



NELSEN MIDDLE SCHOOL

2025 – 2026 COURSE REGISTRATION - RISING 8TH GRADE

Hello Nelsen families, it's time for your student(s) to register for their courses for the 2025-2026 school year! The information in this packet is for **current 7th-grade students transitioning to 8th grade** for the 2025-2026 school year. Please review and complete this packet with your student and return it to their Science teacher.

The middle school academic year is broken down into **three trimesters**. Each trimester, all students will take **six classes**.

- Four of these classes are required yearlong classes: Language Arts, Math, Social Studies and Science.
- All 8th grade students will take 2 trimesters of Physical Education (PE).
- All 8th grade students have 2 – 4 elective opportunities depending on their chosen electives.
- For their electives, 8th grade students can choose either:
 - 1 yearlong elective and 1-trimester long elective OR Two trimester long electives

See the example student schedule below:

Period	Schedule w/1-Yearlong Elective		
	Trimester 1 (Fall)	Trimester 2 (Winter)	Trimester 3 (Spring)
1	Language Arts 8	Language Arts 8	Language Arts 8
2	Science 8	Science 8	Science 8
3	Math 8	Math 8	Math 8
4	Social Studies 8	Social Studies 8	Social Studies 8
5	Orchestra	Orchestra	Orchestra
6	PE	PE	Art

Period	Schedule w/Four 1-Trimester Electives		
	Trimester 1 (Fall)	Trimester 2 (Winter)	Trimester 3 (Spring)
1	Language Arts 8	Language Arts 8	Language Arts 8
2	Honors Science 8	Honors Science 8	Honors Science 8
3	Math 8	Math 8	Math 8
4	Social Studies 8	Social Studies 8	Social Studies 8
5	Explore-Design-Create	Intro to Spanish	Drama-Tech
6	PE	PE	Art

8th GRADE 2025-26 SCHOOL YEAR COURSE REGISTRATION**STUDENT NAME:**

8th grade Core Courses	8th grade Self-Select Honors Courses Please note: Students should consider their strengths and interests when self-selecting an Honors course.
English Language Arts - <i>Please select one course below</i>	
<p>Course Description: Students will investigate complex characters with multiple perspectives and the impact of setting on characters, conflict, and theme. They will study author's craft in book clubs, while exploring historical fiction, speculative fiction, and social issues and advocacy. Students will practice narrative writing, identifying central idea, researching, and argumentative writing.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I am registering for 8th grade English Language Arts</p>	<p>Course Description: Students can expect to learn similar skills and content to the core class, with a focus on complex texts, discussions, and vocabulary.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I am registering for 8th grade Honors English Language Arts Honors</p>
Social Studies - <i>Please select one course below</i>	
<p>Course Description: Students will explore American history and consider how power shapes the past, present, and future. They will learn about systems of government and enslavement, indigenous people and tribal sovereignty, shifts in political and technological power, and relate themes to current political, social, and cultural issues throughout history.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I am registering for 8th grade Social Studies</p>	<p>Course Description: Students can expect to learn similar skills and content to the core class, with a focus on complex texts, discussions, application, and student-led inquiry.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I am registering for 8th grade Honors Social Studies</p>
Science - <i>Please select one course below</i>	
<p>Course Description: Students will explore the earth-sun-moon system and the solar system and gravity, mechanical and light waves, as well as properties of waves, followed by studying the history of life on Earth including fossils, genes, natural selection and its impact on evolution.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I am registering for 8th grade Science</p>	<p>Course Description: Students can expect to learn similar skills and content to the core class, with a focus on application, vocabulary, and student-led inquiry. Students will engage in a Project-Based Learning (PBL) project each trimester.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I am registering for 8th grade Honors Science</p>

8th grade Elective Options

NOTE: All 8th grade students will take two trimesters of Physical Education (PE). Students may also qualify for an intervention class in reading or math, based on test scores and other academic criteria; this would limit elective course options.

Please review and complete the following steps to select your elective courses. Course descriptions can be found on the following page.

Step 1: Do you want to take a yearlong MUSIC course? If so, please place a checkmark by the course you would like to take.

YEARLONG COURSES - MUSIC
<input type="checkbox"/> Band
<input type="checkbox"/> Orchestra
<input type="checkbox"/> Choir

Step 2: Do you want to take a yearlong ELECTIVE course? If so, please place a checkmark by the 1 course you would like to take.

YEARLONG COURSES - ELECTIVE
<input type="checkbox"/> Spanish 8 <i>*students can earn 1 high school credit for this course</i>

Step 3: Please label the two classes you would like to take. Number 1 or 2 (#1 is the top choice). If you chose a yearlong elective above, please only choose 1 trimester elective below.

TRIMESTER COURSES	
<input type="checkbox"/> Art II	<input type="checkbox"/> Food and Nutrition
<input type="checkbox"/> Drama II	<input type="checkbox"/> Intro to Leadership
<input type="checkbox"/> Explore Design Create	<input type="checkbox"/> Spanish Intro

Student Name: _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

8TH GRADE ELECTIVE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

BAND: Learn to play instruments such as flute, clarinet, trumpet, trombone and saxophone. Play different types of music like classical, jazz, musical theater, movie, and pop. Share learning by performing in concerts & events on and off campus. Yes, that means field trips! Students can rent instruments through Nelsen and scholarships are available for instrument rental.

ORCHESTRA: Learn to play instruments such as violin, viola, cello and stringed bass. Here you will learn technique, music theory skills and performance skills. Students share their learning by performing a wide variety of music in concerts and on fieldtrips. Students can rent instruments through Nelsen and scholarships are available for instrument rental.

CHOIR: Be part of the largest and best middle school choir program in the area! If you are interested in learning more about your voice, singing with purpose and performing great music, this is the class for you. Students will develop sight-reading skills, basic music theory knowledge, healthy vocal technique and performance skills while learning diverse music for concerts. There is also an opportunity for field trips.

ART II: Be prepared to create! This course is exploratory and good for all skill levels. New art experiences will be offered each trimester. Topics can include: drawing, painting, sculpture, ceramics, printmaking, collage, photography, crafts, and more!

DRAMA II: In Drama II students will learn 1) Acting: build acting skills, rehearse & perform 2) Play games to improve response time, storytelling and 3) Technical Design: costumes, set, lights, sound and makeup. Students will have the opportunity to be a designer or work as part of the production team.

EXPLORE DESIGN CREATE: Everyday you see problems that could be solved, if only someone would write an app, build an invention, or create a better tool. Now is your chance to be that problem solver. Come figure out how best to link two cities, keep a weather sensor in the air, or produce the perfect podcast. This is a project-based course with unique projects each trimester.

FOOD AND NUTRITION: This course allows students to discover and explore the foundations of good health through food and cooking. Students will focus on the role of foods in good nutrition and overall health across the lifespan. Subjects include food safety, components of a healthy diet, poor nutritional habits, etc. STEM will be incorporated throughout the course to give students the opportunity to apply content knowledge to real world situations.

LEADERSHIP 1: Anyone can be a positive leader, even you! This course focuses on encouraging students to be empathetic, thoughtful, kind, and successful. Students will build character through community builders, projects, team work, and other fun activities.

SPANISH INTRO: Curious about the Spanish language? Give this class a try! This one trimester class will introduce you to the basics of Spanish. Students will learn to read, write, listen and speak while exploring the cultures of Spanish speaking countries.

SPANISH 8: The course aims to teach students to understand spoken Spanish, and to speak the language with the proper pronunciation and intonation. Emphasis is placed on listening-comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing the language. High school credit will be granted upon successful completion of this course.