

Little Falls Township Public Schools

**Middle School
Electives
2023-2024**



**School No. 1
32 Stevens Avenue
Little Falls, NJ 07424**

Grades 5-8

Elective Course Offerings

Welcome to the School No. 1 elective course offerings for the 23-24 school year! The following courses will vary by grade level. Here are a few things to know before narrowing down your elective decision...

GRADES 5 & 6: The 5th & 6th Grade electives run alongside marking period cycles. Therefore 5th and 6th graders will take 2 electives for the year. With these two electives, 5th and 6th graders will also take their cycle courses that rotate each marking period.

List of Cycles for your information:

5th Grade: Art, Health, Music, & World Language

6th Grade: Art & Exploration, Music, Financial Literacy, & Computer Science Design Thinking

GRADE 7: NEW! State course requirements have been added/updated by the NJDOE. Our 7th Graders will now have two mandatory half year cycle courses to run alongside their 2 elective courses.

List of ½ Year Cycles: **Civics & Personal Finance**

Students will have these pre-scheduled for them for the 1st and 2nd half of the year.

GRADE 8: All 8th graders have the ability to take 3 elective courses for the year. One of their elective courses rotates on an A/B day with their Phys. Ed. and Health course.

If students qualify for BSI, ELA Lab, or Math Lab, these courses will replace an elective. You will be notified if your child is in need of one of these courses.

IMPORTANT:

1. It is important to know that while we do our best to fulfill student choices, students are not guaranteed their preferred elective. We encourage all of our Hornets to try something new.
2. All course offerings are based on teacher scheduling availability.

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics

Out of this World (5th Grade)

If you are shooting for the stars, dreaming of lunar landings, or even curious about your specific cosmic address, then this is the elective for you! We will take an exciting journey to explore the inner workings of our home planet, and venture into the vast expanse of our solar system, galaxy, and beyond! In 'Out of This World,' we will combine our knowledge in mathematics, the sciences, as well as other disciplines, to better understand where we've been, where we are, and where we are going. As Carl Sagan once remarked, "somewhere, something incredible is waiting to be known." Join us as we discover, together.

Sports Math & Analytics (Grades 6th-8th)

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 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!

Coding & 3D Design (6th Grade)

In this course, students will be introduced to two computer programs, Scratch and SketchUp. Scratch is a program that uses a coding language to create digital stories, games, and animations. The ability to code is a large part of today's society. Additionally, students will learn SketchUp, a 3D architecture/design software used to build models of shapes, buildings, and more!

Programming, Music Coding, & Robotics (8th Grade)

Students will be exploring computer programming and learning programming principles. Students will also be applying principles of coding to create games and designs using the 5-step design process. The 1st half of this course will consist of various robotics challenges using Lego Mindstorm robots. Lego Mindstorm robots are programmed using block based coding similar to Scratch. The 2nd half of the course will focus on learning the basics of music theory and applying that knowledge to exploring Bandlab, which is a free digital audio workstation (DAW). We then will apply that musical understanding to learn Earsketch, a DAW that links music production to the introductory coding language of python.

STEAM (7th & 8th Grade)

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.

Social Studies & History

Film Study (8th Grade)

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 a significant impact 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 (6th Grade)

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, & Music Culture (8th Grade)

This class examines the cultural, technological, and development of music from the 1950s to early 90s. Who were the Beatles and why were they popular? What's the big deal about Elvis? How did music have an impact on the civil rights movement or the Vietnam war? How did hip-hop start? All of these questions and more are answered in this interactive and retrospective class! Listen to some music, watch some live performances, and even learn how to do the moon-walk!

World Language

Mango - Language Exploration (Grades 6th-8th)

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.

Communications

Reader's Theater (5th Grade)

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!

Book Club (Grades 5th-8th)

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!

Creative Writing (Grades 5th-8th)

If you have a wild imagination and love to make up stories then this is the class for you! Creative writing is a year-long course that needs every other day. 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

Journalism (Grades 5th-8th)

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.

Advertising & Graphic Design (6th Grade)

Using an Ecolor poster printer and editing software, students will learn various layout and printing techniques. Employing the fundamental principles of graphic design: image making, typography, composition, working with color and shape, students will create visual communication solutions like posters, banners, signs, stickers, and other media that promote school wide events.

Yearbook (8th Grade)

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

Handcrafting Hornets (7th Grade) NEW!!!

Do you have an interest in a skill or a talent you might want to discover? Maybe you are good at sewing (or want to be)... Maybe you are excellent at knitting or crocheting (or want to be)... Maybe you are really gifted in cross-stitch or embroidery (or want to be). Possibly you want to learn about beading and jewelry making. Do you want to learn about digital and album scrapbooking? There are lots of crafts to enjoy and potentially make money doing. We will be exploring upcycling (taking older materials and turning them into great craft projects). There will be guest speakers to talk about their craft skills and inspire you. This class is designed for the student who is motivated to learn something new and is willing to try hard to bring that talent to the surface to share with others. Over the course of the year, you will amaze yourself with what you can accomplish when you are open-minded, believe in yourself, and push yourself to shine. (You will be asked to help provide some supplies for your projects of choice.)

3d & Digital Art (8th Grade)

This course is presented in two halves. Beginning with 3d art, this course will introduce a variety of three-dimensional materials! If you are someone that has wanted to try clay, plaster, wire, paper mache, found objects and/or mixed media art; this is the class for you! Building on 2D elements and principles of art; this course focus is art “in the round.” In addition to creating art, we will analyze sculpture and land artworks and discuss their historic and current significance in the world. The second half of this course, digital art, includes photography as well as digital painting and drawing! If you are looking to develop your digital skills; join us in learning to use digital tools like cameras and drawing tablets to create and manipulate art! In addition to making digital art, we will (virtually) visit art museums and dive deeper into conceptual art through critique.

Art & Exploration (7th Grade; Also a 6th grade cycle.)

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.

Instrumental Music (Grades 5th-8th)

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 (Grades 5th-8th)

This is a premier Middle School choir for both male and female 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 & Physical Education

Hornets in Motion (5th Grade)

This beginner class is a perfect introduction to dance, music, & movement! Get ready to MOVE with this new course through the use of games, stories, and songs to teach balance, rhythm, movement, and coordination. This course will also introduce follow-along dance sequences that focus and build upon listening skills and patterns.

BE FIT! (6th Grade)

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. This includes tackling elements of the School No. 1 ninja course!

Leadership

Peer Group Connection (8th Grade)

Students must be selected via the application process.

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

GROW! (8th Grade)

Students must be selected via the application process.

With high school being right around the corner, we want to provide some of our 8th grade Hornets with a valuable classroom experience that is geared toward growing and building character. Students who are selected for this course will benefit by sharpening leadership skills, enhancing responsibility, cultivating community, practicing collaboration skills, and increasing confidence. This class works to develop habits for self-reflection and personal growth.