

## 2024-2025 Middle School Elective Course Selection Form

### ENTERING GRADE 8

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Planning for the 2024-2025 school year has begun. We are excited to offer our students an array of elective options to meet their interests. Please note that every effort is made to ensure that students receive a choice; however, elective placement is dictated by individual curriculum needs, student interests, and mandated class size requirements. There is a possibility students may not receive any of their top 3 choices. Middle school promotion and high school graduation requirements supersede elective choices. Elective choices are subject to change and will be chosen for students who do not return their selection form.

#### **Required Core Courses**

- Language Arts 3 (M/J 1001070)
- Comprehensive Science 3 (2002100)
- Social Science - US History & Career Planning (M/J 2100015)
- Math (Pre-Algebra, Algebra 1 Honors, Algebra 2 Honors, Geometry Honors)
- Comprehensive PE (M/J 1508070)

### **ELECTIVE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS:**

#### **Speech and Debate 1 (M/J 1007000)**

This is an introductory course to the art of speech and debate. This course's purpose is to develop student awareness, understanding, and application of language arts as it applies to oral communication concepts and strategies in a variety of given settings. In addition, students will have the necessary skills to critique, analyze and question speeches and debates delivered by others. The main goal of this course is to build confidence in public speaking and to practice oral presentation skills regularly. Students are encouraged to participate in at least two Speech and Debate District Competitions.

#### **Speech and Debate 2 (M/J 1007010) Prerequisite: Speech-Debate 1 (M/J 1007000)**

This course provides instruction and practice in the art of public speaking and debate. Students will have the freedom to choose speech or debate competition events throughout the

school year. Speech events will focus on building characters and making characters and pieces come to life in interpretive events. Debate events will focus on case-writing, rebuttals, cross-examination skills, analytical thinking, and political and moral philosophy. Rigor is also infused by students reading increasingly complex texts throughout this course. Students are encouraged to participate in at least two Speech and Debate District Competitions.

**Speech and Debate 3 (M/J 1007020)**

***Prerequisite: Speech-Debate 2 (M/J 1007010)***

This is an advanced course in speech and debate. This course is for serious competitors in our Speech and Debate District circuit which consists of about 6 competitions per year. These students will work on perfecting their competition events in either speech or debate and will have the opportunity to be leaders and mentors in their chosen event. Students are required to participate in at least two Speech and Debate District Competitions throughout the school year as part of their course grade.

**Journalism 1 (M/J 1006000)**

The purpose of this course is to enable students to develop fundamental skills in the production of journalism across print, multimedia, web design, photo essays, and more. Students will develop knowledge of ethics use, media literacy, management techniques related to the production of journalistic media, fundamentals of photography, photography techniques, and working cooperatively together to produce articles and other journalistic artifacts. Students will have the opportunity to help decide on the yearbook theme, design, and take photos to chronicle events throughout the school year to include in the yearbook.

**Journalism 2 (M/J 1006010)**

***Prerequisite for Journalism 2: Journalism 1 (M/J 1006000)***

**Journalism 3 (M/J 1006020)**

***Prerequisite for Journalism 3: Journalism 2 (M/J 1006010)***

The purpose of this course is to enable students to develop fundamental skills in the production of journalism across print, multimedia, web design, photo essays, and more. Students will develop knowledge of ethics use, media literacy, management techniques related to the production of journalistic media (including the yearbook), fundamentals of photography, photography techniques, and working cooperatively together to produce articles, the yearbook, and other journalistic artifacts. Students will have the opportunity to help decide on the yearbook theme, design, and take photos to chronicle events throughout the

school year to include in the yearbook. Students will use their understanding of journalistic writing to create captions, descriptions, and narratives to be used in the yearbook.

**Chorus 1, Chorus 2, or Chorus 3:**

**(M/J 1303000) (M/J 1303010) (M/J 1303020)**

***Prerequisite for Chorus 2: Chorus 1 (M/J 1303000),***

***Prerequisite for Chorus 3: Chorus 2 (M/J 1303010)***

Students will grow an appreciation for music through singing with classmates in unison and in harmony. Students with little or no choral experience will develop vocal techniques, critical and creative thinking skills, and knowledge of music theory. Students will begin to learn how to read sheet music. Public performances 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.

**Dance 1, Dance 2, or Dance 3 :**

**(M/J 0300000) (M/J 0300010) (M/J 0300020)**

***Prerequisite for Dance 2: Dance 1 (M/J 0300000),***

***Prerequisite for Dance 3: Dance 2 (M/J 0300010)***

Students will develop dance techniques while growing a love for dance movement. Students will learn different dance genres including Hip-hop, Jazz, Step, and Modern. Dancers will demonstrate performance etiquette, analytical and problem-solving skills, and dance terminology applied through movement. Students will also be able to create their own choreography! 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.

**Musical Theater 1, Musical Theater 2, or Musical Theater 3:**

**(M/J 0400200) (M/J 0400205) (M/J 0400210)**

***Prerequisite for Musical Theater 2: Musical Theater 1 (M/J 0400200),***

***Prerequisite for Musical Theater 3: Musical Theater 2 (M/J 0400205)***

Student coursework focuses on basic acting, basic vocal performance, basic dance/movement, staging/blocking, and Musical Theatre literature and terminology. Students will survey the current trends in Musical Theatre and explore the unique staging and technical demands of musicals in contrast to non-musical plays. Students will have opportunities to perform monologues, scenes, songs, ensemble numbers from musicals, and much more! Students will not only grow in their acting, singing, and dancing abilities, but they will gain confidence

while building a love for Musical Theatre. 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.

**SeaPerch 1:**

**Exploration of Communication Tech (8600030) & Exploration of Maritime Tech (8600092)**

**SeaPerch 2:**

**Exploration of Engineering Technology & Career Planning (8600062)**

*SeaPerch 2 Prerequisite: SeaPerch 1 (8600030 & 8600092)*

This is an introductory marine robotics competition-centered course designed to give students an overview of many aspects of engineering as applied to the marine industry. The emphasis of this course is to provide students with a fun, hands-on experience where they will work in small teams to design, build, and program their own marine vehicles including Remotely Operated Vehicles (ROVs), Autonomous Underwater Vehicles (AUVs), and Unmanned Surface Vessel (USVs). This course will develop and improve students' engineering skills, Computer Aided Design (CAD) and multimedia presentation capabilities. This class will require some off-campus trips to compete in tournaments and present opportunities for field trips to FAU Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute, Sea Perch, and other Marine Industry partners. Second year students will continue Research and Development of Marine Engineering projects for Science Fairs as well as SeaPerch and MATE.

**Electronics and Automation 1 (formerly Robotics):**

**Exploration of Robotics Technology (8600070) & Exploration of Electronics Tech (8600091)**

**Electronics and Automation 2:**

**Exploration of Technical Design Technology and Career Planning (8600082)**

*Prerequisite Electronics & Automation 2: Electronics & Automation 1 (8600070 & 8600091)*

This course will focus on Building Circuits, Arduino Programming, Developing Soft Robotics, Electrical Engineering, and Building Automation Systems to be used in the real world. Students will gain skills that will allow them to start with a brainstormed idea and end with an automated system that can be put to work! Students will be building foundational skills to develop high-tech manufacturing and Robotic Agriculture systems. In addition, this is an excellent opportunity for students who may be interested in conducting research with Robotics and Mechatronics for the Science Fair.

**Aerospace 1:**

**Exploring Aerospace Tech (8600050) & Exp Aerospace Tech & Career Planning (8600052)**

**Aerospace 2:**

**Exploration of Transportation Tech & Career Planning (8600242)**

***Aerospace 2 Prerequisite: Aerospace 1 (8600050 & 8600052)***

In this class, students will explore flight and aerospace careers. Students will gain experience flying and programming drones, building, and testing fixed wing aircraft simulators and solid fuel (Estes style) rocketry. This will also include operating aircraft in flight simulators and fully immersive VR environments. Aerospace is a broad field that not only includes pilots but also many supporting positions. Students will learn to be responsible for managing a team, creating marketing material, and presenting their technology. There will be opportunities for developing mechanical and software skills and Computer Aided Design (CAD) skills for laser cutting and 3D printing. This class will require some off-campus trips to launch rockets and present opportunities for field trips to flight schools such as NASA and other Space complexes. Second year students who have already taken Aerospace 1 (8600050 & 8600052) will work on flight simulators to learn how to fly a Cessna, hone their drone piloting skills, and compete in the Drones in Schools program while also applying their knowledge to science fair projects and other competitions.

**Science Fair Research 1 (M/J 1700000 Research 1)**

***Prerequisite for Science Fair 1: Teacher Recommendation,***

**Science Fair Research 2 (M/J 1700010 Research 2)**

***Prerequisite for Science Fair 2: Science Fair Research 1 (M/J 1700000)***

**Science Fair Research 3 (M/J 1700020 Research 3)**

***Prerequisite for Science Fair 3: Science Fair Research 2 (M/J 1700010)***

This research course provides a curricular framework for students to become proficient in researching modern topics, addressing global needs, and developing solutions for problems within our communities. Each student will learn research skills to further enhance their required science fair project. Various science competitions will also be included during the school year, along with field trips to FAU, aimed at enhancing students' interests and aiding in forming relations with mentors in their field of study.

**Digital Discoveries (9009600)**

This course is intended to help students develop their problem-solving skills and artistry while learning about technology and careers in the Computer Science & Technology Education career cluster. Students will use image-editing software, learn basic programming skills, and creatively apply their skills in technology-based digital arts.

**Green Energy and Architecture:**

**Exploration of Green Construction & Architecture (8600094) &  
Exploration of Power & Energy Technology (8600250)**

Clean water, clean air, a sustainable world! In Green Energy and Architecture students are challenged to think big and look toward the future as they explore sustainable solutions to our energy needs and investigate the impact of energy on our lives and the world. Students will design and model alternative energy sources and evaluate options for reducing energy consumption. Students will learn how to apply "green choices" to the fields of architecture and construction by exploring dimensioning, measuring, and architectural sustainability as they design affordable housing units.

**Medical Detectives:**

**Exploration of Health Science Professions & Career Planning (8400310 & 8400210)**

The purpose of this course is to give students initial exposure to the skills and attitudes associated with a broad range of occupations relating to careers in health, including job requirements and tasks performed, to assist students in making informed decisions regarding their future academic and occupational goals. Instruction and learning activities are provided in a laboratory setting using hands-on experiences with the equipment, materials, and technology appropriate to the course content and in accordance with current practices.

**Engaging Citizenship through Service Learning 1 & 2 (M/J 2104010 & M/J 2104020)**

This course introduces service learning and civic responsibility. Academic, personal, and career skills needed for effective service-learning project implementation will be taught and applied through structured service projects that meet real school and/or community needs. Students will actively participate in meaningful service-learning experiences of at least 20 hours duration. In addition, students will focus on global citizenship, discuss global needs, and work on projects to help address these needs worldwide. Students will also have opportunities to take field trips and engage in community service initiatives.

### **Law Studies (M/J 2106030)**

This elective will examine the principles, functions, and organization of the American legal system, focusing on court procedures and law processes. Students will examine the American legal system through identifying the origin of law, fundamental civil and criminal justice procedures, and different careers in the American legal system. Students in this elective will also apply their knowledge by creating competitive mock trial teams.

### **Art Around the World:**

#### **Intro to Art History (M/J 0100060) & Art in World Culture (M/J 0100070)**

Art Around the World offers an engaging and interactive overview of humanity across the globe through an exploration into various world cultures and societies. Students take a hands-on approach to exploring, researching, and analyzing works of art across time and cultures. It is designed to instruct students about the rich cultural history of people across time and space. Through interactive activities focused on integrating art, various techniques, art history, and different cultural aspects into learning about multiple global cultures. The projects will focus on different cultures and present an opportunity to learn about other environments. The course maintains a project-based learning model, requiring students to work alongside and assist their peers to engage with the vast content. The course incorporates hands-on activities, research, and consumption of art materials.

### **Introduction to Equine Studies (8004210)**

In this course, students will be introduced to the world of horses, including horse breeds, equestrian disciplines, basic tack and equipment and horse care and management. Topics such as basic horse anatomy, feeding, grooming, and healthcare will be covered. Through hands-on activities and visual aids, students will gain an understanding of how horses move, eat, and interact with their environment. Students will also be exposed to a series of guest presenters, including blacksmiths, equine dentists, and veterinarians.

Introduction to Equine Studies aims to ignite curiosity and inspire a curiosity for horses in middle school students, laying the groundwork for further exploration in the field of equine studies or related disciplines.

### **Individual/Dual Sports (M/J 1508050)**

Students will develop their skill competencies, participate in Individual/Dual sports and work towards achievement of personal fitness levels. An emphasis is placed on the factors that influence health and wellness, particularly individual behaviors. Students participate in self-



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assessments that provide information about their health and wellness behaviors and their overall health status. Students must meet or exceed the standards of a Fitness Test (complete a mile in ten minutes) and it is recommended that they are physically active outside of school.



## ENTERING GRADE 8

### Instructions for Selecting and Ranking 2024-2025 Elective Choices

- Select six (6) choices.
- Students will receive three (3) electives.
- Number your top three (3) choices with a number one (1)
- Number your three (3) remaining choices in sequential order of preference, numbering them two, three, and four (2, 3, and 4)
- Your six choices should be numbered as such: 1, 1, 1, 2, 3, 4
- The scheduling system will attempt to place your three number 1 choices first, and then numbers 2, 3, or 4 as alternate choices.

ELECTIVE COURSES MAY NOT BE REPEATED. DO NOT SELECT A COURSE YOU HAVE ALREADY TAKEN. Some courses do not have a follow up course and may not be repeated. Others may have a prerequisite. Refer to the prerequisite course requirements when available to assist you in selecting the correct course.

Please be mindful when selecting courses, there will be no schedule changes during the first week of school. Schedule changes will need parental and administrative approval and will require a valid reason.

Signed forms are **DUE FRIDAY, APRIL 19, 2024**

**Students can return the signed forms to their history teacher, Ms. Justin or Ms. Pillitteri.**



**2024-2025 ELECTIVE REQUESTS – ENTERING GRADE 8**  
(Choose 6 electives, numbering them 1,1,1,2,3,4. Do not choose previously taken courses.)

STUDENT'S NAME (FIRST and LAST): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Speech and Debate 1 (M/J 1007000)

\_\_\_\_\_ Speech and Debate 2 (M/J 1007010) Prerequisite: Speech-Debate 1 (1007000)

\_\_\_\_\_ Speech and Debate 3 (M/J 1007020) Prerequisite: Speech-Debate 1 & 2 (1007000, 1007010)

\_\_\_\_\_ Journalism 1 (M/J 1006000)

\_\_\_\_\_ Journalism 2 (M/J 1006010) Prerequisite: Journalism 1 (M/J 1006000)

\_\_\_\_\_ Journalism 3 (M/J 1006020) Prerequisite: Journalism 2 (M/J 1006010)

\_\_\_\_\_ Chorus 1 (M/J 1303000)

\_\_\_\_\_ Chorus 2 (M/J 1303010) Prerequisite: Chorus 1 (1303000)

\_\_\_\_\_ Chorus 3 (M/J 1303020) Prerequisite: Chorus 1 & 2 (1303000, 1303010)

\_\_\_\_\_ Dance 1 (M/J 0300000)

\_\_\_\_\_ Dance 2 (M/J 0300010) Prerequisite: Dance 1 (0300000)

\_\_\_\_\_ Dance 3 (M/J 0300020) Prerequisite: Dance 1 & 2 (0300000, 0300010)

\_\_\_\_\_ Musical Theater 1 (M/J 0400200)

\_\_\_\_\_ Musical Theater 2 (M/J 0400205) Prerequisite: Musical Theater 1 (0400200)

\_\_\_\_\_ Musical Theater 3 (M/J 0400210) Prerequisite: Musical Theater 1 & 2 (0400200, 0400205)

\_\_\_\_\_ SeaPerch 1 : Exploring Communications Technologies (8600030) & Ex Maritime Technology (8600092)

\_\_\_\_\_ SeaPerch 2: Exploration of Engineering Tech & Career Planning (8600062)

Prerequisites: SeaPerch 2 (8600030 & 8600092)

\_\_\_\_\_ Electronics & Automation 1: Exploration of Robotics Technology (8600070) & Exploration of Electronics Technology (8600091)

\_\_\_\_\_ Electronics & Automation 2: Exploration of Technical Design Tech & Career Planning (8600082)

Prerequisite: Electronics & Automation 1 (8600070 & 8600091)



- \_\_\_\_\_ Aerospace 1: Exploring Aerospace Technologies (8600050) & Exploring Aerospace Technology & Career Plan (8600052)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Aerospace 2: Exploration of Transportation Tech & Career Planning (8600242) *Prerequisite: Aerospace 1 (8600050 & 8600052)*
- \_\_\_\_\_ Science Fair Research 1 (M/J 1700000 Research 1) *Prerequisites: Teacher Recommendation*
- \_\_\_\_\_ Science Fair Research 2 (M/J 1700010 Research 2) *Prerequisite: Science Fair Research 1 (M/J 1700000)*
- \_\_\_\_\_ Science Fair Research 3 (M/J 1700020 Research 3) *Prerequisite: Science Fair Research 2 (M/J 1700010)*
- \_\_\_\_\_ Digital Discoveries (9009600)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Green Energy & Architecture (8600094 & 8600250)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Medical Detectives: Exploration of Health Science Professions & Career Plan (8400310 & 8400210)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Engaging Citizenship through Service Learning 1 & 2 (M/J 2104010 & M/J 2104020)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Law Studies (M/J 2106030)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Art Around the World (M/J 0100060 & M/J 0100070)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Intro to Equestrian Studies (8004210)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Individual / Dual Sports Grade 8 (M/J 1508050)

**Parents:** *My signature shows that I have discussed the above choices with my child and approve the selections.*

**Student Name :** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Name (please print) :** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Signature :** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Email :** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Phone# :** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date :** \_\_\_\_\_