



Welcome to Fifth Grade

2009 - 2010 Program of Studies

Office Hours: 7:45 – 3:45

Phone: (610) 682-5131

Web Site: www.bhasd.org

Middle School Office 610-682-5131

Dr. Kathy A. Johnson	Principal
Mr. Michael Bourdreau	Assistant Principal
Mrs. Sharon Mutter	MS Secretary
Mrs. Gail Gerlette	Attendance Secretary

Guidance Office

Mrs. Heather Kulp	610-682-5115
Mr. Larry Schumacher	610-682-5132

Web Site www.bhasd.org

MIDDLE SCHOOL CURRICULUM

PHILOSOPHY

Brandywine Heights Middle School has a deep commitment to the education of our students. Our curriculum provides our students with an integrated and comprehensive course of study, along with opportunities for exploratory learning.

SCHOOL NURSE

Your child's health and well being are the primary concern of our school nurse. Parents must complete an emergency card for their children each year to remain on file with the school nurse. This card will come home the first day of school and should be returned by the second day of school. Allergies, medications your child may be taking daily, and/or any special medical conditions of the child should be listed on the card. Throughout the year, please make the nurse aware of any changes in address, phone numbers, or health information.

It is important that students are in the best physical condition while in school. State mandated height, weight, BMI and vision screenings are performed annually. Hearing screenings are also performed in 7th grade. Early in spring of 5th and 6th grade, parents will be reminded of PA State mandated physical exams for 6th grade and dental exams for 7th grade. If you wish to have your child examined by the school dentist or school physician, you must return the completed consent form to the nurse by the date stated in the letter. The school dentist, physician, and nurse **WILL NOT** do the exam without the completed consent form. If you wish to have your family dentist or physician perform a private exam, the private physical form must be completed and returned to the nurse by the date stated in the letter. Any exams one year prior to the entry of the required year will be accepted.

All immunization requirements must be met prior to the first day of school to avoid exclusion of your child from school. Your child may be admitted provisionally if proof of at least one dose of the required immunization has been administered. A copy of an official immunization record or note from your child's physician must be provided. A plan for completion of the remaining immunizations must be submitted to the school nurse. All children Kindergarten through 12th grade must have at least 4 properly spaced doses of Diphtheria-Tetanus (1st shot on or after child's fourth birthday), 3 properly spaced doses of polio, 2 properly spaced measles or MMR (1st dose administered at 12 months of age or older), 3 properly spaced Hepatitis B immunizations, and Varicella Immunity (proof of disease or 2 vaccines administered at 12 months of age or older). All students entering 7th grade also need a Tdap and Meningococcal vaccine. If your child has not received immunizations due to religious or medical reasons, please discuss reasons with the school nurse and she will inform you of the required signatures needed on your child's immunization certificate on file at school.

Whenever a child is still ill after one rest period in the nurses office, he or she will either be returned to class, released to you, or the emergency contact person may be called to come pick him/her up. The Parent, or designated contact person, should report to the nurse's suite to personally pick the child up from school. Because of liability, NO STUDENT will be allowed to walk home when the nurse determines they are too ill or injured to remain in school. Someone must pick them up and be able to care for them. It

is very important, when possible to choose an emergency contact person, or neighbor or relative, who lives close by and does not work.

When your child is not feeling well, please take the time to assess whether your child should come to school or stay at home. Please do not send them to school ill. This may jeopardize the health of other students. If you decide to send your child to school, there are PA State Guidelines the nurse follows, and based on the nurse's assessment she will determine if the child may remain or is too ill to stay in school.

Our medication policy remains the same. A medication form will be sent home on the first day of school. Additional forms are also available on the BHASD website. Keep this form in a safe place in case your child needs either over-the-counter or prescription medication during school hours. As school nurses, we will not be able to give your son/daughter any medication (including over-the-counter), without this form completed and signed by the parent and prescribing physician. All medication must be in the original container identifying the child, the medication, the dosage, and the prescribing physician. We would like to encourage the parents to directly deliver any medication to the school nurse. Please do not send medication with your child on the bus.

Healthy children are better learners. Please make sure you encourage your child to eat breakfast and make healthy choices.

COURSE OF STUDY

Core Subjects

These classes run throughout the school year and comprise the core of academic study for all students.

Science
Math
Language Arts

Social Studies
Reading

Encore Subjects

In addition to core subjects, students will take the classes listed below throughout the year, but they do not meet everyday. These courses offer study in a variety of

areas that support the healthy academic development of young adolescents. Students in each grade will have the listed courses at some point in the year.

Physical Education
Health
Art
Music

Library
Computer
Learning Strategies

Elective Classes

Students who have an interest in developing their musical skills may take Band and/or Chorus. A grade for these electives will be included on the report card of each student who participates. Participation in all concerts and performance events are required of all students electing to take Band and/or Chorus.

Band

BHMS has two bands to honor the developmental differences of young adolescents. One band for fifth and sixth grade students and a second band for seventh and eighth grade students. 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 for each marking period based on lesson and performance attendance, performance, attitude, responsibility and musical progress. Participation in all concerts and performance events are required of all student electing to take band and/or chorus.

Chorus

Chorus is 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, and 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 student electing to take band and/or chorus.

Boys Chorus

Boys Chorus is designed for boys in grades five and six who enjoy singing and desire to improve their music and singing skills. Boys Chorus will perform two concerts and various other performances throughout the year. Emphasis is placed on the following: 1) unison and two-part harmonization 2) sight-reading 3) improving vocal skills and techniques 4) experiencing various styles of choral music and 5) addressing voice issues specific to the developing male voice. Boys Chorus is an elective class that is held all year and is open to all boys in grades five and six. Students will receive a grade for each marking period. Part of the grade is based on participation at both the winter and spring concerts. Attendance at all concerts and performance events are required of all students electing to take Boys Chorus.

Lessons

Any Middle School students not already in band but wishing to develop their musical skills with the intent of joining the band, may choose to take instrumental lessons. These will be based on a “pull-out” model from classes and assigned on a rotating basis.

Student Council

The Student Council plans a variety of activities for the student body throughout the year. Student Council organizes school assemblies, dances, pep rallies, trips, fundraisers, and special events. Students interested in being on Student Council **must** complete an application form and submit it with their course selection sheet in order to be considered for this activity.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

CORE SUBJECTS

SCIENCE

Students will understand concepts related to science using inquiry, comparison and exploration. Students will be able to plan investigations and to use simple scientific tools during the four modules.

MATHEMATICS

Students will continue their study with computational skills involving whole numbers, decimals and fractions. Estimation, geometry and measurement will be addressed. During the course of the year emphasis will be placed on acquiring critical thinking and problem solving skills.

LANGUAGE ARTS

The skills and strategies taught in Language Arts afford students opportunities for both discovery and systematic instruction that will enable them to construct, critically examine and apply meaning as they develop into readers and writers. The “real world” resources will increase their knowledge, understanding and appreciation of themselves, other people and the world in which they live. Language Arts will be integrated through the use of listening skills, reading, writing and spelling content across the curriculum.

TITLE I READING

The Brandywine Heights Area School District participates in the No Child Left Behind Federal Programs Title I initiative. In order for students to receive this additional support, they must qualify through teacher recommendation and district screening assessments. After students are identified, our Reading Specialist will use individual and small group instruction in both regular classes and as a pull-out program for instruction.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Students will explore American History beginning with the early explorers and traveling through time to the mid 1800’s. Students will become familiar with the physical geography, culture and climate of the regions of the United States. Students will expand their knowledge through the use of projects, research and various activities throughout the school year.

GIFTED SUPPORT

The gifted program is designed to extend the regular curriculum. Critical reading and thinking skills are enhanced through novel reading and vocabulary work. Writing skills are strengthened as students react to current readings. Students participate in six to eight week units that extend the various curricular areas of science, social studies, and language arts. Throughout these units emphasis is on problem solving, and critical and creative thinking. Research and computer skills are also developed during the units. Units vary according to the interests and needs of the class.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

A variety of special education programs are conducted in the middle school in accordance with state regulations for eligible students. These programs include, but are not limited to, learning support, speech and language support, vision support, and hearing support. The program for each special education student is designed to meet their specific needs. The students' individual educational program (IEP) articulates the specific program for each special education student.

ENCORE SUBJECTS

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

5th Grade physical education incorporates purposeful movement, fitness concepts, skill improvement, and sportsmanship into its curriculum. Through participation in activities such as soccer, newcomb volleyball, basketball, stunts & tumbling, softball, and various indoor/outdoor games, students have the opportunity to develop skills in ball and body control, as well as teamwork and sportsmanship. Through participation in jump roping, dance, fitness circuits, tinkling, and track & field events, students are introduced to personal fitness concepts and lifetime activities which are key to their future health and well being.

HEALTH

Students will be presented with information and decision-making skills that give them the opportunity to gain knowledge and attitudes that will help them make informed choices about their present and future actions and well being. Topics of study include growth and development; with an emphasis on puberty and disease prevention; with a focus on HIV/AIDS.

ART

All fifth grade students will experience history through art. Students will discover the past by learning how to express their own ideas through different art media. Students will create their own two and three dimensional art. They will begin to understand how art has been an avenue for personal expression from the cave painting in Lascaux, France to the pyramids of Ancient Egypt, from the art of Central America (Maya, Aztec and Inca) to the tribal art of Africa and continuing up to the time of the Ancient Greeks. Each unit of study will be all inclusive. Students will gather knowledge through researching a time period in art history, drawing a preliminary sketch and then creating their own artistic expression regarding that time in art history.

MUSIC

All fifth grade students will take a general music class. They will develop music reading, basic theory, and piano keyboarding skills.

LIBRARY

Library is designed to familiarize and acquaint students with the school media center's facility, technologies and procedures. In meeting course objectives, students will review previously learned library skills and refine research skills. Students will acquire fundamental skills to become creative information users, efficient information problem solvers, and life long information seekers/readers.

COMPUTER

This course is an introduction to the computer and keyboard. Students will integrate the skills learned in this class with work in other subjects.

LEARNING STRATEGIES

Students in the middle school will have three class periods per six-day cycle devoted to learning strategies. These strategies will help students better understand their own learning processes and support both their current and future acquisition of knowledge. Strategies taught are intended to improve student fluency, comprehension, thinking, problem solving, and enjoyment of reading and writing within content area.