

# EGG HARBOR TOWNSHIP ALDER AVENUE MIDDLE SCHOOL

## *National Green Ribbon School*

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May 25, 2018

Hello Parents,

During the 2018-2019 school year 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade students will be given a choice for their special area elective courses. Students will be able to choose one elective course (Art, Band, Choir, Strings/Orchestra, STEAM, or Media Studies). In addition to their selection, each student will be able to choose one of three new Computer Science course offerings including Coding, Entrepreneurship/Design Thinking, and Robotics. Together, these courses will be offered for one semester paired with Physical Education/Health in a Day 1/Day 2 rotation.

In the upcoming weeks the link below will take you to our school website where we will have the Middle School Elective Course Selection Form available. The students should complete the form with you at home. Placement will be made on a first come, first served basis so please complete the form with your child as soon as possible once it becomes available. The students will also be asked to rank their elective course choices in a 1, 2, 3 order, with 1 being the course that they are most interested in taking. We will do our best to honor your child's first choice, but we do ask that the students choose backup courses that they are most interested in, as everyone may not be guaranteed their first choice. The selection form will be available on the website below on the evening of Thursday, May 31, 2018. A link to the video with directions for completing the form is also available below. Descriptions of the new technology elective course choices can also be found below.

<http://eggharborams.ss13.sharpschool.com/>

(Alder Avenue Website where digital selection form will be available)

<https://tinyurl.com/Elective-Video7-8> (7th and 8th Grade Elective Form Video)

Coding/Gaming Environment Development/App Development - This course will include an introduction to mobile app development including the use of the MIT app inventor software, and more. Computer coding skills will be taught using a variety computer software and programs which will include basic block coding and the use of HTML and programming languages. An introduction to coding for gaming environments will also be covered in the class.

Entrepreneurship/Design Thinking - This class will cover the key elements of entrepreneurship including creating a business plan and marketing the business or product using social media, websites, and other means. Financial planning and product development and presentation will also be covered. This class will also allow students to research and present topics of interest (passion projects).

Robotics - This class will include an introduction to basic robotics which will include the use of arduino, little bits, microbit processors, and the Lego EV3 robots. Students will look at the impact of robots on society and create robot builds to solve a problem or improve a task. Students will also use coding to test and redefine their robot builds.

Sincerely,

*Principal*