



Great Neck South Middle School

Registration Information 2026 – 2027

Grade 8



Eighth Grade Counselor for 2026-2027

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Required Subjects for Eighth Grade

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Periods Per Week</u>
English 8	5
Social Studies 8	5
Pre-Algebra 8	5
Algebra 1 H (Regents)	5
Regents Earth Science	5
with Earth Science Lab	2/3
World Language	5
Health 8	2/3
Technology 8	2/3
Physical Education 8	2/3
Lunch	5

English 8

Eighth grade English provides an opportunity to read for information and understanding, for literary response and expression, and for critical analysis and evaluation. Students will have a myriad of experiences in reading, writing, listening and speaking in order to explore these areas of study.

5 Periods Per Week – Full Year

Social Studies 8

Social Studies 8 is the second year of a two-year sequential survey of American history. Our exploration of the American Experience begins where Social Studies 7 left off; with the United States a relatively minor regional power on the cusp of becoming the most formidable nation on Earth. Emphasis will be placed on understanding the evolution of this change by utilizing four different critical lenses: Economics, War and Peace, and Social Reform and Liberty, Security and Identity. During each thematic exploration, we will examine different aspects of the American Experience, revealing different layers and patterns, fostering more connections and demonstrating why things happened as they did.

5 Periods Per Week – Full Year

Pre-Algebra 8

In Grade 8, instructional time focuses on three critical areas:

(1) formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations, including modeling an association in bivariate data with a linear equation, and solving linear equations and systems of linear equations;

(2) grasping the concept of a function and using functions to describe quantitative relationships;

(3) analyzing two- and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angles, similarity and congruence, and understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem.

5 Periods Per Week – Full Year

Algebra 1 Honors (Regents)

This high school level course, which is the first in the New York State three-year sequence (Algebra I/Geometry/Algebra II) for Mathematics, has algebra as its focal point but includes a strong problem-solving component. Coordinate geometry and data analysis are also included. Students will take the Algebra Regents exam at the end of grade eight. The final average from this course and the Regents exam grade will be included on the high school transcript and is included in the total cumulative high school grade point average (GPA).

5 Periods Per Week – Full Year - 1 Unit of High School Credit.

Regents Earth and Space Science

Regents Earth and Space Science is a high school course offered to all eighth-grade students. The course is designed to provide students with a clear understanding of Earth processes, integrating major concepts in astronomy, climate science, geology and environmental science and linking them to daily events. The New York State Department of Education requires students to complete 1200 minutes of lab work, including 3 required NYS Labs to receive Regents credit. The course meets every day with a lab period scheduled on alternate days. The final exam is the Earth and Space Science Regents examination. The final average from this course and the Regents exam grade will be included on the high school transcript and is included in the total cumulative high school average. Students who successfully complete all course requirements receive one high school science credit.

5 Periods Per Week – Full Year

World Language Options

Chinese C

The successful completion of Chinese B is a prerequisite for this course. By the end of this course, students are expected to demonstrate a measurable degree of communicative and interpretive competency in speaking, writing, reading, and listening in Chinese, as mandated by Checkpoint A, the curriculum guide designed by New York State. This course concludes with the students taking the Checkpoint A exam. The final average from this course will be included on the high school transcript and is included in the total cumulative high school average.

1 Unit of High School Credit

5 Periods Per Week – Full Year

French C

The successful completion of French B is a prerequisite for this course. By the end of this course, students are expected to demonstrate a measurable degree of communicative and interpretive competency in speaking, writing, reading, and listening in French, as mandated by Checkpoint A, the curriculum guide designed by New York State. The course concludes with the students taking the Checkpoint A exam. The final average from this course will be included on the high school transcript and is included in the total cumulative high school average.

1 Unit of High School Credit

5 Periods Per Week – Full Year

Latin C

This course is a continuation of Latin B. Increased emphasis is placed on Latin grammar, the reading and writing of Latin, and English vocabulary building. There is also increased emphasis on Greek and Roman civilization and their impact on our modern civilization. This course concludes with the students taking the Checkpoint A exam. The final average from this course will be included on the high school transcript and is included in the total cumulative high school average.

1 Unit of High School Credit

5 Periods Per Week – Full Year

Spanish C

This course is for students who completed Spanish B in the 7th grade. By the end of this course, students are expected to demonstrate a measurable degree of communicative and interpretive competency in speaking, writing, reading, and listening in Spanish, as mandated by Checkpoint A, the curriculum guide designed by New York State. The course concludes with the students taking the Checkpoint A exam. The final average from this course will be included on the high school transcript and is included in the total cumulative high school average.

1 Unit of High School Credit

5 Periods Per Week – Full Year

Spanish I

This course is an introductory course for students in grade 7 or 8. A strong emphasis is placed on communication and the integration of listening, speaking, reading and writing skills. Thematic vocabulary and grammar are acquired gradually as students build interpersonal communicative skills. Students work to develop a familiarity and understanding of the cultural environments where Spanish is spoken and various aspects of everyday living. Students who successfully complete this course will go on to Spanish II in high school.

*Students who did not take a world language in grade 6 or grade 7 must enroll in Spanish I in order to meet New York State graduation requirements. This does not pertain to classified students who have been exempt from world language study by the CSE.

5 Periods Per Week – Full Year

Health Education 8

Health Education 8 is a required course for all grade 8 students. This class meets every other day for the full year. The subject matter focuses on the well-being of the whole person (physical, emotional, mental and social) and the development of a positive self-image. This is the foundation for producing a healthy person. The topics and units are interrelated. Knowledge, awareness, understanding, recognition and prevention are infused into each unit of study.

2-3 Periods Per Week - Every Other Day/Full Year

Physical Education 8

This is a state mandated course that meets on an alternating day cycle throughout the school year. Systematic units of instruction are provided through a variety of activities that include safety, skill development, rules, etiquette, sportsmanship and knowledge as specified by the New York State Learning Standards. Units of instruction may include the following: Fitness, Team Sports, Individual Sports, Net/racquet activities, Cooperative Activities, Lifetime activities.

2-3 Periods Per Week – Full Year

Technology 8

Technology 8 is the third in a series of three courses that satisfy the NYS requirement for Technology Education on the middle school level. Students are introduced to current technologies and study them in great detail in our STEMLABs. Modules include 3D printing, bridge design, orthographic perspective drawing, CAD, construction and building, alternative energy, transportation and more. Hands-on learning/problem solving includes building a magnetic levitation vehicle that needs to meet prescribed criteria and constraints; as well as designing and building a toothpick bridge that is crushed and an efficiency ratio is determined. Students will build several different types of circuits and then create an integrated electrical circuit/nightlight from scratch. Students are expected to develop an understanding of electricity, energy, communications, and transportation through several problem solving and decision-making activities. 3D designing is explored and a project is designed and printed using the 3D printer. This is a true STEM environment.

2-3 Periods Per Week - Every Other Day/Full Year

Electives

Students are asked to closely examine and then select the electives that will provide the best possible program for the coming school year.

Electives offered five (5) times per week will meet daily. Electives offered 2-3 times per week will alternate with another course offered 2-3 times per week.

It should be clearly understood that the availability of courses listed in this brochure is subject to recommendation by the administration of the school district and to final action and authorization by the Board of Education as the Board of Education develops its school budget now in preparation.

ART

Art Foundations 8

Art Foundations is a high school elective art course available to qualified eighth-grade students who demonstrate strong potential and interest in art. Upon successful completion, students will earn ½ high school unit of credit. Selection for Art Foundations is based on a student's performance in Art 7 and a recommendation from their art teacher.

In this course, students will develop and refine their drawing, painting, and design skills through studio projects using a wide variety of art materials. Many projects incorporate components of art history and art criticism, fostering a deeper understanding of artistic movements and analysis. Students will also be encouraged to express their own ideas and viewpoints through their artwork.

Art Foundations serves as the first course in a comprehensive sequence of art classes that students can continue in high school. Throughout the artmaking process, students will develop future-ready skills, applying the Four C's of learning—creativity, critical thinking, collaboration, and communication—to problem-solve, innovate, and effectively express their artistic vision. The final grade in Art Foundations will appear on the student's high school transcript and will be included in their cumulative high school average.

2-3 Periods Per Week - Every Other Day/Full Year - ½ Unit of High School Credit

3-D Experience

The 3-D Experience is a middle school elective art course open to all eighth grade students. As the title suggests, this course aims to explore a variety of three-dimensional art media. These may include clay, paper mache, and other materials that lend themselves to creating three-dimensional art. This course is project-driven, meaning that students will learn by doing and creating. Students will create a number of three-dimensional projects utilizing a variety of sculpture materials.

2-3 Periods Per Week - Every Other Day/Half Year

COMMUNICATIONS

Movie Making Workshop 8

Lights! Camera! Action! You'll enjoy the experience of making a real movie working with a student film crew "on location" right here at South Middle! Whether you sign up to operate one of our digital video cameras, special microphones, act in the movie, or even direct, you'll learn first-hand what it takes to make a film. Students also learn how to edit the movie using the latest video editing software. You've watched so many movies at home or at the local cinema, it's time to find out how films are really made!

2-3 Periods Per Week-Half Year

Television Production Workshop 8

For over 50 years, the Television Production Workshop at South Middle has been the place where students learn how to record real shows in a real TV studio. This is a great course to learn important skills and techniques used to produce TV commercials, game shows, TV news, TV drama and more! You'll use the same studio that brings HTV News to South Middle homeroom classes every day! It's a fast-paced, hands-on experience you'll remember for many years to come.

2-3 Periods Per Week-Full Year

ENGLISH

Graphic Literature

Students will explore the exciting and ever-expanding genre of graphic literature including fiction, non-fiction, and short pieces. Students will learn how the style, artistic choices, inking, and coloring affect the perspective in the text. The class is discussion-centered, and students will be given the opportunity to lead class discussions and guide discussion based on their own interests and curiosities.

2-3 Periods Per Week – Half Year

Public Speaking

This course provides students with a variety of opportunities to practice public speaking. Students will learn powerful techniques to enhance the rhetoric developed in a piece of writing. Students will be expected to participate and employ the variety of techniques explored in the classroom.

2-3 Periods Per Week – Half Year

FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCES

Chefs is a graded elective course that meets every other day for 20 weeks (half a year). Using food as a vehicle for hands-on learning, this class is designed for students who want to strengthen their future-ready skills by building on the knowledge gained in the 6th and 7th-grade Family and Consumer Sciences classes.

Through a combination of guided instruction and independent group work, students will explore meal preparation and management, nutrition, and current food trends while developing the 4 C's of learning: (Critical Thinking, Communication, Collaboration and Creativity). Engaging activities such as in-house food competitions, including "Chopped" and "Forensic Foodie," foster innovation and teamwork. This course equips students with practical skills that promote independence, confidence, and lifelong success.

If you have an appetite for learning and a passion for food, this class is for you!

2-3 Periods Per Week – Half Year

MATH

Intro to Coding with Scratch

This beginner level coding course will introduce students to the fundamental concepts of computer programming. In this project-based elective course, students will use Scratch, a block-based coding platform, to demonstrate their knowledge and apply coding principles to develop creative, interactive programs. Students will have opportunities to create animated stories, games, artwork, music, and challenges of their own design.

Note: This is an introductory course, and assumes no prior coding experience.

2-3 Periods Per Week - Half Year

MUSIC

Band 8

This class is for those who are presently members of the performing band who have successfully completed the seventh grade band requirements. If you are not presently a member and play a brass, woodwind, or percussion instrument, you must audition for the Band 8 teacher to obtain approval to join. Attendance at all band concerts is mandatory.

2-3 Periods Per Week – Full Year

REQUIREMENTS FOR DRUMMERS ENROLLING IN BAND:

Because of the balance of sound, a band can only have a limited number of drummers as opposed to any wind instrument. Therefore, the requirements for continuing drums in Band after 8th grade are much more strict than any other instrument. All 8th grade drummers wishing to be accepted to high school Band MUST successfully perform a Level 4 NYSSMA Snare Drum solo by November AND a NYSSMA Level 5 Snare Drum solo by

March, with all correct rhythms, stickings, dynamics, rudiments and rolls included in the piece of music. They do NOT have to go to NYSSMA, but they must perform these two pieces for the teacher. If they are not able to competently perform these pieces, they will not be allowed to enroll in Band for the high school.

Orchestra 8

This class is for string students who are presently members of our performing orchestra who have successfully completed the seventh grade orchestra requirements. If you are not presently a member, you must audition for Mr. Schwartz to obtain approval to join.

Attendance at all orchestra concerts is mandatory.

2-3 Periods Per Week – Full Year

Chorus 8

Love singing? Want to work on your performance and musicianship skills? Chorus is the place for you! You don't have to be a soloist or crave being center stage in order to shine in Chorus. If you enjoy singing and want to be part of a music community, you have come to the right place. The chorus performs a wide variety of musical selections, including popular songs as well as music of master composers. Musicianship skills are crafted through ensemble and small lesson group practice. Attendance at all chorus concerts is mandatory.

If a student is not presently a member of the chorus, he/she can feel free to sign up. A brief audition will occur for Ms. Coppola upon entry.

2-3 Periods Per Week – Full Year

SCIENCE

Science Research

This course provides students with the opportunity to actively research science topics that interest them while learning important research and technical skills, including those used by forensic scientists, microbiologists and geneticists. The research methods taught during the course support participation in the various science competitions in which research students are expected to compete. Students will learn how to write abstracts of their work and will summarize current science research.

2-3 Periods Per Week – Full Year

SOCIAL STUDIES

History is Now

Students will find and analyze sources that provide windows into the history of art, war, sports, gaming, music, or whatever their interests, and will be given the opportunity to participate in the National History Day competition.

2-3 Periods Per Week – Full Year

Media Literacy for the Digital Age

The course is designed to equip students with critical thinking skills necessary to navigate, analyze, and consume media in a digital world. Through interactive lessons, case studies, and project-based learning, students will become discerning media consumers, understanding the impact of media on society and their personal lives.

2-3 Periods Per Week – Half Year

TECHNOLOGY

Woodworking

The woodworking elective promotes an understanding and appreciation for our Earth's largest renewable building resource. Students learn woodworking skills and use applied math concepts while creating exciting projects. Basic hand tool use, safe machine tool use, and engineering skills will be taught.

2-3 Periods Per Week – Half Year

Digital Photography

The digital photography course teaches students how to compose and create a better image. Digital SLR cameras are used. Emphasis is placed on composition, lighting, and interest. Adobe Photoshop is used to manipulate the images in imaginative ways. A digital and print final portfolio is created by each student. Digital cameras and lenses are available for students to use.

2-3 Periods Per Week – Half Year

MakerSpace Lab

South Middle's MakerSpace Lab technology elective combines collaboration, design, engineering, fabrication and education. It is a creative, do-it yourself space where students gather to create, invent, and learn. Students program FIRST robots, write code, design new inventions, and build them in wood, plastic, paper and using our 3D printer. It is blasts of imagination, invention and creativity put together. Students need to be passionate about do-it-yourself, hands-on projects; STEM learning!

2-3 Periods Per Week – Half Year