

# INTERIM TERM

The Kinkaid School

January 9-26, 2024

Jonathan E. Eades  
**Head of School**

Alexandra C. Spencer  
**Head of Upper School**

Josh Ramey  
**Assistant Head of Upper School**  
**Director of Interim Term**

Tara McDonald Johnson  
**Assistant Director of Interim Term**





# Contents

General Information	3
Career Development Internships	4
Travel Courses	5
Network Exchange Program	7
Independent Study	8
ACT/SAT Test Preparation	9
Campus Program Details and Schedule	10
Course Descriptions	11
Campus Program schedule at a glance	40
Student Registration Planning Form	42

# General Information

**Term Duration: January 9 - 26, 2024**

**All Interim Term work must be completed before the first day of the spring semester.**

## **Philosophy of the Interim Term Program**

Interim Term is a separate curriculum that runs during the first three school weeks in January. The primary purpose is enrichment through experience, affording students opportunities to study in areas and situations unavailable during the regular curriculum. To that end, Kinkaid Upper School faculty design and implement a variety of course offerings and programs involving subjects not offered elsewhere or delving in greater depth into subjects addressed only in survey courses in the regular curriculum. Students may choose to pursue particular interests during Interim Term. They are encouraged as well to explore new fields of study and develop new academic interests during this special term.

## **Grades and Credits**

All Interim Term offerings are graded. The specific methods of evaluation are noted in the descriptions of the offerings in the succeeding pages of this booklet. Interim Term grades are computed in students' overall grade averages: the average of grades a student earns during one Interim Term is equivalent to one semester grade in one course in the regular curriculum. Credits earned during Interim Term, however, do not replace credits for graduation and may not be substituted for requirements.

## **Course Fees and Texts**

Courses that list "text" as the fee require a book, and the books are ordered by the school. Courses that list fees require supplies beyond what is customarily supplied by the school. The cost of books and fees is charged to the student's SmartTuition account in February. Though the school makes every effort for transparency of fees at the time of the release of this catalog, fees are subject to change. Students who receive financial aid also receive financial aid for Interim Term course fees, and any questions related to financial aid can be directed to the Coordinator of Financial Aid.

## **Conduct**

All rules of conduct denoted in the Upper School Handbook are in effect during Interim Term. Students engaged in off-campus Interim Term programs are expected to abide by the following additional regulations; failure to do so will result in their exclusion from off-campus activities:

1. Students participating in Career Development, as part of learning the demands of the professional world and in appreciation of the service provided by internship sponsors, should be respectful, punctual, and appropriately dressed for all internship activities. Only illness or family emergency would be an acceptable reason for failing to appear at specified internship hours, and students are expected to notify sponsors promptly if such occurs. Following the term, students should send written thanks to sponsors as instructed by the Director of Career Development.
2. Students participating in International Travel must sign their agreement to abide by the instructions of trip chaperones at the time of registration. Specific regulations are designed by the chaperones to protect student and chaperone safety, to maintain the dignity and good name of The Kinkaid School, and to ensure that all trip participants benefit as much as possible from the extraordinary educational experience.
3. Students participating in the Network Exchange Program must abide by the rules of the host school and the Network program, treat the host family respectfully, and follow all instructions given by Kinkaid's Network Program Coordinator.

4. Students engaged in field trips as part of the Campus Program should abide by instructions from teachers and chaperones accompanying them, dress appropriately, and behave in a manner maintaining the dignity and the good name of The Kinkaid School.

# Career Development

## OPEN ONLY TO SENIORS

**Director: Mrs. Martha Kirkwood**

This practical course offers an opportunity through an individually structured three-week internship to explore potential career inclinations. Through workday exposure to the organizational world of making a living—coupled with related reading and research—student interns reinforce skills such as leadership, accountability, analysis, and planning. Internships span a broad spectrum of industries. Though the majority of students remain in Houston, some assume national or international responsibilities.

Prerequisites for consideration of internships out-of-state/outside of the greater Houston area will require:

- 1) Students reside with a parent or relative during the duration of the internship experience.
- 2) A unique or compelling internship that warrants a venue out-of-state/outside of the greater Houston area.

Students' work assignments, research, related readings, and daily schedule are under the supervision of their individual sponsors. Since daily schedules generally conform to the operational hours of the sponsoring company, students intending to participate in a winter season sport or the Upper School musical should inform their sponsor so that internship hours can accommodate practice times.

Sponsors for Career Development internships supervise students' work, including research and reading, enabling them to experience a profession as fully as possible in the limited term, and evaluate the performance and products completed by students. Many professionals in Houston and beyond have established relationships with Kinkaid as Career Development sponsors and willingly accept applications from Kinkaid seniors each year for Interim Term internships. To relieve parents of any potential conflicts of interest, particularly regarding evaluation of interns, Kinkaid does not place seniors in positions that report to their own parent, but does allow placement in an organization in which their own parent works or owns. Kinkaid parents willing to act as sponsors for other students are welcome to contact the Program Director. Housing and transportation for out of town placements are the responsibility of the students and their families.

At the completion of the internship, students write papers or prepare projects detailing the results of their research and reading, describing their experience, and recording what they have learned about the joys and demands of the career they investigated. Sponsors complete an evaluation of the students' work. The Career Development grade is based on the paper or project, the evaluation, and other manifestations of student responsibility and learning.

\*Individual sponsors will determine if seniors are expected to work on the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday.

# Interim Term Travel Courses

## OPEN TO ALL GRADE LEVELS

Kinkaid's Interim Term program provides unique travel opportunities. In recent years, we have committed to the following: one cultural tour, two homestay/language programs, and one science exploration. The academic focus of each excursion varies according to the destination and to the goals of the trip leaders.

Planning for Interim Term trips begins two years in advance. Tentative destinations for the subsequent year's trips may be announced in this publication. Chaperones and itineraries are determined in the upcoming spring and summer. Information about the planned trips is communicated to every Upper School family in April. In early May, organizational meetings are held at which families register for trips and pay deposits.

This travel program is open to students at all levels of Upper School. Since demand is often greater than the trips can accommodate, selection of participants is based upon seniority.

Like all Interim Term offerings, the travel programs are graded courses. Students will read books and articles appropriate to the destination and subjects of focus. Evaluation may include quizzes, tests, reflections, papers, projects, and oral presentations. Grades for the course are based upon such examinations and other manifestations of students' responsibility and learning.

**Interim Term Trips, Varsity Sports, and Physical Education Classes:** It is Athletic Department policy that students who elect to participate in out-of-town Interim Term programs will not be eligible for winter season varsity athletics. Participation on a varsity squad requires a commitment to the entire season, including the three weeks of Interim Term. Therefore, students who intend to play varsity sports in the winter should not enroll for the Interim Term Trips. In addition, students going on an Interim Term Trip are ineligible to take a PE course during the winter season.

**Interim Term Trips and Fine Arts:** Participation in the spring musical is compatible with Interim Term Trips. However, being in the core cast of a show may preclude travel during January. Such decisions will be made by the Visual and Performing Arts Department on a show-by-show basis and can be determined once the season is announced.

**Interim Term Trips and Scholarships:** Two grants are available to students on Financial Aid. In memory of their son Steven, Bonnie and Terry Hetrick established *The Steven Hetrick Interim Term Scholarship* in 2001. This gift provides students on financial aid the opportunity to take full advantage of Interim Term trips, including travel for the *Network* program. In 2018, an anonymous donor created *The Cali's See The World Endowment* to support all international travel, including trips during Interim Term. Interested families are asked to contact our Financial Aid Coordinator, Meredith Van Ryder, at [meredith.vanryder@kinkaid.org](mailto:meredith.vanryder@kinkaid.org).

**Homestay:** [Sevilla, Spain](#)

**Faculty Facilitators:** Dr. Ruiz and Sr. Narbona

**Size limit:** 10-18 students

**Travel Dates:** January 9-26

Students enrolled in Spanish III or above will experience full immersion into the culture of Spain. After spending four nights in the beautiful Madrid area getting acquainted with the country, our travel partner, WorldStrides, will place pairs of Kinkaid students with host families in Seville. Some cities have personality, and others have looks. In Seville, travelers will discover that it has both. This Andalusian capital is vibrant, colorful, and filled to the brim with historic palaces, churches, museums, and passion for tradition. Through this immersive adventure, students will get a taste of the traditional everyday life with a Spanish host family and gain a general

understanding of Southern Spanish culture. Students will also enjoy an educational balance of cultural activities like a paella cooking class, Flamenco dance lessons, and soccer matches. In addition, participants will discover distinctive destinations such as Madrid, Toledo, Granada, Cordoba, and Ávila. “Sevilla” awaits! Come discover it!

**Cultural:** [Historical Treasures and Natural Wonders of Southeast Asia : Temples, Jungles, Elephants and More](#)

**Faculty Facilitators:** Ms. Wainright, Dr. Howell, Mr. Chastain, Ms. Lambert, Ms. Mitchell, Mr. Buitrago

**Size Limit:** 60 students

**Travel Dates:** January 6-25/January 8-27

With its diverse landscapes and cultures, Southeast Asia offers a perfect opportunity to discover how humans interact with their environment. On this 20-day trip, Kinkaid students and teachers will join this interaction as we play with rescued elephants, bicycle through jungles, visit ancient temples, and cruise down palm-lined canals. We will visit Vietnam, where we explore the history of imperial dynasties, French colonialism, and the war with America in both Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City. In Vietnam we take two detours to observe the natural landscape: an overnight cruise into Ha Long Bay, exploring its islands and grottos by kayak, and a day tour winding through the narrow channels of the Mekong Delta. We also travel to Siam Reap, Cambodia, where we visit the jungle-covered temples at Angkor Wat, the world’s largest religious structure, famously featured in the *Indiana Jones* series and *Tomb Raider*. In Thailand, we stop briefly in Bangkok to spend time in the local food scene and at traditional markets and relax for several days in Chiang Mai. There we will bike, hike, and whitewater raft our way around the Thai jungle before spending a day at an elephant rehabilitation facility. Throughout this adventure, we will encounter unique populations whose religion, tradition, cuisine, literature, and history have been profoundly shaped by the place they live. Guided by their teachers, students will absorb, research, and reflect on this rich cultural experience.

**Science Exploration:** [European Innovation: Science and Technology](#)

**Faculty Facilitators:** Ms. Cross and Mr. Lopez

**Size Limit:** 30

**Travel Dates:** January 8-20

Join us in Italy, Switzerland, France, and the UK as we uncover scientific marvels that have shaped our world. Our adventure begins in Florence, Italy, where Renaissance innovation comes to life. Students will explore the era of Galileo, the trailblazing astronomer, and experience the city's engineering, architectural, and artistic wonders. Next, we journey to Geneva, Switzerland, to learn about cutting-edge research at CERN, the world's largest physics laboratory. Students will have an exclusive tour of this facility, experiencing recent advances in particle physics and cosmology. In Bern, we'll explore time itself. How has humanity measured time? How did Einstein's theories transform our understanding of the cosmos? We'll seek answers in this charming city. Paris, the City of Lights, offers innovations in architecture and engineering. We'll explore the physics of flight and 19th-century ingenuity. Then, we'll board the Chunnel—an engineering triumph—to London. There, students will discover how astronomers harnessed the stars for navigation and determined longitude. We'll visit the L'Oréal Young Scientist Center for real-life STEM research. Our trip continues to Bletchley Park, where computer science and encryption history come alive. Students will learn about Alan Turing's pioneering work and connections between early computing and modern AI, including AI marvels like ChatGPT. With hands-on experiments, exploration, and celebration of STEM trailblazers, this journey offers innovation in action. Join us on this unforgettable voyage through European STEM Innovation!

# Network Exchange Program

## OPEN TO SOPHOMORES, JUNIORS, AND SENIORS

Kinkaid has the distinction of being an established member of The Network of Complementary Schools, a program sponsored by about 20 independent and public schools in the United States and Spain.

Participation in the Network exposes Upper School students to pragmatic courses, educational exploration, and travel experiences. Students who participate in the program will reside with host families associated with a school that was approved as a Network member.

Host families and schools bear all costs except transportation and incidentals. Students who are interested in the program must submit one recommendation letter from a Kinkaid faculty member, a 300- to 500-word statement of interest, and an application to be accepted by a host school.

Upper School students who are accepted in the program are expected to adhere to Kinkaid's four core values: kindness, honesty, respect and responsibility. Violations of conduct policies set by Kinkaid, the Network, or the host school or family will result in the student's returning home early and failure of the course.

Network schools offer a variety of specialty programs: outdoor education, wilderness study, ecology, agriculture, laboratory sciences, government, community service, media, humanities, technology and fine arts. Several schools also offer exposure to particular cultures, like those of Pennsylvania Quakers, the Navajo, and other American Indians.

Kinkaid serves as host to students from other Network schools, primarily during Interim Term. If a student's family is interested in hosting a student who is visiting Kinkaid, please contact Kinkaid's Network Advisor, Dr. Kimetris Baltrip at [kimetris.baltrip@kinkaid.org](mailto:kimetris.baltrip@kinkaid.org). Students who are interested in this exchange should contact Dr. Baltrip by Friday, November 17, 2023.

### The Network of Complementary Schools

The Academy at Charlemont  
Augusta Preparatory Day School  
The Bush School  
The Calhoun School  
Community High School of Arts & Academics  
Germantown Friends School  
Gredos San Diego  
The Kinkaid School  
Mary Institute and St. Louis Country Day  
Maumee Valley Country Day School  
The Northwest School  
Pinewood Preparatory School  
Pittsford High School  
Proctor Academy  
Providence Day School  
The Putney School  
The Quinter School  
Rock Point Community School  
Rutgers Preparatory School  
St. Benedict's Preparatory School  
Springhouse Community School

Charlemont, MA  
Martinez, GA  
Seattle, WA  
New York, NY  
Roanoke, VA  
Philadelphia, PA  
Madrid, Spain  
Houston, TX  
St. Louis, MO  
Toledo, OH  
Seattle, WA  
Summerville, SC  
Pittsford, NY  
Andover, NH  
Charlotte, NC  
Putney, VT  
Quinter, KS  
Rock Point, AZ  
Somerset, NJ  
Newark, NJ  
Floyd, VA



# Independent Study

## Open to 10th, 11th and 12th grade

Students may apply to engage in an independent study project part-time or full-time during Interim Term. They must apply using [this online form](#) and be accepted under the following conditions:

1. Independent Study projects should involve applied fine arts (drama, writing, painting, photography, sculpture, etc.) or research/application in an academic subject (history, science, etc.)  
NOTE: Internships with business or professional establishments, community service, and school exchanges do NOT qualify as Independent Study projects.
2. By their nature, such projects are presumably individual. Only in rare cases where collaboration is shown to be necessary to the completion of the project will partnerships be permitted.
3. Only ONE student (except in the case of necessary collaboration) will be permitted to complete a project at any particular off-campus site.
4. Only a Kinkaid Upper School teacher who is qualified in the area of study and prepared to oversee the ongoing progress, evaluate the project, assess a grade, and write a report card for the student may sponsor a proposed study. In addition, a teacher may sponsor only one Independent Study project.
5. The student's proposal must include the following details:
  - a. The objectives of the study
  - b. The methods of approach
  - c. A description of the final product of the study
  - d. Evidence that the student has the necessary background to complete the project
  - e. Number of periods per day, including justification for multiple periods
  - f. The location(s) where the study will be completed
6. Students must bear all costs involved in the proposed study.
7. Proposals must include a checkbox on the appropriate field of the application indicating that the student's parents or guardians approve of the intended project, are prepared to bear all costs, and agree either to transport their child to sites of study or to allow their child to travel unsupervised to such sites.
8. Prerequisites for consideration of Independent Studies out-of-state or outside of the greater Houston area will require:
  - a. Students reside with a parent or relative during the duration of the Independent Study experience.
  - b. A unique and compelling experience that warrants a venue out-of-state/outside of the greater Houston area.
9. **Application forms are due by Monday, October 30th, 2023, 4 pm. (Late submissions will not be accepted)**
10. Students submitting Independent Study proposals will receive a written response from the Director of Interim Term prior to the registration period for the Interim Term Campus Program.

# ACT/SAT Test Prep During Interim Term

The Upper School will offer ACT prep for juniors during Interim Term, but these sessions will be offered outside the school day to preserve time for students to take Interim Term classes. Given the test date for the ACT (February 10, 2024) and the SAT (March 9, 2024), the Upper School has organized a Kinkaid-specific SAT prep class on Sundays at Advantage Testing's office, so the prep work is completed closer to the test date.

Classes are led by instructors from Advantage Testing of Houston. Each class includes materials and two proctored exams taken at Advantage Testing's office outside of the school day.

Please register by emailing [stacy@advantage-houston.com](mailto:stacy@advantage-houston.com) or calling 713.520.6188.

## **Interim Term (ACT)**

Class Type: ACT (no SAT class during Interim Term)

Dates: January 9 - January 26

Time: 7:50 am-8:45 am, Monday-Friday

Instructor: TBD

Cost: \$815/student \*

Location: Kinkaid Campus

## **Weekly Classes (SAT)**

Class Type: SAT

Dates: January 7, 21, 28; Feb 4, 11, 18, 25; March 3 (Class will be done before the March 9th SAT date.)

Time: 5:00 pm-7:00 pm on Sundays

Instructor: TBD

Cost: \$700/student \*

Location: Advantage Testing, 1455 West Loop South, Suite 650, Houston, TX

\* The price difference is accommodating transportation costs for the tutors traveling to Kinkaid for three weeks.

# Campus Program

Open to **all** grade levels

## Daily Schedule

Period 1	9:00 am – 10:10 am
Period 2	10:25am – 11:35 am
Period 3	11:45 am – 12:55 pm
Lunch	12:55 pm – 1:55 pm
Period 4	1:55 pm – 3:05 pm

Interim Term courses are described in the succeeding pages. They are grouped according to the following types:

**Type A** courses meet for **three** periods each day

**Type B** courses meet for **two** periods each day

**Type C** courses meet for **one** period each day

**Type D** courses meet for **four** periods each day.

## Important Considerations:

- Certain courses may require books or may assess fees. Books will be ordered on the student's behalf and may not be sold back at the end of the term. Students' SmartTuition accounts will be charged for fees and books for their classes. The fees listed are as accurate as possible at the time of publication, but they are subject to change.
- Students must register for classes at each period of the day. There are no free periods during Interim Term.
- Students may not register for a class they have taken in a previous year.
- Due to the short duration and the particular scheduling of Interim Term, students typically stay in the courses to which they have been assigned. However, if specific circumstances warrant the changing of a student's schedule, such changes must be made by the end of the first day of Interim Term.

# Course Descriptions

## Type A Courses

Courses meet three periods each day

### **An Undiscovered Houston**

**Instructors:** Mrs. Carr and Dr. Riehl

**Fee:** \$250 (for lunches and entry fees)

How well do you know our home city? What does it mean to be a Houstonian? We'll answer these questions by visiting exciting Houston-area locations that are off the beaten path and ready for exploration. In this class, we'll spend time exploring undiscovered, under-appreciated, or behind-the-scenes locales in Houston: Houston's underground Buffalo Bayou Cistern, a boat tour of the Houston Ship Channel, and even surprising museums like the Museum of Funeral History. When we aren't traveling, we'll have the opportunity to discuss culture and art centered in and around Houston (even at our very own Kinkaid). Come ready with your camera in hand and your mind ready to explore! We'll take 2-3 field trips each week, and on the in-class days, we'll work on our culminating project to tell one particular story of Houston--this place we call home. **Periods 2-4**

### **Decisions for Healthy Living and Leadership**

**Instructors:** Ms. Kehler, Ms. Haynes, and Ms. Mitchell

**Fee:** none

Required for 9th-grade students who did not complete the course in the fall semester and who have seven classes in the spring semester, the primary goal of this course is to provide students with a foundation for physical, social, and emotional well-being and an understanding of how they can harness their strengths and interests as leaders at Kinkaid and beyond. The essential question throughout the course for students to explore is "Who am I?". Students learn about and practice healthy coping mechanisms to protect their overall social, emotional, and physical health and wellbeing. The course material focuses on research based information about keeping healthy high school students healthy. Threaded throughout the course is personal leadership development and execution: the significance of self-awareness, an understanding of group dynamics, and leading a team. Through class discussions, activities, readings, projects, and lectures, each student has the opportunity to practice mindfulness, develop interpersonal communication skills, locate sources of support on campus, and identify and articulate their own values, goals, and strengths.

**Periods 1, 3-4 or 2-4**

### **History of Houston**

**Instructor:** Mr. Curry

**Fee:** \$250 (for lunches and entry fees)

From the banks of a bayou to men on the moon, Houston's history spans over 180 years of growth and development. From its simple beginning as 6,642 acres of land on the banks of Buffalo Bayou, Houston has grown to become the fourth largest U. S. city, encompassing 581 square miles with more than 1.6 million people. This class will trace the evolution of Houston from its origins as a tiny village of the early 1800s to an agriculturally supported community, to an oil boom town, to a center of diversified commerce and industry. Students will examine and explore Houston's legacy, her great citizens, historical landmarks, and listen to the voices of our community. Like any other city of similar size, Houston has problems as well as advantages, and blights as well as beauties. Students will have the opportunity to look into these as well. In this class a premium is put on experiencing the history of Houston in an up close way. Many class sessions will involve traveling to various

locations in and around the Bayou City...Allen's Landing, the San Jacinto Battlefield, the Houston Ship Channel, NASA, Riverside, Telephone Road, Glenwood Cemetery, Bayou Bend, Freedman's Town, the Downtown Tunnels, Market Square, City Hall, the newly remodeled Courthouse and the Astrodome to name a few. Frequently, tours will end with lunch at one of Houston's venerable restaurants...from Frenchy's to Tony's! Almost every cluster of field trips will end with a short reflective writing assignment. Longer in-class essays and an objective review of films and documentaries made in Houston will occur at less frequent intervals, usually at the end of each viewing. In both cases, the emphasis will be on analytical writing skills. Writing with a thesis, using evidence to construct logical, and reasonable historical arguments are essential for students hoping to excel. **Periods 2-4**

## **Type B Courses**

### **Courses meet two periods each day**

#### **Animal Heroes**

**Instructors:** Ms. Reza and Dr. Wheeler

**Fee:** \$40 (for lunches)

Have you ever thought about becoming a veterinarian? Are you a true believer that a dog is man's best friend? Dogs have greatly enriched the lives of humans in so many ways. Do you see a horse as a valued partner in farming, ranching, security, physical and emotional therapy, and various sporting events? Horses have played a huge role in the history of this country and this state. If you are interested in learning more about these topics, then this is the class for you. In this course we will explore the important role animals play in our lives and the critical role we play in their lives. The course will include a presentation from a veterinarian, pending availability, and various field trips to get a first-hand look of the many contributions our four-legged friends achieve. We'll watch several movies and documentaries and discuss the heroic animal stories involving dogs and horses. The care and needs of these animals will also be presented, contrasting the differences between the needs of a dog versus a horse. We'll also read and discuss excerpts from the book *The Soul of a Horse* by Joe Camp to gain a deeper understanding of the way horses process their interactions with humans and the tasks they are called upon to carry out. **Periods 3-4**

#### **The Art and Science of Mindfulness**

**Instructors:** Ms. Forster and Dr. Nadworny

**Fee:** \$65

The regular practices of mindfulness have enormous power to change one's life. But why? And how? In this course, students explore these questions. Through simple and fun—but not easy—activities, students understand why mindfulness is such a powerful skill, and they increase their capacity to be mindful in their lives, which leads to more peace, joy and hope. In this course we explore mindfulness from two angles: namely through a variety of traditional and non-traditional mindfulness meditations as well as through an examination of the science that supports and explains the power and effectiveness of these meditative practices. Activities include traditional practices such as sitting meditation, walking meditation, eating meditation, as well as less traditional practices such as goat yoga, forest bathing, fountain meditation, music meditation, smiling meditation, writing meditation and more! The science portion of this course focuses on the positive neurological effects that occur as a result of becoming more mindful. Students explore peer-reviewed research and analyze neuroimaging. In addition to their time in the classroom, students participate in a 7-day challenge utilizing a mindfulness app.

Students end their Interim Term experience in the class analyzing their own receptive awareness pre- and post-survey data and reflecting on their mindfulness journey over the course of the session in writing and visual imagery. **Periods 1-2**

## **Beyond the Plate: How African American Cuisine Transformed America**

**Instructors:** Ms. Baker and Ms. Shotonwa

**Fee:** \$60 (for lunches)

Have you ever thought about who created your favorite food? Have you ever thought about the connection between food and the history behind it? This class will take a look into the Black culinary experience in North America while tracing food legacies across the Americas and Africa. It will spotlight cooking with available ingredients and how they led to amazing developments in American food culture. We will also taste foods that will remind us of the real roots of American cooking. If you are ready to take a tasteful journey and experience the flavor of the African American culture that has played in the creation of American food, then this class is for you!

**Periods 2-3**

## **Birds of a Feather**

**Instructor:** Mr. Call

**Fee:** none

Come, fellow Falcons, and join us as we consider the birds: their fascinating biology and their unique existence in the sky. While ours is essentially a bird-watching course, we will also strive to investigate how birds have become significant to humankind. We'll appreciate birds as the important objects of the Romantic poets and other artists. We'll examine various kinds of nature-writing, such as Darwin's scientific investigation of his finches and Jonathan Franzen's essays on bird-watching. And, of course, we'll learn the essential skills of birding—and we'll master those skills in our very own Backyard as we identify and study and admire our local birds. We'll also hopefully have a few bird visitors! **Periods 2-3**

## **DIY Science: Projectile Launchers**

**Instructor:** Dr. Capitano

**Fee:** \$35

Lacking claws, fangs, or any significant defense, humans have had to learn to apply science and technology for defense. Without the invention of weapons, survival in an often hostile world is uncertain. In this class, we will explore ways in which people have created kinetic launchers to defend themselves. We will build a series of devices such as catapults, vacuum canons, and sling launchers. In each case, we examine the science of how these devices work and use basic engineering to improve designs. Throughout the course, we will hold friendly competitions to test accuracy and distance. **Periods 1-2**

## **Documentary Film**

**Instructor:** Dr. Scott

**Fee:** none

No genre of film has seen as much of an increase in popularity in recent decades as the documentary. And with celluloid works such as Michael Moore's *Fahrenheit 9-11* raking in well over 200 million dollars in profits, and Morgan Spurlock's *Super-Size Me* being screened nationwide in mainstream movie houses, there is probably not

going to be a let up in this burgeoning field anytime soon. This class will explore the history and remarkable variety of the documentary film genre; and during the three weeks, we will view and discuss and write on at least 10 feature-length documentaries and docudramas that run the gamut from high comedy to gut-wrenching tragedy to the exposé of great acts of injustice and outrage. **Periods 2-3**

## **Dragons and Goblins and Orcs, Oh My! - An Introduction to Role Playing Games**

**Instructors:** Mr. Gillentine and Dr. Humphries

**Fee:** \$30

Over the years, Role Playing Games have existed as an immersive cooperative storytelling/gaming experience. Starting in 1974 with the original *Dungeons and Dragons*, tabletop RPGs have held a strong place in American culture, attracting both acclaim and controversy. In this class, we will explore the 5th edition of the *Dungeons and Dragons* game. Students will explore fantasy worlds that are rich with history and lore. Storytelling will be a driving topic, and students will collaborate to develop their own module or campaign. They will also explore the use of math and statistics in these games, discovering how chance and numbers play an integral part in RPGs.

**Periods 2-3**

## **Fact or Fiction: History in Hollywood**

**Instructors:** Ms. Hawkes and Ms. McDonald

**Fee:** \$25

Is that how it really happened? In Hollywood blockbusters, how much of what is presented to us on the big screen is factual and how much is made up for pure entertainment? In this class, students will examine the historical accuracy of several films. We will look at big-budget films based on American historical events as well as those based on world history. Before watching, students will learn about the real events that inspired the film. Major course components include reading, discussion, and short written assignments. **Periods 1-2**

## **From Likes to Luxuries: Creating Jewelry in the Digital Era**

**Instructor:** Ms. Connell

**Fee:** \$185

In this course, students will learn jewelry basics and create various beaded accessories, using tools like pliers and tweezers. We'll master wire wrapping, bead stringing, and necklace knotting techniques, explore ideal metals for findings, and enjoy a field trip to select your beads. We'll also draw inspiration from Instagram and Pinterest designers to craft unique jewelry. **Periods 3-4**

## **Introduction to Urban Agriculture**

**Instructor:** Ms. T. Ellis

**Fee:** \$35

Urban agriculture has re-emerged in the U.S., and community gardens are an important tool in all levels of urban development. This course will introduce the fundamentals of urban agriculture with emphasis on community gardening and the use of organic gardening techniques. Students should anticipate working outdoors everyday, learning how to design, plant, and manage a vegetable garden rooted in a botanically-centered framework. By the end of the three weeks, students will create mini-farms on campus and work at several urban farms in Houston, likely including the Betty and Jacob Friedman Holistic Garden at Rice University and a rooftop food

farm. We will also visit an aquaponic facility, meet urban producers, and assist in farm tasks at a nearby Plant It Forward farm. In the classroom, we will investigate the concepts of regenerative agriculture and gardening for resilient local food systems. Additionally, students will consider what the city of Houston has done to encourage urban agriculture and test field-to-fork seasonal recipes. **Periods 2-3**

## **The Lord of the Rings**

**Instructor:** Dr. Robinson

**Fee:** none

For fans of fantasy fiction, we are in a golden age of adaptations! Many book series, from *Game of Thrones* to *The Witcher* to *The Wheel of Time* are being adapted into tv series, movies, video games, and more. In this class, we will look at the story that got them all started, J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings*. We will read portions of the novel and compare the book with Peter Jackson's film adaptations. By examining some of the things that influenced Tolkien, from his own experiences in the World Wars to medieval poetry to the wide range of real world languages that led to his own invented language, we will discuss what really mattered to him and how the filmmakers chose to adapt his world to the big screen. From there, we will also examine how Tolkien's work became the basis of many parts of modern pop culture. Let's explore "the tales that really matter!" **Periods 2-3**

## **Making Jewelry with Recognized Houston Jewelers and Designers**

**Instructors:** Ms. Granchamp

**Fee:** \$200

This class will serve to introduce beginning jewelry-makers to silver clay products (lump, syringe, and slip/paste), learning basic techniques and the proper use of tools that support these techniques. The class will cover a variety of topics, including constructing various forms of jewelry, creating textures for designs, learning methods of stone setting, ring making, patination and other finishing techniques (such as torch and kiln-firing). The students will leave this class with at least 4 to 5 pieces of finished silver jewelry. Create beautiful jewelry that will impress everyone and learn from well-known Houston jewelry designers, Rebecca Lankford and Antony Torres. The class will visit their studios and participate in a short workshop with artists. The only prerequisites are a creative mind and a willingness to draw. **Periods 1-2**

## **Mixed Up Prints**

**Instructor:** Ms. McEntire

**Fee:** \$50

Ever thought of fashion and merchandising? Do you like design and pattern? Do you like maximalist aesthetics? Do you want to learn more about art or printmaking? Come to class with drawings and brainstorm of things you would like to make. **Periods 3-4**

## **Paparazzi Journals**

**Instructor:** Dr. Baltrip

**Fee:** none

A press pass creates a pathway for journalists to have close-up experiences with places and people, which can lend to powerful storytelling. That's the work of a roving reporter, who can be described as a general assignment journalist who travels around and engages in newsworthy events that become published news and features



stories. As a roving reporter in this class, your press pass can take you to other Interim Term classes that pique your curiosity. You can tag along on an off-campus trip, open the door on a music lesson, listen in on an intriguing debate, and so much more. But this isn't being nosy just for nosiness's sake. You'll turn what you see, hear and feel into publishable content that helps your readers live vicariously through your experiences. Your articles, photography or video will be published on *The Falcon* online, giving your name a claim to fame as you collect bylines. If you've been reading descriptions of fascinating Interim Term classes and you're having a little trouble figuring out which one to choose, you may be reading your best option now. **Periods 1-2**

## **Pathophysiology**

**Instructor:** Ms. Norman

**Fee:** none

Pathophysiology is a dynamic and engaging course designed to introduce high school students to the fascinating world of disease and its impact on the human body. This course provides a foundational understanding of the mechanisms behind the development of various health conditions and diseases, equipping students with valuable insights into the field of healthcare. **Periods 3-4**

## **Piece by Piece: The Art of Solving Jigsaw and Wasgij Puzzles**

**Instructor:** Ms. Horton

**Fee:** none

Are you puzzled by puzzles? Have you ever solved a puzzle with a solution that's different from the picture on the box? Do you aspire to beat the world record of solving a 1000 piece puzzle in less than 1 hour and 40 minutes? In Piece by Piece, you will learn how to approach puzzles systematically, enhance your ability to recognize patterns, work collaboratively in teams, and develop your time-management skills. We will learn about the strategies and techniques professional jigsaw puzzlers use to solve puzzles fast. We will solve complex and unusual puzzles, such as Wasgij, which are puzzles solved from an alternate point of view than what is pictured on the box. Puzzling is also a great way to calm the mind and practice mindfulness. From novice to expert, all are welcome to join the fun of jigsaw puzzling in Piece by Piece! **Periods 2-3**

## **Pop Culture of the 1980s**

**Instructor:** Ms. Fayard

**Fee:** none

It was known as the "me" decade and introduced us to MTV, Madonna, U2, teen angst, Indiana Jones, and Ronald Reagan. We will learn about the historical events of the 1980s and how the culture of the 1980s reflected and influenced society. We will examine everything from music, films, TV and fashion to politics, war and sports. Grade evaluation will be based on movie reviews and a music project. **Periods 2-3**

## **Sabores Latinos**

**Instructor:** Ms. Zamudio-Lara and Ms. Cepeda

**Fee:** \$ 250

This course will provide students the opportunity to explore Latin American culture through one of its most exuberant and ancient elements—its wonderful and delicious cuisine! We will explore and learn important facts of how Latin American people see food, not only as a necessity but rather as an integral part of many gatherings and

celebrations. We will use a variety of sources such as documentaries, classic pieces of Latin American literature (*Como agua para chocolate* - *Like water for chocolate* and *Cuando era Puertorriqueña* - *When I was Puerto Rican*), and short excerpts of movies (*Tortilla Soup*, *Chef*, *Like Water for Chocolate* & *Coco*) to learn and celebrate the richness of Latin American gastronomy and ultimately all of Latin American culture. Of course, food will be a vital part of this class, so eating, preparing, and visiting a variety of restaurants will be a must. Grades will be based on short quizzes, class discussions, student presentations, and a final project. **Periods 2-3**

## **Saturdays in the South**

**Instructor:** Ms. Chambers and Ms. Ghosn

**Fee:** none

Inspired by ESPN's series *Saturdays in the South: A History of SEC Football*, this class will take an in-depth look at the SEC, from its infancy to present day. We will look at its most (in)famous coaches and players as well as defining games and plays. Students will also learn about some of the SEC's most controversial moments, including issues surrounding race. As this class will be organized around several series – *Saturdays in the South* and *SEC Storied* – students will be expected to participate in discussions and write reflections. Students will also do their own independent research on the history and stats of their chosen SEC team and present to the class. Get out your SEC polos and t-shirts, and sign up for "Saturdays in the South," where football isn't just a game. It's a way of life. **Periods 2-3**

## **Sewing for Beginners**

**Instructors:** Ms. Anderson, Ms. Couble, and Ms. Tanner

**Fee:** \$65

Have you ever thought it might be fun to wear or use something you made yourself? Sewing is not as difficult as it may seem! In this course you will learn how to sew basic hand stitches, do simple repairs, prepare fabrics, plan projects and use patterns, and operate a sewing machine. By the end of the class, you'll be using and wearing your own completed creations! **Periods 1-2**

## **Tales of East Asian Cities**

**Instructor:** Ms. Lin

**Fee:** \$150 (for lunches)

Explore the vibrant and dynamic metropolises of Seoul, Hong Kong, and Tokyo through a captivating journey, encompassing literature, film, photography, gastronomic experiences, historical insights, and discussions. Embark on restaurant trips to sample authentic local cuisines, fostering conversations about the intersection of food culture with the social and historical fabric of the cities. This course provides an understanding of the unique cultural, social, and political phenomena that define these East Asian cities. Grades will be based on participation in class and discussions, written responses to film and reading selections, quizzes, and small group projects. **Periods 2-3**

# Type C Courses

## Courses meet one period each day

### **Acting & Directing for the Camera**

**Instructor:** Mr. Gillentine and Ms. Hocker

**Fee:** none

Students will learn techniques and subtleties of working on both sides of the camera for the purpose of filmmaking. Actors and directors will learn to communicate with one another effectively, to develop a strong working relationship on set, and to tell a clear story. Active scene work, editing, and critiques in multiple projects will solidify the skills developed in class. **Period 1**

### **AI Prompt Engineering: Unlocking Your Creative Potential**

**Instructor:** Mr. Vrotny

**Fee:** \$25

This interim term course aims to introduce you to the rapidly evolving, cutting-edge world of generative artificial intelligence (AI) and the intricacies of prompt engineering. Students will gain a comprehensive understanding of the mechanics, ethics, and limitations of generative AI models like GPT-4 and learn to apply them in your academic and personal lives. By the end of the interim term, you will be able to interact with OpenAI's ChatGPT and other generative AI tools, create effective prompts, and enhance your creative and critical thinking skills. The course will cover foundational knowledge, applied skills, ethical considerations, and future trends. It is designed to guide understanding and application of generative AI in various aspects of life, to prepare you for an exciting future, and to utilize the intersection of technology, creativity, and ethics. **Period 3**

### **American Stories**

**Instructor:** Ms. Madison and Ms. Thakkar

**Fee:** none

*"How did I get here?" She wondered as she stepped off a plane in a foreign land, Charleston, West Virginia, with no money in her pocket looking for her husband who she had only met for four days—six months ago. He was supposed to pick her up in her new hometown, Charleston, South Carolina but her plane was diverted. Did he know? Would he make it on time? Is he kind?*

*Her parents arranged her marriage to this man because they wanted a life that could be better than the one she could have in the small village they called home. And what better than the American Dream that they had only heard about from friends who had a friend who had a friend....*

Whether it is through the immigrant experience—being the first in the family to graduate from college or so many other possibilities—the story of chasing after and living the American Dream is full of beauty, struggles, challenges, and triumphs. In this course, we will each hear, record, and learn from one person's unique oral account of striving for the "American Dream" and present it in the artistic medium of our choice. We will delve into our own sense of identity and what we think that the American Dream means to us along the way. **Period 2**

## **And the Winner Is...Exploring the Mathematics Behind Elections**

**Instructor:** Dr. Parr

**Fee:** book

How is math involved in how we elect the President? or how we pick the winner of *The Voice*? Is there a best way of selecting a “winner”? In this course we will explore elections (political and non-political) and the mathematics behind voting systems around the world. **Period 1**

## **Are You Auto Aware?**

**Instructors:** Dr. Nelson

**Fee:** \$30

Have you ever wondered why you put gas in a car? Do you struggle to understand why the engine light keeps coming on? How does my car know it is time to change the oil? If you are interested in cars and want to explore these topics the Auto Aware class is for you! The Auto Aware course will explore the inner workings of automobiles while learning how to perform hands-on maintenance on a car. The classroom portion of the class will investigate how the engine, drivetrain, and suspension work together to make a vehicle a high-performance machine. The applied portion of the class will familiarize students with common maintenance and repair tasks that are performed on an automobile. This includes checking and changing the oil, changing air filters, and rotating and repairing tires. Students should expect to get a little dirty during this part of the class. **Periods 2 or 3**

## **Art Exploration**

**Instructor:** Ms. McMillan

**Fee:** \$100

A fun time will be had by all as we explore marbling paper, mono-prints, encaustic, 3-D mixed media sculptures, paper making, wood burning, glass fusion, and whatever else we decide is worth exploring. **Period 4**

## **Art and Plunder of the Third Reich**

**Instructor:** Ms. Chambers

**Fee:** none

This class will explore the Nazi systematic pillaging of art treasures during the Third Reich. As Hitler and his armies were expanding their power throughout Europe, they were also amassing a large collection of stolen artworks. In our study of the methodical pillaging of private collections and galleries, we will learn about Hitler’s obsession with shaping an aesthetic ideal and his desire to create a superior art museum in Linz - the Führermuseum. We will take a close look at prominent Jewish families whose collections were stolen, several high-ranking Nazi officials who took advantage of military conquests to build massive personal collections of their own, and members of the art community who tirelessly worked to hide and protect art works from the Nazis. We will watch clips from several films including *The Rape of Europa* and *The Woman in Gold*. Major course components include research and discussions, with grades based on participation and short assignments. **Period**

**1**

## **The Art of Mystery**

**Instructor:** Ms. Fayard

**Fee:** book

From its roots with writers like Edgar Allen Poe and Arthur Conan Doyle, mystery writing has developed into strains like the puzzler, the hard-boiled mystery, the cozy, and the police procedural. Expanding into film and television, mystery includes everything from Sherlock to True Detectives. Through film and text we will explore the evolution and proliferation of the mystery genre. **Period 4**

## **Barbie and Friends**

**Instructor:** Ms. Bird and Dr. McDonald Johnson

**Fee:** \$10

Do you love Barbie? Do you love to hate Barbie? Then just like the movie, this is the class for you! We'll focus on this summer's international film sensation: Greta Gerwig's *Barbie* starring Margot Robbie. We'll watch the film as fans but also as critics, exploring the script, costumes, sets, and music score as well as the ideological foundations. Going beyond the film, we'll learn about Barbie's world, the history of pink, the creator of Barbie, and the real-life women who inspired her creation. After watching scenes from Gerwig's other films, we'll better understand her as a director—making it easier to form connections between *Barbie* and our 21st-century world. The culminating project for this class will be you designing your very own themed Barbie or Ken or both. So come on, Barbie, let's go party! **Period 2**

## **Behind the Playlist**

**Instructor:** Dr. Epps

**Fee:** none

Do you have a playlist of music for every mood or occasion? What might someone listening to your playlist learn about you? What can we learn about others when we listen to their music? This interim class is loosely inspired by a television series that ran from 1997 to 2014 on VH1 (Video Hits One) called *Behind the Music*. Each episode gave viewers an in-depth look at the events that inspired a variety of popular musicians and groups. In our class, we will start by considering what it means to listen. We will also watch episodes of *Behind the Music* and other music documentaries selected by the class where musicians' personal histories come to life through their storytelling. In short, we will spend the interim listening to and learning about the music that moves us. The final project will include a playlist and narration that you share with the class as you take us behind your playlist. Grades will be based on class discussions, reflective writing, peer feedback, and the final presentation of your playlist. **Period 4**

## **The Best of All Possible Worlds**

**Instructor:** Dr. Humphries

**Fee:** none

What does your perfect world look like? Where is it located? Who lives there? How do they live? Who rules? From Plato's *Republic* to James Cameron's *Avatar*, countless writers, artists, philosophers and filmmakers have labored to answer these questions as they became the architects of the perfect worlds—or "utopias"—they envisioned for humanity. In this class, we'll consider text excerpts and films in order to study the architecture of a handful of history's utopias, and as a final project, students will be asked to design a utopia of their own. **Period 4**

## **Be Well, Knit!**

**Instructor:** Ms. T. Ellis and Ms. Lovett

**Fee:** \$40

Humans have made clothing and adorned themselves for tens of thousands of years. While there is no longer a necessity for handwork, it flourishes now in online communities. People young and old enjoy making tangible and useful products in addition to enjoying the health benefits of a relaxing and calming hobby. In this class, we will specifically develop handcrafted textile works of knitting. Students should be able to display proficiency in knitting techniques and relevant terminology as well as to plan and execute a final small project. Novices and non-beginners are equally encouraged to take the class, and if a student is already proficient in another form of stitchery, they may enroll in the class and complete a final project in another form (e.g., crochet or embroidery).

**Period 3 or 4**

## **Bookish 101**

**Instructor:** Ms. Bird

**Fee:** book

Bookish 101 is about writing and publishing a book as well as our shared love of books. Throughout the three weeks we will move through the following concepts: finding book ideas, writing opening pages, writing queries, researching agents, the submissions process, book advances, and expectations for the debut year. Each day you'll have time to write and each week you'll get to meet a different industry expert, including an agent, an editor, and a writer. During the final week, we'll take a trip to Houston's own Murder by the Book to learn about the retail side of the industry. When you leave the class, you'll have a portfolio of opening pages, a basic outline for a book, a solid query, and an agent list. **Period 1**

## **Botany and Bees**

**Instructor:** Ms. Norman

**Fee:** none

This course offers a comprehensive exploration of the fascinating interplay between botany and bees, delving into the essential roles that both organisms play in our ecosystems and daily lives. As pollinators of numerous plant species, bees are vital to the functioning of ecosystems and agriculture, making them a key focus of study in the field of botany. This course provides an interdisciplinary perspective that combines the principles of botany with the intricate biology and behavior of bees. **Period 1**

## **Bridge**

**Instructor:** Mr. Vischak

**Fee:** none

In the mid 2000's Bill Gates and Warren Buffett put up one million dollars for a program that would introduce the card game of bridge into middle and high schools. They believed that students would benefit from learning and experiencing the analytical and social aspects of the game. In an interview with Forbes, Buffett said about bridge: "It's got to be the best intellectual exercise out there. You're seeing through new situations every ten minutes...In the stock market you don't base your decisions on what the market is doing, but on what you think is rational.... Bridge is about weighing gain/loss ratios. You're doing calculations all the time." This class will use the

card game of bridge to improve students' abilities to think logically and use available information to make strategic decisions. Like any card game, good players learn to maximize results when given good hands and to minimize damages when working with lesser hands. Students will have practice problems each night, and grades will be determined by students' ability to demonstrate that they have learned the concepts covered, including appropriate bidding techniques and strategy of play. **Period 1 or 2**

## **Bridging Divides: Helping Americans to Stop Hating Each Other**

**Instructor:** Ms. Lovett and Mr. Rambow

**Fee:** book

The majority of both Republicans and Democrats describe members of the opposing party as “closed-minded, dishonest, and immoral” according to recent polling data. However, the United States did not always suffer from such extreme partisanship. For generations, people disagreed about politics but maintained friendships across partisan lines. But nowadays, some families are so divided by politics that they can’t even share a meal together. How did things get so bad? Is there a way forward to rebuild a healthy democracy? In this course, we will read and discuss *Mistakes Were Made (but not by me): Why We Justify Foolish Beliefs, Bad Decisions, and Hurtful Acts* by social psychologists Carol Tavis and Elliot Aronson. Students will apply what they learn about cognitive dissonance, tribalism, confirmation bias, virtue signaling, cults, social media, cancel culture, etc. to current issues that divide Americans, and they will develop strategies for overcoming partisan divisions in order to tackle the bigger problems and restore our hard-won role as the leading democracy in the world. **Period 2**

## **Bringing Classical Greece into the Modern World, a Design Thinking Experiment: What’s so special about the Greeks, and why do we study them?**

**Instructor:** Ms. Flowers and Mr. McCrink

**Fee:** none

Essential Question: How can you create an experiential travel learning opportunity that marries classical literature, Kinkaid’s curriculum, travel, and modern-day Greek culture? In this course you will learn the framework and protocols for inquiry-based learning by creating a travel experience to Greece. Students will work in teams to create a travel project that includes travel itinerary with budget constraints, past and present Greek governmental structures and civics, and art and culture. Students will do a deep dive into the Kinkaid curriculum to assess where and how we incorporate the classics into our curriculum. Engaging with students and faculty, they will then determine how best to bring the foundations of Western philosophy and culture to life in a travel experience. Teams will explore the fascinating world of ancient Greece, covering topics such as mythology, famous philosophers, the Olympics, and the city-states. Greece's contributions to art and architecture, including iconic structures like the Parthenon and famous sculptures like the *Venus de Milo* will be a focus, as well as contemporary Greek culture, including music, dance, cuisine, and festivals. Students will also gain insights into Greek hospitality and etiquette with the intention of experiencing *xenia* for hand in the future: by observing the ways in which Greeks welcome immigrant communities, students will come to appreciate the lasting import of *xenia*. There will be a culminating presentation of learning to faculty, administrators, parents, and students with a goal of implementing their trip with students. **Period 3**

## Case Studies in Neuroscience

**Instructor:** Dr. Hardie

**Fee:** none

In this class, you will learn about the brain through fascinating case histories of patients who are lost in the bizarre, sometimes inescapable world of neurological disorders: people who are no longer able to recognize people and common objects; whose limbs have become alien; who are blind, but detect emotion on a person's face; who are afflicted with amnesia, uncontrolled movements, and musical hallucinations. We will explore the function and dysfunction of all four lobes in the cerebral cortex (the frontal lobe, parietal lobe, temporal lobe, occipital lobe) and then dive deeper into the midbrain to learn about dopamine-related disorders such as Parkinson's Disease and addiction. Grades will be based on student participation, short assignments, and a final project/presentation. **Period 1**

## Classic Hip-Hop Dance

**Instructors:** Ms. Hawkes and Ms. D. Williams

**Fee:** none

Do you love to dance but weren't able to fit a dance class into your busy schedule? Now's your chance!! History teacher and cheer coach, Ms. Hawkes, and dance instructor, Ms. Williams, are collaborating during Interim to introduce you to the versatile and fun world of hip-hop dancing. Every hip-hop move you see today stems from the classic hip-hop style of the early 1990s. The class will focus on old-school hip-hop and will not only teach choreography but also challenge you to choreograph your own hip-hop dances. Besides just learning awesome dance moves, this class will also examine the origin of hip-hop culture and how that culture is expressed through dance. Do you know the difference between breaking, locking, or popping? If you've ever wondered how to do the cabbage patch or the butterfly, this is the class for you. All we ask is you come with an open mind and a passion to learn something new! **Period 3**

## Consciousness: The World's Greatest Mystery

**Instructor:** Mr. Albán and Mr. Rambow

**Fee:** book

When you kick a puppy, it feels pain. At least, we *assume* it does, and that's why puppy-kicking is frowned upon. But puppies are made of atoms, just like soccer balls. So, what is it about the way a puppy's atoms are arranged that makes us sure they can experience pain, pleasure, or *anything at all*? In other words, what makes them *conscious*? What makes *any* organism conscious? This so-called "hard problem of consciousness" is one of the deepest mysteries ever pondered, and it looms over us more urgently than ever as scientists forge ahead in the following areas:

- growing human brains in labs
- restoring electrical activity in the brains of slaughtered pigs
- creating AI that seems able to *think*.

Are such brains conscious? Is ChatGPT? *How would we even know?* In this course, we will explore these and other deep questions through the lenses of science, philosophy, and information theory. No puppies will be harmed.

**Period 4**



## **Cooking 101**

**Instructor:** Dr. Das and Mr. Johnson

**Fee:** \$100

Are you a foodie, who has always wanted to learn how to cook? Do you enjoy trying different types of cuisine? Are you ready to take your love of food to the next level in the kitchen? Then this class is for you! In Cooking 101, future gastronomes will be introduced to the fundamentals of cooking and flavor. Over this three-week course, you will learn a multitude of kitchen techniques and cooking styles, from slicing and dicing to sauteing, frying, and poaching. In tandem, you will also explore what makes food taste delicious through a tour of the basic tastes: sweet, sour, salty, bitter, umami, and the newly defined 6th taste, oleogustus. Students of all levels are welcome, but all future chefs must be willing to sample their creations and approach cultural foods with respect and with an open-mind. Bring your brave palette and get your knives and aprons ready for our culinary adventure through the kitchen! **Period 2 or 3**

## **Crafting Calm: Crochet, Creativity, and Mental Wellness**

**Instructors:** Ms. Lin

**Fee:** \$50

Discover the therapeutic art of crocheting and its impact on mental wellness, anxiety reduction, and cultivating a sense of calm. This course will delve into crochet as a powerful tool for relaxation, mindfulness, and creative expression. Participants will learn the basics of crocheting, allowing them to create beautiful, handmade projects each week while experiencing a sense of tranquility and mental clarity. Connect through sharing experiences and fostering a supportive community that encourages crocheting for mental wellness. Grades will be based on participation in class, completion of weekly projects, and weekly reflection. **Period 1**

## **Crime and College Sports**

**Instructor:** Ms. Blumenthal and Ms. Ghosn

**Fee:** None

The only thing more recognizable on university campuses than mascots like Bevo, traditions like the 12th Man, or Tiger Stadium's Death Valley is the high stakes and pressure that accompanies participation on collegiate sports teams. This class will explore the history and context of law, business, and athletics since the beginning of intercollegiate sports at the Harvard-Yale Regatta through the present Name, Image, and Likeness rules recently adopted by the NCAA and being challenged by state laws. The class will use both primary and secondary sources to explore such famous case studies like CTE and Aaron Hernandez; Reggie Bush and his revoked Heisman Trophy; Title IX violations like scholarship funding at Clemson; and the breaking news of sexual harassment at Michigan State. Potentially sensitive material may be covered as the class collaborates to understand the unique experiences—for both opportunities and challenges—that await intended student-athletes at the next level.

**Period 1**

## **CSI: Kinkaid**

**Instructor:** Ms. Lavalley

**Fee:** none

In this course we will (1) look at forensic science through various lenses including history, biology, and chemistry, (2) take a deep dive into famous crimes, both solved and unsolved, (3) work to perfect our laboratory skills as forensic investigators, and (4) use what we've learned to solve a murder mystery. **Period 1**

## **Dance and Mathematics**

**Instructor:** Ms. Thakkar

**Fee:** none

In this course, movement and dance will be explored in a way that helps us connect with how we solve mathematical problems. In addition, we will use our math knowledge to help us create interesting dance choreography. We will explore a variety of dance styles and math topics, including combinatorics, translations and symmetry, graph theory, selection algorithms, functions, and topology. **Period 1**

## **¡Danza Latina! Latin Social Dancing**

**Instructor:** Mr. Albán

**Fee:** none

An Introduction to non-competitive social dance, with a focus on Latin dance styles—let's discover the worlds of social dancing: merengue, bachata, salsa and cumbia. The course also includes tips for great partnering, creativity, personal style development, stress reduction, musicality, and the ability to adapt to changing situations. The course will also explore the cultural and social significance of these dance styles, as well as the history of their origins. **Period 3**

## **Design to Print - 3D**

**Instructor:** Mr. Howe

**Fee:** none

3-D printers are becoming more and more common, and they are growing in quality, availability, and popularity. But how do you go from an idea of something to a physical object? In this class, we're going to learn how to turn a concept for an object into a digital model and how to best use a printer to turn that model into an object that is strong, beautiful and useful. We'll be learning Autodesk Fusion 360 to design our objects, along with software for virtual sculpting and scanning physical objects. We'll also get hands-on experience with printers to learn what makes for a good product and what we can do in the design process to make a print more likely to succeed. Recommended: A three-button mouse. There will also be some (free) software to install before the class begins so that we can get started quickly on the first day. (Note: Fusion 360 is a fairly resource-intensive program for your computer. Make sure your computer meets Kinkaid's minimum BYOD requirements:

### Laptop Requirements

Requirements	Minimum	Recommended
Operating System	macOS Monterey (12)	macOS Ventura (13)
	Windows 10 Home or Pro	Windows 11 Home or Pro
Processor	i5 for macOS	m2 for macOS
	i5 for Windows	i7 for Windows
RAM	8GB	16GB
WiFi	802.11ac	802.11ax
Hard Disk	256 GB SSD	512GB SSD or larger
Battery Life	8 hours of wireless web	10 hours of wireless web
Antivirus		Bitdefender for macOS
	Windows Defender for Windows 10	Windows Defender for Windows 10

## Period 2

### Digital Electronics I

**Instructor:** Ms. Madison and Ms. Reza

**Fee:** \$45

Have you ever wondered how lights turn on? What makes the scoreboard in Fondren Gym light up? Or, how your home alarm works? Are you someone who has cracked open an old radio to see what is inside? In this hands-on course, you will learn the basics of building an electric circuit (with lights and buzzers), voltage, current, and resistance. You will connect all of this to logic, reasoning, and boolean algebra. At the end of the course, you will take home a set of equipment, allowing you to experiment on your own. Your participation can lead to a profession or a hobby. No background in electricity required! If you are curious about any or all of these topics, you will have fun while learning in Digital Electronics I. **Period 1**

### Everyday I’m Hustlin’: Cultivating your Passion with a “Side Hustle”

**Instructor:** Ms. Connell and Ms. Spencer

**Fee:** Students may choose to purchase supplies for their project, but no purchases are required.

After the Great Recession, many Americans turned to “side hustles,” jobs outside of their 9-to-5s to increase their pay. Now, rather than just earning supplemental income, side hustlers pursue passion projects and do what they love on their own terms. With a growing gig economy, some predict that the majority of Americans will work as freelancers within a decade. Accomplish something real this Interim Term: put your ideas into action, building a passion project while cultivating skills in entrepreneurship and personal branding. You’ll also develop the skills you need to bring your project to life like iPhone photography, social media integration, and accessible web design. Maybe you’ll create a blog or an online shop. Maybe you’ll develop a personal brand as an influencer or take steps toward building a non-profit. Like in the real world, success in this course will be measured by how

you demonstrate mastery of your personal brand. Bring your ideas and passions, and you'll finish the three weeks ready to launch your own passion project. **Period 2**

### **Falcon Tank**

**Instructor:** Ms. McDonald

**Fee:** none

This entrepreneurship class is a play on the popular television show *Shark Tank*, which shows entrepreneurs making business presentations to a panel of six investors or "sharks," who decide whether to invest in their companies. Students will learn the foundations of building a business including what makes a good business idea, how to create a business deck, and how to recruit investors. We will have local business owners come in to speak about their personal experiences in creating their companies. Following these presentations, the students will embark on their own entrepreneurial journey in groups, working to create a deck for a potential business idea. At the end of the three weeks, students will pitch these ideas to the 'falcons,' who will make the decision whether to 'invest.' The falcon panel will include Ms. McDonald, accompanied by the previous business owners who came in to speak about their experiences. **Period 4**

### **Fantasy Sports Analysis**

**Instructor:** Mr. Conner

**Fee:** none

This isn't really a math course, per se. In this course we will take a look at a few of the more popular fantasy sports through the lens of statistics and game theory, focusing on concepts such as market value, decision-making, and commodity trading. Students will be asked to adopt a "drafting philosophy" for their fantasy competition of choice and to develop and implement this through actual drafts. We will also look at how differing biases can affect that philosophy. We'll work a little with DFS (Daily Fantasy Sports) but mostly with leagues that have season-long drafts. To reinforce the value of paying attention to statistics in fantasy sports, we will also watch a movie about statistics in real sports, the movie *Moneyball*. Grades in this course will come from homework, written assignments, quizzes, and a group presentation at the end. **Period 1 or 2**

### **Fast Food**

**Instructor:** Mr. Call and Dr. Scott

**Fee:** \$10

Meet the Idaho multi-billionaire who supplies the world with McDonalds' French fries; find out which fast food chains are the cleanest and kindest to their employees and which are exactly the opposite; uncover whether threats like E-coli and Mad Cow Disease are a reality or the scare tactics of radical, left-wing extremists; peel away the layers of public relations fluff and find out what really is required to satiate our culture's love and demand for "fast food." This course will examine the ways in which the rise of international corporate giants like McDonalds, KFC, Coca-Cola, and even Disney have dramatically altered the way the world and especially the United States looks, eats, does business, and sells itself. We will read portions of the groundbreaking book, Eric Schlosser's *Fast Food Nation*, as well as Malcolm Gladwell's entertaining history of ketchup, we'll look at lots of video footage, including the award winning documentary *Food Inc* as well as the late Anthony Bourdain's *Parts Unknown* episode on Houston., and we will discuss the difficulties and possible answers to all kinds of questions regarding our country and its economic and nutritional future. Is there a better way than having it "your way"?

**Period 1**

## **Fixer Upper**

**Instructor:** Mr. Sell

**Fee:** \$300

So, what will you do when you're on your own and something breaks in your home? Will you know what to do? This course will be a hands-on course that teaches those household skills that young people often struggle with learning since the skills are often not taught in a formal way. Students will learn all kinds of skills they can use to impress their future roommates (and maybe even your parents!): how to patch a hole in drywall, change an electrical socket, wire a light fixture, install a sink, install a toilet, and there may be some work done on the upper school musical. What more do you need to learn? **Period 1**

## **Game Master**

**Instructors:** Ms. Horton

**Fee:** none

What does it take to become a Game Master? In this course, we will explore the origins of classic games and how games have developed over the last 5500 years. The earliest known board games date back to the Egyptians, which was approximately 3500 B.C.! We will play ancient games and compare them to modern games. We will explore the core concepts of game theory and questions like: How have games changed over time and what can this teach us about civilizations and society? What could be the next generation of game-play? Could understanding the history and significance of games be the key to becoming a Game Master? **Period 1**

## **Global Sounds of Resistance**

**Instructor:** Dr. Epps

**Fee:** none

From Reggae in Jamaica, to Nueva Canción in South America, to Punk in England and Hip-Hop in the United States—cultures from around the world have long used music to resist oppressive power structures. But these songs are not simply about tearing down; most of them also contain ideas for how to achieve the future that these artists envision. This course introduces students to resistance music from around the world as we explore songs that cross boundaries of genre and geopolitics while pointing to a better world ahead. After analyzing what we mean by “resistance,” students will explore three main themes in the songs that we listen to—migration as resistance, resistance to prompt reform of the system, and resistance to replace the system. Students will spend their days listening to music from around the world and watching documentaries that contextualize that music. The culminating project asks students to present to the class on a form of resistance music that they select. Grades will be based on class discussions, reflective writing, and student presentations. **Period 1**

## **Heart to Heart**

**Instructor:** Dr. Wheeler

**Fee:** \$30

Does the practice of medicine interest you? Have you ever dreamed about being a heart surgeon or cardiologist? Then consider learning a little bit more about the cardiovascular system and the associated disease processes. Cardiology and Cardiothoracic Surgery are charged with the diagnosis and treatment of “Heart Disease” which still remains the number one ailment and cause of death for Americans, and it takes many forms. We will explore a number of these disease processes through the accounts of Yale Heart Surgeon, Dr. John A. Eleftheriades and

several of his amazing patients discussed in his book, *Extraordinary Hearts: A Journey of Cardiac Medicine and The Human Spirit*. We will analyze the human side of treating patients with cardiovascular disease as well as exploring the relevant anatomy and physiology. Student's grades will be based on journal entries from reading assignments, class discussions, reflections following guest speakers and readings, short quizzes, along with a concluding presentation on a topic of the student's choosing. This year famed heart surgeon, Dr. Elefteriades, former chief of Cardiothoracic Surgery at Yale University, and author of the book you will be reading, plans to "Zoom" into the class to provide a first-hand account of his experiences. Purchases: Basic Stethoscope and the book, *Extraordinary Hearts: A Journey of Cardiac Medicine and The Human Spirit* **Period 1**

## **Hip Hop and 1960s Music as Culture and Protest: How Music Changed the World**

**Instructor:** Ms. Flowers

**Fee:** none

What do 60's activists and 90's rap icons have in common? The music of protest. The 60's Anti-war and Anti-poverty movements, along with Women's rights, and racial equity all embraced music as a galvanizing tool for change. Activism and art merged to form a powerful coalition; songs lifted the zeitgeist of the people. (You will learn what zeitgeist is, too!) Artists such as Bob Dylan, Joan Baez, Sam Cooke, and Marvin Gaye stood hand-in-hand with activists and civil right leaders, forming an undeniable coalition; their songs became the rallying call for change. What about hip hop? Beyond the bravado and glorification of excess, which hip hop pioneers shed light on inequity and instigated cultural progress? We will deep dive into the formative period of hip hop culture in NYC. Particular attention will be given to the lyrics of hip hop artists Tupac, The Fugees, Wutang, Common, and Eminem. Through the close examination of lyrics as poetry, we will listen, analyze, think, and write. Documentaries, news footage, and concerts from the 60's and the 90's will anchor our course. Readings will include articles and books from music critics, along with close-reading of the lyrics as text and poetry. **Period 4**

## **The History of Video Gaming: From Pong to the Console Wars to Mobile Gaming**

**Instructor:** Mr. Johnson and Dr. Nelson

**Fee:** none

From its modest beginnings, the video game industry has captured the hearts and minds of millions while also becoming a sore spot for parents worldwide. How have video games transformed from their earliest derivations to their now memory-heavy, high-powered processor forms? How have the console wars shaped our culture? Will gamers eventually supplant traditional athletes, garnering fans and filling stadiums? And with the ubiquity of mobile technology, where is the gaming industry headed in the future? We have all been told that video games will rot our brains, but this multi-billion dollar industry just keeps growing every year. This course will explore how the gaming industry has captured our attention—and our dollars—and will help us speculate about what to expect from it in the future. Students will learn about the history of gaming by experiencing the gameplay of classic video games, by reading and discussing the stories behind the creation of these early classics, by participating in our Classic Video Game High Score Challenge at the conclusion of the course, and by creating a short presentation on a key moment in video game history. **Period 4**

## **International Relations and *Diplomacy*, the Board Game**

**Instructor:** Mr. Emerson

**Fee:** \$8

This course will offer an introduction to international relations theory and a survey of foreign affairs through the board game *Diplomacy*. Students will be asked to read about and discuss issues relating to current events and how states operate in complex international systems. The goal of the game is to conquer Europe through diplomacy, strategic negotiations, and complex power politics. The class will be divided and formed into teams consisting of two or three students. Students are expected to be able to work as teams. Each team represents one of the seven “Great Powers of Europe” in the years prior to World War I. These Great Powers include England, Germany, Russia, Turkey, Italy, France, and Austria-Hungary. **Period 1**

## **Introduction to Data Science: Data Tells a Story**

**Instructor:** Mr. Albán and Ms. Stucky

**Fee:** none

Every day, we might see headlines like “Here’s what the data tells us” or “The data does not lie,” but what exactly do we mean by that? What is data? How is it generated, and how can we know what it tells us? In this short course, we will explore the wonderful world of data, including learning about the data science process and how to use data visualization techniques to tell stories about the world around us. We’ll explore self-generated data, data about businesses, our media use, and more! **Period 1**

## **Introduction to Music Theory**

**Instructor:** Mr. Harrison

**Fee:** none

"Let's start at the very beginning, a very good place to start. When you read you begin with A-B-C; when you sing you begin with Do-Re-Mi..." *The Sound of Music* isn't just a beloved musical, but Rogers and Hammerstein brilliantly penned a song that explains how musicians use intervals to imagine and produce a melody. But this class is not just for singers, but for any musician looking to deepen their understanding of how music is constructed. Intro to Music Theory will help performers from all disciplines form a strong foundation by learning intervals, rhythm, key signatures, major and minor scales, basic ear training, and sight reading. **Period 4**

## **It's Trivial!**

**Instructor:** Ms. A. Ellis and Dr. Parr

**Fee:** none

Why are people obsessed with games about trivia? In this course, we will explore the public fascination with trivia by studying its history and exploring the most popular trivia games. Much of the class will be devoted to playing trivia games and developing strategies for winning. **Period 3 or 4**

## **The Key to Happiness is Blue**

**Instructors:** Ms. Forster, Ms. Madison, and Ms. Stucky

**Fee:** book

What is the secret to being happy? Can I be happy anywhere? Do I have to wait until I'm older, or can I be happy right here and now? There are communities around the world (Blue Zones of Happiness) which have discovered a variety of secrets about how to be happy! If you are curious about these secrets that lead to a happier and more fulfilling life, join this Interim Term course and embark on a fascinating journey as we learn about the Blue Zones and how we can bring these lessons right here to Kinkaid. In this course, students will explore the Blue Zones and their secrets, learn about the science of happiness, and develop practical applications for bringing more joy and happiness into their own lives and into the lives of others. **Period 3 or 4**

## **Latino Americans**

**Instructor:** Ms. Zamudio-Lara

**Fee:** \$80

As the demographics in the United States are changing dramatically, now more than ever before it is essential to know and understand the rich, varied history and experiences of Latinos. They have helped shape North America over the last 500-plus years and have become—with more than 50 million people—the largest minority group in the U.S. Based on the *Latino Americans* PBS documentaries, as well as other related articles, book excerpts (*When I was Puerto Rican* by Esmeralda Santiago and *How the García girls lost their accents* by Julia Álvarez) and movies (*In the Heights*, *West Side Story*, and *The Walkout*), this class will explore the chronicle of Latino Americans and their search for social justice in the United States. Grades will be based on short quizzes, class discussions, student presentations and a final project. **Period 1**

## **Level Complete! Game Development in Unity 2D**

**Instructor:** Mr. Ayres

**Fee:** none

Understand the basics of developing and designing interactive entertainment with Unity 2D, the game engine used by hundreds of video game developers across the world. Taking inspiration from modern games such as *Hollow Knight* and *Ori and The Blind Forest*, we'll learn the basics of Unity 2D to create a prototype level for our game. Being familiar with the basics, you'll expand on your learning to make your own experience. You'll be asked to create a level of a game that meets basic requirements, but you'll also be encouraged to explore Unity 2D beyond that. This course will be for beginners. (Students who took Unity with Mr. Howe previously cannot take this course.) Running the engine on our laptops will require an up-to-date device. From the Unity website, the basic requirements are an Intel or AMD processor, 2 GB of RAM, and 8 GB of free hard drive space as well as the optimal-Intel Core i7 processor, 16 GB of RAM, and a NVIDIA GeForce GTX 970 graphics card. Make sure your computer meets Kinkaid's minimum BYOD requirements:



### Laptop Requirements

Requirements	Minimum	Recommended
Operating System	macOS Monterey (12)	macOS Ventura (13)
	Windows 10 Home or Pro	Windows 11 Home or Pro
Processor	i5 for macOS	m2 for macOS
	i5 for Windows	i7 for Windows
RAM	8GB	16GB
WiFi	802.11ac	802.11ax
Hard Disk	256 GB SSD	512GB SSD or larger
Battery Life	8 hours of wireless web	10 hours of wireless web
Antivirus		Bitdefender for macOS
	Windows Defender for Windows 10	Windows Defender for Windows 10

#### Period 4

### The Lighter Side of Stephen King

**Instructor:** Mr. Conner

**Fee:** book

Stephen King is a prolific writer in the horror genre. Over fifty of his works have been made into movies or TV mini-series. These include such supernatural thrillers as *It*, *The Shining*, *The Stand*, and *Carrie*. However, King has some equally famous works of a much less supernatural and shocking nature, and two of those will be the focus of this course. Each story started as a novella and each was made into a movie: *The Redemption of Rita Hayworth* was made into *The Shawshank Redemption*, and *The Body* was made into *Stand By Me*. In this course we will study these works by King and discuss their strengths and nuances as well as how they differ from what one would expect from a writer of his reputation. We will also compare the consistency of these stories with their movie versions, and watch a 3rd Stephen King movie that the class will choose. Grades in this course will come from short homework assignments, classwork, quizzes, and a short paper to be submitted at the conclusion of the course. **Period 3**

## **Living Your Best Life!**

**Instructor:** Ms. Terrill

**Fee:** none

We will dive into the importance and practice of developing healthy sleep habits, incorporating exercise into your daily routines, eating healthy, and explore numerous ways to naturally boost your dopamine levels and introduce some habits (i.e. reading for pleasure) that will support overall cognition over time. Most importantly, we will learn that it is imperative to take care of yourself first in order to be the best student, friend, athlete, artist, person you can be. We will not only be talking about developing these habits, we will actually do them- Every Day!

**Period 4**

## **LoomCraft: Weave Your Imagination**

**Instructor:** Ms. Martinez

**Fee:** \$60

In this Tapestry Loom Course, you'll learn to make woven tapestries. You will learn how to set up the loom, choose colors, and create patterns. No experience is required. You'll make your own woven art pieces. A surprise excursion will be announced. Let's start weaving your ideas! **Period 3**

## **Medical Terminology Express**

**Instructor:** Dr. Clayton

**Fee:** none

This course will provide an introduction to basic medical language and terminology needed by those entering a healthcare field. Students will work on definitions and proper usage and focus on word structure (roots, prefixes and suffixes, symbols, and common abbreviations). We will examine medical terms from the body's main systems of muscular, skeletal, digestive, respiratory, nervous, and immune using the Anatomage. We will also work on common terminology for diseases, procedures, and pharmacology. The course will include guest speaker(s) and competitions involving the Anatomage. Assessments will be two short quizzes and one case study presentation. **Periods 1 or 3**

## **Musical Theatre Movement for Men**

**Instructor:** Ms. D. Williams

**Fee:** none

Have you ever wanted to be in the Upper School musical? Were you nervous about the dance audition? Do you simply want to learn how to move your body and feet in a new way and learn some fantastic musical numbers that feature men? This may be the year you discover that your feet are truly a "RIGHT" and "LEFT" and that you DO have rhythm. You may not be a "jersey boy," but come join me on the "west side," so we can "rock thru the ages." **Period 1**

## **Navigating the NIL: Influencer Entrepreneurship and the NCAA**

**Instructor:** Mr. Holm, Mr. Larned, and Ms. C. Williams

**Fee:** none

A seismic shift in collegiate athletics is taking place and there are new economic opportunities for student-athletes and the general student population. College student-athletes making money as influencers through social media is one of the hottest topics and trends across college campuses and beyond. Influencer

entrepreneurship is a form of entrepreneurship that involves creating and monetizing a personal brand on social media platforms. Name, Image, likeness (NIL) refers to the rules that allow college athletes to earn compensation for the use of their name, image or likeness due to the emphasis on amateurism set forth by the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), the major governing body of college sports. Through interactive discussions, hands-on activities, guest speakers, and real-world case studies, students in this course will gain a comprehensive understanding of how to leverage their personal brand and NIL rights for entrepreneurial success.

**Period 2**

### **Once Upon a Puppet: Making Puppets to Tell Your Favorite Stories**

**Instructor:** Ms. Martinez

**Fee:** \$50

This course is tailored to ignite the imagination, providing students with the skills to create puppets and use them to present their own adaptations of their favorite tales. Each student will create a set of personalized puppets, using various puppet-making techniques, and will collaborate with classmates to put on a mini-puppetry showcase of scenes from their favorite books. Part writing and part puppetry, this workshop not only nurtures artistic talents but also fosters teamwork, communication, and self-expression. **Period 2**

### **An Oral History of Kinkaid Through the Build–Year One**

**Instructor:** Dr. Clayton and Mr. Vischak

**Fee:** none

*Do you want future generations of Falcons to appreciate how you had to ride a shuttle to school every day? Or how you and your friends considered an umbrella business for students who had to walk to the Learning Villages on rainy days?*

Oral history is a way to preserve and share the voices, stories, and experiences of a specific time frame. The aim of this course is to teach students how oral history projects collect data and capture the stories. In the process, we will try to capture the story of our experiences through the first build year at Kinkaid. The culminating activity would be an oral history segment that we hope to archive. **Period 4**

### ***Paradise Lost***

**Instructor:** Dr. Robinson

**Fee:** book

We will read *Paradise Lost* as it is meant to be read: out loud! Participate in a dramatic rendition of Milton's classic epic poem. First published in 1667, *Paradise Lost* has had a broad cultural impact on political thought, art, and literature. Join Adam, Eve, and Satan on an interstellar journey of revenge across cosmic landscapes of outer space, dismal hell, and lush Eden. How can we reconcile the problem of evil in the world? What does it mean to be free? What makes authority just? Let's come together to appreciate this work's beauty and lasting significance.

**Period 4**

## **Pen to Paper**

**Instructors:** Ms. Hocker

**Fee:** \$50

In our digital world, we put pen to paper far less often than in the past. Computers, tablets, and phones provide ease and convenience, but the manual act of writing and drawing can often help cement information, enhance creativity, and provide an outlet for stress. From sketch-noting and creative, customized paper planners to mindful doodling, this class will explore ways to take advantage of the many benefits offered by putting pen to paper. **Period 3**

## **Poetry as Creative Practice and Research**

**Instructor:** Mr. McCrink

**Fee:** none

Develop your poetic voice and personal writing style, experimenting with tone, rhythm, and perspective to create poems in this workshop-oriented creative writing class. We will delve into the works of celebrated poets from diverse backgrounds and periods, gaining insights into the evolution of poetry and drawing inspiration from various contemporary poets. We will engage in in-class writing exercises, peer workshops, and discussions on poetic composition and expression, including spoken word and performance poetry. Throughout the course, you will work on a creative project of your choice, culminating in a portfolio showcasing your growth as a writer, editor, and critic. **Period 4**

## **Reading about Art and Journaling**

**Instructor:** Ms. McEntire

**Fee:** \$50

Are you interested in adopting an artist's mindset? Would you like to dive into artist's habits and philosophy? Why not read *Steal Like an Artist* by Austin Kleon and *Art and Fear: Observations On the Perils (and Rewards) of Artmaking* by David Bayles and Ted Orland and make some art? A small fee will be required for supplies, including a copy of the two texts, materials and a sketchbook. **Period 2**

## **Reading for Fun and Profit**

**Instructor:** Ms. Jamail

**Fee:** text provided by student

Do you wish you had more time for "pleasure reading" during the school year? Or do you wish you enjoyed it more and could do better in your English classes as a result? Reading for Fun and Profit might be the class for you! In this course, each student selects his or her own text: a book of fiction (a novel or a collection of short stories) which is between 250 and 500 pages. Through reading, journaling, and chatting, students will develop their reading stamina in a low-stakes grades environment and gain more comfort with reading and thinking about books. This course is partially self-paced and therefore appropriate for those who love to read and for those who struggle with it, too. All students should come to class the first day with a recommendation of a book they've completed reading in the last five years just for fun (\*not\* one assigned for school). Students will need a book (either physical or on a Kindle/Nook) and a bound journal of some sort for a Writer's Notebook. (Reading on phones and laptops will \*not\* be permitted.) Most grades will be based on the earnest completion of the activities. **Period 1**

## **Sacred Excrement: The History of Curses, Swears, and Oaths**

**Instructor:** Ms. Couble

**Fee:** none

Have you ever gotten in trouble for the words you say? Have you ever stubbed your toe and shouted something you wouldn't want your grandmother to hear you say? We will use different aspects of linguistics, history, literature, religion, law, and cognitive science to answer these questions and many more. Our journey will take us through the obscenities of Roman poetry, Biblical translations into Old English, the cant of *The Canterbury Tales*, the playful banter in Shakespeare's works, Noah Webster's ideological mission, and the choices of the editors of the *Oxford English Dictionary*. We will discuss why we use the same words to describe solemn actions like swearing in a court of law and pledging an oath to a country, overlord, or deity and bad language. In addition to these bad words, we will look at what kinds of words we use instead and how they entered the language. This course will tell you everything you always wanted to know about bad words (but were afraid to ask). **Period 3**

## **The Science of Essential Oils**

**Instructor:** Dr. Nadworny

**Fee:** \$50

Join an aromatic exploration of essential oils! This course will explore the art and science of aromatherapy. Students will gain a comprehensive understanding of essential oils, their origins, extraction processes, and the mechanisms behind their therapeutic properties. **Period 4**

## **So, You Want to Make a Movie? The Science of Practical Special Effects**

**Instructor:** Dr. Capitano and Ms. Stutts

**Fee:** \$35

Part of the magic of movies comes from stunts or special effects that allow characters to perform daring deeds that are thrilling and believable. Practical special effects make use of optical illusions, controlled explosions, and real stunts. To this day, practical effects are highly useful because they feel real. Unreality makes the mind reject the scene, and takes you out of the movie. In this course, we will learn how to do several practical effects. Then you will use these to make a short action movie. **Period 4**

## **Something, Somewhere Went Terribly Wrong!**

**Instructor:** Ms. Padilla

**Fee:** \$75

Students will learn the basics of making a historical exhibition. Whether based on reality or an alternative universe, students are asked to create an archive of an event, person, or object by utilizing various artistic practices. Final projects will be presented and exhibited on the last class day. **Period 3**

## Songwriting

**Instructor:** Mr. Harrison and Mr. Rambow

**Fee:** book

Do you want to be the next Taylor Swift? If so, this is the course for you. We'll begin by analyzing some of the greatest hits ever written in order to determine what qualities make great songs so great — from catchy melodies to compelling chord progressions to meaningful lyrics. Students will then go through the process of producing their own songs, from writing to recording. Who knows? Maybe a song you write for this class will end up topping the charts! Prerequisites: To take this course, you must have some vocal or instrumental training (such as guitar or piano) and know some basic music theory (such as scales and chords). **Period 1**

## Sound Healing

**Instructor:** Dr. Baltrip

**Fee:** none

Sound healing can be a powerful way to find one's center and discover inner energy that is at once peaceful and positive. A centuries' old therapy, the use of sound—whether through song, chimes or instruments—creates a way to access one's mind and spirit. This type of therapy might be considered passive because of its relaxing and meditative qualities, but it is quite participatory as it requires listeners to actively embrace their awareness of the sounds around them. Doing so can help create a sense of wholeness through the release of cares and distractions that often divide our attention and inhibit our ability to focus. Listeners in this class will gain the skill of shutting out noise and clamor to enter into a place of stillness. Sound healing can be restorative and practiced regularly to bolster mental health. **Period 4**

## Spanish and Latin American Cinema

**Instructor:** Mr. Longoria

**Fee:** \$18

This course will explore the culture and politics of Spain and Latin America through films such as: *Pan's Labyrinth* and *Death in Granada* (to learn about the Spanish Civil War), *Machuca* to learn about Chile and *Valentín* to learn about Argentina, as well as a documentary, *The Life of Bullfighting* (time permitting). Grade evaluation will be based on participation, short reading assignments, and a GoogleSlides presentation over a country of their choice. This course will be taught in English, so no prior knowledge of Spanish is necessary. **Period 2 or 3**

## Spanish and Latin American Painters

**Instructor:** Mr. Longoria

**Fee:** \$18

This course is designed for art enthusiasts and anyone interested in exploring the vibrant world of Spanish and Latin American art. No prior art history knowledge is required. Explore the dynamic and vibrant world of art in Spain and Latin America in this engaging course. We will delve into the lives and works of influential artists, movements, and trends that have shaped the artistic landscapes of these regions. We will study the works of renowned artists such as: Salvador Dalí, Frida Kahlo, Fernando Botero, Diego Rivera, Diego Velázquez and many more, as well as watch some documentaries. Our course goals are to gain a deep understanding of the diverse and evolving art in Spain and Latin America; develop critical thinking skills for analyzing and interpreting art; explore the intersection of art, culture, politics, and identity in the region; and foster an appreciation for the rich artistic

heritage of these areas and their contributions to the global art world. This course will be taught in English, so no prior knowledge of Spanish is necessary. **Period 4**

## **Thinking Beyond Earth**

**Instructor:** Mr. Ayres

**Fee:** book

As technology has improved and society progressed, we've adapted to living in a global society. But what happens when we need to think beyond Earth? Beyond our own solar system, or even galaxy? In this course, we'll explore this idea through science fiction media. We'll read through Cixin Liu's *The Three Body Problem*, the first novel in his *Remembrance of Earth's Past* trilogy, to consider how our current geopolitical structure may help (or hurt) when we encounter worlds' beyond ours. We'll see how our own culture has discussed this idea over time, analyzing how different TV shows such as *Star Trek* and *The X-Files* addressed life beyond Earth across many decades. We'll have debates, discussions, write creatively, and analyze different creative efforts exploring this idea. Science fiction fans are encouraged to bring in their favorites to add to this discussion. **Period 1**

## **Tool Time**

**Instructor:** Mr. Sell

**Fee:** none

This course involves building scenery for theatrical productions. Students will learn how to safely operate a table saw, miter saw, cordless driver drill and impact driver, jig saw, router, circular saw, pneumatic staple gun, and sander as well as a variety of hand tools. Building projects will involve constructing scenery for the upper school and/or middle school musicals. Students will be evaluated on craftsmanship, teamwork, and safety. **Period 4**

## **Viva L'Italia! – Introduction to Italian language and culture**

**Instructor:** Ms. Cepeda and Mr. Rovell

**Fee:** \$100

This course will give an overview of Italian culture and basic Italian vocabulary and phrases. Students will learn about Italian geography, famous landmarks, religious traditions, family dynamics, music, art, cinema, fashion and, of course, Italian cuisine. We will also examine how Italian culture has permeated U.S. pop culture and society. Students will have the opportunity to taste traditional Italian food, watch some of Italy's great films, and plan their ideal Italian vacation! Grades will be based on class participation, comprehension quizzes, and short presentations. **Period 4**

## **Yoga and Wellness**

**Instructor:** Ms. A. Ellis and Ms. Stutts

**Fee:** \$50

At its core, yoga is a practice of creating balance and union between strength and flexibility, body and mind. While many modern American yoga studios and classes focus on "power" or "fitness," these poses are meant first and foremost to help us pay attention to our bodies. We are not meant to "master" poses but to come into the poses each day prepared to listen to what they have to teach us. We will also practice mindfulness through journaling. This course will require focus, perseverance, a thoughtful approach to how we exercise, and will provide techniques that can guide us toward wholehearted living. This class is foundational and designed so that,

by the end of Interim, students can walk into almost any yoga class and assess its legitimacy in terms of safety and purpose as well as know how to modify poses for their best personal results. It's great for athletes, dancers, those without a regular physical practice, and anyone seeking a wellness antidote to achievement anxiety. **Period 1 or 2**

## **Type D Courses**

### **Courses meet Four periods each day**

#### **Principles of Investing class and the Kinkaid Finance & Investing Internship**

in the Gordy Center for Leadership, Entrepreneurship, and Finance

**Instructors:** Mr. Keen Butcher (Butcher Financial, LLC), Dr. Harris, and Dr. Watson

**Fee:** book

**Prerequisites:** Fundamentals of Business and Finance class and 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> grade standing (This course is a prerequisite for applying to the Student Investment Committee.)

This innovative course combines practical instruction on investing and finance with hands-on business experience in investment, consulting, and wealth management. It will run as a four-period course that includes both classroom instruction and an investing practicum. During the morning classes we will cover numerous topics related to investing and finance, including market sectors, asset classes, private and public equity models, assessing and valuing publicly-traded companies, debt and fixed income markets, venture capital and IPOs, and other important topics. We may also spend some time examining important market crashes, risk management, and the opportunities and pitfalls of investing “fads” (examples include Gamestop, NFTs, and fractional share ownership). During the afternoon practicum sessions, students will apply the class lessons and develop important practical skills as they research and analyze the financial condition, operations, and management of publicly-traded companies. Students learn how to use the Securities and Exchange Commission’s EDGAR database to access companies’ public filings, and they will learn how to read and analyze those documents. Finally, students will develop practical presentation, reporting, and writing skills related to business communication. The class will be taught by Kinkaid Gordy Center faculty and professional subject-matter experts from the Kinkaid community. Students will also work with members of Kinkaid’s Endowment Board to prepare for their participation on the Student Investment Committee. Enrollment limited. **Periods 1-4**



1 Period	2 Period	3 Period	Period 4
<b>Type A Courses</b>			
	An Undiscovered Houston		
Decisions, Leadership		Decisions, Health	Decisions, Health
	Decisions, Leadership	Decisions, Health	Decisions, Health
	History of Houston		
<b>Type B Courses</b>			
		Animal Heroes	
Art and Science of Mindfulness, The			
	Beyond the Plate		
	Birds of a Feather		
DIY Projectiles			
	Documentary Film		
	Dragons and Goblins and Orcs, Oh My!		
Fact or Fiction: History in Hollywood			
		From Likes to Luxuries: Creating Jewelry	
	Introduction To Urban Agriculture		
	Lord of the Rings, The		
Making Jewelry			
		Mixed Up Prints	
Paparazzi Journals			
		Pathophysiology	
	Piece by Piece		
	Pop Culture of the 1980s		
	Sabores Latinos		
	Saturdays in the South		
Sewing for Beginners			
	Tales of East Asian Cities		
<b>Type C Courses</b>			
Acting & Directing for the Camera			
		AI Prompt Engineering	
	American Stories		
And the Winner Is			
	Are You Auto Aware?	Are you Auto Aware?	
			Art Exploration
Art and Plunder of the Third Reich			
			Art of Mystery, The
	Barbie and Friends		
			Behind the Playlist
			Best of All Possible Worlds, The
		Be Well, Knit!	Be Well, Knit!
Botany and Bees			
Bridge	Bridge		
	Bridging Divides		
		Bringing Classical Greece	
Case Studies in Neuroscience			
		Classic Hip Hop	
			Consciousness
	Cooking 101	Cooking 101	
Crafting Calm			
Crime and College Sports			
CSI Kinkaid			
Dance and Mathematics			
		Danza Latina	
	Design to Print 3D		
Digital Electronics I			
	Everyday I'm Hustlin'		
			Falcon Tank
Fantasy Sports Analysis	Fantasy Sports Analysis		
Fast Food			
Fixer Upper			

1 Period	2 Period	3 Period	Period 4
			Freaks and Geeks? Teens on Television
Game Master			
Global Sounds of Resistance			
Heart to Heart			
			Hip Hop Music and Culture as Protest
			History of Video Gaming
International Relations and Diplomacy			
Intro to Data Science			
			Intro to Music Theory
		It's Trivial	It's Trivial
		Key to Happiness is Blue, The	Key to Happiness is Blue, The
Latino Americans			
			Level Complete! Game Development
		Lighter Side of Stephen King, The	
			Living Your Best Life!
		LoomCraft	
Medical Terminology Express		Medical Terminology Express	
Musical Theatre Movement for Men			
	Navigating the NIL		
	Once Upon a Puppet		
			Oral History of Kinkaid
			Paradise Lost
		Pen to Paper	
			Poetry: Creative Practice as Research
	Reading about Art and Journaling		
Reading for Fun and Profit			
		Sacred Excrement	
			Science of Essential Oils, The
			So, you want to make a movie?
		Something Somewhere Went Terribly Wrong!	
Songwriting			
			Sound Healing
	Spanish and Latin American Cinema	Spanish and Latin American Cinema	
Thinking Beyond Earth			
			Tool Time
			Viva l'Italia
Yoga and Wellness	Yoga and Wellness		
Type D Courses			
CLEF: Finance			

## Interim Term Registration Planning Form

**STUDENTS MAY NOT REGISTER FOR A CLASS THEY HAVE TAKEN DURING A PREVIOUS YEAR.**

	Period 1	Period 2	Period 3	Period 4
1st Choice				
2nd Choice				
3rd Choice				
4th Choice				
5th Choice				

All students must indicate five choices. In general and unless otherwise specified in the Course Descriptions, enrollment priority in all courses is given to seniors, juniors, sophomores, and freshmen in that order. Please check that the course you sign up for meets at the period of the day where you wish to list it. Due to the short duration and the particular scheduling of Interim Term, students typically stay in the courses to which they have been assigned. However, if specific circumstances warrant the changing of a student's schedule, such changes must be made by the end of the first day of Interim Term.