

**Little Falls Township Public Schools**

**Middle School**

**Electives**

**2020-2021**



## **Grades 5-8 Elective Courses**

Students in grades 5-8 will be offered two (2) electives for the 20-21 school year. Electives will run on A days and B days, meaning that each course will meet every other day. If students qualify for BSI, ELA Lab, or Math Lab, these courses will replace an elective. You will be notified if your child is in need of one of these courses. It is important to know that students are not guaranteed their choice elective.

## **Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics**

### **Brain Teaser Bonanza (5 & 6)**

Do you like math challenges? Is your brain ready to be “teased”? Are you a math “thinker” or do you want to become one? This elective will offer students the opportunity to develop and apply math skills such as adding, subtracting, multiplying, dividing, and logical reasoning through fun activities and contests. Students will also be developing math activities to share with the class to further challenge their classmates. There will be individual challenges as well as group challenges that will help students build their math stamina, teamwork skills, and overall math confidence.

### **Interactive Stock Market (7 & 8)**

Venture into the world of Stock Market games and money simulations! Put your money making skills to the test and buy virtual shares of actual stocks. This class features an online simulation of the global capital markets that engages students in the world of economics, investing, and personal finance. This class will prepare students for their own financial independent futures.

### **Scratch 3.0 (5 & 6)**

Use the Scratch block programming language to program your own interactive stories, create games, and make animations. Scratch is an introductory level coding experience for students with numerous areas to explore and experiment. Scratch combines the world of technology with the world of creativity.

## **Coding/Computer Programming (7 & 8)**

Students will be exploring computer programming and learning programming principles. Students will be applying principles of coding to create games and designs using the 5-step design process.

## **STEAM (7 & 8)**

Teamwork and virtual learning in which real-world problems and challenges will be explored. We will find Solutions while using Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. Get ready to imagine, plan, and create.

## **Game Design & Critical Thinking (5 & 6)**

Upon the completion of this course, students will be able to build decision making, critical thinking, and problem solving skills for real world simulations and interactive exercises. Basic foundations of coding will also be acquired as they work to create and design their own game levels.

## **Social Studies**

### **Film Study (7 & 8)**

Are you a visual learner? The goal of this class is to gain knowledge of classic and historic events through movies you may have seen or heard about. Film study will explore the nature of the motion picture, the actors, and directors who have made significant effect on America both past and present. All movies viewed will be age-appropriate and will focus on significant cultural and historic events that have shaped our society.

### **Current Topics and History (7 & 8)**

This course introduces students to current topics that impact citizens living around the world. Students will be expected to seek out and analyze newsworthy events and explain how the event impacts them either directly or indirectly. The focus will be on reading and writing, as well as gaining the necessary public speaking skills to share opinion and research orally. At the end, students will have a sound knowledge of important current events and the confidence to change their surroundings as an active World citizen.

## **Sports, Music, and Culture (7 & 8)**

This class will analyze the world of sports by blending history and mathematics with a new twist. The class will also venture into the evolution of Rap and Rock and how music has had an impact on various social aspects such as fashion, race, culture, and sports.

## **Virtual Road Trip (5 & 6)**

Take a virtual road trip to various places that highlight culture and history! In this class students will make connections with concepts, locations, or people. Students will go where the bus can't take them!

## **World Language**

### **Spanish I (7 & 8)**

Spanish I is an accelerated two-year course taken in grade 7 and 8 students will expand their listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills in Spanish. Taking and passing this course will allow the student to place into advanced Spanish II classes in high school. Taking Spanish II as a freshman will allow students to take AP Spanish for which state will earn college-level credits while still in high school.

### **Mango Language Exploration (5 & 6, 7 & 8)**

Welcome one of our newest additions to the elective choices - MANGO! Mango is a virtual world language exploration course. Students may choose from dozens of languages and will explore/expand their listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills in whichever language they choose! This online program is very interactive with personalized computer guidance to help students have fun and learn a new language.

## **Communications**

### **Book Club (5 & 6, 7 & 8)**

Do you love to read books? Do you love to finish a great book and discuss that book with friends? If so, this is the elective for you! In the book club elective, you will read amazing books and talk about those books with your classmates. As a School No. 1 Book Club, we will learn more about the authors, find common themes in the books we read, and stage

our own battles. In this elective, you will also gain knowledge and enjoyment from Reading good books and sharing them with friends!

### **Creative Writing (5 & 6, 7 & 8)**

If you have a wild imagination and love to make up stories then this is the class for you! Creative writing is a year-long course that needs every other day. We will be exploring different genres of writing, through both reading and writing, as well as the other necessary elements needed to improve writing and composition skills.

Writing Genres Covered:

(5 & 6) Journal Writing, Memoir, Poetry, Mystery Stories, and Fairy Tales

(7 & 8) Poetry, Music, Memoir Writing Worldwide Mythology, and Short Fiction

### **Journalism (5 & 6, 7 & 8)**

If you have a wild imagination and love to make up stories then this is the class for you! Creative writing is a year-long course that needs every other day. We will be exploring different genres of writing, through both reading and writing, as well as the other necessary elements needed to improve writing and composition skills.

Writing Genres Covered:

(5 & 6) Journal Writing, Memoir, Poetry, Mystery Stories, and Fairy Tales

(7 & 8) Poetry, Music, Memoir Writing Worldwide Mythology, and Short Fiction

### **Yearbook (7 & 8)**

Welcome to our new Yearbook course! Students will become historians, journalists, and artists putting together a photojournalistic book that will be on shelves for many, many years to come! There never was a better time to help create memories for all to see!

## **Visual & Performing Arts**

### **Art Exploration (5 & 6, 7 & 8)**

In this course you will be exposed to an array of experiences within the fine arts. We will explore the principles and elements of design, digital art, cultural art, and art history through different art and research projects. This course will help to empower you to

make your own creative choices and to express feelings and ideas through different visual mediums.

## **Photography (5 & 6, 7 & 8)**

In our world we see photographs every day on television, on the Internet, and in magazines and newspapers. These photographs help to inform us about what is occurring in our world. In this course we will ask important questions about image making and its effect on society. What makes a great photograph? How did the artist capture a story? What makes a great picture? What are careers in photography? You will learn and apply fundamental skills to use a cell phone camera and take photographs of animals, people, and landscapes. You will gain an understanding of how photography can be a means of documentation, advertisement or high art. We will examine photographic careers and explore self-reflection to progress your creative growth as you develop a photographic portfolio. (This course requires you to have a working cell phone camera as we cannot share our classroom cameras this year).

## **Songwriting & Musical Composition (5 & 6, 7 & 8)**

Learn to write songs and compose music in any style! This course will incorporate technology and music theory to assist you with putting together music on your own. Create compositions featuring all of your favorite instruments and write songs in the style of your favorite artists!

## **10th Period Flextime Programs (Participation by sign up sheet.)**

### **Peer Group Connection (Grade 8 - Must be selected)**

8th grade students supporting 5th grade students in their transition into Middle School. Peer Group Connection (PGC) taps into the power of 8th graders to create a safe and supportive environment for new 5th grade students. Once per week, pairs of Select 8th graders meet with groups of 5th grade students (virtually) to help them be successful in their first year of Middle School. The focus of the classes on activities and scenarios that allow them to practice academic, social, and emotional skills such as decision-making, time management, teamwork, and communication.

***Be a leader... Be a mentor... Be a role model... Make a difference in your school***

### **Instrumental Music (5 & 6, 7 & 8)**

The primary focus is on the development, continuation, and expansion of basic skills begun the previous years that are necessary for effective instrumental music performance. In addition to large group ensembles, individual growth and achievement are encouraged. Topics/skills covered include: tone development, counting, timing, and rhythmic development, reading and notation skills, including sight reading, introduction of scales, simple music theory, development of an extensive vocabulary of musical terms and symbols, ear training, and listening skills, equipment care and maintenance, and effective practice habits. This course requires evening/virtual performances

### **Chorus (5 & 6, 7 & 8)**

This is a premier Middle School choir for both male and female students who are interested in vocal music performances. It is also an outlet for students who enjoy singing for their own pleasure. The following musical skills will be stressed: proper breathing, Pleasant vocal production, blend and balance, expansion of range, good intonation, ear training, and sight-reading. Different styles of music will be explored. Participation in various performances is a requirement of the class.

### **Advanced Instrumental Methods (7 & 8)**

Instrumental methods is designed to guide 7th and 8th grade instrumentalists to a higher performance level. In this course, students will be expanding their musical thoughts and applying them to a more advanced set of performance expectations. Along with band and lessons this course will help to expand the skill level of students wishing to move into the next phase of instrumental musician ship, preparation for performances, and high school musical careers.

### **Advanced Vocal Music Methods (7 & 8)**

Vocal Music Methods is designed to guide 7th and 8th grade vocalists to a higher performance level. In this course, students will be expanding their musical thoughts and applying them to a more advanced set of performance expectations. Along with chorus, this course will help to expand the skill level of students wishing to move into the next phase of vocal music, preparation for performances in high school musical careers.