

Lanier Elective Course Catalog 2021-2022

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).

Language Acquisition

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 which 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, with understanding, as an accomplished band. 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.

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 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.

Band

<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. Membership is by teacher 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>Choir</p>	<p>Introduction to Choir: Open to all 6th graders; no prior experience necessary. Content focuses on basic theory, ear-training skills, and sight-reading music from a variety of periods and styles. Content includes an introduction to traditional choir, show choir, musical theatre, and seasonal concerts.</p>
	<p>7th Grade Choir: This class focuses on intermediate music theory, ear-training skills, and sight-reading music from a variety of periods and styles. Performance opportunities include UIL contests as well as seasonal concerts. Music includes traditional, popular, and music theatre music. It is strongly recommended students have taken 6th grade choir.</p>
	<p>8th Grade Choir: This class focuses on intermediate/advanced music theory, ear-training skills, and sight-reading music from a variety of periods and styles. Performance opportunities include UIL contests as well as seasonal concerts. Music includes traditional, popular, and music theatre music. It is strongly recommended students have taken 7th grade choir.</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 that have no previous experience on a stringed instrument. In fact, 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>

Orchestra (cont.)	<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 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 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>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>
Art	<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 own 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 artworks 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 principals 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 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 style="text-align: center;">Art (cont.)</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 principles of design with continued exploration of basic art media and techniques such as drawing, painting, graphic design, collage and much more. This course will consist of 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 opportunities to explore careers in the arts, showcase their artwork in the community and submit their artwork in a variety of competitions.</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Theater Arts</p>	<p>6th grade Theater Arts 1: Theater in Context - This class is an introduction to performance and writing, with an emphasis on building and working in ensemble. Basic skills taught include stage movement, improvisation, scene-writing, and character development. No previous theatre experience is required.</p> <p>7th grade Theater Arts 2: Theater in Process - This class explores performance and production with an emphasis on design. Students continue to develop their writing and performance skills as well as learning about design in stage lighting, sound, props, and costumes. It is strongly recommended that students have taken Theater Arts 1.</p> <p>8th grade Theater Arts 3: Theater in Production - In this class, students create short full theater productions throughout the year, incorporating all of the performance, writing and design skills from Theater Arts I and 2. All performances will take place during the class period. It is strongly recommended that students have taken Theater Arts 1 and 2.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Photography/Videography</p>	<p>Photography: Open to all grade levels. Students will utilize their own smart device (phone) to complete assignments. This course will begin with the Elements of Art and Principles of Design, to help students understand the components of a good photograph. Additional techniques will involve framing, composition, and lighting. Use of apps and editing techniques will be taught, to help students produce high-quality photographs.</p> <p>Videography: Open to all grade levels. This course will utilize single-purpose digital video cameras. All editing will be done on a MacBook or iMac computer, utilizing iMovie as the primary editing software. This class will be taught from the perspective of "movie making," meaning students will be taught and expected to use the tools of the trade in a movie production setting. These tools include: learning the correct shots to use for a scene, proper use of angles, camera operation, lighting, storyboards, script writing, editing, set construction, and the use of voice overs and music.</p>

Design

Debate

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 at tournaments.

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.

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.

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 for tournaments, 8th 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 8th graders are also responsible for the recruitment and training of the 6th graders who join debate. *This course functions as an IB hybrid with design and art units. Students can use this to fulfil their IB MYP Design or IB MYP Art course for the year.

Technology Applications

6th grade: This course is designed to provide 6th grade students with basic skills and tools in relevant and emerging computer applications that will help them to be successful in any schoolwork that involves technology. It consists of six engaging units: (1) Digital Citizenship & Computer Fundamentals, (2) Research Fluency, (3) Word Processing (Microsoft Word), (4) Presentation (Microsoft PowerPoint), (5) Spreadsheets (Microsoft Excel), and (6) Introductory Programming and Problem Solving. Throughout the course, students will practice proper keyboarding techniques for 10-15 minutes each class period as a daily warm-up. Students will also utilize online tutorials and Google applications to supplement skills learned in each of the units.

7th grade: The primary focus for 7th grade tech apps will be on computer programming. Students learn the basics of programming languages such as Python, JavaScript, and HTML, beginning with a deep understanding of the problem-solving process. In addition to coding, a variety of activities will be built in throughout the year to build on foundational skills and tools in computer literacy.

<p>Technology Applications (cont.)</p>	<p>8th grade: Through the study of technology applications, students make informed decisions by understanding current and emerging technologies, including technology systems and appropriate digital tools. As competent researchers and responsible digital citizens, students use creative and computational thinking to solve problems while developing career and college readiness skills. Students will explore valid, reliable educational and career information to learn more about themselves and their interests and abilities. Students will use interest inventory software or other tools available to explore college and career areas of personal interest. Students will use this information to explore educational requirements for various colleges and a variety of chosen career paths.</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>Yearbook</p>	<p>7th and 8th 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. Applications must be completed and turned in by the deadline to be considered for this class.</p>
<p>Model United Nations</p>	<p><i>Thinking Skills or Model United Nations (MUN) is debate in Parliamentary Procedure format with a curriculum focused on the United Nations (UN) with an emphasis on global politics.</i></p>
	<p>6th grade: Students participate in a foundation course with debate interspersed.</p>
	<p>7th grade: Students participate in rigorous debate practice as well as complete one project in groups of 4-5 regarding the 17 UN sustainable goals.</p>
<p>8th grade: Principles of Government and Public Administration (High School Credit) – Students are introduced to foundations of governmental functions and career opportunities within the United States and abroad. Students will examine governmental documents and relate them back to the global environment utilizing the United Nations 17 sustainable goals to model and explore fundamental issues, causes and use.</p>	

<p>Leadership</p>	<p>This class is for 8th graders that were selected through the application process to become leaders in 6th and 7th grade PUPS (Purpose. Unity. Principles. Service) classes. Leaders goal is to make a big place feel small and every voice feel big in these PUPS classes. These student present lessons on the core values of building community, supporting social and emotional needs, creating a voice to power, and becoming global citizens. Their work is in leadership class is focused on building their own capacity, creating effective engaging lessons, and becoming individuals that demonstrate the IB Learner Profile characteristics.</p>
<p>Robotics</p>	<p>6th and 7th grade: This class will introduce students to the Engineering Design Process. Through the use of this process students will learn to identify problems, research, come up with design alternatives, select a promising solution, create and test solutions, and review and improve final products.</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 documents their work and communicate their solutions to their peers and members of professional community.</p>
<p align="center">Dance, Physical Education or Karate</p>	
<p>Dance</p>	<p>Drill Team – Drill Team is a 6th grade performance and competition class. Students 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. This is the best prep class for our upper level performance and competition groups.</p> <p>Non-Performance Dance – Non-performance dance is a general dance class for 6th, 7th, and 8th 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> <p>Breakdance - Breakdance is a 6th, 7th, and 8th grade class that will include a performance and nonperformance section. Students will focus on a B-boy style of dance that is very physical in nature while learning both choreography sequences and the elements of freestyle.</p> <p>Performance Ensemble - Performance Ensemble is a 7th and 8th grade performance class. Students will focus heavily on personal dance technique, as well as perform choreography in the jazz, hip hop, and lyrical/contemporary styles. <i>Audition required.</i></p>

Dance (cont.)	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. <i>Audition required</i>
	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. <i>Audition required</i>
	Dance Crew – Dance Crew is a 7th and 8th grade performance, competition, and travel class. Students will focus on executing advanced technique and will perform choreography in the hip hop, house, and breakdance styles. <i>Audition required</i>
	Dance Company – Dance Company is a 7th and 8th grade performance, competition, and travel class. Students will focus on executing advanced technique and will perform in several styles throughout the year, including jazz, pom, high kick, and lyrical/contemporary. <i>Audition required.</i>
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 emphasis on body awareness, conditioning, and movement. Students are also provided with opportunities to learn and practice a variety of sports and fitness exercises. Some activities students may participate in include archery, basketball, football, badminton, softball, soccer, and volleyball. Students will need to purchase a P.E. uniform to dress into before each class. A six-week Health unit is included in each physical education class.
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.