

West Deptford Middle School



**Eighth Grade Electives
Course Selection Booklet
2021—2022**

West Deptford Middle School

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West Deptford, NJ 08066-1999

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Dear Seventh Grade Parents/Guardians,

This booklet is designed to provide descriptions of our numerous electives available to our 8th grade students for the 2021-2022 school year. Please review the options carefully so that you can help your child make a good decision for his or her 8th grade year.

The focus of our 8th grade electives is to help our students develop interests and explore topics that they may not have been exposed to thus far in the middle school.

During the summer months, we will create a schedule for your child including at least *two out of their four elective choices, provided that enrollment those classes is available. (*This will be different if taking a full year elective.)

***Please Note:** If your child demonstrates a need for additional support in the areas of Mathematics and/or English Language Arts, he/she may be required to take a supplemental class as an extension of the regular 8th grade course. These classes **will** be in lieu of your child's study hall.

Please feel free to contact myself or your child's counselor, Mrs. Paglione or Ms. Lecher, with any questions. Your child's counselor is determined by the first letter of their last name. If their last name begins with a letter from A-K please contact Mrs. Paglione or Ms. Lecher for students whose last name begins with a letter from L-Z.

Sincerely,

Christine Trampé

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DIRECTIONS

Please follow the directions below carefully to ensure the selection of your elective requests.

- Watch this brief [video](#) from our Guidance Dept. regarding the 8th Grade elective process.
- Review this booklet with your child to learn more about the 8th grade electives. You may also watch a brief introductory video on each “**Click here to learn more!**” which is by the title of each course.
- **Complete and submit this [Course Selection Form](#) by Friday, April 16th, 2021.**
 - These selected electives will be taken into consideration when creating a schedule for your child.
 - Although we attempt to provide students with two out of their four elective choices, we guarantee they will be scheduled for **at least one** of their choices. ***Please note: Choir/ Band Combo and Spanish I each count as two electives as they are full-year courses that meet every day, six days per cycle.***
- Parent/guardian questions should be directed to your child’s counselor. Please contact Mrs. Paglione if your child’s last name begins with a letter from A-K or Ms. Lecher for students whose last name begins with a letter from L-Z.

***Please Note:**

- Spanish I placement will require a 7th grade Literacy teacher recommendation and completion of an entrance exam.
- Algebra I and Geometry placement criteria are listed on page 5 of this booklet.

EIGHTH GRADE REQUIRED ACADEMIC CURRICULUM

The following academic courses are required for all 8th grade students:

- Literacy
- Mathematics
 - Math 8*
 - Advanced Math 8 (Pending Eligibility)*
 - Algebra I or Geometry (Pending Eligibility)*
- Social Studies
- Science
- Health/Physical Education

***Algebra I and Geometry Eligibility Criteria:**

Students will be selected for this course based on the following:

<u>Algebra I</u>	<u>Geometry</u>
Y1 Math Test Averages	Algebra I taken in 7th grade
LinkIt Checkpoint B Results	LinkIt Checkpoint B Results
Linkit Form C Results	Linkit Form C Results

***Please Note:** Successful completion of these courses is the prerequisite for entry into Geometry or Algebra II at West Deptford High School. Students who meet the Algebra I or Geometry placement criteria will be notified via mail during the summer. **WDMS students who obtain a final grade of 83% or higher in Algebra I or Geometry will receive five high school credits.**

EIGHTH GRADE ELECTIVES CURRICULUM

Scheduling Possibilities

Full Year—Full Cycle:

These classes meet every day throughout the school year. This elective will override all other elective choices.

- [Choir/ Band Combo](#)
- [Spanish I](#)

Full Year—Half Cycle:

These classes meet one period a day for 3 days in a 6-day cycle

- [Choir \(no Band\)](#)
- [Band \(no Choir\)](#)
- [Engineering Design](#)
- [Creative Computing](#)
- [Two-Dimensional Art](#)
- [Three-Dimensional Art](#)
- [All the World's A Stage](#)
- [Roots of Pop Music](#)
- [Exploring Sports Medicine](#)
- [Creative Writing](#)
- [Use Your Noodle](#)
- [Digital Design and Manufacturing](#)
- **Combo Elective**
 - [Modern Innovation](#)– one semester
 - [3-D Printing](#)– one semester

Half Year—Extensions Courses:

These classes meet one period a day for 3 days in a 6-day cycle. Student enrollment will be scheduled by semesters based on a demonstration of need for support. This course will be in lieu of study hall.

WORLD LANGUAGE

Full Year—Full Cycle Elective (Class meets one period daily)

Spanish I: [Click here to learn more!](#)

Spanish I is a full-year, high school level class that meets every day of the six-day cycle. It requires daily homework and study. Since there are limited seats, admission will be determined by both the student's academic performance in 7th grade and literacy teacher recommendation. After successful completion of this class, students may take Spanish II as a 9th grade student.

Spanish I offers the same content as the high school Level I class. Students will learn to speak informally, to use correct grammar, and to do limited amount of reading and writing. Students will learn how people live in the countries whose language is being studied, what they do for work and pleasure, and how their life-style compares to ours.

Spanish I placement will require a 7th grade Literacy teacher recommendation and completion of an entrance exam.

WDMS students who obtain a final grade of 83% or higher in Spanish will receive five high school credits.

FINE ARTS

Choir: [Click here to learn more!](#)

Full Year—Full Cycle Elective with Band Combo

or Full Year—Half Cycle Elective (no Band)

Let your voice be heard! Be a part of our choir and learn to make music with your own built-in instrument. Find out how YOUR unique voice works to sound its best. Choir members perform all kinds of musical styles and participate in many activities both in our school and beyond our doors. Being in choir involves teamwork, musical expression, listening skills, physical conditioning and concentration. No audition is necessary. Choir meets during homeroom with weekly lessons for each section held during class time or recess/lunch. In addition, choir performs during two formal concerts in December and May.

Students enrolled in this class get a grade for homeroom choir. They are also tested on their knowledge of the music, and also graded on attendance and participation. We start every morning singing together ~ come join us. Please note that students are expected to perform as an ensemble and attend the two mandatory dress rehearsals and two mandatory performances in December and May of each year. Failure to do so will result in a lowered grade for those marking periods in which they fall.

FINE ARTS ELECTIVES

Band: [Click here to learn more!](#)

Full Year—Full Cycle Elective with Choir Combo

or Full Year– Half-Cycle Elective (no Choir)

This year 8th grade band offers members the opportunity for continued and sequential skill development and large ensemble playing experience in preparation for moving on to the high school program. Music performed continues advancing in complexity and requires greater technical facility, more interdependence, of parts and higher-level listening skills to perform. Students will read extensively from band repertoire. We will also take a more formal approach to developing sight-reading skills.

There will be two formal concerts in December and May as well as a performance. Other informal performances will happen at various times throughout the year. Please note that students are expected to perform as an ensemble and attend the two mandatory dress rehearsals and two mandatory performances in December and May of each year. Failure to do so will result in a lowered grade for those marking periods in which they fall.

Class discussions will strengthen the connection between music and the other core curriculum subjects.

FINE ARTS ELECTIVES

Full Year—Half Cycle Electives

(Class meets one period daily for 3 days in a 6-day cycle)

Two-Dimensional Art: [Click here to learn more!](#)

Take your doodling to the next level with Two-Dimensional Art! This course will build upon your drawing, painting, and design skills by expanding your understanding of art through creative and exciting two-dimensional projects using pencil, watercolor, and various media to bring your art to life. Students will study and apply various Elements of Art, including color, value, line, texture, shape, form and space. Students will also explore the Principles of Design, including balance, emphasis, harmony, variety, gradation, movement, rhythm, and proportion.

Three-Dimensional Art: [Click here to learn more!](#)

Do you want to make art that stands on its own? Then you'll love Three-Dimensional Art! This course introduces students to the elements, principles, and construction methods used in making art and design in three dimensions. Students will get hands-on design experience using simple materials such as wire, cardboard and foam core. The principles of scale, balance, rhythm, positive and negative form are studied and used in the making of these projects.

FINE ARTS ELECTIVES

Full Year—Half Cycle Electives

(Class meets one period daily for 3 days in a 6-day cycle)

Roots of Pop Music: [Click here to learn more!](#)

Join us on a journey through time. Beginning with Rock and Roll in the 1950s and taking us all the way into present day, we will discover how the music we know now actually came to be. Class will focus on experiencing integral musicians throughout the last 60+ years. At WDMS, we realize there are those who wish to understand the events, trends, technology, and ideas which have influenced the development of popular music, particularly rock music, in the 20th century. This class will not only allow us to listen to and enjoy music, but to challenge us to become more critical listeners and thinkers! Please note, this is not a performance class.

All the World's A Stage: [Click here to learn more!](#)

In this course, students will be introduced and connected with the performing arts through theater and musical theater. Throughout the course, students will develop internal and external personal resources, interpersonal skills and awareness, and aesthetic sensitivity and understanding. In addition, students will have the opportunity to create theatre through artistic collaboration, and relate drama to its larger context. Basic acting skills such as: improvisation, pantomime, storytelling, characterization, preparing a role and stage movements will be introduced. Students will also identify and recognize elements of a script related to characterization.

STEM ELECTIVES

Full Year—Half Cycle Electives

(Class meets one period daily for 3 days in a 6-day cycle)

Engineering Design: [Click here to learn more!](#)

In this class students will spend 2 semesters focused on Robotics. Through robotics design, students will explore the fundamentals of engineering and electronics. The course will consist of instructional activities addressing topics such as the principles of engineering, physics, electronics, mechanics, and computer programming. Laboratory experiments will require students to build simple robots to demonstrate these principles. The design process will be emphasized as the robots are tested and their designs are modified.

Creative Computing: [Click here to learn more!](#)

Creative computing is about *creativity*. The course will introduce students to computer coding language and enable them to create interactive stories, games, animations, and simulations. Students will also strengthen their understanding of algebraic concepts using the Bootstrap programming curriculum. The final project will focus on the development of a computer based game using a design-based approach. Design learning is an approach that emphasizes *designing, personalizing, collaborating, and reflecting*.

Digital Design & Manufacturing: [Click here to learn more!](#)

This course focuses on the principles of three-dimensional digital design. Students will conceptualize, prototype, and create a variety of products with real-world use. Students will utilize a variety of 3-D design programs as they apply skills in problem solving and creativity to the creation of authentic products printed using MakerBot 3-D printers. This project-based course will allow students to explore the world of 3-D printing as an emerging manufacturing technology that has already begun to revolutionize our world.

STEM ELECTIVES

Full Year—Half Cycle Electives

(Class meets one period daily for 3 days in a 6-day cycle)

Modern Innovations—One Semester : [Click here to learn more!](#)

This course is centered around two design topics: Urban Planning and Amusement Park Designs. Students will learn the process to design a city thereby using this knowledge to create their own model replica of a city, complete with housing, shopping, and recreational amenities. During the semester, students will also learn about the way in which amusement park rides have evolved over time. Students will research existing amusement parks, design a fully functioning amusement park, complete with the rides and amenities and perform experiments on their design. The culminating task will be to build a fully-functioning amusement park, complete with physical models of all rides and amenities.

AND

3-D Printing—One Semester: [Click here to learn more!](#)

3-D Printing is a manufacturing process where objects are built up layer by layer from plastic media. This technology allows for rapid production of prototypes and customized products. If you can design it, you can create it with a 3-D printer! Students in this course will learn how to be makers by using 3-D modeling software to design and print actual physical objects for everyday use.

HEALTH and PHYSICAL EDUCATION ELECTIVES

Full Year—Half Cycle Elective

(Class meets one period daily for 3 days in a 6-day cycle)

Exploring Sports Medicine: [Click here to learn more!](#)

Students in this course will explore the world of sports, fitness, and sports medicine. Students interested in the fields of sports/fitness and sports medicine will be introduced to the educational path required to meet the criteria needed to pursue careers related to the field.

Students will understand the basics of training and conditioning sports athletes. Students will cover basic anatomy and muscle function, and all injuries related to sports. All students enrolled in this course will leave with a better understanding of the role that an ath-



LANGUAGE ARTS ELECTIVES

Full Year—Half Cycle Elective

(Class meets one period daily for 3 days in a 6-day cycle)

Creative Writing: [Click here to learn more!](#)

This full-year course is designed with the creative student-writer in mind. Designed around a workshop setting, students explore a variety of genres which include the short story, persuasive writing, satire, the informal essay, reviewing writing, and poetry, to name a few. A love for writing and desire to work collaboratively with classmates are a must.

Use Your Noodle: [Click here to learn more!](#)

Do you like the idea of watching television shows and movies in class? How about listening to different kinds of music? Sound like fun? Then this is the class for you. If you have ever thought that there is more to the shows and movies you watch, then you are ready to enter into the thoughtful study of philosophy. We will use movies, television shows, literature, poetry and even a variety of music to explore the fascinating world of philosophy. The skills you learn in this class will take your “thinking” to a level you never thought possible. Think like a philosopher, use your noodle!

FOUNDATIONS COURSES

Half Year—Half Cycle Elective

(Class meets one period daily for one semester 3 days in a 6-day cycle)

Placement in these courses will be determined by a demonstration of a need for additional support via a combination of district benchmark data, end of year grades, and NJSLA scores. Student enrollment will be scheduled by semesters based on a demonstration of need for support in mathematics and/or language arts. These courses will limit or replace selected electives.

****Students selected for these courses will be notified over the summer.****

In order to be successful in high school and prepared for the NJSLA assessment, it is critical that students leave the middle school with a strong command of literacy and mathematics skills.

FOUNDATIONS OF MATHEMATICS

This course is for students who need additional instruction in math. Students will review the major math concepts focusing on improvement and preparation for high school.

FOUNDATIONS OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

This course is designed for students who need additional instruction in reading comprehension and writing expression. Students will review techniques for strengthening reading and writing skills.