



# Breakthrough Electives Overview

## Mission Statement:

Breakthrough electives provide students with the opportunity to explore areas of interest beyond the scope of our standard curriculum. Electives allow students to expand their range of experiences through a wide variety of course choices. These multi-age offerings are, by design, creative and content-rich, encouraging investigative and experiential learning.

**Expected Class Size:** Classes on average will be around 10-14 students, depending on sign up interest. Classes will generally be capped at 14 students with the exception of subjects that can maintain a larger group, ie. Dance or Drama. Classes are mixed grade.

## Suggestions for Designing Courses:

- Be project based, experiential in nature, and active
- Do not require homework
- Anticipate skills rising 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> graders can manage
- Work towards a community presentation at the end

## Course Requirements:

- A completed proposal (approved by the Program Director)
- There are 9-10 elective classes that will be taught during each half of the summer
- Each class is 45mins. long
- Electives will meet Monday-Thursday 1:30-2:15
  - **Volunteers running electives must plan to be present from 1:15-3pm.**
- Electives will take place in two sessions
  - June 21<sup>st</sup> - July 8<sup>th</sup>
  - Or
  - July 12<sup>th</sup> -July 27<sup>th</sup>
- **Volunteers Only:** Though not required, we highly encourage you find a classmate to run the elective with you. Max 3 per elective.

## Special Circumstances

- Some electives may (by design) run for the duration of the summer with Program Director approval.
- Some electives may need additional time to complete projects, which can be granted if communicated to the Program Director.

## Things to note:

- You may be asked to revise your elective based on programming needs or administrative opinion.
- Your course description will be presented to the students on their May 15<sup>th</sup> orientation day



- If less than 5 students sign up, the elective may not be offered, and you will be assigned to assist another elective.
- Make sure your description explains the elective but think about it from a middle school student perspective
- **Fulltime Staff Only:** Although all teachers will be teaching or assisting an elective all summer, you are not required to submit a proposal. You may be assigned to teach and plan a class that is reflective of student interest but was not proposed by you. The Program Director will make final teacher assignments
- **Volunteers Only:** If your elective does not get enough interest, you will have the choice to join another elective or support classroom and community volunteering. Alternatively, if your elective has a lot of interest we may utilize your expertise and Breakthrough staff to provide additional offerings.

Below is a list with example electives that have been taught in the past and been successful. You are welcomed to choose one of these for your proposal!

- Painting
- Dance
- Drawing
- Drama
- Diorama Building
- Choir
- Cultures
- Greek Mythology
- Film
- Photography
- Newspaper/Yearbook
- Video Game Design
- Hunger Games (The students read and discussed the book as an elective)
- Language Classes
- Psychology
- African American/Black History
- Mexican American History
- Creative Writing
- Knitting
- Web Design
- Computer Programming
- Fashion Design