



Dear Parent(s),

With the school year well underway, we are already looking forward to the start of the 2023-2024 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 2023-2024 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 Mr. Keane's class at Nehaunsey on 3/30/23 and with Mrs. Podolski at Broad Street on 3/31/23.

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.

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 as NMS will consist of a variety 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 two band concerts during the winter and spring months. 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.

- **If your student(s) does not want to commit to a full year of Band, a Band Club will be offered after school that will allow students to still perform in band performances.**

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 course work.

Spanish I (Full Year): This will consist of the traditional concepts of a Spanish class. The course is designed to lay a foundation for speaking, writing, reading, and understanding the language. 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 course work.

OR

SEMESTER ELECTIVES: Select two and one alternate

STEM (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.

Newspaper (Semester): This class will allow our students to create, design, and construct our school's newspaper. The students will complete activities centered on traditional ELA concepts as well as graphic design and layout while completing the newspaper.

Road Trip USA (Semester): Calling all travelers! In Road Trip USA, students will be put in charge of planning virtual road trips to destinations around the United States and the World. Students will choose a budget and destination; they will be responsible for planning every aspect of reaching their destinations. They will be doing extensive research about their journeys and destinations to ensure they plan a successful road trip. When their research and planning is complete, students will focus on their speaking and listening skills by presenting their trips to the class. Teachers will also plan local field trips to enhance the learning experience!

Public Speaking and Debate (Semester): Do you hate speaking in front of large groups of people, but love to argue? Sign up for this class to learn strategies and tips for overcoming your fears of speaking publicly. Not only will you learn how to speak eloquently and confidently, but you will learn how to effectively construct arguments and speak convincingly. These skills will be used during the debate portion of this class. We will explore real-world issues, perform a mock trial, and delve into famous historical speeches. If you want to learn how to win arguments and how to control an audience with the power of your voice, take this class!

Digital Photography (Semester): Students will be introduced to the basic technology necessary for the production of their art work, as well as learning about the visual arts, how to look at and critique photography, photographic vocabulary, tools such as framing, composition, light, texture, pattern, lines, symmetry, depth of field, distance, perspective, culture, space, balance, color and black and white photography, and be introduced to many works by well-known photographers.

Intro to Painting (Semester): Students will learn the basics of painting through the exploration of a variety of paint mediums. Students will work in watercolor gouache and acrylic paints. Students will learn color theory and how to blend color to create hues, tints, and shades as well as secondary and tertiary colors. Students will also work on building and layering with paint. Students should have a basic understanding of drawing and a passion for creativity.

Structured Study (Semester): This course is designed to allow students to maximize their academic progress during school hours. Students will be able to work independently to complete assignments and study for other classes. This is NOT free time. Students' time must be used to work on academic content, to study, or to quietly read.

Acceptable Uses of Time: Finishing class work from the day Working on homework Reading recreationally
Seeking help from your teacher or other students Using classroom or school resources to complete school related tasks Studying for upcoming exams

Unacceptable Uses of Time: Watching Netflix or other streaming services Using your cell phone for texting, games, etc.
 Socializing Sleeping Doing Nothing

Thank you,

Daniel Giorgianni
Guidance Counselor
Nehaunsey Middle School