



## ELECTIVES

*Dedicated to providing students with choice in their educational experience, semester-long elective courses are offered to students in 7th and 8th grades. Electives are interdisciplinary courses designed to help students explore their passions and dive deeper into topics that pique their interest. They are typically smaller in class size, mixed grade level, and project and discussion-based, which allows students to take an active role in directing the curriculum.*

### 3D Printing

In this class, students will have the opportunity to create and explore in the world of 3D technology! Students will use Tinkercad, Cura, and other applications to design and print three-dimensional objects, learning about the design process and principles of engineering. Projects will include art projects such as jewelry design, reverse engineering projects to find solutions to common problems, and service related projects such as developing prosthetics to assist the disabled.



### Build a School Garden



Are you interested in gardening? Do you like engineering projects? Do you want to grow your own food or flowers? SPSG is excited to offer the opportunity for students to construct one of the first ever garden Growrooms in the United States. Students will build the nine-foot by eight-foot garden sphere (pictured at right) that will house a wide variety of plants selected based on student research and interest. Students will learn what plants need to survive, complete simple research projects on plant growth and hopefully enjoy a bountiful harvest at the end of the growing season.

### Challenge 20/20- The Fight Against Poverty

Challenge 20/20 is a program that pairs classes from schools around the globe to find local solutions to one of 20 Global Problems. Students who participate in this project-based learning opportunity will work to develop a local solution to helping urban poverty among youth in Baltimore City. Students will have the opportunity to collaborate as a class to research and work together to help support initiatives for impoverished youth in Baltimore City. In addition, students will have the opportunity to virtually connect with students across the globe to exchange ideas and brainstorm solutions, sharing their local concerns for this global issue.

### Creative Writing

This course is an introduction to the art of creative writing for students who enjoy writing short stories, poetry, and plays. Students will read and discuss writing by classical and contemporary authors, while also writing and revising pieces of their own. The class will be taught in a workshop style where much time will be spent in small groups with peer critique and discussion. As a final piece, students will create a literary journal.

### Global Studies: An Exploration of Current Events

Students will be exposed to a variety of global issues as we dissect current events in a meaningful and collaborative way. Through discussion and investigation, each will have the opportunity to deepen her knowledge and thoughts about international affairs and controversial issues. In addition to developing a greater understanding of the world around them, students will be expected to form opinions and arguments so that they can engage in healthy discussion and debate in class.

### Introduction to Urban Planning: Getting to Know Baltimore

Over 80% of the people in our country live in urban areas, and most of us probably consider ourselves “urbanites” or “suburbanites.” What does that mean? Do all cities look the same? How have cities like Baltimore evolved and changed over the years? This semester-long elective takes a closer look at Charm City, using it as a case study to help us explore and understand the challenges and success of American cities. Guest speakers and field trips to downtown neighborhoods such as Fells Point, Mt. Vernon, and more will help bring our study to life!



### ***Introduction to Woodworking***



Students will have the opportunity to explore and learn about the basics of woodworking and design some great projects in the process. In this class, students will discover the basics of hand tools like handsaws, hammers, and sanders as well as specific power tools such as drills and electronic screwdrivers. They will learn workshop safety and creative problem solving while working on several projects throughout the semester. Students will work on projects such as creating workbenches, picture frames, bird feeders, and cubbies.

### ***Myth, Legend, Lore***

Every culture has its own form of important and universal tales that reflect details about its history, values, ideology, spirituality and geography. Mysterious creatures, epic adventures, magical worlds, and whimsical characters abound in this fantasy based art elective where we will create 3D artifacts, 2D documentation, and other visual evidence of our findings while exploring timeless myths, legends and lore.

### ***Pixar Animation***

Pixar Animation focuses on real-Pixar-world applications of concepts you will see in your classes and the world. This behind-the-scenes introductory class introduces computer science fundamentals by taking a closer look at the tools Pixar engineers and artists use to craft some of your favorite animated movies. Topics include everything from how characters are brought to life to how virtual sets are constructed using geometric transformations.

### ***Public Speaking***

In this elective, students will practice composing and delivering speeches in a variety of styles, including persuasive, impromptu, informative, and personal. Projects will include creating and narrating a lesson for their peers, and presenting a formal speech on a topic with personal significance. This class will serve as a workshop, with peers delivering constructive feedback and encouraging experimentation with new styles and ideas as we work together to strengthen the confidence and communication skills critical for success throughout high school and beyond.

### ***SPSG's Cabinet of Curiosities***

In this interdisciplinary course students will discover why art and science go hand in hand. With the guidance of both a science and an art teacher the girls will create a series of art pieces that explore a number of scientific investigations and discoveries. They will delve into topics like patterns and camouflage in nature, sketching while looking through a microscope, anatomical drawings and sculptures, time-lapse photography, and sculpting with natural materials. All of their findings will culminate in a small book portfolio of their own personal natural curiosities and discoveries.

### ***Social Justice & Service Learning***

This semester-long course provides an introduction to human rights and social justice. It sheds light on international case studies of justice and injustice and opens the door for debate and activism. Case studies could include girls' education in Pakistan/Afghanistan, the civil war in Syria, the lack of access to clean drinking water in South Sudan, and more. The course culminates with a student-designed advocacy project, which educates the community and allows girls to use the power of their voices to reach out to the United Nations and our local community on behalf of an oppressed people.



### ***Sustainability***

Earth is home to over 7.2 billion people, with approximately four babies are born every second. How can we support the growing population? What stress does it place on our natural resources? This semester-long course provides an introduction to the impact of population growth on basic human needs: food, water, and shelter. The curriculum includes an international study of population pressures, climate trends, and the fragile relationship between people and their environment. Throughout the course, students are challenged to debate and tackle the problems posed and will be empowered to design an innovative plan for sustainability.