

Activity Descriptions

Seventh and Eighth Grade

Activities/Electives:

Description

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| Animation Club | Animation club will begin with the roots of animation and how it was started. The students will be working with flip-book animation, creating Zoetrobes and putting together their own clay-mation video. Along with constructing various types of animation, the students will enhance their drawing ability and creativity. The students will also be viewing a number of videos illustrating animation varieties from Pixar to Japanese animation. |
| Art Club (8 th grade only) | In this hands-on study of various artistic media, students will create and produce works which model traditional and modern artistic techniques, while reflecting each student's unique style. A combination of art history, artistic design, and analysis, this activity provides art-interested students with an additional means of expression beyond the basic middle school art curriculum. |
| Chess Club | Students will learn the basics of how to play chess and how to carry various moves and plans towards checkmate. Students will also take part in a tournament against their other chess club members, for which the champion will be crowned a Chess Master. |
| Creative Writing | In this course, students will practice the craft of creative writing. Students will have the opportunity to create short stories, poems, plays and, if interested, longer stories. Students will review the basic elements of creating engaging pieces and will rely on each other for feedback for their writing. Students will also research the teen publishing market and will work toward creating a piece for possible publication. This course is for students who enjoy and are serious about writing. |
| Everyday Sports | Students will participate in physical activities that can be developed into a pattern of lifelong sports. Activities include badminton, racquetball, tennis, 3 on 3 basketball, golf, quoits and other activities of this type. |
| Fitness Club | Stay fit, have fun, and push yourself in fitness club. This club will be a great way to have fun and get into shape or stay in shape. Regardless of your current level of fitness, you will get a great workout and have fun doing it. Workouts will include cardio training, yoga, interval training, plyometrics, resistance training, and kick boxing. This will be a great way for athletes to stay in shape during the offseason |

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| Football (8 th grade only) | This is a club football program where students will have an opportunity to compete against other students playing flag football. Students will be expected to listen to the instructor, play to the best of their abilities, participate every meeting and have fun. Some basic football instruction will be available. |
| Guitar Club (8 th grade only) | Guitar club is open to all 8 th grade students who completed 7 th grade Music Appreciation (Introduction to guitar) and who enjoy making music with others and wish to improve their playing and performance skills on the guitar. There will be opportunities for solo and group performances. Students should be self motivated and possess a strong desire to improve their guitar skills and be comfortable performing in front of others. Maximum class size: 15 students per semester. Guitars will be provided. |
| Key Club | Key Club is a “student-led” community service organization. Every year we hope to continue addressing the school, community and universal needs we started to address in our first year. Students will participate in many local and community fundraising projects. At the school level, we will continue to help our student body as a whole find ways to accomplish these goals as well. Please come join us! |
| Leisure Reading | This club meets especially for students who LOVE to read! We’ll get together, relax with a good book and enjoy the final period of the day escaping to other worlds and other ways of thinking. We will also share our reading choices and discuss them with each other. It doesn’t matter what you’ve read, how long you’ve been reading for fun or how quickly you read; the only requirement for this club is a sincere love for good books. |
| Library Assistants | Students will assist librarians with daily library activities such as circulating library materials, book processing, and shelving. |
| Math Counts | Math Counts is a nationwide math program and competition for middle school students. Students who enjoy math and a challenge will have fun getting ready for the local Berks County Competition that is held at Alvernia College in Shillington over the winter. If you love math (or at least like it) and want to help support our school - please join. |
| Newspaper | For those of you who like to write and have an interest in journalism--this activity is for you. Students publish a school newspaper periodically throughout the year for the benefit of all BHMS students and staff. |
| Outdoor Club | This club is for those students who are interested in anything related to the out-of-doors, including such topics as animal & plant life, ecology & conservation, outdoor recreational activities, etc. It will include treks to the school’s outdoor science and stream areas. It may also include some extra-curricular hikes or trips. |

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| Peer Mediation | Student mediators assists all BHMS students to peacefully resolve conflicts as they arise in school. Skills learned in this process are useful throughout the lifespan. Students in this group are on call to perform mediations on a rotating schedule. |
| Science Club | Science Club will cover a broad range of scientific topics including but not limited to engineering, astronomy, geology, biology, ecology and physics. The club will include a number of hands-on activities, science videos, field studies and discussions based on the latest scientific findings. Students who have a serious interest in the sciences and want to learn more in a risk free environment should sign up. Space will be limited to best suit the members of the club. **To qualify for this club, you must have attained a “B” average or better the previous school year. |
| Student Council (Full year - count as 2 blocks) | This club offers you the opportunity to be involved in school functions and activities in a leadership role. Students interested in this activity must complete an application form and will be selected based on leadership qualities, motivation, school spirit and good academic background. Final selection will be made by teachers. |
| Study Hall | This is an opportunity for students to work independently on projects, and homework within the school day. Students may also use this time to sign out to use the Library or Computer lab to complete assignments. |
| Tennis Club | This club is for students interested in learning the skills necessary to play tennis as a lifetime sport. |
| TV News | Students will explore the world of television broadcasting on a small scale. Students will work in groups to create daily news programs for the school. They will learn how to use the broadcasting equipment (working “behind the scenes”) and learn the important techniques of being an effective news anchor. They will also learn how to use a video camera and explore editing techniques when creating various news segments to include in their news programs. |
| Weight Training (8th grade only) | This club will allow students to build muscular strength and endurance by using equipment in the weight room. Safety rules, proper use of equipment and concepts of lifting will be emphasized. |
| Yearbook (Full year - count as 2 blocks) | Yearbook students will develop a pictorial memory book from start to finish by picking layouts and designing pages. In addition, students may have limited opportunities to take yearbook photos. They will proof the final product before it is printed. The yearbook staff has the wonderful privilege of capturing the memories of the year so that nothing will be forgotten. We are looking for dedicated and hard working students. If you are interested, please pick up a recommendation form from Mrs. Baker (room 231) or Mrs. Whalen (room 211). |

Electives (Graded Classes)

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| Band (Full year - count as 2 blocks) | Instrumental music includes two concerts and various other performances throughout the year. Students will receive one in-school lesson per 6-day cycle and will receive a grade each marking period based on lesson and performance attendance, musical progress, as well as attitude and responsibility within the group. |
| Chorus (Full year – count as 2 blocks) | Chorus is an elective course designed for students who enjoy singing and desire to improve their music and singing skills. Similar to band, two chorus groups are offered, one for fifth and sixth grade students and one for seventh and eighth grade students. Each chorus will perform two concerts and various other performances throughout the year. Emphasis is placed on the following: 1) two and three-part harmonization 2) sight-reading 3) improving vocal skills and techniques 4) experiencing various styles of choral music. All middle school students are eligible to participate. Chorus is an elective class that is held all year. Students will receive a grade for each marking period. Part of the grade is based on participation at both the winter and spring concerts. Participation in all concerts and performance events are required of all students electing to take band and/or chorus. |

Assigned Classes (Not Graded)

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| Math Enrichment | This is an assigned class designed to address the needs of students who have received a “Below Basic” or “Basic” score on the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) test in Math. |
| Reading Enrichment | This is an assigned class designed to address the needs of students who have received a “Below Basic” or “Basic” score on the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) test in Reading. |
| Structured Study Hall | This is a specially designed study hall with Learning Support Teachers to address the IEP needs of students. |