

**Little Falls Township Public Schools**

**Middle School  
Electives  
2021-2022**



## Grades 5-8

### Elective Courses

Behold the School No. 1 elective course offerings for the 21-22 school year! The following courses will vary by grade level. Here are a few things to know before narrowing down your elective decision...

1. Electives will run as **HALF YEAR** courses. Only SOME courses will remain as full year due to the nature of their content. Full year courses have been labeled for you. All other courses will take place either marking periods 1 & 2 or 3 & 4.
2. 7th and 8th graders will have 2 periods of electives that rotate on A and B days.
3. 5th and 6th grade will have 1 period of electives that rotate on A and B days. These grade levels have less electives because cycle courses (Music, Art, World Language, etc.) is added to their schedules.
4. If students qualify for BSI, ELA Lab, or Math Lab, these courses will replace an elective. Parents will be notified if their child is in need of one of these courses.

**IMPORTANT:** It is important to know that students are not guaranteed their choice elective. The courses and the time they are offered are based off of staff schedules and capacity of the class itself.

# **Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics**

## **Intro to Architecture & Home Design (6, 7, & 8) NEW!!!**

New to architecture? In this course you will discover great buildings, structures, and designs to see how architecture has changed throughout history. You will explore how to plan and create your own building designs and create aesthetically pleasing home interiors.

## **Sports Math and Analytics (7 & 8)**

Venture into the world of analyzing sports data! In this course you will learn to use some mathematical tools that can help predict and analyze sporting performances and outcomes. This course covers all the major sports and even includes a collection of graphics displaying various sports data. This is a great course for anyone interested in quantitative aspects of athletics!

## **Scratch 3.0 (5 & 6)**

Use the Scratch block programming language to program your own interactive stories, create games, and make animations. Scratch is an introductory level coding experience for students with numerous areas to explore and experiment. Scratch combines the world of technology with the world of creativity.

## **Coding/Computer Programming (7 & 8)**

Students will be exploring computer programming and learning programming principles. Students will be applying principles of coding to create games and designs using the 5-step design process.

## **STEAM (7 & 8)**

Teamwork and virtual learning in which real-world problems and challenges will be explored. We will find Solutions while using Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. Get ready to imagine, plan, and create.

## **Personal Finance & Entrepreneurship (7 & 8) *FULL YEAR***

Would you like to learn how to be money smart? Managing money is an essential part of our everyday lives! This course will review the financial principles you need to enter adulthood prepared to make good financial decisions. This course is also inclusive of the TREP\$ program, a project-based learning program that teaches kids how to start their own businesses!

## **Social Studies**

### **Film Study (7 & 8)**

Are you a visual learner? The goal of this class is to gain knowledge of classic and historic events through movies you may have seen or heard about. Film study will explore the nature of the motion picture, the actors, and directors who have made significant effects on America both past and present. All movies viewed will be age-appropriate and will focus on significant cultural and historic events that have shaped our society.

### **Current Topics and History (6, 7, & 8)**

This course introduces students to current topics that impact citizens living around the world. Students will be expected to seek out and analyze newsworthy events and explain how the event impacts them either directly or indirectly. The focus will be on reading and writing, as well as gaining the necessary public speaking skills to share opinion and research orally. At the end, students will have a sound knowledge of important current events and the confidence to change their surroundings as an active World citizen.

### **Rap, Rock, and Music Culture (7 & 8) *FULL YEAR***

This class will analyze the world of sports by blending history and mathematics with a new twist. The class will also venture into the evolution of Rap and Rock and how music has had an impact on various social aspects such as fashion, race, culture, and sports.

## World Language

### **Mango! Independent Language Exploration (5 & 6, 7 & 8)**

Welcome one of our newest additions to the elective choices - MANGO! Mango is a virtual world language exploration course. Students may choose from dozens of languages and will explore/expand their listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills in whichever language they choose! This online program is very interactive with personalized computer guidance to help students have fun and learn a new language.

### **High School Fast Track World Language Course (7 & 8)**

#### ***TWO FULL YEARS***

Through Mango! (online independent World Language program), students can take year 1 of any language with the opportunity to take an assessment at their future high school for advanced placement in the language your preferred high school offers. (Parents must contact the attending high school to ensure which language their child should take.) Therefore, this course will be an accelerated two-year course taken in grade 7 and 8. Taking and passing this course will allow the opportunity for students to be placed into advanced year 2 of the selected language in high school. (This is pending passing an entrance exam at the attending high school.) Taking a language (year 2) as a freshman will allow students to take an AP language course for which state will earn college-level credits while still in high school.

## Communications

### **Book Club (5 & 6, 7 & 8)**

Do you love to read books? Do you love to finish a great book and discuss that book with friends? If so, this is the elective for you! In the book club elective, you will read amazing books and talk about those books with your classmates. As a School No. 1 Book Club, we will learn more about the authors, find common themes in the books we read, and stage our own battles. In this elective, you will also gain knowledge and enjoyment from Reading good books and sharing them with friends!

### **Public Speaking (7 & 8)**

Do you ever get nervous when it's time to share your work or ideas in front of the class? Do you want to work on building your confidence when it's your time to shine? If so, public speaking is for you! This elective will give you the skills and confidence to stand up in front of your classmates and an audience to share your ideas, projects, speeches and everything

in between! We will use games, icebreakers, team-building activities and more to help say goodbye to any jitters before having to speak in front of a large group, or even a small group! We will also take a look at how public speaking can help you in the future.

### **Creative Writing (5 & 6, 7 & 8)**

If you have a wild imagination and love to make up stories then this is the class for you! In creative writing we will be exploring different genres of writing, through both reading and writing, as well as the other necessary elements needed to improve writing and composition skills.

Writing Genres Covered:

(5 & 6) Journal Writing, Memoir, Poetry, Mystery Stories, and Fairy Tales

(7 & 8) Poetry, Music, Memoir Writing Worldwide Mythology, and Short Fiction

### **Reader's Theater (5 & 6) NEW!**

Are you outgoing and like to have attention on you? Do you wish you could tell a good joke, read a poem with style, become a great storyteller, and wow others with creative use of your voice? Then this is the elective for you! We will practice these skills and more while learning about worldwide cultures and historical events. Bring your best and loudest voice- it will be fun and funny!

### **Journalism & Media Literacy (5, 6, 7, & 8) FULL YEAR**

Journalism is a course designed for students interested in newspaper journalism and developing their skills as a writer. The course explores the contemporary media and the ethical responsibility issues inherent in the press today. Students will learn the fundamentals of news, feature, editorial and sports writing. Copy reading, news style and editing will be stressed. Students will create numerous original stories using varied structures and writing techniques. Students will also learn to create computer generated layouts and graphics in preparing for publication of the School No.1 Student Newspaper.

### **Yearbook (Grade 8 Only) FULL YEAR**

Welcome to our new Yearbook course! Students will become historians, journalists, and artists putting together a photojournalistic book that will be on shelves for many, many years to come! There never was a better time to help create memories for all to see!

# Visual & Performing Arts

## **Art Exploration (6 Only) *FULL YEAR***

In this course you will be exposed to an array of experiences within the fine arts. We will explore the principles and elements of design, digital art, cultural art, and art history through different art and research projects. This course will help to empower you to make your own creative choices and to express feelings and ideas through different visual mediums.

## **Studio Art (7 & 8) *FULL YEAR***

Students will explore numerous projects intended to enhance their visual expression through a wide range of materials, media, and dimensional formats. A variety of technical and conceptual approaches are introduced and practiced throughout the semester. Students will begin by enhancing observational skills through the exploration of subjects such as still life, perspective and form as well as through the creation of original pieces. Students are expected to develop an expressive style and explore their own creativity. The goal is to challenge, strengthen, and nurture the artist within.

## **Photography (7 & 8)**

In our world we see photographs every day on television, on the Internet, and in magazines and newspapers. These photographs help to inform us about what is occurring in our world. In this course we will ask important questions about image making and its effect on society. What makes a great photograph? How did the artist capture a story? What makes a great picture? What are careers in photography? You will learn and apply fundamental skills to use a cell phone camera and take photographs of animals, people, and landscapes. You will gain an understanding of how photography can be a means of documentation, advertisement or high art. We will examine photographic careers and explore self-reflection to progress your creative growth as you develop a photographic portfolio. (This course requires you to have a working cell phone camera as we cannot share our classroom cameras this year).

## **Acting and Improv (5 & 6) *NEW!***

Have you ever been told to stop being so dramatic? Maybe you would like to step up the drama a bit! If so, then this class is for you. We will work on confidence, voice, body language, emotion, & monologues all through fun skits, drama games, activities, & improv tasks! Come to this class ready to work together and support one another and please bring the drama!

## **Songwriting & Musical Composition (7 & 8)**

Learn to write songs and compose music in any style! This course will incorporate technology and music theory to assist you with putting together music on your own. Create compositions featuring all of your favorite instruments and write songs in the style of your favorite artists!

## **Instrumental Music (5, 6, 7, & 8)**

The primary focus is on the development, continuation, and expansion of basic skills begun the previous years that are necessary for effective instrumental music performance. In addition to large group ensembles, individual growth and achievement are encouraged. Topics/skills covered include: tone development, counting, timing, and rhythmic development, reading and notation skills, including sight reading, introduction of scales, simple music theory, development of an extensive vocabulary of musical terms and symbols, ear training, and listening skills, equipment care and maintenance, and effective practice habits. This course requires evening/virtual performances

## **Chorus (5, 6, 7, & 8)**

This is a premier Middle School choir for students who are interested in vocal music performances. It is also an outlet for students who enjoy singing for their own pleasure. The following musical skills will be stressed: proper breathing, pleasant vocal production, blend and balance, expansion of range, good intonation, ear training, and sight-reading. Different styles of music will be explored. Participation in various performances is a requirement of the class.

# Health and Physical Education

## Yoga and Mindfulness (6, 7, & 8)

This course will encourage children to improve their strength, balance attention and coordination through fun yoga games, challenging yoga sequences as well as partner and group poses. They will learn healthy stress coping mechanisms and work on building self-esteem in a non-competitive environment.

## BE Fit! (5 & 7 Only) NEW!

Who says staying fit needs lots of fancy equipment? Not us! The Be Fit course will introduce students to a large variety of exercises and activities that can be done at school or at home to help create a workout plan that targets your fitness goals. This course will incorporate endurance, strength and flexibility activities commonly found in both CrossFit and bodyweight programs that are age appropriate and geared towards improving overall fitness. We may even tackle some elements of the ninja course!

# Leadership

## Peer Group Connection (Grade 8 - Must be selected) **FULL YEAR**

8th grade students supporting 5th grade students in their transition into Middle School. Peer Group Connection (PGC) taps into the power of 8th graders to create a safe and supportive environment for new 5th grade students. Once per week, pairs of Select 8th graders meet with groups of 5th grade students (virtually) to help them be successful in their first year of Middle School. The focus of the classes on activities and scenarios that allow them to practice academic, social, and emotional skills such as decision-making, time management, teamwork, and communication.

***Be a leader... Be a mentor... Be a role model... Make a difference in your school!***