**FOCUSED ELECTIVES – SEMESTER 2014-2015**

**CHARACTER - 6TH GRADE (MANDATORY)**

This class is designed and tailored to teach our new 6th graders what it means to be a person of character. Class lessons and activities are centered on the Six Pillars of Character: Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring and Citizenship. By creating an environment which allows students to be taught by personal example and model situations; they will learn how to make good decisions that will impact their academic and behavior goals. Each student is evaluated at the end of each nine weeks based on the modeling of the Six Pillars throughout the school week. The Character Counts program is used, which helps to foster character and conduct of our youth.

“Character is like a tree and reputation like its shadow. The shadow is what we think of it; the tree is the real thing.” Abraham Lincoln, 16th President of the United States, (1809-1865)

**LEADERSHIP - 7TH GRADE BOYS (MANDATORY)**

Middle school is a pivotal time for students. They stand at a crossroad and the path chosen will direct their future. This course helps prepare students to make the right choices in life. Students will learn through the Hero curriculum what it means to take a stand for right. Other topics covered include bullying, adolescence, public speaking, and “Chivalry is not dead.”

**LEADERSHIP - 7TH GRADE GIRLS (MANDATORY)**

Real-life heroes, from the past and present are taught and discussed. Using an excellent curriculum we dive into the lives and legacies of women who have left a lasting impression on our society. Discussions on real-life and age-appropriate issues help our students deal with situations correctly and learn life lessons. This is an excellent class which helps to build our girls’ character and closer relationships along the way.

**LEADERSHIP - 8TH GRADE BOYS (MANDATORY)**

Students will learn about positive role models through our Hero curriculum. This material challenges all students to think about issues like civil rights, non-violent protests, overcoming adversity and much more. Students will also reflect on current events relating to leadership. Students are taught how they should set the right example at school and at home. Table manners; proper conduct around young ladies; bullying and the consequences; taking care of our school; and the Eight Keys of Excellence are a few areas within our discussions. Students will understand and learn that they are leaders in their schools and communities, a lesson which they can take with them out into the world.

**LEADERSHIP –8TH GRADE GIRLS (MANDATORY)**

Our 8th grade girls Leadership course focuses on key communication and leadership skills. Improving their public speaking and listening skills is enhanced by giving positive and constructive feedback. A focus is placed on real-life issues that girls deal with daily in today’s society. Students will understand that to be a leader, they must first be a leader of one.
**ELECTIVES – SEMESTER 1 2014-2015**

**AEROBICS**
Students will delve deeper in the study of health, personal fitness and the components for an effective fitness experience. The semester will begin with students learning why they should make healthy lifestyle choices concerning food, physical exercise and mental wellness. The course will transition into students creating or choreographing presentations focused on how to incorporate wellness strategies concerning food, physical exercise or mental wellness into their everyday routines. Students will engage in aerobic exercise each week.

**ART 1**
You do not have to be an artist to enjoy this class -- just use your imagination -- express yourself -- try something different! You will learn some basic principles and techniques of art and have a better understanding of different kinds of art such as sculpture with soap carving, painting, drawing, and printmaking such as Gyotaku fish prints.

**ART 2**
Students having successfully completed Art 1 last year are eligible for this elective. Students will be exposed to more in-depth art techniques, art history, and the lives and contributions of many different artists. We will investigate how Michelangelo painted the Sistine Chapel by painting upside down; create some public art for the campus, and many more exciting projects. Bring your creativity and imagination and step outside of the box.

**BACK STAGE THEATER**
Students will be exposed to basic stage and prop management. Students will assist the school with the theatrical productions throughout the school year. In this class they will be required to serve as stage coordinators for the productions as their project grades.

**BATTLE OF THE BOOKS**
If you really enjoy living in the world of literature and want to be around others to discuss your favorite books, then this is the elective for you! This Book Club will be reading some of the books found on the 2014 Sunshine State Young Readers List as we also prepare for the 4TH annual Charter School Book Battle 2 competition later in the year.

**BOOK CLUB**
Do you love to read? This class is for students who love to read for pleasure and want to share that love with other students who share their passion. Included in this class will be book discussions and reviews and plenty of time to just read!

**BRAIN FITNESS**
Are you ready to challenge your brain? In this class we will learn techniques for solving Sudoku’s, crossword puzzles, word scrambles and jigsaw puzzles. Additionally, we will learn a host of memory and study tools to help you be more efficient at school. Let’s exercise your brain!

**CHOREOGRAPHY**
Students will brainstorm and come up with dance moves and staging ideas for any upcoming productions in our Choreography elective. This requires a lot of creativity and imagination. The students will work together as a team in this participation-based class to create amazing choreography!
PROGRAM ELECTIVES

FALL SEMESTER

CHORUS
Does your child love to sing and dance? In chorus, your child will learn special rhythm and vocal techniques for how to improve his/her singing voice. We will also focus on building confidence and stage presence. There are two productions in the school year (Christmas and Spring), in which your child will be required to showcase his or her talents on stage. This fun and exciting elective is a participation/performance based class. **This is a yearlong course.**

CREATIVE WRITING
Creative writing teaches a student how to write in a way that expresses the writer’s thoughts and feelings in an imaginative, often unique, and fun way. This course will focus on short stories, autobiographies, and poetry. Presentation style will also be a part of the course for the student.

COMPUTER KEYBOARDING
Don’t be a hunter and a pecker. Prepare yourself for high school and beyond by learning computer typing skills (with more than your thumbs). Using the Prentice Hall Keyboarding and Computer Applications curriculum, you will learn to type and use computer applications for future success in our world of technology.

CULINARY ARTS (2 HOURS) $20 – PARENT SIGNATURE REQUIRED
The culinary arts industry is one on the rise and we are so fortunate to bring this program back as one of our electives this year. This 2-hour interactive class will have students starving for knowledge in the areas of food preparation, safety, nutrition and hospitality. Students will be evaluated and graded based on participation, creativity and presentation. In addition we will utilize the Nourish curriculum and study where our food originates, the importance of eating local and the impact our food choices have on our environment and our health. So, if you are hungry to learn about the culinary arts, put your apron on and join LLT Academy's “Le Culinary Bistro”.

CULINARY ARTS ADVANCED (2 HOURS) $20 – PARENT SIGNATURE REQUIRED
Have you completed Culinary One? Hungry for more food fun? Are you interested in honing your knife skills, garnishing galore, creating delicious sauces, entrees and desserts too? Then Advanced Culinary is your recipe for success! In addition, we will continue to utilize the Nourish curriculum discussing such hot topics as food sustainability, making healthy food choices and more. Students will be evaluated and graded based on participation, creativity and presentation. Tasting is required!

CURRENT EVENTS
Do you want to learn more about the current issues and how your actions can affect the world around you? If so, this is the class for you. Using newspapers, weekly news magazines, news TV, and the Internet we will look at events that shape our world locally, nationally, and internationally. We will examine contemporary issues such as human rights, the strengths and weaknesses of globalization, America’s role in the international economy, and the severe environmental threats facing many regions around the world today. Students will learn to place current events within a historical perspective and to predict future implications of these events. Finally, students will participate in service-learning projects designed to show how their actions can affect their neighbors, both locally and globally.

DRAMA 1
Students will play theatre games, learn the basics of the stage, and have loads of fun as they step outside of their comfort zone in front of their peers. The study of performance elements of drama, focus on proper body and voice control will be included. While we do not go as far as teaching stage make-up techniques, don’t be surprised if your student is practicing his/her miming skills for a project.
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE
Through environmental science, we will explore the world that we live in. Environmental science is the study of how living things, including humans, affect and interact with their environment. As an environmental scientist you will learn about the environment and ways that you can help to solve some environmental problems. You will also be a water chemist, soil chemist, wildlife manager, ecologist and more. We will use hands-on activities to learn about the natural world as well as go outside to explore the environment in action. In addition, we will learn how to grow plants hydroponically - the practice of growing plants without using soil.

GEOCACHING
Geocaching is a real-world, outdoor treasure hunting game using GPS-enabled devices. Participants navigate to a specific set of GPS coordinates and then attempt to find the geocache (container) hidden at that location. When you decide that this class at LLT is for you, you will be using math, science, history and English as we explore the classroom, school yard and at least once a semester, the Tampa area for hidden treasures. For the Tampa excursion, we will be inviting the families of our class to participate in what could be continued, fun-filled family adventures.

GUITAR
Learn how to play the guitar. The student will learn a variety of styles of music including pop, jazz and classical music. This will be a beginning to advanced beginning class. All students must have their own guitars. Students may use either classical or acoustical guitars only. Grades will be based on participation and performance.

HISTORY OF VIDEO GAMES
Over the last few decades, video games have become an integral part of our culture. However, humans have been playing games for centuries. This class will survey the history of games from early human culture through present day - with detailed focus on the history of video games over the last 40 years. Through interactive discussions, videos and creative projects we will understand the games we play today as part of the continuum of games stretching back into prehistory.

HYDROPONIC GARDENING
Students must have an interest in gardening. In this course students will learn how to maintain and manage a hydroponic garden. In order for a garden to provide healthy fruits and vegetables, the gardener must understand the requirements of the plant and how to best provide them. Students will learn about the nutrients that plants require, how those nutrients are used, why garden hydroponically, how to manage bugs and other pests and more. Students will assist in preparing the produce from the garden for sale.

INTRODUCTION TO BUSINESS (7TH AND 8TH GRADERS ONLY)
Making money has a way of getting students’ attention. In the introduction to business class, students will be faced with many challenges testing their financial skills. They will learn basic business success skills that will give them a huge advantage over the average person. Students begin the course by first understanding the ways businesses are properly run. After that the students learn to apply their knowledge with solving everyday problems with money, marketing and management. The students will find a business idea or product innovation they would like to see in the marketplace and will be asked to do project-based assignments on this idea.

INTRODUCTION TO PERSONAL FINANCE
Introduction to Personal Finance- instruction includes savings and checking accounts, compound interest, budgeting, how to save money, making smart purchasing decisions.
LET'S EXPLORE FLORIDA
Did you know that Florida was once covered with water and sharks and fish swam freely where you are right now? Learn all about the history of Florida from the natives and animals who once lived here to exploration and settlement of Europeans in Florida. Also included in this course will be Florida’s involvement in the Civil War, WWII and much more.

READER’S THEATRE
Students will learn to tell stories without memorizing any lines! They can perfect their speaking and facial expressions while trying different accents, voices, and even using a hint of mime techniques.

SEWING ESSENTIALS $30 – PARENT SIGNATURE REQUIRED
Students will learn essential sewing skills to include hand sewing techniques, how to use a sewing machine, clothing care, embroidery, appliqué, how to read patterns, and take proper body measurements. They will gain understanding of fabrics and explore practical and professional applications of their sewing skills in the future. This is a hands-on class where students will construct a variety of projects with options like pillowcases, aprons, pj bottoms, tote bags, ornaments, and home decor. Students will also choose a final project to showcase their new skills. Grading will be based on constructive technique and work ethic. Students will receive a sewing kit that they are able to keep.

SOCCER
A team sport with a focus on the individual skills and techniques needed to be successful. Skills include: passing, shooting, dribbling, turning, trapping and keeper skills.

SPORTS & SOCIETY
Throughout the history of America sports hasn't just been a form of entertainment, but a mirror of our culture. To most, they are thought of as just games, but they can be much more than that. We will discuss and watch videos of how a game can motivate, devastate, and be a vehicle for social change.

STORIES OF THE HOLOCAUST (PARENT SIGNATURE REQUIRED)
This elective is based on the events surrounding World War I and II focusing on the Holocaust. Students are taught through movie clips, readings, and discussions that being an “upstander”, standing up for what is right, is a laudable achievement. Our teacher of this course travelled this summer to some of the Holocaust camps in Europe and is bringing home her experiences to our students. Students signed up for the Washington D.C. class trip are required to take this course.

SURVIVAL SKILLS
In this class, students will participate in various activities and ultimately a project to discuss basic survival skills. Students will learn about first aid, shelter, fire, water, food, navigation, mental preparedness important survival items, survival manuals and common myths.

TEAM SPORTS
In this class our students will learn skills and game play for several team sports. Our goal is for our students to not only become better but to have a better understanding of the games that they love to play.

TELEVISION PRODUCTION
Breaking News! For this semester, you can be a part of creating a weekly news program that will air at the school and on the LLT Academy web site. You will learn to use the iPad in shooting video and editing the final show for air. You will dig out the stories and produce public service announcements. Everyone will be an anchor at least once. No experience needed.
**TEST TAKING STRATEGIES**
Students will learn different skills and strategies to prepare themselves to take classroom and standardized tests to include skills to use during a test, healthy habits for home and leading up to a test, and how to prepare mentally to be successful.

**WEB CODING**
The students will learn code languages at their own pace with weekly discussion topics. The course will focus on html, css, and java. The ultimate goal by the end of the course is for the students to create their own web-based game. The students are required to have an email account.

**WORLD CULTURES**
Are you interested in learning about some amazing cultures? Then this is the course for you. Be prepared to also research your own culture to share with the class. We will study different traditions, holidays, languages, folktales, and food, and dances from cultures all over the world. Discover what each nation brings to the culture of the United States. This course will include photographs, games, video, and audio.