NFA 2026-2027 ELECTIVE COURSE CATALOG

Grades 4-8

NFA
NORWOOD-FONTBONNE
ACADEMY

NFA's Electives Program provides students with the opportunity to have choice in their academic experience and pursue their passions to grow in an area of interest. NFA electives are connected to the following categories and all directly align with the NFA student vision statement:

Arts
Digital Technology and Communications
Science and Engineering
Global Awareness
Life Skills
Physical Wellness
Social and Emotional wellness

NFA
NORWOOD-FONTBONNE
ACADEMY

01

Upper Elementary Electives

Grades 4-5

02

Middle School Electives

Grades 6, 7, 8

01 Upper Elementary Electives

Grades 4-5



Cracking History's Cold Cases

Global Awareness

Trimesters 1, 3

Some of history's most famous mysteries have never been fully explained, like what happened to Amelia Earhart or the vanished Lost Colony of Roanoke. In this elective, you'll become a historical investigator, digging into the real theories behind these cases and examining the evidence closely. You'll choose the theory you find most convincing, build your case, and share your thinking.



Recharge

Emotional Wellness

Trimesters 1, 2, 3

Take a breath, slow down, and make space to recharge. In this calming and creative elective, students will explore simple meditation, mindfulness, and relaxation practices designed to help them quiet their minds, manage stress, and be present in the moment. Gentle creative activities such as mindful drawing, doodling, coloring, patterns, and painting will be incorporated as ways to practice focus and self-expression. No artistic talent is required- just an open mind and a willingness to slow down, breathe, and reconnect.

01 Upper Elementary Electives

Grades 4-5



Brain Boosters: Puzzles, Games, and Teasers

Life Skills

Trimester 1

This fun and challenging elective is all about growing your brain in exciting new ways! Each week, students will explore different kinds of puzzles, games, and brain teasers. Whether solving riddles, breaking codes, or creating their own challenges, students will practice problem-solving, logical thinking, and collaboration—all while having fun.



Book Worms, Join Together

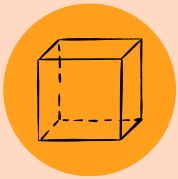
Life Skills

Trimester 2

The fourth and fifth grade elective Book Club is an exciting opportunity for young readers to explore a diverse range of literature while fostering a love for reading. Through engaging discussions and activities, students will delve into captivating stories that spark their imagination and broaden their understanding of the world around them. Students in this elective will read a set of titles to prepare for the Montgomery County Reading Olympics Competition in the spring.

01 Upper Elementary Electives

Grades 4-5



3D Sculpture Art: Build, Create, and Explore!

Arts

Trimesters 1, 2, 3

Get ready to roll up your sleeves and make 3 dimensional art! In this class, you'll build amazing 3D sculptures using materials like wire, cardboard, and recycled objects. To inspire your art you'll take a fun trip through art history to look at sculptures through the ages.

As you create, you'll learn about the elements of art—like line, shape, form, space, texture, color, and value—and how artists use them to bring their ideas to life. You'll design your own artwork, experiment with new techniques, and turn your big ideas into awesome sculptures.



NFA Green Team: A Leadership Opportunity

Science and Engineering

Trimesters 1, 2, 3

Join the Green Team and become a leader in caring for our school and the environment! This student-led group of 4th and 5th graders meets once a week to explore nature, investigate environmental issues, and take meaningful action. Members participate in hands-on projects, collect observations, develop solutions, and help lead school-wide stewardship initiatives. Through creativity, teamwork, and leadership, the Green Team inspires our community to treasure the Earth. If you enjoy learning outdoors and want to make a difference, this is the team for you!

01 Upper Elementary Electives

Grades 4-5

Entrepreneurship & Innovation

Life Skills

Trimesters 2, 3

What makes an idea great? In this hands-on elective, students will explore how creative ideas can become products, services, and solutions that make a difference. Students will identify problems worth solving, think about the needs of different customers, develop and improve original ideas, explore branding and advertising, and practice presenting their ideas to others. Through collaborative challenges and creative projects, students will develop an entrepreneurial mindset while building skills in creativity, innovation, problem-solving, communication, collaboration, and perseverance.

02

Middle School Electives

Grades 6-8

02 Middle School Electives

Grades 6, 7, 8



Bridging Worlds: Conversations Across Cultures

Global Studies

Trimesters 1, 2, 3

In this interactive and hands-on elective, students will explore cultures from around the world through creative projects, activities, traditions, food, games, music, and stories. Through collaboration, discussion, and fun cultural experiences, students will build curiosity, empathy, communication skills, and a greater understanding of the world around them.



Open Art Studio: Painting, Printmaking, and 3D Art

Arts

Trimesters 1, 2, 3

Open Art Studio is a creative, hands-on elective designed for middle school students who enjoy making, experimenting, and exploring new artistic ideas. Students will work with a wide variety of materials and techniques while developing their own unique artistic style.

Throughout the course, students will create painting, printmaking, and 3D projects, learning about color, composition, texture, pattern, and artistic expression. Projects may include painting with different media, relief and monoprint techniques, mixed-media artwork, and experimental sculptures. Students will have opportunities to make creative choices, take artistic risks, and explore mediums that interest them.

02 Middle School Electives

Grades 6, 7, 8



Kindness Club

Emotional Wellness

Trimesters 2, 3

Small acts. Big impact! In Kindness Club, we'll work together to make our school a kinder, more welcoming place for everyone. Through fun projects, thoughtful surprises, and hands-on acts of kindness, we'll spread positivity, brighten someone's day, and discover how even the smallest gestures can make a BIG difference. Come ready to get creative, work as a team, and make kindness contagious!



Medaille Servant Leaders

Mission

Trimesters 1, 2, 3

Named for the founder of the Sisters of Saint Joseph, Father Jean Pierre Medaille, SJ worked closely with a group of six amazing young women who had a desire to circle the city of Le Puy, France, find the needs of the day and address them. Our Medaille Servant Leader elective program will focus on reflection, prayer, and finding the needs in and around our community to see how we can address them. Each trimester, our Medaille Servant leaders will support our Community Service Corps and our Outreach programs.

02 Middle School Electives

Grades 6, 7, 8



Creative Writing

Arts

Trimesters 1, 2, 3

Students will bring their ideas to life through stories, poems, and creative pieces! We will explore sensory language, vivid descriptions, and emotional writing to make readers see it, feel it, and experience it. Students will experiment with their own unique voices and styles while creating writing they're proud to share.



The Language of Film

Arts

Trimesters 1, 2, 3

What makes a movie memorable? In this course, students will explore the art of storytelling through classic cinema. Students will examine memorable scenes, characters, dialogue, cinematography, editing, and other filmmaking techniques. The course will also include creative writing activities where students create their own short scenes and sketches inspired by the films they study.

02 Middle School Electives

Grades 6, 7, 8



Basketball Game Operations: Scoring, Statistics and Announcing

Life Skills

Trimesters 2, 3

Learn the behind-the-scenes skills that keep a basketball game running. Students will practice keeping the scorebook, tracking game statistics, and operating the scoreboard, then developing announcing techniques, including play-by-play for potential live-streaming games to the school community. Students will be encouraged to keep stats and operate the scoreboard for NFA Home Games.



Reading Olympics

Life Skills

Trimesters 2

The Grades 6–8 Elective Book Club gives students the opportunity to explore a variety of engaging and thought-provoking books while connecting with fellow readers. Through student-centered discussions, activities, and reflection, students will examine characters, themes, perspectives, and ideas that bring each story to life. Together, they'll discover new authors and genres, share their own interpretations, and explore how literature can deepen their understanding of themselves and the world around them. The elective period will be used to prepare the students for the middle school Reading Olympics competition!

Elective Course Requests: How To

Requests for Elective Courses will be open in MyNFA from:

Wednesday, September 16 at 7:00pm

through

Monday, September 21 at 8:00am

Electives will be approved on a first come, first served basis. Students are required to add an alternate option as a backup.

Follow the step by step directions for your how-to guide!

Elective Course Requests: How To

1. Log into MyNFA- child or parent can log in
    a. If in parent account, click on Student or Child Profile
2. Click on “Course Requests” Tab
3. On the left hand side, you’ll see a clickable drop down menu labeled “available course”
    a. Choose “Electives”
4. Click on the elective you’d like to request for the trimester, choose the trimester you are requesting, click “add course request” button and then CLICK “SAVE”
    a. We are only taking course requests one trimester at a time
5. Now, you will need to choose alternates. You will see the course now listed at the top of your child’s course list
    a. Click on the course name
    b. You will now see the option to Click “Add + Alternate”
    c. Begin to type in the name of an alternate course and choose the course once it appears
    d. Click “Done”
    e. CLICK “SAVE”