**GREAT NECK PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

 **RICHARD S. SHERMAN – GREAT NECK NORTH MIDDLE SCHOOL**

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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 going to the NMS 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 it 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 15, 2017.**

Eighth grade students may have room in their schedule for additional exploratory classes: Exploring Home and Career Skills, Exploring Multimedia, Intro to Film and Video, Law and Justice/Economics, Music Appreciation, Public Speaking/Creative Writing, Science Research and Studio Art. 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 graders will have room for one course in their schedule, some will have room for two and others will not have room for any.

During social studies classes on March 6 and March 8, Ms. Segal will be giving students a registration worksheet that asks them to rank these classes 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, on March 15, 2017 when they will be collected**. 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

**EXPLORATORY CLASSES\***

***\*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.***

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.

Intro 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.

 Music Appreciation: Students will discover and explore introductory concepts used in music sequencing, notation and recording. No prior musical experience is needed, however, having training on an instrument or voice is helpful. Students will create music using GarageBand and drum machines software. Those interested in the current methods of music creation and production should consider taking this course. Projects will include creating music for movie soundtracks, creating ringtones, music for commercials, dance music and sound fx soundboards for the musical and one act productions.

 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.

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