

## 8th Grade Course Descriptions 2022-23

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\*\* Reminder: You must schedule seven (7) classes each semester. Every attempt will be made to schedule your first choices. However, there are no guarantees. In the event you cannot be scheduled for your preferred requests, you will be scheduled for your alternate choices. If you do not list alternates, then alternates will be chosen for you.

**Choose your classes wisely. There will be NO STUDENT OR PARENT INITIATED SCHEDULE CHANGES.**

### **INTRODUCTION TO AG SCIENCE**

(1 semester/box, not repeatable)

#461

Students will gain introductory knowledge related to the agriculture, food, and natural resource industry. This course helps students understand the importance of agriculture in daily life by exploring basic principles of agribusiness, animal science, plant science, and natural resources.

### **INTRODUCTION TO AG CONSTRUCTION**

( 1 semester/box, not repeatable **\*Fee Required\***)

#467

Students will be introduced to basic construction techniques and develop skills such as tool identification and use, worksite safety, and woodworking. Students will participate in group and individual projects to demonstrate understanding and proficiency of concepts learned. There will be a small fee for this class to cover the cost of projects.

### **ART 8**

(Year/2 boxes; **\*Fee Required\***)

#422

The study and application of the elements and principles of design. The elements and principles will be explored in a variety of two-dimensional and three-dimensional art work, including drawing, painting, clay, etc.

## **BAND 8**

(Year/2 boxes; **Permission required from band director**)

#998 BAND

Eighth grade band members perform in concerts, the Nixa Christmas Parade, the Sucker day parade, and have an opportunity to participate in a solo and ensemble recital. Students are expected to be prepared with their instrument each day. Grading is based on daily attendance, playing tests, and attendance at special events such as concerts and parades. Students improve their playing abilities so they are prepared to make the transition to the high school band.

## **CHOIR (Year/2 boxes)**

(Classes can be repeated)

# 501 Choir (Year/2 Boxes --> Mr. Richter will place in appropriate Choir section)

The Nixa Junior High Choirs sing a variety of choral styles throughout the year. The singers will gain confidence and experience by focusing on vocal production, sight-reading, ear training, and performing quality literature. These groups will also travel to large group contests and Silver Dollar City. They will also participate in various performances. Grades are based on classroom participation, music concept assignments/tests, and attendance/participation in concerts. These classes are open to any 7th or 8th grade student. No auditions are necessary for the Tenor/Bass Choir and the Treble Choir. To sign up for the Varsity Singers or the Varsity Treble Choir, one must audition. For questions on placement email [blakerichter@nixaschools.net](mailto:blakerichter@nixaschools.net)

## **Digital Learning Skills**

#778 (Semester/1 box; cannot be repeated)

Digital Learning Skills is an introductory course that will provide students with the opportunity to use the computer as a problem-solving tool. This class provides an overview of microcomputer applications beginning with a brief introduction to computer concepts such as proper keyboarding techniques. Students will learn to use Google Suite including Docs, Slides, and Sheets. The class will also focus on using the Internet in meaningful class projects.

## **FACS I**

(Semester/1 box; Fee required\*; Can NOT be repeated)

#0830

This is an introductory course in Family and Consumer Sciences. FACS includes instruction in the following areas: basic nutrition and wellness, safety and sanitation, food and meal preparation, basic clothing care and selection, and basic sewing techniques. This class has a lab fee of \$25 for consumables used during the lab portions of the class.

## **FRENCH I**

(Year/2 boxes; **Minimum of a "B-" in English**)

#902

An introduction to the French language and an exploration of French culture. This course incorporates speaking, listening, reading, writing, and the development of a practical and useful vocabulary. Students will quickly learn to speak French in class and be able to identify how French is used in our daily lives even outside of the classroom. This class is for High School Credit. This class will count towards college admission.

## **GEOGRAPHY**

(Semester/1box; **May NOT be repeated if taken in 7th grade**)

#405

Geography is a study of the world in which we live, its diverse people, and the world's relationship to the American citizen. The structure of the course will be mainly hands-on learning with emphasis on the five themes of geography. There will be opportunities for Internet exploration and student presentations as well as regular course work.

## **GUITAR ESSENTIALS**

(Semester/1 box; Repeatable)

#5042

This course is for beginning and inexperienced guitarists who wish to learn to play the guitar. In addition to this, students will be able to experiment with music technology. The guitar essentials classes practice on various sized guitars. You will learn how to read music, perform in

front of your peers, and become the ultimate rockstar! This class can be retaken multiple semesters.

### **HORTICULTURE**

(Semester/ 1 box; class can be repeated)

#558

Horticulture is a semester long class where students will learn basic gardening skills. Students will help maintain the greenhouses and outdoor raised garden beds at NJH. They will learn how to plant, cultivate, and harvest a variety of plants and vegetables. The food raised from this class will be donated to local food pantries in the Nixa area. Students in this class will be expected to actively participate in classroom assignments.

### **JOURNALISM (YEARBOOK/MEDIA BROADCASTING)**

(Year/2 boxes, ***Application and Instructor permission required***)

#105

Students will work together to create the NJH Yearbook and weekly media broadcasts to be shown to the student body. This class will have the responsibility for producing broadcasts of school announcements, special interest stories, and other video projects. Some after school time may be required.

Students will create the Nixa Junior High Yearbook. Students will design pages, create lay-outs, take pictures, and work on individual writing skills to help produce a yearbook that students will cherish forever.

### **PIANO ESSENTIALS**

(Semester/1 box; Repeatable)

#504

This course is for beginning and inexperienced pianists who wish to learn to play piano. In addition to this, students will be able to experiment with music technology. The piano classes practice on full size keyboards as well as piano software on computers. You will learn how to read music, perform in front of your peers, and become the best pianist you can be! This class can be retaken multiple semesters.

## **DESIGN AND MODELING**

(Semester/1 box; can NOT be repeated **\*Fee Required\***)

#582

Students apply the design process to solve problems and understand the influence of creativity and innovation in their lives. They work in teams to design medical devices as well as interactive toys, capturing research and ideas in their engineering notebooks. Using Cad design software, students create a virtual image of their designs and produce a portfolio to showcase their innovative solutions.

## **Page Turners**

**(Semester/1box: Repeatable)**

#841

Page Turners is an elective course focused on reading for fun! “Aside from the sheer joy of exercising the imagination, research shows reading for pleasure improves literacy, social skills, health, and learning outcomes (National Library of NZ).” Therefore, this class is designed to provide reading opportunities based on each student’s individual interests and abilities with the goal of fostering a love of reading. So why not take time in your day to relax with a good book (and the occasional hot beverage...) and improve your skills at the same time?

## **SPANISH I**

(Year/2 boxes; **Minimum of a "B-" in English**)

#0900

Presents an introduction to the Spanish language and culture. The ability to communicate in Spanish on a beginner’s level is developed through listening, speaking, reading, and writing activities. The development of a practical vocabulary is stressed. This class is for High School credit. This class will count towards college admission

## **SPEECH AND DEBATE**

(Year/2 boxes; **Application and permission** from teacher required, **\*Fee Required\***)

#0844

This class spends the school year preparing for spring speech competitions against other schools. By being accepted into the class you automatically become a member of the speech team! Events include debate, storytelling, persuasive speaking, radio broadcasting, poetry reading, and many more. Students applying to be accepted to the team will be evaluated in the following areas: grades, attitude, work ethic, leadership, acting talent, written and oral communication skills, and attendance. It is strongly encouraged, but not required, that students that are unsure about applying consider taking Talk to Learn/Learn to Talk their 7th grade year and apply to the speech team for 8th grade. *Please note that all applications will be considered equally regardless of grade level.* While the class is co curricular and requires participation in spring tournaments, students *can* still participate in other school sports and activities. This class may be taken both years as the skills build much like band or choir. If you love to challenge yourself, compete, and perform, this is the class for you!

## **TALK TO LEARN, LEARN TO TALK**

(Semester/1 box; can be repeated)

#840

The goal of the class is to improve your communication and speaking skills. Learning to communicate better doesn't have to be boring, hard, or scary! Do you like to play games? Do you like to be persuasive and win arguments? Do you like to get out of your seat and talk in class? Do you freak out when you have to talk in front of a class? If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, be brave and check out Talk to Learn/Learn to Talk. This is an introductory class that leads you through a variety of different activities designed to assist you in improving your confidence, verbal, and nonverbal communication skills..., low stress way. Class may be repeated in 8th grade if desired.

## **THEATRE ARTS I**

(Year/2 boxes)

#500

This is an introductory course to drama. The class will concentrate on basic acting techniques, theater history, production, and technical aspects of play production. Students will be expected

to memorize and perform numerous monologues and scenes in addition to presenting a public performance each semester. Written and performance tests may follow each unit.

## **THEATRE ARTS II**

(Year/2 boxes; **Permission from teacher required**)

#499

This is a class offered only to those students who have successfully completed Theatre Arts I. Students will add to their knowledge of all areas of theatre arts including history, styles, methods and performance. Students will hold public performances and will offer technical assistance to the drama classes. This class does require performances outside of the regular school day.

## **P.E. OPTIONS:**

Students will be given the choice between PE/Health (similar to what students experienced in 7th grade), Cardio/Health, or Weights/Health. Please see descriptions below.

### **Cardio Class**

# 860

Within this course offering all physical fitness testing will occur. The purpose of this course is to improve cardiovascular fitness, muscular endurance, flexibility and overall health through moderate to high intensity workouts. The workouts will consist of a variety of different aerobic activities. Some of these activities include: aerobics, circuit training, 5k training, step aerobics, and interval training. Cardio Fitness will introduce students to a fun lifetime activity that increases their heart rates and will improve their overall health. This class will also demonstrate how to develop and commit to a workout routine.

### **PE**

Boys 448

Girls 446

Within this course offering all physical fitness testing will occur. Students will have the opportunity to compete in new and traditional PE games including a variety of sports. This

offering is for students who enjoy the traditional PE classroom and will play games in class 3-4 days a week with a focus on fitness the remaining 1-2 days.

### **STRENGTH & CONDITIONING 1 / HEALTH**

*(Year; Open to all interested students)*

This class introduces students to speed training, agility, plyometrics and circuit training. Students will also be gaining strength through various forms of exercise, including resistance training, dumbbell exercises, body weight movement patterns and basic barbell movements. This class is available to all students, however preference will be given to those students who are recommended by their 6th and 7th grade PE teachers.

### **STRENGTH & CONDITIONING 2 / HEALTH**

*(Year; PE Teacher Recommendation Required)*

This class will continue to challenge students and allow them to progress in speed training, agility, plyometrics and circuit training. Students will continue to gain strength through various forms of exercise, including resistance training, dumbbell exercises, body weight movements patterns and barbell movements. Students will be working through mastery of barbell movements (bench press, squats, military press, deadlift, and introduction to hang clean form). This class requires recommendation from a PE teacher or Weights 1 coach.