

# **Little Falls Township Public Schools**

## **Middle School Electives 2022-2023**



School No. 1  
Principal Dana Sprague  
32 Stevens Avenue  
Little Falls, NJ 07424

# Grades 5-8

## Elective Courses

Behold the School No. 1 elective course offerings for the 21-22 school year! The following courses will vary by grade level. Here are a few things to know before narrowing down your elective decision...

### **GRADES 5 & 6:**

- 5th & 6th Graders will have 1 period of electives that rotate on A and B days. All 5th and 6th Grade electives are FULL YEAR courses.
- These grade levels have less electives because cycle courses (Music, Art, World Language, etc.) are added to their schedules.

### **GRADES 7 & 8:**

- 7th and 8th graders will have 2 periods of electives that rotate on A and B days. Electives for these grade levels can run as FULL OR HALF YEAR courses. Full year courses have been labeled for you. HALF YEAR courses will take place either marking periods 1 & 2 or 3 & 4.

*If students qualify for BSI, ELA Lab, or Math Lab, these courses will replace an elective. Parents will be notified if their child is in need of one of these courses.*

**IMPORTANT:** It is important to know that students are not guaranteed their choice elective. The courses and the time they are offered are based on staff schedules and capacity of the class itself.

# Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics

## **Intro to Architecture & Home Design (8th Grade Only)**

New to architecture? In this course you will discover great buildings, structures, and designs to see how architecture has changed throughout history. You will explore how to plan and create your own building designs and create aesthetically pleasing home interiors.

## **Sports Math and Analytics: 6th Grade (FULL YEAR)**

### **7th & 8th Grade**

Venture into the world of analyzing sports data! In this course you will learn to use some mathematical tools that can help predict and analyze sporting performances and outcomes. This course covers all the major sports and even includes a collection of graphics displaying various sports data. This is a great course for anyone interested in quantitative aspects of athletics!

## **Brain Teasers (6th Grade Only) FULL YEAR**

Do you like math challenges? Is your brain ready to be “teased”? Are you a math “thinker” or do you want to become one? This elective will offer students the opportunity to develop and apply math skills such as adding, subtracting, multiplying, dividing, and logical reasoning through fun activities and contests. Students will also be developing math activities to share with the class to further challenge their classmates. There will be individual challenges as well as group challenges that will help students build their math stamina, teamwork skills, and overall math confidence.

## **Scratch 3.0 (6th Grade Only) FULL YEAR**

Use the Scratch block programming language to program your own interactive stories, create games, and make animations. Scratch is an introductory level coding experience for students with numerous areas to explore and experiment. Scratch combines the world of technology with the world of creativity.

## **Coding/Computer Programming (7th & 8th Grade)**

Students will be exploring computer programming and learning programming principles. Students will be applying principles of coding to create games and designs using the 5-step design process.

## **STEAM (7th & 8th Grade)**

Teamwork and virtual learning in which real-world problems and challenges will be explored. We will find Solutions while using Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. Get ready to imagine, plan, and create.

## **Personal Finance & Entrepreneurship (7th & 8th Grade) *FULL YEAR***

Would you like to learn how to be money smart? Managing money is an essential part of our everyday lives! This course will review the financial principles you need to enter adulthood prepared to make good financial decisions. This course is also inclusive of the TREP\$ program, a project-based learning program that teaches kids how to start their own businesses!

## **Social Studies**

### **Film Study (7th & 8th Grade)**

Are you a visual learner? The goal of this class is to gain knowledge of classic and historic events through movies you may have seen or heard about. Film study will explore the nature of the motion picture, the actors, and directors who have made significant effects on America both past and present. All movies viewed will be age-appropriate and will focus on significant cultural and historic events that have shaped our society.

### **Current Topics and History:**

#### **5th & 6th (*FULL YEAR*)**

#### **7th & 8th**

This course introduces students to current topics that impact citizens living around the world. Students will be expected to seek out and analyze newsworthy events and explain how the event impacts them either directly or indirectly. The focus will be on reading and writing, as well as gaining the necessary public speaking skills to share opinion and research orally. At the end, students will have a sound knowledge of important current events and the confidence to change their surroundings as an active World citizen.

### **Rap, Rock, and Music Culture (7th & 8th Grade) *FULL YEAR***

This class will analyze the world of sports by blending history and mathematics with a new twist. The class will also venture into the evolution of Rap and Rock and how music has had an impact on various social aspects such as fashion, race, culture, and sports.

## World Language

### **Mango! Independent Language Exploration:**

**5th & 6th (FULL YEAR)**

**7th & 8th**

Welcome one of our newest additions to the elective choices - MANGO! Mango is a virtual world language exploration course. Students may choose from dozens of languages and will explore/expand their listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills in whichever language they choose! This online program is very interactive with personalized computer guidance to help students have fun and learn a new language.

## Communications

**Book Club (5th, 6th, 7th & 8th) FULL YEAR**

Do you love to read books? Do you love to finish a great book and discuss that book with friends? If so, this is the elective for you! In the book club elective, you will read amazing books and talk about those books with your classmates. As a School No. 1 Book Club, we will learn more about the authors, find common themes in the books we read, and stage our own battles. In this elective, you will also gain knowledge and enjoyment from Reading good books and sharing them with friends!

**Public Speaking (7th & 8th)**

Do you ever get nervous when it's time to share your work or ideas in front of the class? Do you want to work on building your confidence when it's your time to shine? If so, public speaking is for you! This elective will give you the skills and confidence to stand up in front of your classmates and an audience to share your ideas, projects, speeches and everything in between! We will use games, icebreakers, team-building activities and more to help say goodbye to any jitters before having to speak in front of a large group, or even a small group! We will also take a look at how public speaking can help you in the future.

**Creative Writing (5th & 6th) FULL YEAR**

**(7th & 8th)**

If you have a wild imagination and love to make up stories then this is the class for you! In creative writing we will be exploring different genres of writing, through both reading and

writing, as well as the other necessary elements needed to improve writing and composition skills.

Writing Genres Covered:

(5 & 6) Journal Writing, Memoir, Poetry, Mystery Stories, and Fairy Tales

(7 & 8) Poetry, Music, Memoir Writing Worldwide Mythology, and Short Fiction

### **Reader's Theater (5th Grade Only) *FULL YEAR***

Are you outgoing and like to have attention on you? Do you wish you could tell a good joke, read a poem with style, become a great storyteller, and wow others with creative use of your voice? Then this is the elective for you! We will practice these skills and more while learning about worldwide cultures and historical events. Bring your best and loudest voice- it will be fun and funny!

### **Journalism & Media Literacy (5 & 8 Only) *FULL YEAR***

Journalism is a course designed for students interested in newspaper journalism and developing their skills as a writer. The course explores the contemporary media and the ethical responsibility issues inherent in the press today. Students will learn the fundamentals of news, feature, editorial and sports writing. Copy reading, news style and editing will be stressed. Students will create numerous original stories using varied structures and writing techniques. Students will also learn to create computer generated layouts and graphics in preparing for publication of the School No.1 Student Newspaper.

### **Yearbook (Grade 8 Only) *FULL YEAR***

Welcome to our new Yearbook course! Students will become historians, journalists, and artists putting together a photojournalistic book that will be on shelves for many, many years to come! There never was a better time to help create memories for all to see!

### **Hollywood Books (7 & 8) *NEW!***

This elective will answer the age-old question of "Which is better – the book or the movie?" We will read novels together in class from different genres that have had a Hollywood movie made about them. We will then compare segments of the movie to segments of the book to determine similarities, and differences, and focus on character analysis.

# Visual & Performing Arts

## 3D Art (7th & 8th Grade)

A variety of three-dimensional materials will be introduced in this course! If you are someone that has wanted to try clay, plaster, wire, paper mache, found objects and/or mixed media art; this is the class for you! Building on 2D elements and principles of art; this course focus is art “in the round.” In addition to creating art, we will analyze sculpture and land artworks and discuss their historic and current significance in the world.

## Digital Art (7th & 8th Grade)

This course includes photography as well as digital painting and drawing! If you are looking to develop your digital skills; join us in learning to use digital tools like cameras and drawing tablets to create and manipulate art! In addition to making digital art, we will (virtually) visit art museums and dive deeper into conceptual art through critique.

## Songwriting & Musical Composition:

**6th Grade *FULL YEAR***

**7th & 8th Grade**

Learn to write songs and compose music in any style! This course will incorporate technology and music theory to assist you with putting together music on your own. Create compositions featuring all of your favorite instruments and write songs in the style of your favorite artists!

## Instrumental Music (5th, 6th, 7th, & 8th Grade) *FULL YEAR*

The primary focus is on the development, continuation, and expansion of basic skills begun the previous years that are necessary for effective instrumental music performance. In addition to large group ensembles, individual growth and achievement are encouraged. Topics/skills covered include: tone development, counting, timing, and rhythmic development, reading and notation skills, including sight reading, introduction of scales, simple music theory, development of an extensive vocabulary of musical terms and symbols, ear training, and listening skills, equipment care and maintenance, and effective practice habits. This course requires evening/virtual performances

## Chorus (5th, 6th, 7th, & 8th Grade) *FULL YEAR*

This is a premier Middle School choir for students who are interested in vocal music performances. It is also an outlet for students who enjoy singing for their own pleasure. The following musical skills will be stressed: proper breathing, pleasant vocal production, blend and balance, expansion of range, good intonation, ear training, and sight-reading. Different styles of music will be explored. Participation in various performances is a requirement of the class.

# Health and Physical Education

## **BE Fit! (6th Grade) *FULL YEAR***

Who says staying fit needs lots of fancy equipment? Not us! The Be Fit course will introduce students to a large variety of exercises and activities that can be done at school or at home to help create a workout plan that targets your fitness goals. This course will incorporate endurance, strength and flexibility activities commonly found in both CrossFit and bodyweight programs that are age appropriate and geared towards improving overall fitness. We may even tackle some elements of the ninja course!

## **Hornets in Motion (5th Grade ONLY) *FULL YEAR***

This beginner class is a perfect introduction to dance, music, & movement! Get ready to MOVE with this new course through the use of games, stories, and songs to teach balance, rhythm, movement, & coordination. This course will also introduce follow-along dance sequences that focus and build upon listening skills and patterns.

# Leadership

## **Peer Group Connection (8th Grade Only) *FULL YEAR***

***\*Students are hand selected into this course through an interview process.\****

8th grade students supporting 5th grade students in their transition into Middle School. Peer Group Connection (PGC) taps into the power of 8th graders to create a safe and supportive environment for new 5th grade students. Once per week, pairs of Select 8th graders meet with groups of 5th grade students (virtually) to help them be successful in their first year of Middle School. The focus of the classes on activities and scenarios that allow them to practice academic, social, and emotional skills such as decision-making, time management, teamwork, and communication.

***Be a leader... Be a mentor... Be a role model... Make a difference in your school!***