

NDMS Electives - 2026-2027

Art Fundamentals (Offered all 4 Quarters)

Students will be discussing a variety of artists and art styles. While exploring these artists, students will create pieces using a multitude of mediums from colored pencils to watercolor. The art elective will go in depth with each project and give students time to explore various art methods.

Book Club – (Offered 1st and 3rd Quarters)

Students will be introduced to the genre of mystery by reading *And Then There Were None* by Agatha Christie. We will discuss Christie's use of red herrings, which make these stories difficult to predict, and together look for clues to solving these popular mysteries. As a group we will make informed predictions and revise these as we read this novel together.

Exploring Hispanic Culture 1 (EHC 1) (Offered 1st Quarter)

With a focus on the Spanish-speaking world, students will draw country comparisons to develop greater understanding and appreciation of the Hispanic culture through explorations of traditions, cuisine, music, etc. Focusing on these interactions, this elective will expand students' vocabulary with practical words and useful phrases. Students will participate in weekly "Fun Viernes" that encourages the development of speaking skills via fun activities. A highlight of the course will be a field trip to a family-owned Mexican restaurant where students get to experience the flavors of Mexican cuisine.

Exploring Hispanic Culture 2 (EHC 2) (Offered 2nd Quarter)

Prerequisite: EHC 1 (Exploring Hispanic Culture 1) with a grade of C or better.

This course expands upon the fundamental concepts developed in EHC1, focusing on expanded interactions that will further increase students' vocabulary and cultural appreciation, including additional practical words and useful phrases. This course will also include the weekly "Fun Viernes", and a field trip to a family-owned Mexican restaurant.

Fitness Walking (Offered 1st and 4th Quarters)

This course is suitable for all fitness levels. Emphasis is on consistency, personal goals setting, and the importance of physical activity in your daily routine. We will walk outdoors as much as possible on our beautiful campus. When weather does not cooperate, we will walk indoors.

French (Offered all 4 Quarters)

The French elective is focused around exposing students to not only communication in French, but the culture and geography of the Francophone world. The class will build a foundation for continuing French in high school and allows for students to advance further in the French language. Having experience with another world language prepares students even more for college, giving them an edge in any career, but especially in diplomacy, business, and tourism, and improves memory and problem-solving skills. This elective will focus on building communication skills, working together, and having fun while doing it with engaging activities. We will explore the cultural differences of everyday life in France & the Francophone world, holidays, monuments, foods, music and much more!

HOW TO.... (Offered 1st , 3rd and 4th Quarters)

Spend nine weeks learning HOW TO master several life skills. We will learn HOW TO read a recipe and HOW TO adjust the serving sizes and shop for ingredients. We will learn HOW TO read labels, bus schedules and maps. We will learn HOW TO wrap a present, sew a button and tie a tie. The list is endless of what you will learn HOW TO do. You too will come up with things you want to learn HOW TO do. At the end of the quarter, you will teach the class HOW TO do something new.

HER-story: The life and legacy of America's First Ladies (Offered 2nd Quarter)

We know and hear about the U.S. President's all the time, but who are their beloved ladies and what is their role as First Lady? Did you know it was a First Lady who got some U.S. zoo's to have panda bears? Or that the Cherry Blossom in Washington D.C. are here because of a First Lady? There is so much to discover about these remarkable ladies! Come take a dive and learn about HER-story instead of history.

Journey with Jesus (Offered 3rd Quarter)

Students will study the Old Testament and New Testament closer to see how Jesus is the fulfillment of the prophecies of the Messiah from the Old Testament. Additionally, students will take a closer look at some of the letters to the early church and also have the opportunity to prepare a presentation on a saint of their choosing. Throughout the quarter students will have time to journal, they will prepare skits and will perform service around the campus.

Journey to NEOSEF (7th or 8th graders) (Offered 1st and 2nd Quarters)

Calling all students who love designing and performing experiments! This class will offer guidance, support, and constructive feedback on creating a science fair experiment. Students will write a measurable and testable hypothesis, identify variables, write a detailed procedure, generate graphs, and analyze results effectively (experiments will be conducted outside of school). Students will participate in the NDMS Science Fair with the opportunity to advance to the Northeastern Ohio Science and Engineering Fair (NEOSEF) to earn numerous awards and recognition. In past years, more than \$50,000 in prizes have been awarded from companies, societies, and organizations. Competing at NEOSEF gives students the opportunity to deepen their scientific knowledge, strengthen communication skills, and develop problem-solving skills.

Library and Tech Aide (Offered all 4 Quarters)

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 organize books. In addition, students should be comfortable reading to NDES students and helping them find books.

Lifestyle Fitness Class (Offered 2nd and 3rd Quarters)

Students will learn the importance of a healthy lifestyle. This course will focus on the importance of fitness as well as healthy eating and mental health. We will go over cardiovascular fitness, muscular strength, flexibility, nutrition, building healthy habits and personal fitness planning.

Logic, Reasoning and Puzzle Solving (Offered 2nd and 4th Quarters)

Students will have the opportunity to work on their fluid memory in variety of different ways. Throughout the quarter students will complete logic puzzles, Word Jumbles, Sudoku puzzles, solve riddles, play chess and work on puzzles. Students will also work on math word problems and get some extra work on the 5-D process they learn in math class.

Orchestra for 7th and 8th graders (Offered all 4 Quarters)

In this class, string players can perform Rock, Pop, Classical, Celtic, Folk, Fiddle music, and more. Orchestra is now available all year for grades 7 and 8 for violin, viola, cello, and bass (upright bass not electric bass guitar). All skill levels are encouraged to register. Piano players who have played or taken lessons for at least a year are encouraged to join also. This class is not set up for beginning piano players. Middle school musicians are encouraged to register for orchestra all year. We are planning on performing off-campus events.

Spanish and Go 1! (Offered 3rd Quarter)

This elective is designed to inspire students to learn Spanish and virtually 'travel the world' as they learn about the culture, flavors and beauty of each country where Spanish is spoken. Whether on vacation, in restaurants, on social media, or otherwise, the course's goal is to help students navigate in a practical way the numerous peoples and nations that use one of the most spoken languages in the world. Students will participate in weekly "Fun Viernes" that encourages the development of speaking skills via fun activities. A highlight of the course will be a field trip to a family-owned Mexican restaurant where students get to experience the flavors of the Mexican cuisine.

Spanish and Go 2! (Offered 4th Quarter)

Prerequisite: SAG 1 (Spanish and Go! 1) with a grade of C or better.

This course expands upon the fundamental concepts developed in SAG 1, focusing on helping students to further navigate in environments where they encounter the spoken Spanish language. This course will also include the weekly "Fun Viernes", and a field trip to a family-owned Mexican restaurant.

The Art of Cursive Writing (Offered 2nd Quarter)

This cursive writing class will introduce a form of penmanship where letters are connected in a flowing, slanted manner, aimed at improving writing speed, fine motor skills, and reading comprehension of historical documents. This class is for individuals looking to improve their handwriting, focusing on transitioning from printing to joined-up script. Students will master the formation of lowercase and uppercase cursive letters, connections, and spacing, ultimately improving legibility and writing speed, while creating a continuous flow with their compositions.

The Art of Math (Offered 1st and 4th Quarters)

Math is present in so much art. In Art of Math elective, students will explore the many ways that math appears in art. Then students will create various artwork using math skills such as geometry, proportions, patterns, sequences, and basic computations. Supplies needed are scissors, glue stick, colored pencils, and markers. All other supplies will be provided. (maximum of 18 please)

Travel the World (Offered 1st and 4th Quarters)

Travel the World will focus on exploring the 7 continents that make up Earth. We will research environmental, religious, and cultural factors, while also planning your dream European vacation. Learning about the wider world helps us to see that the world, although big, encompasses people just like you and I - people with hopes and dreams. Do you have the travel bug yet? Yes?! Okay, let's get on our way!

Vocabulary Builder (50 words — set 1) (Offered 1st Quarter)

Vocabulary knowledge plays a huge role in academic success for middle school students. We will work with Greek and Latin roots, academic vocabulary in textbooks, and words middle schoolers should know before they enter high school. We will focus on vocabulary building strategies through worksheets, puzzles, games, competitions, and much more. Students need a three-prong folder with pockets.

Vocabulary Builder (50 words — set 2) (Offered 2nd Quarter)

Vocabulary knowledge plays a huge role in academic success for middle school students. We will work with Greek and Latin roots, academic vocabulary in textbooks, and words middle schoolers should know before they enter high school. We will focus on vocabulary building strategies through worksheets, puzzles, games, competitions, and much more. Students need a three-prong folder with pockets.

Young Entrepreneur Pitch Challenge (Offered 3rd Quarter)

Crafting business ideas is an engaging elective designed to empower students with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to develop compelling pitches for innovative business ventures. In this course, students will embark on a journey of entrepreneurship, exploring the process of generating, refining, and presenting business ideas to potential investors, customers, and stakeholders. Through hands-on activities, collaborative projects, and real-world case studies, students will learn the art and science of crafting persuasive pitches that capture attention, inspire action, and drive success in the competitive marketplace.

7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens & Building Leaders (Offered 3rd Quarter)

7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens & Building Leaders is an engaging elective designed to help students grow in confidence, character, and leadership. Using real-life scenarios and interactive activities, students will learn how to build strong friendships, improve self-image, and resist peer pressure with courage and integrity. The course also focuses on setting meaningful goals, managing time effectively, and strengthening communication skills at home and school. By the end of the class, students will develop practical habits that empower them to become responsible, respectful, and self-driven leaders. Students need a three-prong folder with pockets. (Maximum of 15)

Updated: 07/16/2026