



Welcome to the Great Neck South Middle School *8th Grade Parent Night*

GREAT NECK SOUTH MIDDLE SCHOOL
GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT

March 3, 2026



Mrs. Jessica Chase
School Counselor
Grade 8
(516)441-4620

JChase@greatneck.k12.ny.us



SMS Administration & Deans

- **Dr. Gina Cartolano, *Principal***
- **Mr. Ryan Nadherny, *Assistant Principal***
- **Mr. Leonard DiBiase, *Assistant Principal***
- **Ms. Karla Krupala, *Dean***
- **Ms. Kristin Randazzo, *Dean***



SMS - Counseling Dept.

◆ School Counselors

- ◆ Mrs. Jecelyn Scauzillo - Grade 6
- ◆ Mr. LoRusso - Grade 7
- ◆ Mrs. Jessica Chase - Grade 8
- ◆ Mrs. Jennifer Hill, *Department Chair* - Grades 6, 7, 8

◆ School Psychologists

- ◆ Dr. Maria Hanakis (A-Lev)
- ◆ Dr. Sivan Erstein (Li-Z)

◆ Social Worker

- ◆ Mrs. Vanessa Cruz



Required Courses

- ❖ English 8
- ❖ Social Studies 8
- ❖ Math: Pre-Algebra 8 or Algebra 1H*
- ❖ Earth and Space Science
(with alt. day lab)



**Algebra & Earth and Space Science - Students can earn 1 high school credit for each class & will take the required Regents exam in June.*





Self-Select Enrichment

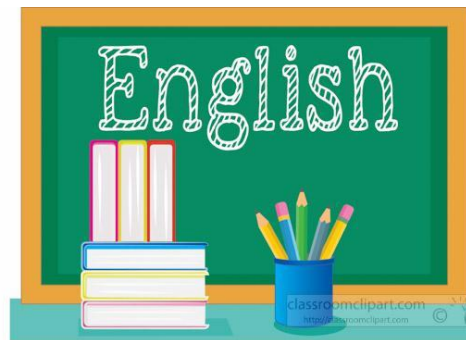


- ❖ **Self-Select** means that students in 8th Grade can elect to meet once/twice a month to undertake enrichment opportunities outside of the regular English class. The activities bear no weight in English class averages.
- ❖ Students will have the option to choose to self-select as enrichment in ***English ONLY***.
- ❖ Self-Select students should have a love for reading and English as additional work is required.
- ❖ In order to be placed in the Honors level English course in 9th grade at South High, ALL students (*not just those participating in Self-Select*) will need to **be recommended by their teacher**. Students recommended for honors in the high school must demonstrate outstanding achievement in *reading, writing, and agency practices*.

Self-Select Enrichment

Contact Information

- ❖ **English**
 - ❖ *Dr. Theresa Walter - Department Chair of English*
 - ❖ **Email:** TWalter@greatneck.k12.ny.us
 - ❖ **Phone:** 516-441-4644



Additional Required Subjects

- ❖ Health *(all year, every other day)*



- ❖ Technology *(all year, every other day)*



- ❖ Physical Education *(all year, every other day)*

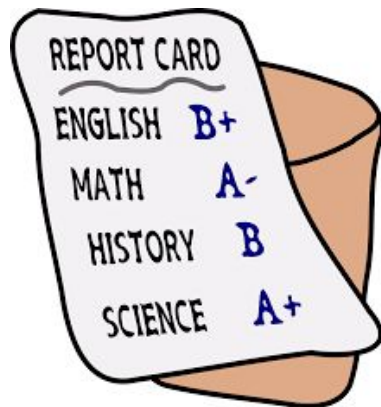


- ❖ Lunch *(all year, every day)*

- ❖ World Language *(all year, every day)*



Number and Letter Grades



97-100 - A+

93-96 - A

90-92 - A-

87-89 - B+

83-86 - B

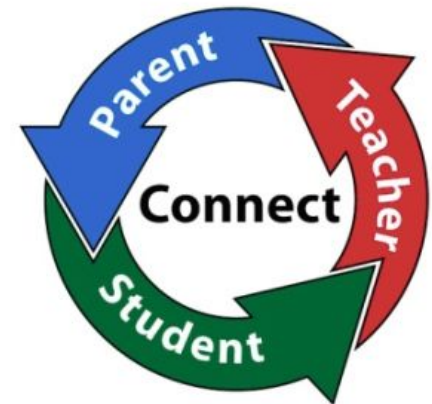
80-82 - B-

77-79 - C+

73-76 - C

70-72 - C-

65-69 - D



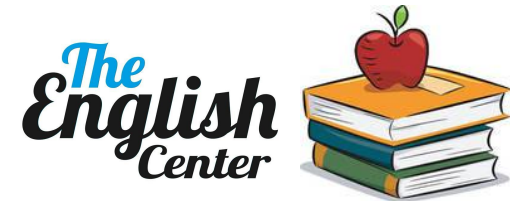
- Report Cards are available for viewing at the end of each quarter - about every 10 weeks.
- It is important for you to keep track of your child's progress throughout the quarter by checking the Parent Portal.
- Final Report Cards will reflect all four quarter grades and a cumulative average grade.

Department Chairs

SUBJECT	NAME	CONTACT INFORMATION
Art	Cynthia Smith	CSmith@greatneck.k12.ny.us
English	Theresa Walter	TWalter@greatneck.k12.ny.us
Family & Consumer Science (FACS)	Maria Stefandl	MStefandl@greatneck.k12.ny.us
Guidance	Jennifer Hill	JHill@greatneck.k12.ny.us
Health	Jennifer DiPalo	JDiPalo@greatneck.k12.ny.us
Library Media & Information Technology	Damon Reader	DReader@greatneck.k12.ny.us
Math	William Giannone	WGiannone@greatneck.k12.ny.us
Music	Alan Schwartz	ASchwartz@greatneck.k12.ny.us
Physical Education	Cathleen Dnyprowsy	CDnyprowsy@greatneck.k12.ny.us
Science	Tobias Hatten	THatten@greatneck.k12.ny.us
Social Studies	Frank Bua	FBua@greatneck.k12.ny.us
Special Education	Kathryn Duggan	KDuggan@greatneck.k12.ny.us
Technology	Jonathan Ruvio	JRuvio@greatneck.k12.ny.us
World Language	Christopher Pipala	CPipala@greatneck.k12.ny.us

Support Services

❖ English Center



❖ Math Center



❖ ENL



❖ Special Education Services



All Course Information is Available Online

- ❖ Current 7th Graders will have the opportunity to rank order their interest in the elective classes that we offer in 8th Grade. *If electives fit into your child's schedule*, they will receive at least **one** of their top choices. Rest assured that each of our electives has something to offer our students.

If you would like to see what electives are offered, this information can be found on the SMS website by following the steps outlined below:

- ❖ Please visit the **Great Neck South Middle School Website**
- ❖ Go to **“Departments”**
- ❖ Select **“Guidance”**
- ❖ Scroll down to **“Registration Information”**
- ❖ Select **“8th Grade”** and click on **“Course Info Booklet, 2025-26”**
- ❖ **Link: [8th Grade Course Registration Booklet](#)**
- ❖ *All students have access to a copy of the Elective Selection Tracking worksheet in their Grade-Level Google Classroom. We went over this worksheet with the students at our assembly on March 2nd. For your convenience, a copy of this has already been emailed to all 7th Grade parents via Parent Square.*
- ❖ ***Please be sure to look this over with your child in advance as they will be completing a Google Form on **March 19th** to rank order their elective selections for next year. All elective rankings are due on via the Google Form in class on that day.***

Electives

(Alt. Day/Full Year)

❖ Music Electives

- ❖ Band
- ❖ Chorus
- ❖ Orchestra



❖ Communications Elective

- ❖ Television Production Workshop

❖ Science Elective

- ❖ Science Research

❖ SS Elective

- ❖ History is NOW

❖ Art Elective



- ❖ Art Foundations - *Selection is based on a student's performance in Art 7 and the Art teacher recommendation. The students' still life drawing project is used as an exemplary project and performance indicator. (Earn ½ credit for H.S.)*

Electives

(Alt. Day/Half Year)

❖ English Electives

- ❖ Graphic Literature
- ❖ Public Speaking

❖ Social Studies Elective

- ❖ Media Literacy for the Digital Age

❖ Math Elective

- ❖ Intro to Coding with Scratch

❖ Communications Elective

- ❖ Movie Making Workshop

❖ Art Elective

- ❖ 3D Experience

❖ Technology Electives

- ❖ Digital Photography
- ❖ Makerspace Lab
- ❖ Woodworking

❖ FACS Elective

- ❖ Chefs



****All course descriptions can be found online on our school website.**

Sample Schedule

- * Homeroom
- 1. Technology/Health
- 2. **English**
- 3. **Earth Science**
- 4. Earth Science Lab/Physical Education
- 5. Lunch
- 6. **Social Studies**
- 7. World Language
- 8. **Math**
- 9. Electives/Support Service



Sample Schedule

	Term 1 (09/02/25- 11/07/25)	Term 2 (11/08/25- 01/24/26)	Term 3 (01/25/26- 04/17/26)	Term 4 (04/18/26- 06/26/26)
HR	998-11 HOMEROOM 8 Pernice/Bordi Rm: 822	998-11 HOMEROOM 8 Pernice/Bordi Rm: 822	998-11 HOMEROOM 8 Pernice/Bordi Rm: 822	998-11 HOMEROOM 8 Pernice/Bordi Rm: 822
1	884-2 (Day A) PHYS ED 8 SEM F Randazzo, K. Rm: Gym 2 881-12 (Day B) HEALTH 8 DiPalo, J Rm: 215	884-2 (Day A) PHYS ED 8 SEM F Randazzo, K. Rm: Gym 2 881-12 (Day B) HEALTH 8 DiPalo, J Rm: 215	885-1 (Day A) PHYS ED 8 SEM S Suliniski, K. Rm: Gym 2 881-12 (Day B) HEALTH 8 DiPalo, J Rm: 215	885-1 (Day A) PHYS ED 8 SEM S Suliniski, K. Rm: Gym 2 881-12 (Day B) HEALTH 8 DiPalo, J Rm: 215
2	280-1 SOCIAL STUDIES 8 Bua, F Rm: 608 Team: 8B	280-1 SOCIAL STUDIES 8 Bua, F Rm: 608 Team: 8B	280-1 SOCIAL STUDIES 8 Bua, F Rm: 608 Team: 8B	280-1 SOCIAL STUDIES 8 Bua, F Rm: 608 Team: 8B
3	186-7 ENGLISH 8 Griffin, M. Rm: 621 Team: 8B	186-7 ENGLISH 8 Griffin, M. Rm: 621 Team: 8B	186-7 ENGLISH 8 Griffin, M. Rm: 621 Team: 8B	186-7 ENGLISH 8 Griffin, M. Rm: 621 Team: 8B
4	583-2 FRENCH C Smith, K. Rm: 405	583-2 FRENCH C Smith, K. Rm: 405	583-2 FRENCH C Smith, K. Rm: 405	583-2 FRENCH C Smith, K. Rm: 405
5	88888-2 LUNCH/SEL 8 Scauzillo, J. Rm: CAFE 2	88888-2 LUNCH/SEL 8 Scauzillo, J. Rm: CAFE 2	88888-2 LUNCH/SEL 8 Scauzillo, J. Rm: CAFE 2	88888-2 LUNCH/SEL 8 Scauzillo, J. Rm: CAFE 2
6	395-7 ALGEBRA I H Dowling, J. Rm: 809 Team: 8B	395-7 ALGEBRA I H Dowling, J. Rm: 809 Team: 8B	395-7 ALGEBRA I H Dowling, J. Rm: 809 Team: 8B	395-7 ALGEBRA I H Dowling, J. Rm: 809 Team: 8B
7	787-3 (Day A) PHOTOGRAPHY (ALT) Beutel, B. Rm: 210 782-12 (Day B) TECHNOLOGY 8 Mead/Augone Rm: 211	787-3 (Day A) PHOTOGRAPHY (ALT) Beutel, B. Rm: 210 782-12 (Day B) TECHNOLOGY 8 Mead/Augone Rm: 211	394-3 (Day A) INTRO TO CODING Giannone, W. Rm: 709 782-12 (Day B) TECHNOLOGY 8 Mead/Augone Rm: 211	394-3 (Day A) INTRO TO CODING Giannone, W. Rm: 709 782-12 (Day B) TECHNOLOGY 8 Mead/Augone Rm: 211
8	485-7 EARTH SCIENCE Hrysko, M. Rm: 826 Team: 8B	485-7 EARTH SCIENCE Hrysko, M. Rm: 826 Team: 8B	485-7 EARTH SCIENCE Hrysko, M. Rm: 826 Team: 8B	485-7 EARTH SCIENCE Hrysko, M. Rm: 826 Team: 8B
9	683-1 (Day A) ART FOUNDATIONS (ALT) Smith, C. Rm: 213 486-7 (Day B) EARTH SCIENCE LAB Hrysko, M. Rm: 826 Team: 8B	683-1 (Day A) ART FOUNDATIONS (ALT) Smith, C. Rm: 213 486-7 (Day B) EARTH SCIENCE LAB Hrysko, M. Rm: 826 Team: 8B	683-1 (Day A) ART FOUNDATIONS (ALT) Smith, C. Rm: 213 486-7 (Day B) EARTH SCIENCE LAB Hrysko, M. Rm: 826 Team: 8B	683-1 (Day A) ART FOUNDATIONS (ALT) Smith, C. Rm: 213 486-7 (Day B) EARTH SCIENCE LAB Hrysko, M. Rm: 826 Team: 8B

SMS iPad Information

- ❖ As you know, all students receive an iPad as a member of South Middle.
- ❖ Students will keep their current iPads over the summer for continued use in 8th grade.
- ❖ Any damage, loss, or theft must be reported immediately to the school.
- ❖ Families will be responsible for 100% of the replacement cost of any lost, stolen or unrepairable devices. Families are responsible for 70% of the cost of every iPad that is repairable. Students will not receive a loaner iPad until payment is received.
- ❖ Should you have any questions or concerns regarding your child's iPad please do not hesitate to contact our *School Library Media & Information Technology Department Chair, Mr. Damon Reader*, at DReader@Greatneck.k12.ny.us



Clubs & Activities

- Anime Club
- Art Club/Mural Club
- Chess Club
- Chinese Yo-Yo
- Coding Club
- Community Action
- Community Closet
- Debate Club
- Fantasy/Sci-Fi Club
- Friday in the Front
- Future Business Leaders Club
- Gamers Unplugged
- Gay Straight Alliance
- Homework Center
- Intramurals (A.M. and PM)
- JKD (J-Pop/K-Pop Dance Club)
- Lego Club
- Lion Dance Club
- Mag-Lev Club
- Math Olympiads
- Math Team
- “Middleview” School Newspaper

- Movie Enthusiasts Club
- Movie Making Club
- Multicultural Club
- Podcasting Club
- Post-Production Club
- "Rebel Pen" -Art & Literary Magazine
- Ribbon Dance
- Robotics Club
- SADD Club
- School Musical/Stage Crew
- School Service
- Science Bowl
- Science Olympiad
- Sew Crafty Club
- Student Government
- Walking Club
- Yearbook: TESL
- Yearbook Photography

Link: [SMS Clubs & Activities Booklet](#)

Additional Information

◆ Student Resources

- ◆ **Extra-Help** – once per week, per subject w/ subject teacher.
- ◆ **Math Center** – open every day during lunch & after school until 4pm.
- ◆ **HW Center** – open every day after school until 4pm.
- ◆ **Library** – open every day at lunch & after school until 4pm.
- ◆ **Peer Tutoring** – sign up in October to be paired with a SHS tutor.

◆ Field Trips

- ◆ Each child will participate in a team field trip (teams decide at the start of the year and team trips will vary in location).
- ◆ Each 8th grader will also attend a grade-level field trip in the spring.

◆ Parent Portal

- ◆ **Email:** ParentSupport@greatneck.k12.ny.us

◆ Sports Teams

- ◆ **Contact:** *Cathleen Dnyprowsky, Physical Edu. Chairperson & Director of Athletics*
CDnyprowsky@greatneck.k12.ny.us

Questions?



Thank You!

“Where Discovery Leads to Greatness”

