus on creativity, problem solving and project-based learning, Technology Applications gives students the opportunity to explore several important topics of computing using their own ideas and creativity to develop an interest in computer science that will foster further endeavors in the field. Students will learn about hardware, work with office productivity software and learn about digital citizenship and cyber hygiene.
	7th grade Tech Apps: The 7 th grade Tech students explore the basics of programming, web design, internet safety, and how information is represented digitally and sent over the Internet. Students will be introduced to the Python programming language, go through the design process to create a website that addresses a community issue and explore the impacts of internet-based innovations. With a unique focus on creativity, problem-solving, and project-based learning, Tech Apps and Coding allow students to explore several important topics of computing using their own ideas and creativity to develop an interest in computer science that will foster further endeavors in the field. Students will continue to learn about hardware, working with Micro:bit circuits to learn about programming. They will also work with office productivity software while improving keyboarding fluency.
	8th grade Tech Apps: <i>Semester 1</i> In 8 th grade Tech Apps students will work with the CodeHS <i>Intro to programming with Karel(JavaScript) and Micro:bit</i> curriculum. The course merges the Physical Computing with micro:bit and the Introduction to Programming with Karel courses. Students will write and run code in the browser and engage in collaborative exercises with classmates. Students will also learn to program using Micro:bit circuits. Students will continue to work with office productivity software, with a focus on spreadsheets. <i>Semester 2</i> Students will work with the CodeHS Intro to the Internet course. In this course, students learn how to create and design web pages using HTML and CSS. They will also learn how information is represented digitally and sent over the Internet. Students will create a personal portfolio website showing projects they build throughout the course. With a unique focus on creativity, problem-solving and project-based learning, Introduction to the Internet gives students the opportunity to explore several important topics of computing using their own ideas and creativity to develop an interest in computer science.

<p>Technology Applications (cont.)</p>	<p>8th grade Principles of Information Technology (High School Credit) - Students develop computer literacy skills to adapt to emerging technologies used in the global marketplace. Students implement personal and interpersonal skills to prepare for a rapidly evolving workplace environment. Students enhance reading, writing, computing, communication, and reasoning skills and apply them to the information technology environment. This includes word processing, spreadsheet, database, presentation, and web publishing technologies using Microsoft Office and Google Tools.</p>
<p>Model United Nations</p>	<p><i>Thinking Skills or Model United Nations (MUN) is debated in Parliamentary Procedure format with a curriculum focused on the United Nations (UN) and an emphasis on the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and global current events. At the end of the year, all classes participate in our annual school-wide International Peace Festival (IPF). All MUN competitions are open to interested students regardless of grade level.</i></p> <p>6th grade: Students create their own imaginary countries developing knowledge of how community becomes government and vice versa. This work culminates in the class creating their version of the United Nations and they are given problems and crises to resolve. Students are also introduced to fundamental MUN procedures and participate in debates. The final exam is showcasing their countries and United Nations at the International Peace Festival.</p> <p>7th grade: Each student chooses a country to represent in class MUN debates. 7th grade hosts one MUN debate event per year. There are three competitive events throughout the year they prepare for and can attend. The year ends with their country knowledge showcased at the International Peace Festival.</p> <p>8th grade: Principles of Government and Public Administration (CTE course credit) – Students are introduced to the foundations of governmental functions and career opportunities within the United States and abroad. Students will examine governmental documents such as the U.S. Constitution, current Supreme Court and federal court decisions, and the Bill of Rights. We work on two projects every year. The first semester ends with a thesis on the topic of what is the role of the U.S. Government in growing democracy. The final project is showcased at the International Peace Festival and is either on U.S. government structure and communication or technology and innovation.</p>
<p>Leadership</p>	<p>This class is for 8th graders who were selected through the application process as part of their PUPS class and who have also received approval from administrators to become classroom leaders. These students lead sixth and seventh-grade PUPS classes through lessons and discussions on character education, respect, peer pressure, time management, and more. In addition, leaders learn about leadership styles, conflict resolution, active listening, and more. Leaders are also called on to assist around the school with PUPS camp, student arrival, tours, and more.</p>

Robotics	<p>6th and 7th grade: This class utilizes Carnegie Mellon's Robotics Engineering Vol. 1. Students will work in pairs to program their VEX robots to perform a variety of robotic behaviors with the use of five sensors. A variety of challenges & investigations will allow students to exercise creativity, learn programming, & improve their designing/building skills.</p>
	<p>8th grade: Concepts of Engineering and Technology (High School Credit), will provide students an opportunity to investigate engineering and high-tech careers. Students will employ engineering and scientific concepts in the solution of engineering design problems. Students will develop problem-solving skills and apply their knowledge of research and design to create solutions to various challenges. Students will also learn how to document their work and communicate their solutions to their peers and members of a professional community.</p>
Yearbook	<p>7th graders will participate in the actual production of Lanier's yearbook. This involves photography, layout and design, writing stories and captions, interviewing students and adults, handling yearbook orders, and finally distribution of the completed book. Students need to be able to cover stories outside of school such as club meetings, concerts, academic competitions, and athletics.</p>
Dance, Physical Education or Karate	
Dance	<p>Lanier Dance offers classes at various skill and commitment levels that are appropriate for students with and without dance experience. Dance provides leadership and social opportunities, as well as the chance to be a part of a team and learn responsibility, independence, and time management skills. In addition to technical and artistic growth, dancers learn discipline, purpose and the importance of commitment as we work together to apply feedback and achieve common goals. Lanier students take dance as their PE credit, so they are able to take a fine arts class in addition to dance and still participate in after school athletics, as well. Explore your options and find your passion!</p>
	<p>Drill Team – Drill Team is a 6th grade course. Perform, compete, wear sparkly costumes, and have fun! A great way to make new friends! This class will focus on jazz, pom, high kick and hip-hop styles. There is also a strong emphasis on technique, performance quality, personal responsibility, and learning to work as a team. Four performance opportunities during the year, and only two after-school practices all year! This is the best prep class for our upper-level performance and competition groups and offers mentorship and social opportunities.</p>
	<p>Non-Performance Dance – Non-performance dance is a general dance class for 6th and 7th graders that will teach multiple styles and techniques throughout the year, including jazz, pom, high kick, hip hop, breakdance, lyrical/contemporary, and more. There are no performances, competitions, or extracurricular events.</p>

Dance (cont.)	Beginner Breakdance – Beginner Breakdance is a 6th and 7th grade class that will include a performance and nonperformance section. Students will focus on a B-boy style of dance that is very physical while learning both choreography sequences and the elements of freestyle.
	Performance Ensemble - Performance Ensemble is a 7th and 8th grade performance class. Students will focus heavily on improving personal dance technique, as well as perform choreography in the jazz, pom, hip hop, and lyrical/contemporary styles.
	Dance Element – Dance Element is a 7th and 8th grade performance and competition class. Students will focus on advancing their technique and will perform choreography in the hip hop, house and breakdance styles.
	Dance Classic – Dance Classic is a 7th and 8th grade performance and competition class. Students will focus on advancing their technique and will perform in several styles throughout the year, including jazz, pom, hip hop, and lyrical/contemporary.
	Dance Showcase – Dance Showcase is a 7th and 8th grade performance and competition class. Students will focus on advancing their technique and will perform in several styles throughout the year, including jazz, pom, high kick and lyrical/contemporary.
	Dance Crew – Dance Crew is a 7th and 8th grade performance and competition class. Students will focus on advanced technique and will perform choreography in the hip hop, house, and breakdance styles.
	Dance Company – Dance Company is a 7th and 8th grade elite performance, competition, and travel class. Students will focus on executing advanced techniques and will perform in several styles throughout the year, including jazz, pom, high kick, and lyrical/contemporary.
	Dance Alliance – Dance Alliance is an 8th grade elite performance, competition, and travel class. Students will be double-blocked for dance (PE and fine arts credit) and will provide leadership to their teams, as well as perform in several styles throughout the year.
Physical Education	P.E. is a class for 6th, 7th, and 8th graders which focuses on the development of fitness for life. Students will develop knowledge of fitness through a variety of physical activities with an emphasis on body awareness, conditioning, movement, games, and sports. Students are provided with opportunities to learn and practice fitness concepts while actively participating in a program that promotes a healthy lifestyle, physical awareness, social development, and positive attitudes toward active lifestyles. Instructional activities stress life management skills, such as cooperation, fair play, teamwork, citizenship, sportsmanship, and leadership. Some activities students may participate in include archery, basketball, football, badminton, softball, soccer, and volleyball. Students will need to purchase a P.E. uniform and are required to dress out before each class. Teachers use preassessments,

	post assessments, teacher evaluation and observation, rubric skill tests, written tests, individual, small and large group activity.
Karate	Karate class is open to 6th, 7th and 8th grade students. In addition to learning martial arts skills, Kickstart Kids karate classes deliberately and thoughtfully infuse character-building lessons into the daily curriculum. The unique multi-year, intensity progressive values curriculum is delivered in the form of videos, stories and group discussion. Through this layered methodology, Kickstart Kids teaches students to be respectful, self-disciplined, driven, confident, and hardworking. It builds resilience for the individual, loyalty for the team, and compassion for their fellow students.