North Monterey County Unified School District

North Monterey County Middle School

Academic Information
&
Course Guide Description
2025-2026

10301 Seymour Street
Castroville, Ca 95012

Last Updated: August 2025

The purpose of this handbook is to assist students and parents/guardians in understanding and planning their educational program.

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District Office Administration

Dr. Matthew Turkie …….…….…… Superintendent
Dr. Antonio Garcia ……. Assistant Superintendent of Ed. Services
Dr. Conny Santa Cruz …… Assistant Superintendent of Business Services

NMCMS School Administration

Daniel Rimmer …….….. Principal
Megan Duits-Cavanaugh ……..…….. Assistant Principal

NMCMS Counselors Assigned by Grade Level

Denise Garcia …….. 7th Grade
Jasmin Torres …….….. 8th Grade

NMCUSD School District Board of Education

Adriana Melgoza Ramirez …….. President
Martha Chavaria …….……President
Sandra Ruiz …….……. Member
Angelo DiMarco …….……. Member
Ricarco Diaz …….. Member

OUR MISSION

NMCUSD District Mission: An innovative community school system, we equip preschool (infants) to adult students with the skills, knowledge and attitudes they will need to pursue their life goals responsibly and creatively in a radically changing society."

OUR BELIEF STATEMENT

We believe in our students, our families, and our community. What **we** dream, engage in, and achieve together matters!

VISION FOR LEARNING

We have a system where all students know that all adults believe in them and support them; where students have access to opportunities and have many options for success; and where we all work collaboratively, with shared responsibility to ensure that EACH child succeeds and thrives.

Superintendent
Dr. Matthew Turkie
13990 Castroville Boulevard
Castroville, CA 95012
www.nmchs.nmcusd.org

NMCMS Resource Page

The purpose of this page is to provide resources to our students and families.

NORTH MONTEREY COUNTY MIDDLE SCHOOL

This guide is designed to help students, families, and staff understand the wide range of academic and elective opportunities available at our school. Inside, you'll find detailed descriptions of each course we offer, along with key information to support students in making informed decisions about their learning paths.

At NMCMS, our mission is to provide a safe and supportive learning environment where students are empowered to grow as creative problem solvers, achieve personal success, and contribute meaningfully to our diverse and dynamic world. We believe that every student can learn and thrive when surrounded by trust, mutual respect, and high expectations.

Our vision is to cultivate an innovative learning environment that inspires curiosity, creativity, and critical thinking. Through collaboration and communication, we aim to prepare students for a successful future in the 21st century.

We encourage students and families to explore this guide together, ask questions, and consider how each course aligns with students' interests, goals, and growth. Thank you for being an essential part of the NMCMS community.

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MIDDLE SCHOOL PROMOTION REQUIREMENTS

North Monterey County Unified School District requirements that your student must meet in order to participate in the 8th Grade Graduation Ceremony/Activities.

Academic -

- Students that receive an “F” in any class 4th quarter are NOT eligible to participate in end of year activities

Citizenship - Student must maintain eligibility through meeting NMCMS school-wide expectations

- No more than 5 minor behavior violations within quarter 4
- No single 5-day suspension or two separate suspensions during the 4th quarter.
- No serious violations of North Monterey County Middle School School Wide Expectations or California Education Code.

Debts: All bills are paid. No outstanding debts for lost or damaged books, sports jerseys, technology etc.

Attendance: 85% attendance required (*8th grade year only*)

SIX-YEAR PLAN

The six-year plan is a guiding document that provides students and their parents/guardians with an outline of what steps should be taken to reach their college and career goals. The six-year plan should be reviewed and updated annually with the student’s school counselor. During this conference, the student and school counselor will reflect on courses taken, assessment results, status of on-track to complete career pathway, graduation, and college/university eligibility. The six-year plan is used to ensure that after high school graduation, students have one more year planned out to ensure there is a smooth transition into a college or technical program.

TESTING INFORMATION

CAASPP Testing: Each spring, students take a series of state-mandated tests. Students in grades 7 and 8 take the Smarter Balanced assessment for English Language Arts/Literacy and Mathematics. The California Science Test will be given to all students in grade 8. A few students in those same grade levels will take the California Alternate Assessment for English Language Arts/Literacy, Mathematics, and Science. The CAASPP results are one of the multiple measures used to demonstrate college readiness at the community college and the CSU system.

English Language Proficiency Assessment for California (ELPAC): Students whose home language is other than English are given oral/written tests to identify initial course placement and to measure annual progress toward academic English language proficiency.

iReady: iReady is an online program for reading and/or mathematics that will help your student's teacher(s) determine your student's needs, personalize their learning, and monitor progress throughout the school year. i-Ready allows your teacher(s) to meet your student exactly where they are and provides data to increase your student's learning gains. i-Ready consists of two parts, Diagnostic and Personalized Instruction. Students take the diagnostic assessments Math and Reading three times a year; Fall, Winter and Spring.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

7th Grade ELA Department
Ms. Grace Vigianno (7th Grade) Mr. Allan Noria (7th Grade) Mr. George Mattimoe (7th Grade) Mr. David Potter (8th Grade) Ms. Caroline Blackwood (8th Grade) Ms. Carisma Tellez (8th Grade)

M1700 Language Arts 7

Grade(s): 7

This course focuses on reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills aligned with California ELA standards. Students explore a variety of texts, analyze themes, and develop clear, evidence-based writing. Through discussions, projects, and presentations, they build critical thinking and communication skills to prepare for academic success.

M1800 Language Arts 8

Grade(s): 8

Aligned with California ELA standards, this course strengthens students' reading, writing, and communication skills through the study of diverse texts. Students analyze complex ideas, write in a variety of genres, and engage in discussions and projects that promote critical thinking and clear expression in preparation for high school success.

M1770 Essential Language Arts

Grade(s): 7 and 8

This course is designed for students whose Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) require an alternate setting to support their learning needs. Aligned with the California 7th and 8th grade ELA standards, the course focuses on foundational reading, writing, and communication skills with personalized instruction and accommodations. Students engage with adapted texts to improve reading comprehension, expand vocabulary, and practice writing techniques. Instruction is differentiated to help students develop their speaking and listening skills, analyze texts critically, and express ideas clearly. Emphasis is placed on building confidence, fluency, and academic progress while ensuring students meet the essential goals of the 7th and 8th grade ELA standards in a supportive, individualized setting.

MATHEMATICS

Math Department
Ms. Karin Hinderer (7th Grade IL) Mr. Aaron Helfgott (7th Grade) Mr. Sage Knutson (C-STEM) Mr. Michael Dougherty (8th Grade IL) Mr. Eugene Bacon (8th Grade) Ms. Maanii Knutson (7th & 8th Grade)

3501 CC Math 7

Grade(s): 7

This course follows the California Common Core State Standards for Mathematics and builds a strong foundation in key 7th grade concepts. Students deepen their understanding of ratios, proportions, integers, expressions, equations, and geometry. Through problem-solving, real-world applications, and mathematical reasoning, students develop the skills needed for success in higher-level math.

M3821 CC Math 8

Grade(s): 7 and 8

Aligned with California Common Core State Standards, this course prepares students for high school math by focusing on linear equations, functions, the Pythagorean Theorem, transformations, and introductory algebra concepts. Students build problem-solving and reasoning skills through real-world applications and mathematical modeling. This course is also available for incoming 7th graders who qualify with their 6th grade scores.

52030 Integrated Math 1

Grade(s): 8 Credits: 10 (year-long course)

Integrated Math 1 is a high school-level course offered to qualifying 8th grade students based on math performance data. Aligned with California Common Core State Standards and fulfilling one year of the A-G high school graduation requirements, this course covers linear and exponential functions, equations, inequalities, systems, and introductory geometry. Students develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills through real-world applications, preparing them for advanced high school math pathways.

1772 Essential Mathematics

Grade(s): 7 and 8

This course is tailored for students whose Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) require an alternate setting to support their learning needs in mathematics. Aligned with the California 7th and 8th grade mathematics standards, the course focuses on building foundational math skills and concepts, with personalized instruction and accommodations. Students engage with hands-on activities, problem-solving strategies, and real-world applications to develop a deep understanding of mathematical operations, number sense, and geometry. Instruction is differentiated to ensure students build confidence and progress at their own pace, while mastering key math concepts in a supportive and structured environment.

SCIENCE

Science Department
Ms. Alissa Walker (7th Grade IL) Ms. Samantha Guinvarch (7th Grade) Ms. Susan Castello (7th & 8th Grade) Mr. Scott Rutherford (8th Grade IL) Ms. Eleanor Strong (8th Grade)

4700 Science 7

Grade(s): 7

This course follows California's Integrated Science Standards for 7th grade and blends life, physical, and Earth sciences. Students explore topics such as cells and body systems, chemical reactions, ecosystems, and Earth's history. Through hands-on labs, investigations, and scientific reasoning, students develop a deeper understanding of how science connects to the world around them.

4800 Science 8

Grade(s): 8

Prerequisites: None

Aligned with California's Integrated Science Standards, this course continues to build scientific understanding across Earth, physical, and life sciences. Topics include forces and motion, energy, waves, genetics, and Earth systems. Students engage in hands-on labs, engineering challenges, and data analysis to strengthen their scientific inquiry and critical thinking skills.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Social Studies Department
Mr. Juan Gonzalez (7th Grade IL) Mr. Timothy Davis (7th Grade) Mr. Renan Gonzalez Romero (7th and 8th Grade) Mr. Rogelio Martinez (8th Grade IL) Mr. Manhao Chhor (8th Grade)

M2700 Social Studies 7

Grade(s): 7

This course focuses on world history and geography during the medieval and early modern periods, following the California History-Social Science Standards. Students explore the rise and fall of civilizations across Europe, Africa, Asia, and the Americas, examining cultures, belief systems, and global interactions. Through inquiry, analysis, and discussion, students develop historical thinking skills and a deeper understanding of the world's interconnected past.

2800 Social Studies 8

Grade(s): 8

This course covers United States history and geography from the founding of the nation through the end of the 19th century, following California History-Social Science Standards. Students examine key events, people, and ideas that shaped the nation, including the Constitution, westward expansion, the Civil War, and Reconstruction. Through critical thinking, source analysis, and discussion, students explore how historical decisions impact the present and future.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical Education: Course Options
Mr. Jonathan Pratt Mr. Michael Gutierrez Mr. Aron Smart

PHYSICAL FITNESS TEST

The Fitnessgram is a comprehensive fitness assessment used to measure the physical fitness of middle school students. It evaluates various aspects of physical health, including aerobic capacity, muscular strength, flexibility, and body composition. The testing includes exercises such as the pacer test (aerobic capacity), push-ups (muscular strength), sit-and-reach (flexibility), and curl-ups (core strength). The goal of the Fitnessgram is to encourage students to develop healthy, lifelong fitness habits by providing them with personalized feedback on their current fitness levels. It helps students set goals for improvement and track their progress over time.

5502 PE

Grade(s): 7 and 8

This course emphasizes developing physical fitness and health-related skills through a variety of exercises and activities. Students focus on improving strength, endurance, flexibility, and overall fitness through fitness assessments, individual workouts, and group challenges. Emphasis is placed on understanding fitness standards, setting personal health goals, and developing lifelong habits for maintaining physical well-being.

54910 Adaptive PE

Grade(s): 7 and 8

This course is designed for students whose Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) require a modified physical education experience. Focused on developing motor skills, physical fitness, and social interaction, students participate in activities tailored to their individual needs and abilities. Emphasis is placed on promoting personal physical development, improving coordination, and fostering confidence through adaptive exercises, games, and team-building activities, all in a supportive and inclusive environment.

ELECTIVE / EXPLORATORY

Elective / Exploratory
Elective or exploratory classes give middle school students the opportunity to discover new interests, develop creative and practical skills, and explore potential future career paths. These courses—such as art, music, technology, leadership, or world languages—complement core academic subjects by supporting personal growth, confidence, and real-world learning. They allow students to explore their passions in a low-stakes environment while building critical thinking, collaboration, and problem-solving skills essential for high school and beyond.

54000 Spanish I

Grade(s): 8 Credits: 10 (year-long course)

This is an entry point of the "Non-native Pathway"

This course is open to students without prior Spanish experience, including those who may understand spoken Spanish from a home environment but have limited speaking skills. Students with any foundational skills in Spanish are required to enroll in Spanish 3 or Spanish Language Arts 1, based on placement test results. The course develops foundational listening, reading, writing, and speaking abilities, aiming for proficiency between the **novice-low and novice-high** levels as outlined by California's World Languages Standards. Students will engage in basic conversational skills and gain introductory knowledge of present and past tenses, as well as an appreciation for the rich history and cultures of Spanish-speaking communities

54500 Spanish Language Arts I (SLA)

Grade(s): 8 Credits: 10 (year-long course)

This is an entry point of the "Native-speaker Pathway"

This course is designed for students with **intermediate-high** proficiency in reading, writing, speaking, and listening in Spanish. It focuses on practical language skills through three modes of communication: interpersonal (interactive speaking and writing), interpretive (understanding written and audio texts), and presentational (structured speaking and writing). Alongside language mechanics and composition, the course includes literary analysis and offers an in-depth exploration of the history and culture of Spanish-speaking communities. By engaging in a range of topics, students further develop their proficiency across the three communication modes, strengthening their language abilities in authentic contexts.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT (ELD)

ELD: English Language Development
Courses determined by ELPAC scores, school assessment data, and referral process. Some EL students may have a designated ELD class in place of their elective.