

Newport Middle School Electives

Advanced Studio Art-This application-only course is intended to build on the foundation of Art 1 and empower students to delve into new mediums, extend and incorporate new techniques, and develop and pursue individual interests and styles through project development. Due to the choice based nature of this course, students have much greater flexibility and responsibility for caring for supplies and documenting growth. Students will work in groups and independently, complete at least one piece commissioned by a "client", learn to curate work, and develop a personal portfolio.

Art-This 6th-8th Grade Course is a foundational course intended to foster growth in all students, regardless of prior art experience or skill level. Art 1 is a combination studio/ conceptual course that helps the student to both practice planning and making art and to understand the role of art in society. Students will experience a number of art styles, mediums, and techniques, as well as be introduced to styles, artists, and social context of Art History. Students will learn to both recognize and utilize art elements and design principles through analysis and experimentation.

AVID - This course is designed to improve student academic performance and achievement via college prep skills; for students with the academic potential. Students will receive two hours/week in tutor led study groups, one hour/week in motivational activities and academic survival skills. The focus of the course will be the connection between reading and writing skills across the curriculum.

Beginning Band - Beginning Band is a class for any 6th-8th grade students who are looking to learn a band instrument, and have no experience with playing an instrument. Students will learn the foundational skills of reading music, performing as a group, and the skills needed to play their chosen instrument. Instruments available to learn are flute, clarinet, alto saxophone, trumpet, trombone, tuba, and drums.

Carver Skateboarding - Using "Carver" skateboards, this elective Physical Education course will provide students with an opportunity to learn skate mechanics, skateboard safety, and proper etiquette in a skateboard environment. Although applicable skill development and physical fitness will be the primary goals of this course, other areas such as balance, knowledge of body movement while skating and personal growth and development will be promoted. Students will also use technology to document and display their skills/growth using iPad videography and action photography.

Ceramics & Sculpture - Ceramics and Sculpture is a three-dimensional art course that will explore media such as clay, wire, cardboard and wood. Ceramic projects will involve modeling clay with pinching, coiling, and slab construction techniques. Surface decoration, glazing, and firing techniques will be explored in this course. Students will study historical and contemporary examples of sculptures. Creative problem solving skills related to the concept of form will be emphasized, as well as the application of Art Elements & Principles. Ceramics & Sculpture is an elective course for 7th & 8th grades.

Choir - Choir is a class for any 6th-8th grade students who want to sing together, and learn about music. This class will learn the basics of reading music, the skill of singing, and matching pitch. Students will learn and practice all of these skills by singing songs together as a group. While there may be opportunities for solos, students are not required to sing alone in front of the class, but are required to participate daily by singing with the group. This class will study and practice songs in a mix of choral literature and popular music, with the focus being preparations for one concert per semester.

Drama-Ever want to perform on stage? Then drama class is a good choice for you! Drama includes a variety of project based performance opportunities that will focus on learning basic acting skills and other elements of the performing arts. No experience is required.

Engineering Design-The engineering design process uses steps similar to the ones career engineers use to guide them as they solve problems in the real world. In this class, students will define problems, design and test possible solutions to those problems, then modify and refine their designs based on their tested results. This class is project-based and will incorporate math, physical science, and environmental science concepts.

Green Team- Are you excited about making changes to the environment? Green Team is a great way to start. Students will learn about resource conservation and sustainability through hands on initiatives and applications. Initiatives include recycling, waste reduction, energy conservation and water conservation. Help make lasting changes in your school, your community and beyond.

Habitat Restoration - Habitat Restoration and trail maintenance is a semester long course designed to introduce students to the local flora and fauna. The course goal is to highlight the importance of sound natural resource stewardship and environmental sustainability. The class will work on a long term project of opening up a trail from our soccer fields to the Big Creek park trail system.

Leadership-This class requires teacher recommendation. In this class, students will focus on two main areas: (1) learning to become a servant leader and (2) learning to plan events that increase the culture of their community.

MS Band - Intermediate Band is a class for 7th and 8th grade students who have successfully completed Beginning Band, or can show appropriate proficiency on a band instrument. Students will build upon knowledge and skills established in Beginning Band, and will continue their musical education by learning more complex musical concepts. This band will also prepare for performances beyond concerts, including Pep Band and Marching Band with the high school band.

Rec Games All students participating in NMS rec games will be exposed to many different games, sports, fitness, and team building activities throughout the semester. There will be an emphasis on sportsmanship and leadership skills that reinforce character education. We will be doing a multitude of activities both indoors and outdoors.

Robotics & Engineering -In this class students will use robotics to explore the fundamentals of engineering and electronics. The course will consist of lectures including principles of engineering, physics, electronics, mechanics, and computer programming. Laboratory experiments will require students to build simple robots to demonstrate these principles.

Spanish 1 - This class requires the completion of Spanish Conversation or teacher recommendation. It is the first level of Spanish to be considered for high school credit. This is a yearlong class designed to develop Spanish literacy skills through reading, writing, listening and speaking practice. Class participation is critical for success on standards assessments. Students are expected to spend at least 15 minutes each night reviewing, practicing the vocabulary and phrases learned that day.

Spanish Conversation - Spanish Conversation is a semester class and an excellent foundation for the Spanish 1 course offered in 8th grade and at the high school level. This is a beginning class designed to develop Spanish literacy skills through reading, writing, listening and speaking practice. Class participation is critical for success on standards assessments. Students are expected to spend at least 10 minutes each night reviewing and practicing their vocabulary and phrases.

Spanish Heritage - This course is a class designed for students that speak Spanish as a home language or who have spent multiple years in an immersion program. These students should possess strong speaking and listening skills, and be comfortable having conversations in Spanish, but may have little to no formal instruction in reading and writing Spanish and limited advanced academic vocabulary. Students who sign up for this class should have a strong desire to improve their Spanish skills and to expand their knowledge of the Spanish speaking world.

STEM Elective - This elective will have a science and technology focus. Topics covered include coding, robotics, engineering and more.

Study Hall - Study Hall is a non-graded, non-credit period. Students should use time to their academic advantage by bringing homework or other intellectually stimulating material to work on. Students are held to the same attendance standards and consequences as though they were in a graded class. Study Hall is not a "free period".

Video Production - Students will learn the basics of video production with iPads.

Yearbook - This is a year-long class that requires a student application and teacher approval. Enrolled students will not switch electives at the semester unless deemed necessary by the teacher. In yearbook, students learn the skills necessary to plan and publish the NMS yearbook including photography, publication design, technology use, fundraising/sales, timeliness, and community outreach. Students are expected to complete all class assignments on-time and meet inflexible deadlines to ensure the publication of the yearbook.