

8th Grade MTSS Descriptions

Name (term)	Description of course
Adaptive PE (Semester)	Students with excellent leadership qualities and a service-minded attitude would be a great fit for this class. Your purpose would be to assist and participate with our students with special needs in their PE class. This would be a rewarding experience that carries a lot of responsibility.
Aeroponics (Quarter)	Students will learn the basics of gardening without soil. Food will be grown vertically using tower gardens to grow their own food and then consumed and possibly sold through our newly created New Mark Farmer's Market.
Art + Heart (Quarter)	Do you love art but also have a heart for service? In this course, we will create signs and artwork for events at New Mark, while also preparing art projects for our students with special needs. Join us for creating art while also giving back to our school and community.
Astronomy (Quarter)	Students will study the planets, moon, stars-the Universe!
Board games	Meet new people and strengthen relationships as you increase brain function playing board games
Coding (Quarter)	Students will participate in coding through Swift Playground.
Competitive Drama (Semester)	Competitive drama allows students to explore an elective class offered at the high school level. Some of the many events offered are poetry, prose, duet acting, dramatic interpretation and humorous interpretation. These events challenge students to use their speaking, acting and oral interpretation skills to present previously published pieces of literature to the judges. The above mentioned events will be taught and students will have an opportunity to choose which one(s) they would like to pursue and perform at local tournaments.
Conspiracy Theories (Quarter)	Students will study conspiracy theories from the past and present. We will cover conspiracy theories surrounding crop circles, the JFK assassination, Area 51, the Illuminati, and more.
Creative Writing (Semester)	The goal of creative writing is to finish a 100 page original novel to self-publish on Amazon. Many students end up completing the first chapter. Some students choose to write poetry or a graphic novel as an alternative. All are welcome to join the class to be guided through practice activities that hone the skills of novel writing.
Drawing (Quarter)	Using everything from simple block shapes to more complicated objects like vases and shoes, students will go through the basics of drawing from life.
Environmentalism (Quarter)	Students will assist in helping New Mark with recycling and possibly composting. We will also explore environmental science issues and current events.
Geography Bee (Semester)	Students will study maps and practice questions from the National Geographic Geo Bee resource material
Honor Choir (Semester or Year)	You must be enrolled in Choir, Orchestra, or Band to take this class. The New Mark Honor Choir is for the top singers and vocal musician's at New Mark. This is an auditioned ensemble. Students in Honor Choir should not only have the talent to sing, but should also show leadership qualities. The Honor Choir will participate in all New Mark concerts, and NKCS D honor choir events, and the year will culminate with a trip to the "Music in the Parks" music competition to either Silver Dollar City or Six Flags, St. Louis.

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Kahoot! (Quarter)	Do you enjoy a little competition among friends? Come and play Kahoot during MTSS...you may even learn something!
Neuroscience (Quarter)	The human brain is a facinating thing! In this course, students will examine the parts of the brain and their functions. We will look at how the brain grows and develops as we age, as well as the impact of trauma, disease, inflammation, and addiction on brain functin and developement.
Robotics (Quarter)	(You may NOT take this class if you are enrolled in regular semester Robotics). This class will present 10-12 mechanical gears that students must learn their uses and then construct prior to building a project. Once the mechanical project is complete, students will then learn to code, using RobotC software. Another project will be built and programmed becoming automated. Coding experience is helpful in this class along with problem solving but not necessary.
Sketchbook (Quarter)	The Sketchbook Class offers an opportunity for students to express their creativity through drawing. Experiment with different techniques and explore art history. Students will be able to draw every day in a sketchbook. Periodically, students will share and discuss their drawings with other students. If you enjoy drawing, this class is for you!
Stagecraft (Semester)	Stagecraft is the study of technical theatre. This course will introduce students to a practical approach in both technical and production aspects of theatre. Students will learn the skills needed to construct props and scenery; use lighting instruments; plan and run sound; select and construct costuming, make-up techniques and publicity. This class is production oriented. Students will create the world of each New Mark Theatre play.
Superfoods (Quarter)	We would examine how nutrients are metabolized by the body and how excesses or deficiencies of certain nutrients can lead to health problems.
Truman Challenge Book Club	Come join us in the Truman Challenge Book Club. We will focus on reading the Missouri Truman nominated books in order to vote for the best book for the state of Missouri and to quality for the library Truman Challenge Competition. We will read some excellent award winning books, have time to chat about them, and help out with promoting these books in the school library by creating and sharing book trailers and having the option to speak on the New Mark News. If you love to read- this is the class for you! This is a quarter class, but students are welcome to take this class for multiple quarters, too.
Ukulele Club (Quarter)	Want to learn the basics of the ukulele? I'll teach you how to tune, restring, & play some chords, & maybe learn a few songs. It's a great little instrument that makes some big noise!
Walking (Quarter)	Students will get some light, physical activity as they walk in the gym and socialize with peers.
Weights (Quarter)	We will lift weights and do body weight exercises in the weight/cardio room.
Yoga, Pilates, and Meditation (Quarter)	Activities will include yoga, meditation, awareness, and discussion.
Zines- Self Published Books (Quarter)	Come and enjoy creating art and sharing it with others by designing your own small books, or "Zines". Zines are small, printed publications that can be made using a single sheet of letter paper. Zines may include a collection of drawings and/or text, usually photocopied or otherwise printed by hand. Zines cover many topics and may include anything artistic or otherwise you wish to express or explain.
NMMS Honors Experience (Semester)	The honors experience deepenes learning in all subject areas through applications, analysis, synthesis, and evaluation. Students will create a design thinking projects using collaboration and hands on learning. Students' projects will be shown off in an exhibition style presentation.