GREAT NECK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Dear Parents/Guardians:

We are preparing to program your child as an eighth grade student at North Middle School. You can read about our eighth grade program by visiting the North Middle School Counseling Center website at:

[**http://nmsguidance.weebly.com/course-info--registration.html**](http://nmsguidance.weebly.com/course-info--registration.html).

We invite you to review the eighth grade program with your child. It is our hope that the eighth grade curriculum will develop enthusiasm for areas that may be pursued in more depth at North High and beyond.

If your child is presently enrolled in Band, Orchestra or Chorus, he/she will continue with this class in eighth grade. **If you wish to change or drop your child’s music class for next year, please contact your child’s counselor, Ms. Tracey Segal, at 441-4521 by March 17, 2017.**

Eighth grade students may have room in their schedule for additional elective classes: Exploring Home and Career Skills, Exploring Multimedia, Introduction to Film and Video, Law and Justice/Economics, Science Research, 3D Experience, Studio Art, and Drama. Descriptions of these courses can be found below and on the above mentioned website. Keep in mind that the number of additional courses a student can take is dependent upon individual program needs. Some eighth grade students will have room for one elective in their schedule, some will have room for two, and others will not have room for any.

During social studies classes on March 7 - March 9, we will be giving students a registration worksheet that asks them to rank these courses according to their interest so that we can program them where applicable. Children who are absent should pick up this worksheet from their social studies teacher or counselor upon return to school or print one from the above mentioned website. **The worksheet should be returned to your child’s social studies teacher, with your signature indicating approval, by March 17, 2017**. P**riority will be given to those students who have replied promptly.**

We encourage you to help your child make his/her choices carefully. Once classes begin, schedule changes may not be accommodated.

Feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

Warmest Regards,



Gerald Cozine

Principal

**NMS ELECTIVE COURSES\***

**Exploring Home and Career Skills**: This course consists of three units: sewing, culinary skills, and entrepreneurship. The sewing unit will teach intermediate machine sewing skills and will culminate in the production of two projects, one of which will be a community service project.  During the culinary unit, students prepare several recipes and learn how to prepare nutritious foods. While working through the entrepreneurship unit, students are thrown into the North Middle School “Shark Tank” as aspiring entrepreneurs who pitch their food based business idea to a panel of potential investors in hopes that someone on the panel likes their business enough to bite! Do you have what it takes to start a business? ​​

**Exploring Multimedia**: This course is designed to broaden students’ knowledge of different forms of media and intensify the skills they acquire throughout their experiences in North Middle School computer classes. This course is project-based and driven by students’ skill-set and interest. Projects may include creation of music videos, animated videos, original soundtracks, calendars, and advanced photo editing. Some programs used are Adobe Photoshop, Go!Animate, Garageband, iMovie, and FinalCut Express.

**3D Experience:** As the title suggests, this course aims to explore a variety of three-dimensional art media. This may include clay, paper mache, and other materials that lend themselves to creating three-dimensional artworks. This course is project driven, meaning that students will learn by doing and creating. Students will create a good number of three-dimensional projects utilizing a variety of materials.

**Introduction to Film and Video**: Using the latest green screen technology and video equipment, this class will introduce students to the concepts and skills required to produce high quality professional media content. Students will gain hands-on experience working with a multiple camera setup in a real studio and an attached control room. The focus will be on critical thinking, communication, collaboration and creativity. Students will have an understanding of all the key roles involved in producing a variety of live productions from conception to production, including: talk shows, variety shows, commercials, TV news, and game shows. Students will utilize NewTek hardware and software to take advantage of virtual sets and backgrounds.

**Law and Justice/Economics**: During this class, students will explore social science topics related to Law and Justice as well as Economics. Students will learn about the workings of the legal system in the United States, the rights and freedoms guaranteed to us under the law, and the actions and consequences set in motion when laws are violated. Landmark court decisions from the past and cases in the news will be researched, discussed, and debated. For the Economics portion, students will investigate where money comes from and where it goes. They will learn about investing in the Stock Market by participating in *Investopedia,* an on-line game. They will also research companies and create a business plan.

**Science Research**: This course includes the development and implementation of scientific research procedures and instruction in the use of selected laboratory equipment and other essential technology.  Students will participate in various science competitions and contests, such as the Long Island Science Congress and Science Olympiads.  While this course is NOT a prerequisite for the North High School Research Program, it is a fine preparation for this form of scientific exploration.

**Studio Art**: This course is designed to expose students to a variety of materials and subject matter in art. It expands upon key concepts addressed in Art 6 and Art 7 as well as introduces new ones keeping in alignment with the New York State Learning Standards for Visual Art and student interests.

**Drama**: Welcome to Drama, a class where you can discover talents you may not have realized you have!

This course is designed to allow the student to develop performance and production skills. We will also delve into the history of theater and view productions of varying styles. All aspects of theater such as acting, directing, playwriting, scenery design, costumes, lighting and make-up will be explored in order to instill a deeper appreciation of the art of the theater and its relevance to our society today. ​

***\*It should be understood that the availability of all courses is subject to recommendation by the administration of the school district and to final action and authorization by the Board of Education as the Board develops its school budget for next year, now in preparation.***

Revised 3/2017