

# Neuse River Middle School 2024-25

## 8th GRADE ELECTIVE COURSE OPTIONS

Core subjects (English Language Arts, Math, Social Studies and Science) are required, but elective courses are unique courses that you can request to take. **All students will take one semester of Health & PE.** You will select 5 electives from this list. In PowerSchool, students will make **6** selections (including PE).

**Note:** Some electives will be assigned based on IEP & LEP decisions. The availability of elective courses depends upon the school's master schedule and staff. Requesting an elective does not guarantee you will get that class in your schedule.



COURSE	COURSE DESCRIPTION
<b>36 weeks – Year-Long Elective</b>	
<b>Advanced Band – 52882Y0A</b>  <b>**Prerequisite: Intermediate Band</b>	<p>Technical drills, scale studies, rhythm studies, and sight-reading exercises are used to advance the student's skills, knowledge, and reading ability in music. A wide variety of band literature is studied to give the students experience in various musical styles.</p> <p><b>Students should anticipate some after-school practices and evening performances.</b></p>
<b>Concert Chorus / Advanced Chorus – 52692Y0E</b>  <b>**Prerequisite: 1 Semester of Chorus // Teacher Recommendation</b>	<p>Students will expand upon their musicianship and singing skills by singing a variety of choral music. Students will reinforce singing technique, listening and performing skills, and expand on music literacy with an emphasis on sight reading.</p> <p><b>There will be two required after-school concerts (one per semester) as well as a variety of performance opportunities outside of school.</b></p>
<b>Dance 2 - Dance Company – 51092Y0C</b>  <b>*Prerequisite: 1 Semester of Dance // Application</b>	<p>This class includes student-led components, with students creating and rehearsing their own pieces and organizing the performances. This class will prepare students to dance at the advanced level in high school.</p> <p><b>There are two required performances, one at the end of each semester.</b></p>
<b>Advanced Dramatics - 53092Y0E</b>  <b>*Prerequisite: 2 Semesters of Theatre // Application</b>	<p>Students will go through different performance styles, voice and diction for the actor, professional warm-up techniques to prepare the body for performance, scoring beats and tactics in scripts, and advanced acting techniques/performances like long-form scene work and independent monologues. Students interested in backstage work such as completing significant design projects and stage management should also consider taking this course.</p> <p><b>Students should anticipate some after-school practices and evening performances.</b></p>
<b>18 weeks – Semester-Long Electives</b>	
<b>Music Exploratory / General Band – 52092Y0K81</b>	<p>This course is for any student who wants to start to learn an instrument! From basic note reading to playing brass, woodwind, and percussion instruments, students will learn the fundamental skills to be a part of a band. Students will also explore different aspects of music such as beat making, song study, and diving into their favorite artists.</p> <p><b>**No Financial Requirement</b></p>
<b>Music Exploratory / Beginning Chorus – 52092Y0K84</b>	<p>An intro course. Students will learn healthy singing technique, listening and performing skills, and the basics of reading western music notation (sheet music). Students will learn to play ukulele, cover popular songs, and the basics of writing original songs.</p> <p><b>Students will perform in one required after-school concert.</b></p>

<b>Chorus / Intermediate Chorus – 52692Y0D</b>	<p>For students interested in continued singing and songwriting. Students will continue to develop healthy singing technique, listening and performing skills, and music literacy. Students will continue to play the ukulele as well as other modern band instruments to cover songs and write their own songs. Students will learn basic music production and recording.</p> <p><b>Students will perform in one required after-school concert</b></p>
<b>Introduction to Dance – 51092Y0A</b>	<p>This semester-long class is intended for all students interested in taking dance. Both beginners and students with dance experience are welcome. Topics include ballet, jazz, contemporary, and choreographing.</p> <p><b>There is one required performance at the end of the semester.</b></p>
<b>Dance 1 – 51092Y0B</b>  <b>**Prerequisite: 1 Semester of Dance</b>	<p>Topics include jazz, contemporary, commercial, and choreographing. More advanced technique is taught and there are more opportunities for student leadership and choreography.</p> <p><b>There is one required performance at the end of the semester.</b></p>
<b>Introduction to Theater – 53092Y0C</b>	<p>This course introduces students to the beginning aspects of theatre. Students will learn about the origins of the performing art. Through this history students will learn beginning aspects of movement, vocal expression, and ensemble work. Class activities include pantomime, improvisation, vocal development, playwriting, and solo/collaborative presentations in acting and theater production (costumes, lighting, makeup, scenery, and sound). Students will have the opportunity to perform for an audience.</p>
<b>Dramatics – 53092Y0D</b>  <b>**Prerequisite: 1 Semester of Theatre</b>	<p>This course dives deeper into the performing art where students will engage in improvised scenes, professional pantomime techniques, playwriting, group performances, and monologues. Activities include stage directions, simple set and costume design, prop collection, and play production.</p>
<b>Visual Composition I – 54092Y0M</b>	<p>Students will engage in deep study of the elements and principles of art centered on the curriculum set forth in the North Carolina Essential Standards for Visual Art. Two and three-dimensional techniques will be taught using a variety of media. Students explore various cultures, art history and learn to think and write critically about master work as well as their own.</p>
<b>Visual Composition 2 –</b>  <b>*Prerequisite: Application // Submission of three (3) pieces of artwork or sketches to Ms. Fratarcangeli</b>	<p>Advanced Art for students who have true interest in art and have a desire in perfecting their skill. Students will create an art portfolio. Students will continue to develop their technical and artistic skills as they solve problems with their own choice of media. Students will be expected to critique and write critical analysis of the work of others (including the masters) and their own.</p>
<b>Pottery/Sculpture – 54092Y0S</b>	<p>Students will create their own work with a wide variety of media such as paper, wood, clay, plaster, paper mâché, or fabric. Students explore various cultures, art history and learn to think and write critically about master work as well as their own.</p>
<b>Coding in Minecraft - Introductory (9 Weeks) - CY302Y0</b> <b>Coding in Minecraft - Intermediate (9 Weeks) - <del>CY312Y0</del></b>	<p>Using the Minecraft platform, students will gain the skill of designing and developing algorithms. Students will learn how to predict the outcome of running a series of statements. Students will then learn how to code in block-based coding using MakeCode.</p>
<b>Coding in Minecraft - Advanced (9 Weeks) - CY322Y0</b> <b>Computer Science Discoveries III (9 Weeks) - <del>CY222Y0</del></b>  <b>**Prerequisite: Coding in Minecraft Introductory/Int.</b>	<p>Using the Minecraft platform, students will learn how to program in text-based coding using Java Script. They will identify where code can be reused, follow Java Script code and predict the outcome. Students will then transition to using code.org's App Lab and Adafruit's Circuit Playground where students will develop programs that utilize the same hardware inputs and outputs that are found in smart devices.</p>
<b>Introduction to Office Productivity (9 Weeks) - CY022Y0</b> <b>Office Productivity Applications (9 Weeks) - <del>CY032Y0</del></b>	<p>Students will learn to harness technology as a tool for the basics in computing, spreadsheets, presentation and multimedia design.</p>

<b>Expl. Business &amp; Entrepreneurship (9 Weeks) – BU202YA</b> <b>Expl. Bus. Procedures &amp; Leadership (9 Weeks) - BY132Y0</b>  <b>**Prerequisite: Introduction to Office Productivity - CY022Y0</b>	<p>Students will explore how to utilize technology to explore business and entrepreneurship opportunities such as opening a lemonade stand, being an Uber driver, or trying to increase your credit score. Students will conduct interactive simulations of real life business events. This class investigates day-to-day business operations. A focus on the necessary characteristics for being an entrepreneur will aid students in developing their career and life plan. Students learn the procedures and requirements for starting and running a business.</p>
<b>Fundamentals of Agr. Science (9 Weeks) - AY242Y0</b> <b>Exploring Agriculture Issues (9 Weeks) – AY232Y0</b>	<p>Explore the production process for agriculture products and the connection between science and research. Analyze current issues affecting the agriculture industry and economy through exploratory activities. Build agricultural advocacy through leadership development and authentic experiences from Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE), classroom instruction, and FFA participation. Gain the knowledge and skills for careers in the Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources career cluster.</p>
<b>Exploring Nutrition &amp; Wellness (9 Weeks) – FY112Y0</b> <b>Exploring Childcare (9 Weeks) – FY142Y0</b>	<p>Students will understand the factors that influence nutrition and wellness and the impact of choices on wellness and understand how to safely use kitchen tools and follow recipes to plan and prepare a meal. Students will be introduced to children's developmental ages and stages from birth to 7 years as well as related career opportunities.</p>
<b>Exploring Apparel &amp; Interior Design – FC012YA</b> <b>Exploring Economic Systems – BY112Y0</b>	<p>This module is designed to teach basic skills and techniques needed in Apparel. Emphasis is on clothing choice, the elements of design, and basic construction techniques. Students will then move into the business aspect of apparel and interior design. Students will learn a basic financial understanding for business.</p>
<b>Exploring Careers &amp; Employment (9 Weeks) - EY112Y0</b> <b>Expl. Per. Characteristics &amp; Careers (9 Weeks) - EY102Y0</b>	<p>Students experience an orientation to career planning and future employment success. Emphasis is placed on understanding the world-of-work, skills needed for employment success, and the career planning and preparation process. Based on the National Career Development Guidelines, skills reinforced include, but are not limited to communications, personal management, and teamwork.</p>
<b>Exploratory Language – 12752Y0</b>	<p>Have you ever wanted to know more about the culture and heritage of different Spanish-speaking countries? Then this is the course for you! We will take a deeper look at each of the 21 different Spanish-Speaking countries and learn some important Spanish words and phrases along the way. This course is NOT part of the three course sequence towards high school credit.</p>
<b>Spanish Beginning 1 Year – 11402Y1</b>  <b>*Students who successfully complete this course will have 1 remaining course in the Spanish curriculum series for HS Spanish Credit.</b>	<p>This is the second course in a three course sequence. Students will continue their study of the Spanish language. Topics include a more in-depth look at culture, greetings, colors, numbers, the calendar and weather, likes and dislikes, school, and food. Grammar topics will also be covered, including conjugations of present-tense verbs and irregular verbs. Students taking this course should expect to work on improving speaking, reading, writing, and listening skills in Spanish.</p> <p><b>**Students who pass this course may continue in the course sequence and take Spanish 1 for HS Credit.</b></p>
<b>Spanish 1 (MS for HS CREDIT) – 11412Y0</b> <b>(Advanced Spanish)</b> <b>**Prerequisite: 2 Years of Spanish (Spanish Less than 1 Year and Spanish Beg. 1 Year)</b> <b>**Course for HS Credit – Must pass final exam</b>	<p>This is the final course in a three course sequence. Students will continue their study of the Spanish language and culture. Topics of study are similar to those covered in the previous two courses, but there is a more in depth use of the language and focus on grammar concepts. Students taking this course should expect to speak, read, write, and listen in Spanish.</p> <p>Students who complete this course successfully and <b>pass the final exam</b> (worth 20% of the overall grade) will receive credit and be eligible to take Spanish 2 upon entering high school.</p>

**\*\* You can find more information and the updated Middle School Planning Guide on <https://www.wcpss.net/middle-school>**