7th Grade Electives & PE Course Descriptions 2026-27

****PLEASE NOTE:** You must have two electives each semester, two in the Fall and two in the Spring. Please pay attention to the classes that last a full year versus those that are only one semester. If you choose a single-semester class, then you also need to select another single-semester class; one will be first semester and the other will be second 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 carefully. Due to the nature of picking electives prior to the start of the school year, students cannot request a schedule change.

AG SCIENCE: ANIMALS - #463A

Semester; Not Repeatable; ***$5 Fee Required***
In **Ag Science: Animals**, students learn about raising animals for food and profit, as well as agriculture in general. In order to apply some of the lessons learned, students will care for chickens and other animals at the junior high.

AG SCIENCE: PLANTS - #462P

Semester; Not Repeatable; ***$5 Fee Required***
Are you ready to immerse yourself into learning about nature? Join **Ag Science: Plants** to develop your gardening skills, learn about plants, and agriculture! This is a hands-on learning class where we will be spending time outdoors learning in a variety of settings including our raised bed garden courtyard, large greenhouse, and Aeroponic Grow Farm.

ART 7 - #421

Year; ***$12 Fee Required***
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. There will be a $12 fee for this class to cover the cost of projects.

BAND

Year; **Permission required from Band Instructor - Must have had band in 6th grade**
#990-Flutes and Saxophones
#991-Clarinets
#992-High Brass
#988-Percussion
#989-Low Brass
Nixa's Junior High band enjoys a combination of performance and competition. Junior High musicians perform in concerts and parades and compete in a solo and ensemble festival. 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 - #501

Year; ***$30 Fee Required***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, Varsity Tenor/Bass Choir, or the Varsity Treble Choir, students must audition and be approved by the choir directors.

DIGITAL CREATIONS - #105D

Semester; Repeatable

Digital Creations will provide students with hands-on experience in creating a variety of digital communication, including print journalism and video broadcasting. This course is ideal for students who are passionate about digital media, storytelling, and journalism. A strong work ethic and willingness to collaborate with peers are essential for success in this course.

FACS I - #0830

Semester; Not repeatable; ***$26 Fee Required***

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 sewing techniques, interior design, and financial literacy. This class has a lab fee of $26 for consumables used during the lab portions of the class.

FIBER ARTS - #422F

Semester; Repeatable; ***$10 Fee Required***

This course will introduce students to fiber arts, a form of visual art using materials such as yarn, thread, fabric, and other fibers. Students will explore traditional techniques like knitting, weaving, embroidery, and crocheting while creating their own projects and developing an appreciation for the history and cultural significance of textile arts. By the end of the course, students will have completed multiple projects and gained the skills to continue fiber arts independently.

FILM AS LITERATURE - #8934JH

Semester; Not Repeatable

Our Film and Literature class explores the exciting world where books and movies come together. We will read engaging stories, and then watch film adaptations to see how filmmakers bring those tales to life. Through class discussions and creative projects, students can compare the differences between the written word and visual storytelling, analyzing themes, characters, and plot twists in both

mediums. This class encourages critical thinking, creativity, and helps students develop a deeper appreciation for both literature and film.

INTRO TO AG CONSTRUCTION - #467

Semester; Not repeatable; ***$36 Fee Required***

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 $36 fee for this class to cover the cost of projects.

PAGE TURNERS - #841

Semester; Repeatable

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?

PIANO KEYBOARD - #504

Semester; Repeatable

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.

PLTW DESIGN AND MODELING - #582

Semester; Not repeatable

This course introduces students to engineering, architecture and drafting. Students apply the engineering design process to creatively solve problems within the given constants and constraints. They work individually and/or in teams to design and build prototypes of medical devices, as well as interactive toys. Students report their research and ideas in their engineering notebooks and design briefs. Using Cad design software, students create a virtual image of their designs and real world architecture. Students document their thoughts and process using a portfolio to showcase their innovative solutions.

PLTW FLIGHT, SPACE & TECHNOLOGY - #586

Semester; Not repeatable

In this class, the exciting world of aerospace comes alive through the Flight and Space (FS) unit. Students become engineers as they design, prototype, and test models to learn about the science of flight and what it takes to travel and live in space. They solve real-world aviation and space challenges and plan a mission to Mars. Students will learn about technology as they apply the concepts of physics, chemistry, and nanotechnology to STEM activities and projects.

PLTW MAGIC OF ELECTRONS - #585

Semester; Not repeatable

In this class, students will do hands-on projects, explore electricity, the behavior and parts of atoms, and sensing devices. They will gain knowledge and skills in basic circuitry design and electronics and examine the impact of electricity on the world around them.

SPEECH AND DEBATE - #0844

Application and Instructor Permission Required

Year; Repeatable; ***$15 Fee Required***

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 - #840

Semester; Repeatable

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 in a low stress way.

TECHNICAL THEATRE - #5086

Semester; Repeatable with teacher permission

Do you enjoy the magic of theatre but would prefer being involved without performing? Technical theatre is for you! In Technical Theatre, students develop key skills, history, processes, and techniques for the varying aspects of technical theatre. Students will be introduced to the functions of set design, costumes, makeup, sound, and lighting. Students spend the semester completing hands-on projects and work on the props and set for the school musicals.

THEATRE ARTS I - #500

Year; Repeatable with teacher permission

If you enjoy musicals, plays, and improv games...Theatre Arts 1 is for you! This is an introductory theater class that engages students in the exciting fundamentals of acting! Students play games and perform various pieces and styles of theatre. This class helps students to gain confidence as they perform in front of their peers, as well as helps students to develop essential communication and collaboration skills. Theatre Arts 1 is the perfect way to immerse yourself in the Nixa Theatre Community!

PE Options:

All students are required to take a Physical Education class. Students have to choose one of the following: Cardio Fitness, Regular PE, Strength & Conditioning, or Walking Fitness. The health curriculum is embedded in each class. Strength & Conditioning is suggested for sports participants.

CARDIO FITNESS - #860

High Level Physical Education Course. 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 - #448 Boys, #446 Girls

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

STRENGTH & CONDITIONING I - #452 Boys, #451 Girls

High Level Physical Education Course. Not Repeatable.

Within this course offering all physical fitness testing will occur. Through this curriculum students will be able to increase their muscular endurance, flexibility, and overall health by participating in a structured weight program. Students will prioritize form on key lifts of bench press, back squat, and military press progressing from body weight exercises to the use of resistance bands, PVC pipe, and eventually a bar with low weight. Multiple days a week will be dedicated to cardiovascular fitness, including a 1-mile run test weekly.

WALKING/LOW IMPACT FITNESS - #824

Within this course offering all physical fitness testing will occur. Students who enroll in Walking Fitness/Low Impact Cardio fitness will be expected to be participating in low impact cardio activities for the entirety of the class period daily. Students will be frequently tested on a 1.5 mile walk for time and will be graded on participation on a daily basis.