

Grade 6 Humanities Electives

Creative Writing: Find Freedom in Your Words! Do you love the writing workshop in English class and wish you had more time to write? In this course you will work with other young writers as you explore poetry, short stories, fantasy writing, and/or playwriting. You will finish this course with several polished pieces to publish and share with the world.

Viking Voice Newspaper: Would you like to write for a newspaper as a political writer, sports reporter or have your own editorial? Would you like to create your own comics, crosswords, cartoons, blogs or write for social media? Did you ever wonder what it takes to be a journalist? In this class you will learn the art of journalism and develop your voice and interests by contributing articles and editorials for our online student newspaper, the *NSMS Viking Voice!*

Criminal Justice: For our future judges and lawyers, this course is about discussion, debate, argument and proving your point with evidence. Here you will examine the law through a variety criminal court cases as lawyers, judges and members of the jury. Did the accused break the law or were their rights violated during the process? Students will engage in Socratic Seminars, mock trials and debate surrounding important legal and ethical questions.

Documentary Film Making – Calling all filmmakers! In this class you will study documentary film making techniques. You will then research and explore current event or historical topics of interest, pick a focus, and create your very own documentary film to share with the world!!

Entrepreneurship: Do you have what it takes to be an entrepreneur? In this course, you will learn about famous entrepreneurs throughout history, how they started their businesses, and what made them so successful. You will learn how to solve problems, collaborate with business partners, develop a business plan for your own business idea, and come up with marketing and production strategies to sell your products. In the end, you will present your business plan to real life entrepreneurs (Think Shark Tank) to determine if your ideas have what it takes to make you the next North Shore Business Tycoon!

Public Speaking & Debate: When you speak, do people listen?

After taking Public Speaking and Debate, they certainly will! This course aims to develop students' skills and confidence in the areas of public speaking, debate, research, and creative performance through exposure to in-class debates, performances, and other public speaking activities in a low pressure, joyful environment. Students will develop their own speeches, arguments, and presentations for the purpose of practicing and enhancing their ability to use their voice to inform, teach, inspire, and call others to action!

Theatre Workshop: Storytelling has existed at the heart of all cultures since the beginning of our species, and now you will have a chance to be part of that tradition. The theatre workshop is a crash course in all aspects of designing theatre. Students will write, perform, direct, design, and publicize scenes for a public performance. If you have ever wondered about what it takes to create the magic of the theatre, now is your chance to find out.

Grade 7 Humanities Electives

Creative Writing: Find Freedom in Your Words! Do you love the writing workshop in English class and wish you had more time to write? In this course students will work with other young writers as they explore poetry, short stories, fantasy writing, and/or playwriting. This course will finish with several pieces to publish and share with the world.

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Criminal Minds: Are you interested in why criminals, police officers, lawyers and judges think what they think and act the way they act? Criminal minds will have students step into the shoes and minds of criminals and law enforcement agents in order to analyze the decisions they have made and actions they have taken. Students will engage in Socratic seminars, mock trials and debate surrounding important actors in criminal court cases and question their motives, mindset and decisions

Make a Magazine! Is this any good? We ask it all the time, but we have no idea what it truly means. This course will hope to give you some clarity. We will create, edit, critique, and publish online our own Middle School Literary Magazine. If you are interested in art, writing, advertising, computer design or editing then this class is for you! Students will learn the process from how to write our own creative pieces to how to judge and critique others' work like a professional. Students can learn basic layout techniques, including how to publish our very own work online. Every step of the process—the very control of what the magazine will look like (from cover design to actual content)—is completely up to you. Because that's what art's about: the ability to make our own meaning. So if you love art, writing, computers, or creativity in general, then this is the course for you!

***National History Day Project:** Do you love history? Do you want to create a project that can win a local, state or national award? Well, this course is for you. In this course students will explore a major theme in history by conducting research and designing a final project that will compete in a school-wide competition. Winning entries will be showcased and entered into the Long Island History Day competition at Hofstra. Students will choose their own research topics, read related books, write a research paper and may create either a documentary, tri-fold exhibit, website or create a group acting/ singing performance to showcase their learning and research. Students will meet with a National History Day advisor at different times throughout the year to refine research and prepare the final project. To learn more about this course check out the National History Day Website <http://nhd.org>.

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8th Grade Humanities Electives

Creative Writing: Find Freedom in Your Words! What makes us write? What inspires us? What inhibits us? How can writing liberate us? This course is not about conclusions, thesis statements, citing evidence, etc. This course is about YOU and finding yourself as a writer! Students will explore their writing through a writing notebook. The course is designed for students to understand themselves as writers and consider meaningful ways of writing. Students will begin in a writing notebook and, through various stages of the writing process, complete a final creative writing piece.

I Love History! World War 2: This class is for history lovers that can't get enough! This class spends more time examining the people, events, leaders and decisions that made World War 2 a defining moment in world history that still impacts our world today! You will get a much more in-depth look into history than ever before by reading books, watching movies and studying the moves that won the war!

Justice: What's the Right Thing To Do? This course will use philosophic ideas of human nature, civic virtue and moral decision-making and apply them to our everyday world. We will debate such topics as affirmative action, the selective service act, drone warfare, the death penalty, immigration policy and more. We will learn how our opinions on these issues relate to principles of the Enlightenment and our views of how our country and world should be. The course work will also be based on the most popular course at Harvard University, Professor Michael Sandel's, Justice: What's the Right Thing To Do?

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Pop Culture of the 20th Century: This course is designed for students who would like to expand their knowledge of 20th century American history and culture by studying the art, music, books, movies, television shows and celebrities that helped shape and define a generation. From Marilyn Monroe to Madonna; from The Public Enemy to The Breakfast Club; from “Leave it to Beaver” to “Seinfeld”/”Martin”; from “Rock Around the Clock” to “Smells Like Teen Spirit”; these are people, movies, television shows and songs that changed the way Americans looked, felt and thought. This course is designed for those students who are looking to expand their knowledge of history and their understanding of American culture today.

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