

***GREAT NECK
SOUTH MIDDLE
SCHOOL***

2018 – 2019

***REGISTRATION
INFORMATION***

GRADE 8

GREAT NECK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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GREAT NECK SOUTH MIDDLE SCHOOL

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**GREAT NECK SOUTH MIDDLE SCHOOL
GRADE 8 COURSE DESCRIPTION BOOKLET**

Ryan Nadherny, Counselor Grade 8

PAGES

REQUIREMENTS

ENGLISH

English 8

1

SOCIAL STUDIES

Social Studies 8

1

MATH

Pre-Algebra 8

Algebra 8 H (Regents)

2

SCIENCE

Regents Earth Science

2

WORLD LANGUAGES

Chinese 8

French 8

Latin 8

Spanish 8

Introduction to Spanish

2 & 3

HEALTH

Health 8

4

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical Education 8

4

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**GREAT NECK SOUTH MIDDLE SCHOOL
GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT**

2018-2019

SECTION 1
REQUIRED SUBJECTS FOR 8TH GRADE

<u>SUBJECTS</u>	<u>PERIODS PER WEEK</u>
English 8	5
Social Studies 8	5
Pre Algebra 8	5
Algebra 8 H (Regents)	5
Regents Earth Science	5
With Earth Science Lab	2-3
World Language	5
Technology 8	5 (Half Year)
Health 8	5 (Half Year)
Physical Education 8	2-3
Lunch	5

REQUIRED COURSE OFFERINGS

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.

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 three different critical lenses: Economics, War and Peace, and Social Reform. 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.

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, angle, similarity and congruence, and understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem.

ALGEBRA 1 H (REGENTS)

This course, which is the first in the NYS three-year sequence (Algebra/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 average.

1 Unit of High School Credit.

REGENTS EARTH SCIENCE

Regents Earth 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, geology and meteorology and linking them to daily events. New York State Department of Education requires students to complete 1200 minutes of lab work to receive Regents credit. The course meets every day with a lab period scheduled on alternate days. The final exam is the Earth 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.

WORLD LANGUAGES

Chinese 8

The successful completion of Chinese 7 is a prerequisite for this course. By the end of this course, students are expected to demonstrate a measurable degree of communicative competency both in speaking and writing 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

French 8

The successful completion of French 7 is a prerequisite for this course. By the end of this course, students are expected to demonstrate a measurable degree of communicative competency both in speaking and writing 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

Latin 8

This course is a continuation of Latin 7. 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

Spanish 8

The successful completion of Spanish 7 is a prerequisite for this course. By the end of this course, students are expected to demonstrate a measurable degree of communicative competency both in speaking and writing 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

Introduction to Spanish*

This course is an introductory course for students in grade 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 the high school.

*Students who did not take a world language in grade 6 or grade 7 must enroll in Introduction to Spanish 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.

HEALTH EDUCATION 8

Health Education 8 is a required course for all grade 8 students. This class is two quarters and meets daily. 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 inter-related. Knowledge, awareness, understanding, recognition and prevention are infused into each unit of study.

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.
Every Day - Half Year

SECTION II 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 for 2017-2018, now in preparation.

ART ELECTIVES

Art Foundations 8

Art Foundations is an advanced art course offered to qualified eighth grade students that display strong potential and interest in art. Upon completion of the course, students will earn ½ high school unit of credit. Selection for Art Foundations is based on a student's performance in Art 7, the Art 7 Mid-term Exam and art teacher recommendations. 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 include an art history and art criticism component. Students will be encouraged to communicate their own ideas and viewpoints through their art as well. Art Foundations is the first course in a comprehensive sequence of art courses that can be continued in high school. The final grade in Art Foundations will appear on the student's high school transcript and is included in the total cumulative high school average.

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

COMMUNICATIONS ELECTIVES

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 ELECTIVES

Books To Film

This course is designed for eighth graders who are interested in reading novels, plays, short stories or graphic novels and comparing them to the film versions. The class will read the various sources and then explore the similarities and differences in the story-telling techniques.

2-3 Periods Per Week - Half Year

Creative Writing

Students will have the opportunity to write about both personal and assigned topics. Writers will be able to write in formats of their choice, including short stories, poems or scripts. They will then workshop their pieces with their peers and the instructor.

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 skills for making oral reports, speeches to inform, convince and entertain. Students will also be involved in debates and panel discussions. Videotaping may be used to provide feedback.

2-3 Periods Per Week – Half Year

FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCES ELECTIVE

Chefs

This elective is a graded course that meets every other day for 20 weeks (half year). Using food as the vehicle, the chef's class is designed for those students who wish to develop their critical thinking skills by drawing on the knowledge gained in the 6th and 7th grade Family and Consumer Sciences classes. Through guided instruction and independent group work, students will explore a variety of topics that include, but are not limited to, meal preparation and management, nutrition, current trends in food, in-house food competitions, such as "Chopped," and much much more. If you have an appetite to learn, then this class is for you.

2-3 Periods Per Week – Half Year

MUSIC ELECTIVES

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

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

If you enjoy singing and would like many opportunities to perform, this class is for you. Selections are drawn from all sources; however, special emphasis is placed upon works from musical theater. **Attendance at all chorus concerts is mandatory.** If you are not presently a member of the chorus, you must audition for Ms. Willcox to obtain approval to join.

2-3 Periods Per Week – Full Year

SCIENCE ELECTIVE

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. This full-year course meets every other day for one period.

SOCIAL STUDIES ELECTIVES

Law and Order

While law may be the foundation of any orderly society, too often it is complicated and misunderstood. In an effort to break down jurisprudence into something reasonable and tangible, students will explore the intricacies and inconsistencies of the United States legal system, as well as the basic tenants of criminal, civil and Constitutional law. Students will leave this class with a greater understanding and appreciation of the nuances of the United States legal system.

2-3 Periods Per Week – Half Year

Real To Reel

While most students love going to the movies, few have been trained to appreciate cinema as art, or as a vehicle to educate and enlighten. Film can help engage a viewer with an idea, such as a contemporary issue or a cultural difference. Film can also help the viewer draw parallels between eras in history.

The goal of “Real to Reel” is to make the classroom a starting point for the investigation of larger themes like ethics, culture and race by analyzing the political/historical meaning in select films, differentiating between fact and fiction in cinema and evaluating how accurately history has been handled in the movies.
2-3 Periods Per Week – Half Year

TECHNOLOGY ELECTIVES

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 will combine collaboration, design, engineering, fabrication and education. MakerSpaces are creative, do-it-yourself spaces where students will gather to create, invent, and learn. Students will be programming FIRST robots, writing code, designing new inventions, and building them in wood, plastic, paper and using our 3D printer. It will be blasts of imagination, invention and creativity put together. Students should be passionate about do-it-yourself, hands-on projects; STEM learning!
2-3 Periods Per Week – Half Year