

**GREENWICH TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT**

 NEHAUNSEY MIDDLE SCHOOL

**415 Swedesboro Road, Gibbstown, NJ 08027**

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Dear Parent(s),

With the school year well underway, we are already looking forward to the start of the 2025-2026 school year. Now is the time to discuss elective choices for the upcoming school year with your child. We will be allowing our incoming 6th graders and our rising 6th and 7th grade students, with the help from their parent(s), to choose which electives they would like to receive during the 2025-2026 school year. Below is the list of all the electives with a brief description of what they entail, along with their availability throughout the school year. The students will be able to submit their selections electronically during Health/PE class at Nehaunsey the week of 5/5/25-5/8/25 and with Mrs. Podolski at Broad Street on 5/2/25.

 Students will be able to select EITHER one full year elective or two semester-based electives. In order to ensure students have access to a wide range of opportunities, students going into 6th  may select any elective except a World Language. However, students going into 7th and 8th grade should NOT select electives they have taken in the previous year, with the exception of Band.

 Student selections cannot be guaranteed due to volume limits for each section. Thus, we are asking that your child choose a third alternate course, in case this problem occurs. If you have any questions or concerns about the new electives, please feel free to contact me to discuss your student’s schedule.

FULL YEAR ELECTIVES- Select one full year course:

**Band (Full Year)**: The instrumental band program at NMS will consist of woodwind, brass, and percussion instruments with the intention of creating an ensemble consisting of 6th, 7th and 8th graders. Each student will be given private instruction on how to perform on their instrument, as well as a band period where we will all work on our skills together. The band will perform a variety of performances throughout the year including the annual winter and spring instrumental concerts. The instruments in the ensemble are: Oboe, Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone (Alto, Tenor, and Bari), Trumpet, Trombone, French Horn, Baritone Horn, Tuba, and Percussion. All instruments, except percussion, will need to be provided. We sadly do not include guitar; however, bass guitar would be acceptable if your student really wants to play a string instrument. The NMS is a great way to take your playing towards the next level as well as develop leadership skills, create good work ethics, and become a great representative of our school and community.

* Additionally there is an after school Jazz Band club offered. Students who wish to participate in Jazz Band do not need to participate in our regular band class, however it is recommended that they do so. This ensemble also allows students to play other instruments that they are fluent in such as piano and guitar.

**EIGHTH GRADE ONLY:**

**Italian I (Full Year):** This will consist of the traditional concepts of an Italian class. However, the concepts will be explored in more depth and the completion of this class in 8th grade will allow your child to advance their love for language further in high school as this class will now be recognized as a high school equivalent class. Because this is a high school based course, students should have strong language arts skills and be prepared for rigorous coursework.

* **For 6th and 7th graders who wish to continue with Italian, Italian Club will be offered after school.**

**OR**

SEMESTER ELECTIVES: Select two and one alternate

**STEM 1 (Semester):** This class will be centered on the following topics of science, technology, engineering, and math. STEM education integrates concepts that are usually taught as separate subjects in different classes and emphasizes the application of knowledge to real-life situations. A lesson or unit in a STEM class is typically based around finding a solution to a real-world problem and tends to emphasize project-based learning.

 **STEM 2 (Semester):** This class will be a continuation of STEM 1 and will be centered on the following topics of science, technology, engineering, and math. STEM education integrates concepts that are usually taught as separate subjects in different classes and emphasizes the application of knowledge to real-life situations A lesson or unit in a STEM class is typically based around finding a solution to a real-world problem and tends to emphasize project-based learning.

**Road Trip-World Edition! (Semester):** Calling all travelers! In Road Trip-World Edition, students will be put in charge of planning virtual road trips to destinations around the United States and the World. We will explore all the world has to offer, across the seven continents, as we bring the world into our classroom. Experience new cultures, foods, music, and all kinds of sights and sounds, as well as history, recreational activities, and other tourist activities.

Students will learn how to budget and plan trips and learn the steps of traveling from one place to another safely and successfully. If you ever wanted to see the world outside your own backyard, take Road trip- World Edition, and prepare to be amazed about all that is out there.

**Public Speaking (Semester):** Feel uncomfortable speaking in public? Maybe you get nervous seeing yourself on video, or hearing your voice on a recording? So much of what we do in school and then out in the adult world involves the skill of public speaking, both in the jobs we do, as well as our personal lives. Whether you are a teacher, a coach, doctor, lawyer, salesperson, chef, actor, game show host, or quite frankly, any job, we have to speak and communicate effectively to be successful. Public Speaking is your chance to casually develop your skills and comfort level in a stress-free, relaxing environment. Through fun, real-life examples we will focus on skills that will make you a stronger, more confident speaker. We will explore different situations and careers that stress public speaking such as: acting, newscasting/reporting, sales, teaching, speeches and presentations, and Podcasting. We will also focus on moments in our everyday lives where public speaking is important.

**Intro to Art (Semester):** This class is designed to inspire a lifelong love of art through the development of foundational artistic skills, investigation of contemporary and historical art, and exploration of personal expression. Activities will focus on applying knowledge of the elements and principles of art in drawing, painting, printmaking, photography and various other art mediums. Students will learn a comprehensive visual art vocabulary, engage in critiques of their work and historical works, and participate in meaningful dialogues about art.

**Intro to Drawing and Painting (Semester):** This course covers the core principles of drawing and painting for students interested in expanding their skills and knowledge of these foundational art forms. Students will experiment with a variety of drawing and paint mediums including pencil, graphite, charcoal, ink, watercolor and acrylic. Students will learn how to simplify shapes, draw contours, and use value to create accurate proportions and perspective and to develop form. Students will also learn color theory and how to mix colors to create hues, tints and shades, as well as secondary and tertiary colors, while learning how to build and layer with paint.

**Intro to Coding (Semester, GRADES 7 and 8 only):** Welcome to Coding Class! Students will be learning the basics of coding through an online adventure game that progressively adds new skills to advance the game's story. Students will learn to code using Python in a self-paced setting culminating in projects where students can code their own story-based adventure.

**Writer’s Block I and Writer’s Block II (Semester):** Unlock Your Imagination. Got stories swirling in your head? Poems waiting to be penned? In this elective, you’ll explore the art of storytelling—from gripping short stories to powerful poetry, flash fiction, scripts, and more. You’ll experiment with voice, structure, and style while learning how to craft characters, build worlds, and find your unique writing voice. Whether you're dreaming of being the next bestselling author or just want a place to let your creativity shine, this class is your space to write, share, and grow! Students do not need to take I to enjoy II.

**The Holocaust: History and Memory (Semester):** This course explores the historical events of the Holocaust and examines how it has been remembered, represented, and memorialized over time. Students will study the origins of antisemitism, the rise of Nazism, and the implementation of the "Final Solution" that led to the genocide of six million Jews, along with the persecution of other marginalized groups. The course will include survivor testimonies, historical documents, literature, film, and museum exhibitions to analyze the complex ways in which individuals and societies have remembered and interpreted the Holocaust.Topics may include the role of perpetrators and bystanders, resistance movements, liberation, post-war trials, and the development of Holocaust education and memorials globally. The course encourages critical thinking about memory, trauma, and the ethical responsibilities of remembering atrocity in both historical and contemporary contexts.

**Intro to Technology (Semester):** In this course, students will be introduced to the fundamentals of computer science. They will learn to identify parts of a computer, including the ports, icons, and information on internal/external components. After gaining a general understanding of the computers we work with, we will work with different software to develop important skills. Writing emails, creating effectively designed PowerPoints, identifying trustworthy websites/online sources, and practicing typing skills are all skills that will be touched on throughout this semester-long course.

**Graphic Design (Semester):** In this graphic design course, students will be able to become their very own online artists! Using an online photo editing software, students will learn how to use editing tools to create something entirely new or upgrade something older for a completely different look. Put your creative skills to the test!

Thank you,

Daniel Giorgianni

Guidance Counselor

Nehaunsey Middle School