8th Grade Worksheet

NORTH MIDDLE SCHOOL – Course Selections for 2026-2027

Student Name / First Name:_____ **Last Name:** _____

Step 1: Rank your Elective Courses (Top 8)

Please rank your Top 8 Elective Choices from the list below (1 is your first choice and 8 is your last choice). If you choose any from the Art section, you may only choose one.
Elective classes are offered all year long, every other day (A or B).
Course changes will be limited, based on class size, and only considered during the first week of the school year.

Art Elective Choices
(If interested, only choose 1)
Each course has a $25 fee

_____ Digital Art

_____ Studio Art

Business Elective Choices

_____ Career Pathways

_____ Computer Applications

_____ Financial Life Skills

Music Elective Choices
Each course has a $25 fee

_____ Band

_____ Choir

_____ Orchestra

_____ Ukulele & Songwriting Workshop

PLTW/STEM/Tech Ed Elective Choices
Each course has a $35 fee

_____Manufacturing, Automation & Robotics

_____Exploration of Media Creations

_____Medical Detectives

Foreign Language Elective Choices
*** 7th grade class is a prerequisite for 8th grade ****

_____ German

_____ Spanish

Step 2: Parent Signature

By signing below, I understand the following: 1) My child's schedule will be based on class size parameters and course availability. 2) Courses are subject to cancellation due to low enrollment or scheduling conflicts. 3) The course ranking above provides North counselors options when scheduling my child's classes. 4) Students not meeting grade level expectations based on standardized test scores or grades will be placed in an intervention program in lieu of one or more courses. 5) The required courses (Language Arts, Math, Social Studies, Science and Physical Education) will automatically be added to my child's schedule.

Parent's signature: _____

8th Grade - Course Descriptions

Band – Eighth Grade Band consists mainly of students who have some level of proficiency on their instruments. The band meets every other day and each student receives a weekly lesson either during school or a scheduled private lesson outside of the school day. Performances include playing at Pep Assemblies for the school, our annual "Bands of the Falls", winter and spring concerts, Solo & Ensemble Festival and other musical offerings to the Menomonee Falls community. Students enrolling in 8th grade band must have prior approval from the band director and preferably playing experience.

Choir - Choir members learn about their own unique instrument - their voice. Vocal training will emphasize musical skill development through learning songs in many different styles, languages, and time periods. Performance opportunities will include school programs and evening concerts as well as the annual Solo and Ensemble Festival. The fundamentals of reading music and sight singing will be a part of the overall choir curriculum.

Orchestra - Orchestra 8 consists of students who have completed one or more years of musical training on a string instrument (Violin, Viola, Cello, Bass.) The orchestra meets every other day and each student is expected to receive a weekly lesson. This class works on advancing skill development in preparation for high school level music. Performances include the annual Winter and Spring concerts, Stringfest, Solo and ensemble festival, and various other Menomonee Falls community events. Students enrolling in this class must have prior experience and approval of the director.

Ukulele & Songwriting Workshop – Students will learn how to play single note melodies and chord progressions on the ukulele. They will be able to play along with simple popular folk songs. They will learn the basics of songwriting, popular song forms and how they are put together. The second half of the class focuses on recording, arranging and composing using Garage Band (a digital audio workstation).

Introduction to Garageband and Digital Music – (***Will be offered in the 2027/2028 school year***) This course will provide an introduction for students interested in digital music production. Students will explore a Digital Audio Workstation (DAW) using a project-based curriculum that highlights various techniques needed to create digital music. Students will learn how to edit, arrange, mix, sample and record audio and midi tracks to create their own music.

German – Students continue their introduction to the German language and culture through listening, reading, writing, and speaking. At this level, comprehension skills are emphasized. The description unit contains topics such as describing personality traits, emotions, physical appearance, weather, activities, and preferences; the narration unit addresses telling personal and imaginary stories; and the third unit revolves around receiving and giving information. A good dose of fun and games is guaranteed! ***Students who meet proficiency standards for this course would enroll in German level 2 at the high school.***

Spanish - Students continue their introduction to the Spanish language through speaking, reading, writing, listening and cultural awareness. Building vocabulary, grammar, and pronunciation are emphasized. Students learn to communicate about school, free-time activity, family, customs, and food in an immersive atmosphere. Spanish conversation is practiced using dialogs, games, partner and small group activities. ***Students who meet proficiency standards for this course would enroll in Spanish level 2 at the high school.***

Studio Art – The goal of Studio Art is to teach students how to independently and successfully develop ideas, execute art plans, and grow as an artist through reflection. Student choice will greatly influence the work developed during the semester, through the use of theme-based projects. Students will be exposed to and work with a variety of materials, that reflect each individual student's interests. This course prepares students for high school level art courses by nurturing and promoting student voice.

Digital Art - Digital Art is a course focused on how art and technology interact. Students will work with technology and traditional techniques to develop digital art such as photography, animation, digital painting, filmmaking, and graphic design. This course prepares students for high school level digital art courses by featuring processes used in professional art careers.

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Financial Life Skills – Financial success…is it in your future? In Financial Life Skills, you will discover what it takes to become financially literate. You will learn how to manage your own money using a budget and checkbook and make smart decisions about banking, credit, investing, taxes, insurance, buying choices, and much more. Participate in Junior Achievement's Finance Park program which culminates in a day-long career/income/budget simulation field trip! You are never too young to learn the skills that will lead to economic independence. In today's ever-changing economy, one thing remains constant: every person needs a basic understanding of personal financial skills**!**

Career Pathways - Get ready for your future by exploring occupations that interest you, examining various aspects of work, and becoming aware of the relationships that exist between education and career planning. Course units include job applications, mock job and career exploratory interviews, Junior Achievement's "It's My Future" program, entrepreneurial field trips, guest speakers from our MFHS Academies, in-depth use of North's Xello software with a strong focus on the 16 Career Clusters, employability skills, social media use appropriate for school and careers, personality-type online assessments, career, education, and job search ethics, presentation skills and more. It is never too early to discover how to get a job and prepare for your career!

Computer Applications – (***Course will be offered in the 2026/2027 school year***) In this course, students will utilize technology tools to research and create their own business plan. Some units of study include: business letters, marketing, website building (HTML), entrepreneurial skills, and so much more! Students will practice collaborative teamwork and presentation skills. This class is for you with the ever-expanding use of technology at school and on the job!

Mobile Apps – (***Course will be offered in the 2027/2028 school year***) In this course, students will learn to create entertaining and socially useful apps for phones and tablets that can be shared with friends and family. In addition to learning how to program and become better problem solvers, students will explore the exciting world of computer science from the perspective of mobile computing and its increasingly important effect on society. We also explore the world of Artificial Intelligence (A!) through machine learning. We will learn about different systems used to represent information in a computer and the challenges and trade-offs posed by using them. If you want to learn how to build apps and learn more about computer science, this class is for you!

Exploration of Media Creations – A class unlike any other that focuses on video editing to create commercials for activities in our school and eventually businesses in our community. Learn how to communicate efficiently and effectively towards a target audience while enhancing your group work skills. There are no tests or quizzes, instead you'll be creating multiple commercials using digital cameras, Final Cut Pro on iMacs, and WeVideo as you work with your group to plan, shoot, and edit 30-second commercials. By the time you are through with this class you'll be more creative, a better group worker, a powerful presenter, and will have enhanced many of the soft skills businesses are looking for in their employees**. For a video overview of all Technology and Engineering classes offered at North, please copy or retype this link in your browser:** https://vimeo.com/showcase/10840894

Manufacturing, Automation and Robotics – Students trace the history, development and influence of automation and robotics as they learn about mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation and computer control systems. Students use the VEX Robotics® platform to design, build and program real-world objects such as traffic lights, toll booths and robotic arms. In addition, students have the opportunity to design, engineer and write computer code using (Robot C). This culminating team project consist of a moving vehicle using the VEX robotic engineering equipment from an engineering team approach. **For a video overview of all Technology and Engineering classes offered at North, please copy or retype this link in your browser:** https://vimeo.com/showcase/10840894

Medical Detectives – In this Project Lead the Way class, students play the role of real-life medical detectives as they solve medical mysteries through hands-on projects and labs, investigate how to measure and interpret vital signs, learn how the systems of the human body work together to maintain health and research future careers in biomedical sciences. Several dissections including the cow eye, sheep brain and the sheep heart will aid student understanding of our own anatomy. Students will dive into the complexities of DNA and genetic diseases including isolating their own DNA to keep as a memento. Additionally, students will analyze "crime scenes" using forensics (fingerprinting, hair/fiber analysis, blood typing, etc.) to determine who committed the crime and create a "True Crime" podcast to explain their findings. **For a video overview of all Technology and Engineering classes offered at North, please copy or retype this link in your browser:** https://vimeo.com/showcase/10840894