

Course Options

The following are a list of classes that may be available to incoming 6th grade students:

Possible Elective Wheel: Students will have the opportunity to sample various electives that Newton Middle School offers. There is a 2-elective wheel or 3-elective wheel available. The rotation of courses are either semester or 12 weeks long. Electives may include art, foreign language, speech and debate, journalism, or video production.

Speech and Debate: This 12-week class is part of the elective wheel and will focus on developing students' speaking and thinking skills revolved around argumentation and persuasion. Students will learn the importance of verbal/non-verbal communication as they practice a structured debate from the Middle School Public Debate Program (MSPDP). Students will learn to properly outline and provide clear argumentation as well as rebuttals in a civil manner. This class will require a mixture of research, writing, and speaking.

Art: The course is designed to develop an awareness of, and appreciation for the visual experience, while discovering the fact that there are limitless possibilities for creating pieces that are beautiful, enjoyable, and timely. Students will learn that art can be used to communicate thoughts, ideas, and feelings. The Elements of art are introduced in this class; students use these to create artwork.

Advanced Art: Students will be introduced to advanced materials, techniques, concepts, and processes essential to understanding the visual arts and the role of the arts and the role of the artist, through a series of projects, readings, class critiques, videos, and presentations.

Foreign Language: The goal of this course is to teach students culture and basic foreign language skills with an emphasis on the acquisition of listening and speaking skills using practical, useful vocabulary and expressions. Students will use the language in a variety of contexts including home, school, stores, restaurants, and travel. There will be an opportunity to practice skills through activities such as role-playing, games, and storytelling.

Journalism: This elective is designed as an introduction to journalism. Numerous assignments and activities will help students develop effective journalism skills.

Video Production: This class introduces the basics of video production utilizing camcorders, video editing software and digital workflows. Students study video technologies, basic equipment operation, video composition, audio production and visual storytelling. Students learn and practice pre-production, production and post-production skills to produce videos. Students work in groups to create projects for a variety of purposes and audiences. The student will become aware of assorted multimedia tools that can be used to enhance future educational or work-related projects and presentations. Oral or written evaluations of work will be expected on a regular basis

Band: This program includes a beginning, intermediate, and advanced band. Students will study rhythm reading, sight-reading of music, ear training (listening), composition, music history, performance etiquette, teamwork and musical vocabulary. The advanced band competes at the yearly district festival and performs in a variety of arenas including Disneyland, Knott's Berry Farm, and elementary schools. Beginning and intermediate band also hold yearly concerts.

***** Please keep in mind that the Elective Wheel classes are subject to change based on the needs of our school. The classes in a wheel are preselected and cannot be changed. Once an elective wheel is selected a student must remain in that elective wheel. *****