

NMS Elective Guide

2025-2026

6th Grade Electives

M/J Two-Dimensional Studio Art 1

Students explore media and techniques used to create a variety of 2-D artworks through developing skills in drawing, painting, printmaking, and collage. Students practice, sketch, and manipulate the structural elements of art. Investigation of artworks from Western and non-Western cultures provide a means for students to expand their understanding and appreciation of the role of art in global culture. Student artists use an art criticism process to evaluate, explain, and measure artistic growth in personal or group works. This course incorporates hands-on activities and consumption of art materials.

Coding

The 6th grade coding course covers the problem-solving process and programming activities to encourage students to build their own programs for apps and physical computing devices.

Robotics

This course is an introductory 18-week course in Robotics. We will be utilizing VEX IQ Robotics kits and materials. The objective of this course is to introduce the student to engineering and engineering problem solving, as well as basic programming. The course will involve students in the development, building and programming of a VEX IQ Robot. Students will work hands-on in teams to design, build, program, and document their progress.

Beginning Band

Students with little or no instrumental experience develop foundational instrumental technique, foundational music literacy, and aesthetic musical awareness through rehearsal, performance, and study of high-quality band literature. Instrumentalists work on the fundamentals of music notation, sound production, instrument care and maintenance, and personal and group rehearsal strategies. Public performances may serve as a culmination of specific instructional goals. Students may be required to attend and/or participate in rehearsals and performances outside the school day to support, extend, and assess learning in the classroom. This course may also require students to obtain a musical instrument (e.g., borrow, rent, purchase) from an outside source.

Physical Education

The purpose of this course is to provide a foundation of knowledge, skills, and values necessary for the development of a physically active lifestyle. The course content provides exposure to a variety of movement opportunities and experiences which includes, but is not limited to: Fitness Activities, Educational Gymnastics and Dance, and Team Sports. The integration of fitness concepts throughout the content is critical to student success in this course and in the development of a healthy and physically active lifestyle.

Dance I

Students develop dance technique and movement vocabulary in two or more dance forms. In the process, dancers demonstrate use of class and performance etiquette, analytical and problem-solving skills, and studio practices in a safe dance environment. Students may be required to attend and/or participate in rehearsals and performances outside the school day to support, extend, and assess learning in the classroom. Students in this class may need to obtain (e.g., borrow, purchase) appropriate footwear and/or dance attire from an outside source.

M/J Law Studies

The social studies curriculum for this course consists of the following content area strands: Geography, Civics and Government. The primary content for this course pertains to the principles, functions, and organization of the American legal system. The content should include, but not be limited to, the purpose of law, the role of citizens, the impact of laws on the lives of citizens, civil and criminal laws, fundamental civil and criminal justice procedures, causes and effects of crime, consumer and family law, comparison of adult and juvenile justice systems, and career opportunities in the legal system. Students will study methods of historical inquiry and primary and secondary historical documents.

M/J Speech and Debate

The purpose of this course is to develop students' beginning awareness, understanding, and application of language arts as it applies to oral communication concepts and strategies in a variety of given settings.

The content should include, but not be limited to, the following:

- learning and practicing a variety of speech forms
- learning and demonstrating appropriate formal and informal public speaking techniques for audience, purpose, and occasion
 - eye contact and body movements
 - voice register and choices of language arts
 - use of standard English
- using research & writing skills to support selected topics and points of view
 - across a range of disciplines
 - using a range of sources, including digital
 - collaboration amongst peers, especially during the drafting and practicing stages

Peer Counseling I

The purpose of this course is to enable students to develop awareness of self and others. Emphasis will be on acquisition of basic skills for thoughtful planning, peer facilitation, effective communication and making healthy choices.

Global Scholars

The Global Scholars curriculum prepares students for global interaction, positive communication techniques, diversity, community empowerment, inclusion, and many other social skills that are relevant in our society today. Our students are very involved with community service and civic action. The curriculum design of the Global Scholars Program helped us to dovetail our current practices into the curriculum implementation of this innovative program with significant global impact.

Digital Literacy

In Digital Literacy, students will earn their Internet Core Competency (IC3) Certification. The **IC3 certification** is a global benchmark for basic computer literacy, including operating systems, hardware, software, and networks. The test is administered by Certiport®. The three components that students could earn certification in are Living Online, Key Applications, & Computer Fundamentals.

7th/8th Grade - Middle School Credit Courses

Band (Grades 7 & 8)

Students with previous band experience build on instrumental technique, music literacy, and aesthetic response through rehearsal, performance, and study of a variety of high-quality band literature. Instrumentalists expand their knowledge of music notation, music theory, sound production, and personal and group rehearsal strategies. Public performances may serve as a culmination of specific instructional goals. Students may be required to attend and/or participate in rehearsals and performances outside the school day to support, extend, and assess learning in the classroom. This course may also require students to obtain a musical instrument (e.g., borrow, rent, purchase) from an outside source.

Physical Education (Grades 7 & 8)

The purpose of this course is to provide a foundation of knowledge, skills, and values necessary for the development of a physically active lifestyle. The course content provides exposure to a variety of movement opportunities and experiences which includes, but is not limited to: Fitness Activities, Educational Gymnastics and Dance, and Team Sports. The integration of fitness concepts throughout the content is critical to student success in this course and in the development of a healthy and physically active lifestyle.

Peer Counseling (Grades 7 & 8)

The purpose of this course is to enable students to develop awareness of self and others. Emphasis will be on acquisition of basic skills for thoughtful planning, peer facilitation, effective communication and making healthy choices.

STEM

STEM is an elective course for middle school grades 7-8. The curriculum is based on a PBL approach geared towards combining each of the STEM disciplines. This course introduces students to the Engineering Design process to solve various problems and build prototypes of their solutions. Students engage in team project designing, prototyping, and constructing products. Students will gain an understanding of design thinking, prototyping methodologies, and construction materials. In addition to learning STEM fundamental topics, students also apply English language arts concepts and soft skills to each challenge. This approach allows students to improve their problem-solving and critical thinking skills while they develop invaluable competencies in leadership, team building, creativity, and communication.

Creative Writing (Grade 7 only)

The purpose of this course is to enable students to learn and use grade 6 writing and language skills for creative expression in a variety of literary forms. Emphasis will be on development of a personal writing style.

The content should include, but not be limited to, the following:

- a study of a variety of short literary collections, including poetry, one-act plays, the short story, and memoir to determine and practice

- literary text craft and structure
- use of figurative, denotative, and connotative language
- appropriate voice and/or tone
- story structure, poetic forms, and creative pacing techniques
- reciprocal nature of content and form
- writing for varied purposes and in varied genres, including
 - personal and dramatic narratives
 - various poetic forms
 - plays and multimedia productions
 - multi-genre and creative nonfiction selections
 - digital writing platforms
- effective listening, speaking, and viewing strategies with emphasis on the use of evidence to support or refute a claim in multimedia presentations, class discussions, and extended text discussions
- collaboration amongst peers, especially regarding peer reviews of multiple drafts

M/J Two-Dimensional Studio Art 2 (Grades 7 & 8)

Students refine techniques used to create a variety of two-dimensional (2-D) artworks through developing skills in drawing, painting, printmaking, and collage. Students manipulate the structural elements of art to promote creative risk-taking in 2-D artwork. Investigation of artworks from Western and non-Western cultures provides a means for students to expand their understanding and appreciation of the role of art in global culture. Student artists use an art criticism process to evaluate, explain, and measure artistic growth in personal or group works. This course incorporates hands-on activities and consumption of art materials.

Pre-Law (Grade 7 only)

In Pre-Law, students learn the foundations of civics and law. Students study historical documents like the Declaration of Independence, The Articles of Confederation, and The United States Constitution. Students learn about the 3 branches of government; especially the Supreme Court. Approximately 5 mock trials are conducted throughout the year to give students the chance to put their newfound legal knowledge to practice. Students learn how to research, articulate their thoughts, argue in a structured manner and think critically on their feet, and under pressure.

The last quarter of the year is dedicated to advocacy. Students take on a case of their choice and learn how to affect change through the proper legal and governmental channels. Students learn how to make their voices heard in their community about issues that matter to them.

Start Up Tech (Grade 7 only)

Start Up Tech is a course focused on the principles involved in creating and managing an app-based business. The focus of study involves the development of designing and coding an app as well as strategies on how to monetize the app if and when it is published for commercial consumption.

Robotics II (Grade 7 only)

This is a beginning 18-week course in Robotics. This course will continue to explore and extend the Robotics I course, as well as general Engineering Design Principles. VEX V5 Robotics kits and materials will be utilized. Students will be introduced to the VEX V5 Robotics Design System while learning key STEM principles. The objective of this course is to explore topics in engineering and engineering problem solving, as well as basic programming. The course will involve students in the development, building and programming of a VEX V5 Robot.

Coding II (Grade 7 only)

The purpose of this 18-week course is to cover the advanced activities involving the problem-solving process and programming activities to encourage students to build their own programs for apps and physical computing devices.

Dance (Grades 7 & 8)

Students attend to alignment, acquisition of complex technical skills, collaborative problem solving, dance conditioning, and safe studio practices. They learn about dance in its cultural and historical contexts through research and physical experiences, explore exemplary modern works, employ dance as a healthy life skill, and use dance terminology appropriately to describe the expressive and aesthetic qualities of performance. Public performances may serve as a culmination of specific instructional goals. Students may be required to attend and/or participate in rehearsals and performances outside the school day to support, extend, and assess learning in the classroom. Students in this class may need to obtain (e.g., borrow, purchase) appropriate footwear and/or dance attire from an outside source.

Forensic Science

Forensic Science is the study of the application of science to the law. This integrated science course is designed to explore scientific and technological aspects of criminal investigations. This course will focus on the following forensic science concepts: evidence collection, investigative process, photographing the crime scene, fingerprinting, DNA, blood, handwriting, pathology, tool marks, ballistics, arson, and careers in forensic science. Applications to court cases, psychology, and criminology also will be examined. The primary emphasis in this course will be for students to deepen their understanding of the sciences by applying scientific concepts and to develop and extend their scientific skills and processes through problem-based learning. The learning strategies used will include lecture, labs, research, activities, videos, and mock crime scene investigations.

7th/8th Grade - High School Credit Courses

Law Studies/Legal Concepts (Grade 8 only)

The Law Studies course consists of the following content area strands: American History, World History, Geography, Humanities, Economics, and Civics and Government. The primary content for the course pertains to the study of the American legal system as the foundation of American society by examining those laws which have an impact on citizens' lives and an introduction to fundamental civil and criminal justice procedures. Content should include, but is not limited to, the need for law, the basis for our legal system, civil and criminal law, adult and juvenile courts, family and consumer law, causes and consequences of crime, individual rights and responsibilities, and career opportunities in the legal system.

Leadership Skills Development (Grade 8 only)

The purpose of this course is to teach leadership skills, parliamentary procedure, problem solving, decision making, communication skills, group dynamics, time and stress management, public speaking, human relations, public relations, team building, and other group processes.

The content should include, but not be limited to, the following:

- study in self-understanding
- development in such areas as goal setting, self-actualization, and assertiveness
- study of organizational theories and management

Speech 1 (Grade 7 only)

This high school course introduces students to the 6 traits of Public Speaking: Poise, Volume, Life, Eye Contact, Gestures, and Speed. Students participate in various activities that help improve their presentation skills. They also learn the competitive Speech events, such as Impromptu Speaking, Extemporaneous Speaking, Humorous Interpretation, Dramatic Interpretation, and Original Oratory. In addition, students compete in Speech and Debate tournaments throughout the county and earn National Speech and Debate Association (NSDA) points and membership into the NSDA Honor Society. This course is a pre-requisite for Debate 1 Honors.

Creative Writing (Grade 8 only)

The purpose of this course is to enable students to develop and use grade 9-10 writing and language skills for creative expression in a variety of literary forms. Studying and modeling a variety of genres will be emphasized at this level of creative writing.

Spanish I (Grades 7 & 8)

Spanish 1 introduces students to the target language and its culture. The students will develop communicative skills in all 3 modes of communication and cross-cultural understanding. Emphasis is placed on proficient communication in the language. An introduction to reading and writing is also included as well as culture, connections, comparisons, and communities.

Spanish II (Grade 8 only)

Spanish 2 reinforces the fundamental skills acquired by the students in Spanish 1. The course develops increased listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills as well as cultural awareness. Specific content to be covered is a continuation of listening and oral skills acquired in Spanish 1. Reading and writing receive more emphasis, while oral communication remains the primary objective. The cultural survey of the target language-speaking people is continued.

French I (Grade 8 only)

French 1 introduces students to the target language and its culture. The student will develop communicative skills in all 3 modes of communication and cross-cultural understanding. Emphasis is placed on proficient communication in the language. An introduction to reading and writing is also included as well as culture, connections, comparisons, and communities.

Business and Entrepreneurship Principles Honors (Grade 8 only)

This course is designed to provide an introduction to business organization, management, and entrepreneurial principles. Topics include communication skills, various forms of business ownership and organizational structures, supervisory/management skills, leadership skills, human resources management activities, business ethics, and cultural diversity. Emphasis is placed on job readiness and career development. The use of computers is an integral part of this program.

Advanced IT Honors (Grade 8 only)

This course is designed to provide a basic overview of current business and information systems and trends, and to introduce students to fundamental skills required for today's business and academic environments. Emphasis is placed on developing fundamental computer skills. The intention of this course is to prepare students to be successful both personally and professionally in an information-based society. Advanced Information Technology includes the exploration and use of: databases, the internet, spreadsheets, presentation applications, management of personal information and email, word processing and document manipulation, HTML, web page design, and the integration of these programs using software that meets industry standards. After successful completion of this core course, students will have met Occupational Completion Point A, Information Technology Assistant - SOC Code 15-1151.

Foundations of Robotics (Grade 8 only)

This course provides students with a foundation in content and skills associated with robotics and automation, including artificial intelligence, electronics, physics, and principles of engineering.