Orchestra & Band

The Lopez orchestra and band programs are very competitive. Whether students play drums, strings or brass, all students are expected to purchase their own instruments. There are not instruments available for students to practice that are owned by the department. When it comes to beginning orchestra and band, students are divided into groups where they are expected to show the skills they have been practicing at home. Being a part of the orchestra or band program is a big commitment, both in and out of school. Students are expected to learn to read music, keep a beat with their peers and follow the instructions of their teacher very carefully. They must be able to perform in sync with their peers. Students entering this program usually have some knowledge of their chosen instrument and are able to work at a fast pace to excel. If your student knows how to read music and is in the beginning stages of playing an instrument with proven progress to keep a beat and follow direction, this might be the elective for you. This can be an overwhelming, loud and stressful environment for a student who cannot read music or does not have prior knowledge of a musical instrument.

Principles of Hospitality

This class explores all aspects of hospitality, from cooking to travel and tourism and even sewing. Students are expected to do pencil/paper work, operate a sewing machine, use measuring tools and cook with an oven and stove. There are larger projects where students plan a wedding from theme to budget, and it is an expectation that students stay seated and take notes during lessons on many days. This class, like any other, can be accommodated to a certain extent. It's important to recognize the strengths of your student and, understanding the essential components of what makes this class Principals of Hospitality, decide if this class would need to be accommodated to the point that your student misses out on the essential components of this class. Principals of Hospitality can be an enriching experience full of learning opportunities for your upcoming student who is right for this class.



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Lopez Middle School

General Education Electives





Choir

This is a great class for both verbal and nonverbal students. Students will learn to sing and experience music. Students will be required to listen to and follow teacher directions, as each class is very large and coordinating these students to sing when hand signals are given is essential to arranging a beautiful performance. The Choir program is large at Lopez and divided into many groups depending on their individual voices. There are different competitions and performances for the various choir groups. Our students look forward to a Jazz performance in the spring, where parents can see their student's hard work come together for an evening performance on stage.



Theater Arts

This is a class for both verbal and nonverbal students. Students are not required to memorize lines, as they are accommodated with a script to hold and read. Students practice their scripted lines with their classroom peers throughout the year. Students will learn how to apply stage makeup on a peer, and a peer will practice applying makeup on your student. Theater Arts students will sit at small group tables and be expected to sit for periods of time while the teacher speaks. Students will take notes with pencil and paper. This teacher is very good at accommodating students who are nonverbal, but because much of Theater Arts is performing in front of students and saying lines from a script, the nonverbal student's physical participation on stage is key to their experience and enjoyment of this class.



Art

For the student who doesn't mind getting their hands dirty, Art is a good option. Students work with multiple mediums to express their creativity. This is a louder classroom environment, so it's a good fit for a student who isn't too troubled by noise. Students will also have full access to sharp objects such as scissors and exacto knives. So, whether or not your student individually uses them or if the project is accommodated for them in order to minimize use of sharp objects, this class is a good fit for a student who understands safety around these items. This is a wonderful class for both verbal and nonverbal students.

