

# Northland Pines Middle School Elective Course Descriptions

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**Art 7/8:** This class will give students the opportunity to expand their experiences in their favorite mediums. In-depth projects will allow time to fully develop the possibilities and interests in their mediums. The two- and three dimensional units give students options to choose their own projects. Creative drawing, painting, and design projects provide many artistic avenues for self-expression. Each new project builds on art skills that were previously learned. Emphasis is placed on individual effort and creativity.

**Science of Food:** Have you ever played with your food? Have you ever eaten your homework? The Science of Food class will let you do both. This class will let you explore the science behind the flavors and ingredients while learning different cooking techniques. Many local plants and animals will be used in recipes. This hands-on class will allow you to make sausage, cheese, ice cream and maple syrup. Students will harvest wild rice, tend to a honeybee hive and turn sugar into caramel. Learn about science in a whole new way. Let's get cooking!

**Business Concepts:** Business Concepts is a course designed to assist students in understanding all of the roles that take place in a free enterprise economy. It will provide the basic principles, concepts, and understanding as vital for development of individuals as effective citizens, employees/employers, and consumers participating in the American system. Units which will be studied will include the organization and economic role of business, the impact of computers in business, the rights and responsibilities of consumers in business, managing your money wisely, and government's role in our economy.

**American Indian Cultures of Wisconsin:** Are you interested in learning about living outdoors? Learning new languages? Creating traditional American Indian arts and crafts? How about cooking American Indian foods, playing games, and building traditional shelters? If so, then American Indian Cultures of Wisconsin might be for you. Students will learn about the cultures, languages and traditions of Wisconsin's native inhabitants.

**Introduction to Spanish:** This class is designed to give students an introduction to basic language skills in speaking, comprehension, reading and writing. Students also learn about Latin American culture in order to participate in a global society. This class offers an integrated approach to learning Spanish. Presentation and practice of functional expressions, vocabulary and grammar structures are interwoven with cultural information and language learning tips to facilitate mastery. Students learn to carry on basic conversations with classmates and gain confidence throughout the semester in communicating basic likes, dislikes, interests, hobbies, classes and daily schedules.

**Introduction to German:** Students will learn basic German communication skills and vocabulary on a wide variety of topics. They will learn to ask questions and carry on simple conversations in German. This class also explores the culture of Germany and other German-speaking countries. Students learn about Wisconsin's rich German heritage and celebrate some of the traditional holidays. Several hands-on projects will be done during the semester including celebrating with German food, singing and playing vocabulary games.

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade Computer Applications:** The purpose of this course is to provide students with the opportunity to develop and apply key computer science concepts and 21st-Century Skills in a collaborative environment, utilizing tools such as G-Suite's documents, spreadsheets, presentations, and more, plus word processing, desktop publishing, and web 2.0 tools skills. Students will also be introduced to digital photo manipulation, video production, plus review digital citizenship, internet safety, ethical computer use, keyboarding skills, and more! This course will also utilize Code.org's Computer Science Discoveries curriculum, covering topics in basic computer science and web design. Class content will be accessible online through Northland Pines' Schoology online learning management system.

These classes are for 8<sup>th</sup> Grade only:

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade Design and Manufacturing:** This semester long elective course is designed for 8th grade students who are interested in design, mass production and construction of woodworking projects. During this course students will learn proper measurement, layout, cutting, assembly and finishing techniques. Laboratory activities include research and design, mass production of a product to sell and the construction of wood projects. The course is designed to introduce students to the basic terminology and techniques related to woodworking and mass production along with teaching students the proper use of all shop equipment.

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade Tech Ed:** This 8th grade "Hands On" Technology Education course allows students to explore the expanding field of Technology. During this course students will study terminology, processes and careers related to materials and manufacturing, construction, transportation systems, power and energy, and biotechnology. Students will have the opportunity to use multiple digital manufacturing machines such as the Shopbot, Techno Mill, laser printer, and 3D printer. Students will also learn machine safety and woodworking techniques for the completion of unit projects.

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade Gateway:** In this engineering based course students will learn the development, and influence of automation and robotics as they learn about mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation, and computer control systems. Students will use the Fischertechnik Robotics® platform to design, build, and program real-world objects such as traffic lights, elevators, and revolving signs (PLTW 2015). This class will build students' knowledge and skills in problem solving, teamwork, and innovation.

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade Computer Applications:** The purpose of this course is to provide students with the opportunity to develop and apply key computer science concepts and 21st-Century Skills in a collaborative environment, utilizing G-Suite's productivity apps and web 2.0 tools skills. Code.org's Computer Science Discoveries curriculum will be utilized extensively, with units in problem solving, coding, web design, game design, and app planning. Students will also explore digital photo manipulation, video production, plus review digital citizenship, internet safety, ethical computer use, keyboarding skills, and more! Class content will be accessible online through Northland Pines' Schoology online learning management system.

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## ENGLISH I

COURSE # 3302

This course is an introductory course exploring different types of literature: the short story, non-fiction, poetry, drama, and mythology. Students will learn to identify several literary elements that appear in each genre. The course also focuses on reading comprehension and analysis, vocabulary, grammar and will emphasize writing a well-developed paragraph and essay utilizing the Six Traits of writing.

CREDITS: 1.00 (Year-Long Course)

## ALGEBRA

COURSE # 3562

In this course, students will be exposed to the powerful set of tools called algebra. Students will investigate situations, discover relationships and patterns, generalize these relationships and patterns using the language of algebra, and figure out what strategies can be used to solve problems. This course not only focuses on the algebraic concepts of variables, graphs, linear relationships, solving equations (linear and quadratic), systems of equations, proportions, inequalities, simplifying expressions, factoring, multiplying polynomials, and introduces functions, but is also stresses the importance of problem solving throughout the course.

CREDITS: 1.00 (Year-Long Course)

## GEOMETRY

COURSE # 3565

This course centers on the study of shapes. Students will investigate new situations, discover relationships between shapes and their characteristics, and figure out what strategies can be used to solve problems. Student will use inductive and deductive reasoning as they explore and discover the different relationships that appear in the shapes they study. Students will explore transformations, angles and their measures, similarity, proofs, right triangles, trigonometric ratios, probability, congruent triangles, quadrilaterals, polygons, circles, solids, and constructions. Advanced students may take Geometry in conjunction with Algebra 2 with department recommendation.

CREDITS: 1.00 (Year-Long Course)

PREREQUISITES: Passing grades in Algebra or **Majority of department recommendation** (Signature required).

## APPLIED SCIENCE

COURSE # 3715

This lab-based course develops knowledge and understanding of the concepts of matter, force, energy and natural processes in the areas of physical and earth science. The course involves demonstrations, discussions, lectures, and experimentation. The student does experiments in order to obtain data that can be evaluated by the class and hopefully some conclusion can be reached. It is intended that students learn to appreciate how scientists get information in order to discover the working of nature. Skills in the use of the metric system are developed. The student will gain a strong background for more advanced science courses such as chemistry or physics.

CREDITS: 1.00 (Year-Long Course)

## UNITED STATES HISTORY

COURSE # 3841

A thematic course in U.S. History from the Civil War to the present. Emphasis is on the rise of industry, the depression, Prohibition, the rise of the United States as a world power, the world wars, the Cold War, the Vietnam conflict, and the cultural changes in the Western World.

The Wisconsin State Civics Test will be given during this class. As a state requirement: each student **MUST** pass the test with a score of at least 65, to be eligible for graduation.

CREDITS: 1.00 (Year-Long Course)

## GERMAN I

COURSE # 3350

German I focuses on successful communication through speaking, writing, reading, and listening, as well as a thorough grounding in aspects of culture. German I covers the basics of German language among other things the present tense, nouns and pronouns as subjects and objects. Unit activities blend different forms of communication and culture to ensure that the student meets all standards. Course strategies include warm-up activities, vocabulary study, reading, practice activities and games, oral and written assignments, projects, quizzes, and exams. Students will experience various cultural activities and/or authentic German foods. Learning activities in each unit are focused upon a specific theme.

CREDITS: 1.00 (Year-Long Course)

## **GERMAN II**

COURSE # 3352

In this full year course, German II students build on what they have learned with continued development of their skills in the target language. Learning activities in each unit are focused upon a specific theme. Greater emphasis is placed on correct speaking, reading, writing, and comprehending the German language. In order to demonstrate this proficiency, students will communicate about themselves and others in the target language using tenses in the past, present, and simple future. Culture and daily life of German speaking countries are studied as well. Students will experience various cultural activities and/or authentic foods.

CREDITS: 1.00 (Year-Long Course)

PREREQUISITES: Successful completion of German I with a C- or higher and/or instructor's approval.

## **SPANISH I**

COURSE # 3360

This is a full year course dealing with the development of skills in speaking, reading, writing, and comprehending the Spanish language. Culture and daily life of Spanish speaking countries are also studied. Students will experience various cultural activities and/or authentic foods. Students will learn a variety of vocabulary related to greetings, school, city, food, family, and household items. Students will communicate about themselves (and others) in the target language using the present tense, the simple future tense and begin basic usage of the preterite tense. CREDITS: 1.00 (Year-Long Course)

## **SPANISH II**

COURSE # 3362

In this full year course Spanish II students build on what they have learned with continued development of their skills in the target language. Students will also understand cultural norms in Hispanic culture and language. Learning activities in each unit are focused upon a specific theme. Greater emphasis is placed on correct speaking, reading, writing, and comprehending the Spanish language. In order to demonstrate this proficiency, students will communicate about themselves and others in the target language using tenses in the past, present, and simple future. Culture and daily life of Spanish speaking countries are studied as well. Students will experience various cultural activities and/or authentic foods. CREDITS: 1.00 (Year-Long Course) PREREQUISITES: Successful completion of Spanish I with a grade of C- or higher and/or teacher approval.

## **CHORALE**

COURSE # 3615

This performance-based choir is open to any and all NPHS students. We focus on three-and four-part songs from many different backgrounds. We develop basic music-reading skills through repertoire, sight singing, and music theory. This group performs at the Veteran's Day Assembly, Winter Concert, GNC Solo/Ensemble Festival, Pops Concert, WSMA Large Group Festival, Spring Concert, and Cabaret Concert. Each student receives a weekly voice lesson.

Optional performances include community performances and National Anthem at athletic events. A fee is associated with this course for Solo/Ensemble.

CREDITS: 1.00 (Full year course)

## **CONCERT BAND**

COURSE # 3627

Concert Band is a performance based class. It is designed to help instrumental students achieve high standards of proficiency on a musical instrument. The class is designed to reinforce fingerings, dynamics, articulations, and musicality. All students will have weekly required sectionals as well as individual lessons with SmartMusic. A small required amount of marching band & pep band is integrated into the course. All members are required to participate in marching band. All members are required to participate in Pep Band to some extent. Some fees will be required of students for this course. Year round enrollment required. CREDIT: 1.00 (Full Year Course) PREREQUISITES: Previous (middle and/or high) instruction or instructor's permission. REQUIRED PREREQUISITE

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