

Notre Dame Elementary School

2021 – 2022 Junior High Academic and Specials Electives

Junior High Academic and Specials elective offerings listed on the following pages. The Electives Course Selection Form will be available to Junior High students soon.

Each student will have an Academic Elective block and a Specials Elective block that will meet Monday through Friday during one quarter.

Academic Electives	Specials Electives
Students will select 5 possible Academic Electives	Students will select 6 possible Specials Electives
Rank each of your selections in order of preference, first choice through fifth choice (1-5)	Rank each of your selections in order of preference, first choice through sixth choice (1-6)
Ranking your selections will help the automated scheduling system prioritize requests.	
Students will be enrolled in 4 Academic Electives	Students will be enrolled in 4 Specials Electives

For example, your Academics and Specials electives schedule could look like this (note this is just a sample):

	Academic Electives Block Monday through Friday	Specials Elective Block Monday through Friday
1 st Quarter	Famous Figures	Fractals are SMART: Science, Math and Art!
2 nd Quarter	Speak Up	Study Hall
3 rd Quarter	Vocabulary Builder	Exploratory Spanish
4 th Quarter	Journey Through Space	Ceramics

Academic Electives

Vocabulary Builder

Vocabulary knowledge plays a huge role in the academic success for middle school students. We will work with Greek and Latin roots, academic vocabulary in textbooks, and words middle schoolers should know before they enter high school. We will focus on vocabulary building strategies through worksheets, puzzles, games, competitions, and much more. Students need a three prong folder with pockets.

Speak Up

Communicating effectively is an important skill for future success. We will concentrate on conversation (enhancing our skills through effective questioning, acknowledging others' ideas/opinions, and listening) and public speaking (understanding our audience, preparing, and practicing). Role playing, games, and short speeches will be some of the ways we speak up! Students need a three prong folder with pockets.

20th century Military History

Students will learn about the global conflicts that took place in the 20th century. From the two World Wars to the various conflicts in the Cold War and Middle East, we will examine primary and secondary sources, conduct simulations, watch clips, and more to immerse ourselves into the conflicts to better understand these historical topics. (Main topics: WWI, WWII, Cold War, Korean War, Vietnam War, and the war in Afghanistan). Students will need a 3 prong folder with pockets.

Famous Figures

Students will examine historical figures that have overcome various technological, social, racial, and political challenges to make positive impacts in our world. Some of the historical figures we are focusing on are better known than others for their historical contributions, but through analyzing a variety of sources, participating in discussions, and researching, we will learn how much of an impact Nelson Mandela, Irena Sendler, Dr. Seuss, Harriet Tubman, and the Wright Brothers have made on history. Students will need a 3 prong folder with pockets.

Budgeting and Finance

Students will learn to create a budget, develop a savings plan, manage debt and credit cards, and explore investments. Students will need a notebook and calculator.

The Art of Math

Students will learn about famous artists that used math in their artwork. Then students will create artwork using math such as scale factors, geometry, and transformations. Students will need a ruler, calculator, scissors, markers and colored pencils.

Career Exploration

It might be too early to decide what you want to be when you grow up, but it is never too early to explore possible careers. Heading off on a career path is one of the most important decisions you will make. It will be a determining factor in what your next step will be after high school. Finding something you enjoy doing is a key factor in choosing a career. Students will look at some career options and what people in those careers do on a daily basis while engaging in class discussions, activities, and guest speakers. Students will need a three-prong folder with pockets.

Balance

Finding balance in our day is challenging. What does it mean to be balanced? How do we stay focused and also make time for play and relaxation? How do we get done what we need to accomplish and also enjoy the process? How do we reach our goals, but also not become overly stressed? We practice. Students will practice balance in a variety of ways – physically, emotionally, socially, mentally, and spiritually. Students will need a three-prong folder with pockets.

Journey Through Space

Journey through space as we explore the planets of our solar system! The students will discover unique features of the planets as well as learn fascinating facts about some of the marvelous moons. The student astronomers will become familiar with the significance of the International Space Station and how this orbiting laboratory benefits us and future space exploration. Students will need a three-prong folder with pockets.

Kingdoms of Life

The Earth is a diverse place filled with living things big and small. All living things can be classified into one of six Kingdoms! The students will explore the six Kingdoms which include Archaeobacteria, Eubacteria, Protists, Fungi, Plants, and Animals. Microscopes will be used to view microorganisms and other living things when applicable. The students will gain a deeper appreciation of the biodiversity in our world.

Specials Electives

Fractals are SMART: Science, Math and Art!

Fractivities are hands-on projects that teach fractal concepts in a fun, artistic way. Students will utilize their math skills in real-world applications that involve repeating complex shapes and patterns. Teams will be challenged to make the largest fractal Sierpinski Triangle, build a giant fractal tetrahedron made of toothpicks and marshmallows, and create the biggest Menger cube out of index cards. We will end with a Fractal Art Design Competition. Supplies needed for this class are a folder, colored pencils, markers, round toothpicks, mini marshmallows, and two packs of 3x5 index cards.

CSI: Forensic Science

Students will begin by reading the book, *Unsolved Case Files: Escape at 10,000 Feet*: D.B. Cooper and the Missing Money by Tom Sullivan, a new graphic nonfiction series about real FBI cases, giving a minute-by-minute account of the only unsolved airplane hijacking in the U.S. From there we will learn about how detectives use science to figure out unsolvable thefts, arsons, mysteries, and more. Students will love studying their classmates' fingerprints, looking at tool marks left at the scene of the crime, analyzing mysterious powders, and discovering the various types of counterfeit checks. Each lesson includes a realistic case for students to crack. Students will need a folder, a notebook, and a copy of the book, *Unsolved Case Files: Escape at 10,000 Feet*: D.B. Cooper and the Missing Money by Tom Sullivan, either from your public library or purchased (It is available on Amazon).

Journey with Jesus

Students will build their personal relationship with Jesus by discussing their faith with others in the class, praying every day and taking time to reflect on all the wonderful ways Jesus is present in their daily lives. We will also read prophecies about the Messiah from the Old Testament and then look at passages from the Gospels showing that Jesus fulfilled those prophecies and was indeed the Messiah.

Book Club

Students will pick one book at a time to read as an entire class. Throughout the quarter as students read the book they will have many discussions in small groups about the things they are enjoying about the book, predictions of what will happen next and characters they are able to relate to. At the end of each book students will reflect on the author's purpose, look at if their predictions were

right or not and discuss lessons learned. The number of books read will depend on the lengths of the books we choose.

Photography (14 students)

Students will use a DSLR camera to learn how to take photos using the elements of art as a guide and learn how to upload and store photos properly. Students will mostly be outside so please bring appropriate shoes for hiking around the property.

Ceramics (20-25 students)

Students will learn hand building techniques with clay from slab work to coil and attachment as well as different glazing techniques. This class is a great introduction to ceramics if your child is interested in taking it in high school.

Stop Motion (20-25 students)

Students will make a mini movie using a stop motion method. Students can make characters from clay or bring in lego people. These movies will be filmed on the iPads using iMotion and uploaded to you tube so they can be viewed.

Painting/Illustration (25 students)

Students will learn painting styles inspired by various artists. Students will learn how to mix colors properly, correct brush use and work with multiple paint mediums from watercolor to acrylic.

Exploratory Spanish

This course is an exploration of basic principles of the Spanish language, culture and customs unique to the Spanish-speaking world which will provide opportunities for students to practice the spoken Spanish language and learn about Hispanic culture. Students will learn various common themes (e.g., weather, foods, and traveling), use basic conversational phrases with emphasis on pronunciation, and learn to interact in limited social situations using texts, videos and hands-on learning.

Advanced Spanish

This elective is intended for students who took Exploratory Spanish last year and are ready for more challenging Spanish lessons.

(Specials Electives continued on next page)

Campus Ministry

Campus Ministry is an invitation to be God's Light in the world through planning and carry out acts of service in our own NDES community, partnering with NDCL, working to support the mission of the Sisters of Notre Dame, as well as outreach programs beyond our campus. Campus Ministry offers a chance to grow in our Catholic Christian faith by putting into practice Jesus' message of loving and serving one another. Through this Campus Ministry time, students will be challenged to grow in their leadership abilities and will be encouraged to think about how we can work together to build a strong faith community where everyone feels a part of making a positive difference in our world.

Study Hall and Academic Support

This elective is for students who would like to have a study hall. Mrs. Szabo, an intervention specialist, will be in the study hall to give academic assistance if students need some extra help.

Library and Tech Aide

This elective is for students who would like to become part of the NDES Library/Tech Student Support Team. The students in this elective will help work in the library, as well as do some simple troubleshooting on student laptops.