

**Notre Dame Middle School**  
**2022 – 2023 Middle School Electives**

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**Middle School elective offerings and their descriptions are listed here.**

Each 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade student will have an elective that meets every day, Monday through Friday, for one quarter. Students will have the opportunity to select three (3) electives and two (2) alternate electives on their course selection form.

An electives block schedule could look like this (note this is just a sample):

	<b>Electives Block</b> Monday through Friday
1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter	PE/Health (required)
2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter	Sports Fever
3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter	Study Hall
4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter	Travel the World

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**Advanced Spanish** – Señora Gastelum-Navez  
This elective is for 8<sup>th</sup> graders only and who are ready for more challenging Spanish lessons and to prepare for High School level language classes. Students will have the opportunity to learn what is in the Spanish 1 curriculum, projects, videos and conversation practice. Students will learn diverse vocabulary and improve their ability to communicate effectively!

**Amazing Animals** – Mrs. Schermer  
Calling all animal lovers! Explore the diversity within the millions of animal species that live on Earth! Students will discover characteristics of various animal groups such as mollusks, sponges, arthropods, amphibians, birds, mammals, and more. Habitats, adaptations, and animal behaviors will be studied. Students will take on the role of zoologists as they become experts in classifying

these fascinating animals. Students will need a 3 prong folder with pockets.

**Book Club** – Mr. Cavolo  
Students will pick one book at a time to read as an entire class. Throughout the quarter as students read the book they will have many discussions in small groups about the things they are enjoying about the book, predictions of what will happen next and characters they are able to relate to. At the end of each book students will reflect on the author’s purpose, look at if their predictions were right or not and discuss lessons learned. The number of books read will depend on the lengths of the books we choose.

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**Language and Cultural Studies** – Señora Khula

In this course, students will have the opportunity to develop and enhance their practical communication skills and cross-cultural understanding through a number of activities designed to be both meaningful and fun. This begins with an introduction that focuses on integrating language, culture and traditions around the world to help students gain an international perspective for the modern global society. The course will place particular emphasis on comprehension, appreciation and interpretation of the cultures and traditions of the Spanish-speaking world.

**Library** – Mrs. Davis

This elective is for students who would like to learn the day-to-day operations of running the school library. Participants will take the initiative to run monthly themes and book displays, become proficient in locating materials, and daily reshelve and organizing books. In addition, students should be comfortable reading to NDES students and helping them find books.

**Sports Fever** – Mrs. Stefanek

Rev up your Sports Reading! Crazy about sports? Increase your reading and vocabulary skills by reading about all varieties of sports. Magazines, newspapers, blogs, and other sports media will be used to help students write descriptions, action stories, sports facts, and rules of the game. Students will also spend time journaling. Students will need a 3-prong folder and a 1-subject college ruled spiral notebook.

**Talking to God** – Sr. Ellen

Did you know that praying is as easy as talking to God? In this elective we will experience all different kinds of prayer – prayers Jesus prayed, praying with music (maybe even dance!), praying with art, praying by walking in nature. We will explore the parts of the Sisters' chapel that you never get to see! We will plan and lead our own prayer services and have a chance to plan a Mass. We can learn how to meditate and even write our own prayers. Students will need a three-prong folder and will finish with their own personal booklet of prayers.

**Travel the World** – Miss Thompson

Have a thirst for adventure? Explore the social, political, economic, cultural and religious experiences of people from around the world by taking a dive into the 7 continents that create our world. By exploring art, architecture, food and tourist destinations, you will gain knowledge of the world and explore opportunities that lay outside our classroom walls. "The world is a book, and those who do not travel read only a page" -Saint Augustine. Students will need a 1/2 inch 3 ring binder.

**Study Hall****Visual Arts Exploration** – Mrs. Gilbert

Students will discuss a variety of artists and art styles. While exploring these artists, students will create pieces using a multitude of media, such as colored pencil and watercolor. This art elective will go in depth with each project and give students time to explore various art methods.