



2020 - 2021

Program of Studies

Grades 6 - 8

Office Hours: 7:00 – 3:30
Phone: (610) 682-5100, ext. 3002
Web Site: www.bhasd.org

Middle School Office 610-682-5100, ext. 3002

Mr. Robert C. Farina	Principal
Mr. Antonio Riggins	Dean of Students
Mrs. Sharon Mutter	Secretary

Guidance Office

Mr. Larry Schumacher 610-682-5100 ext. 3007

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

Health & Emergency Information: Your child's health & well-being are the primary concern of our school nurses. Parents must complete the health information annually on the online program "Power School" at the start of each school year. Please be sure to complete ALL Power School information. There are specific medications listed within this online program that the school nurses have been given approval, through standing orders by the school physician, to administer, but will require parents to state yes or no to those specific medications. If not completed, the school nurses will not be able to administer any of those medications to your child. Please see the medication policy below for any other medication not listed that your child may require during the school day or throughout the school year. Also it is very important, when possible, to choose an

emergency contact person, or neighbor, or relative who lives close by, does not work, and knows how to reach you in case of an emergency.

Mandated Screenings/Exam: 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. Scoliosis Screenings are performed in 6th & 7th grade. Hearing screenings are also performed in 7th grade. The Department of Health mandates that children in 6th grade have a physical exam and children in 7th grade have a dental exam. 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 and dental 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.

Immunizations: Please read carefully: New School Vaccination Requirements for Attendance in Pennsylvania Schools.


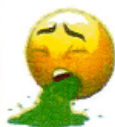





All immunization requirements must be met prior to the first day of school to avoid exclusion of your child from school. For attendance in all grades, children need the following vaccinations: 4 doses of tetanus, diphtheria, and acellular pertussis (DTP, DTAP) with one dose administered on or after the child's 4th birthday; 4 doses of polio (4th dose on or after the child's 4th birthday & at least 6 months after previous dose given); 2 doses of measles, mumps, rubella (MMR); 3 doses of properly spaced Hepatitis B; 2 doses of Varicella (chicken pox) or evidence of immunity. In addition, for students entering 7th grade, 1 dose of tetanus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis (Tdap) and 1 dose of meningococcal vaccine (MCV) is required.

On the first day of school, unless the child has a medical or religious/philosophical exemption, a child must have had at least one dose of each required vaccinations or risk exclusion. If a child does not have all the required doses, needs additional doses, and the next dose is medically appropriate, the child **MUST** receive that dose within the first 5 days of school or risk exclusion. If the next dose is not the final dose of the series, the child must also provide a medical plan (red & white card)

within the first 5 days of school for obtaining the required immunizations or risk exclusion. If a child does not have all the required doses, needs additional doses, and the next dose is not medically appropriate, the child **MUST** provide a medical plan (red & white card) completed by your child’s physician, within the first five days of school for obtaining the required immunizations or risk exclusion. The medical plan **MUST** be followed or risk exclusion. 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. Students who have not been properly immunized will be excluded from school in the event there is a documented case of a reportable disease during the school year.

Illness Prior to School: When your child is not feeling well, please take the time to assess whether your child should come to school or stay at home. The primary duty of the nurse is not the diagnosis of illness or treatment of injuries sustained while a student is at home. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to see that a qualified physician gives this care. Students should not be sent to school with a known illness or injury and then request that the school nurse examine the student and prescribe treatment. Only a licensed physician can legally do this function.

I NEED TO STAY HOME IF...

I HAVE A FEVER	I AM VOMITING	I HAVE DIARRHEA	I HAVE A RASH	I HAVE HEAD LICE	I HAVE AN EYE INFECTION	I HAVE BEEN IN THE HOSPITAL
						
Temperature of 100 degrees F or higher	Within the past 24 hours	Within the past 24 hours	Body rash with itching or fever	Itchy head, active head lice	Redness, itching and/or pus draining from eye	Hospital stay and/or emergency room visit

I AM READY TO GO BACK TO SCHOOL WHEN I AM...

Fever free without the assistance of medication for 24 hours (i.e. Tylenol, Motrin, Advil)	Free from vomiting for 24 hours.	Free from diarrhea for 24 hours.	Free from rash, itching or fever. I have been evaluated by my doctor if needed.	Treated with appropriate lice treatment at home.	Free from drainage and/or have been evaluated by my doctor if needed.	Released by my medical provider to return to school.
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If your child has strep throat or another bacterial infection, he/she should stay home until the antibiotic has been given for at least 24 hours and your health care provider has given permission for your child to return to school. We encourage you to seek medical attention when your child is sick and to follow your health care provider’s recommendations about returning to school and other activities.

Illness at School: A nurse will be available during your child's school day for injuries and illnesses that occur during the school day. However, it has been noted that some children appear ill when they arrive at school. A child who is ill will not be able to learn and may infect others. Parents should check for unusual skin eruptions, fever, persistent cough or sore throat, headache, chills, swollen glands, discharge or redness of eyes, vomiting, or diarrhea and seek proper medical attention.

If you decide to send your child to school, there are physician prescribed protocols 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. A parent will be notified if the nurse assesses the need for your child to go home or need further medical attention.

Whenever a child is still ill after one rest period in the nurse's 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. In the event that your child becomes ill or is injured during the school day, the school will take every measure to contact the parent/guardian and send the child home so that he/she may benefit from whatever medical treatment is required as soon as possible. Such emergencies do not present themselves too frequently.

Medication 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. If a parent believes their child may need medication during the day and allows them to bring it to school, the medication should be taken to the nurse upon arrival to school in the morning. 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.

The school does not provide allergy or decongestant medication. If your child is having allergy symptoms or congestion at home, please make sure you administer any medication they may require prior to coming to school.

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

DRESS CODE

SECTION I GENERAL

1. Spandex or skin-tight outfits of any type or material are not permitted unless an accompanying top covers the hips, buttocks and cleavage in an appropriate manner.
2. Excessively baggy clothing that poses a safety hazard is not permitted.
3. Undergarments should not be exposed.
4. Pajama/night clothes are not permitted.

SECTION II TOPS

1. Tops may not be “low cut” or exposing. Off the shoulders shirts/tops, midriffs, and backs are not permitted to be exposed.
2. The following are unacceptable school attire:
 - a. Tank tops/muscle shirts.
 - b. Spaghetti strap/halter/mesh tops
 - c. See-through blouses or shirts
 - d. Tube tops/crop tops
 - e. Any straps less than 2 inches wide
3. Any top that is skintight or allows the midriff, cleavage or undergarments to be exposed is not permitted.
4. Coats, jackets or garments designed for protection from the outside weather are not to be worn in school.

SECTION III PANTS/SHORTS/SKIRTS/SKORTS

1. Pants, shorts, and skorts must be secured and worn no lower than the hip. Low riding/sag style is not permitted.
2. Length of pants should not extend beyond the bottom of the shoe and should not drag on the floor.
3. Tear-away pants (snap pants) and boxer shorts worn as outer wear are not permitted.

4. All shorts, skirts and skorts must be no shorter than the midway between the hip and knee.
5. Cut-offs of any type is not permitted.

SECTION IV OFFENSIVE DRESS

1. Clothing, patches, buttons, pins, jewelry, backpacks and exposed tattoos are not permitted if they:
 - a. Have sexually suggestive writing/pictures
 - b. Advocate violence
 - c. Advertise or promote the use of tobacco, alcohol or drugs
 - d. Have innuendos or obscene language
 - e. Are disrespectful

SECTION V FOOTWEAR

1. Some sort of shoe must be worn at all times. All footwear must be secured with a backing or a back strap that is a part of the shoe. Homemade straps are **not** acceptable.
2. Any shoe that poses a safety hazard is not permitted, i.e. flip flops, open back sandals and slippers are not acceptable.
3. Shoes with laces must be tied.

SECTION VI JEWELRY

1. Spiked jewelry, wallet chains, choker chains, or any jewelry that could cause injury or constitute a hazard is not permitted.

SECTION VII HEADWEAR

1. Hats, caps, bandanas, sunglasses, visors, sweatbands, and other had coverings are not permitted.

SECTION VII HEALTH AND HYGIENE

1. Apparel that is judged to be unhealthy or unsanitary.
2. Each student is expected to maintain good personal hygiene.

These rules and procedures have been developed according to the Board policy regarding student dress and grooming. However, solutions to situations not specifically covered are the responsibility of building level Administrators. Appropriate decisions will be made based on the intent and spirit of board policy. Students and parents are expected to exercise careful judgment in the selection of appropriate attire for school. This will help prepare students for appropriate dress and appearance expectations as they advance from the school environment and begin facing adult responsibilities.

COURSE OF STUDY

Core Subjects

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

Science
Math
English

Social Studies
Reading
Latin (8th grade only)

Encore Subjects

In addition to core subjects, students will have instruction in the focus areas 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.

Sixth Grade

Physical Education
Health
Art
Music
Library
Explore

Seventh Grade

Physical Education
Health
Art
Music
Library
Explore

Eighth Grade

Physical Education
Health
Art
Family & Consumer Science
Explore

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 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 students 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 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 students electing to take band and/or chorus.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

CORE SUBJECTS

SCIENCE

- Grade 6: Students receive instruction in many areas of science, making this a general science curriculum. Hands-on activities are designed to provide familiarity and competency in investigative scientific procedures and lab materials as well as the higher order thinking skills needed for analytic problem solving. Chemistry, technology, physics, nutrition and a Variables unit provide the core for these investigations.
- Grade 7: Students study the life sciences with an emphasis on the development of biological concepts and how they relate to one another in the world around them. Topics of study include cell structure and function, genetics and DNA, bacteria and viruses, fungi, protists, botany, zoology, classification and ecology. Laboratory work and large projects are used regularly to provide a hands-on experience of material and reinforce class content.
- Grade 8: The course covers four broad areas of study: Geology; Meteorology; Astronomy; and Oceanography. Geology includes the study of rocks and minerals, soils, erosion, and weathering. Meteorology is the study of our

atmosphere and its effect on man. Weather forecasting and causes of weather are an important part of this study. Astronomy is the study of the earth and its relation to the universe, which includes the moon, solar system, sun, stars, galaxies, and space travel. Oceanography is the study of the oceans and their basins, which include waves, shorelines, currents, ocean water, the sea floor and its sediments, and the living things in the ocean.

MATHEMATICS

Courses marked with * are high school transcript courses. The grade attained by students will follow them to the high school.

- Grade 6: This course will provide students with the information and tools necessary to successfully meet Common Core State Standards for Grade 6 Mathematics.
- Connecting ratio and rate to whole number multiplication and division and using concepts of ratio and rate to solve problems.
 - Completing understanding of division of fraction and extending the notion of number to the system of rational numbers, including negative numbers.
 - Writing, interpreting, and using expressions and equations.
 - Developing understanding of statistical thinking

Math

Grade 7 & 8: Thinking skills of young adolescents move from concrete thinking to more abstract thinking as they develop. For this reason, Math courses in both seventh and eighth grade are differentiated to address both the developmental and academic needs of students. The goal of every math course is to ensure all students continually grow in their understanding of math content.

All math courses are designed to follow a carefully designed continuum of content as listed below, while simultaneously addressing the various rates at which students learn. Seventh and eighth grade courses are planned to provide students with the skills and tools necessary to successfully meet the Common Core State Standards for their appropriate grade and ultimately be prepared for the Algebra I Course.

- Developing an understanding of and applying proportional relationships.
- Solving problems involving scale drawings and informal geometric constructions, and working with two- and three-dimensional shapes to solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume.
- Drawing inferences about populations based on samples.
- Developing understanding and performing operations with rational numbers, mathematical expressions, and linear equations.

- Formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations, including modeling an association in bivariate data with linear equations, and solving linear equations and systems of linear equations.
- Grasping the concept of a function and using functions to describe quantitative relationships.
- Analyzing two- and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence, and understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem.

Foundations of Algebra

Grade 7 & 8: The Foundations of Algebra course is a combination of geometric and algebraic concepts that will enhance and extend Pre-algebra knowledge to prepare students for Algebra 1 and beyond. Application, problem solving, and critical thinking are integrated throughout the course. The main focus will be for students to solve graph and apply linear relationships. The course will also extend students' knowledge of the following: solving and simplifying algebraic expressions, equations and inequalities, and identifying and applying functions.

*Algebra

Grade 7 & 8: This course will provide students with the information and tools necessary to be active in their learning of algebra and related topics. Students will develop an understanding of algebra through applying previous knowledge of arithmetic and other mathematical concepts to real world applications.

*Geometry

Grade 8: This class is a standard high school level geometry course. It is designed for students who have previously been introduced to the basic skills of algebra and arithmetic. Several of these necessary algebra and arithmetic skills will be used throughout this course. Students will work with several different types of geometric concepts such as inductive and deductive reasoning, formal presentations of proofs, coordinate and transformational geometry, measurements, and the investigating of geometric figures. This course is designed to be very hands-on and student-oriented. Students will be encouraged to make connections between math concepts and real world applications to help them realize the importance of mathematics throughout their lives.

ENGLISH

- Grade 6: The sixth grade English curriculum will strengthen student skills in the areas of spelling, writing, grammar, speaking, and listening. Students will write in a variety of modes including argumentative, informational/explanatory, and narrative. These writing pieces will be assessed using a district rubric for the areas of ideas, organization, voice, word choice, sentence fluency, and conventions.
- Grade 7: In seventh grade English class, students engage in activities that build upon prior knowledge and skills in order to strengthen their reading, writing, and oral language skills. Students read and demonstrate comprehension of a wide range of literary and informational texts. Through each step of the writing process, students develop more complex writing skills. While focusing on the writing traits, students compose a variety of written texts in the narrative, informative/explanatory, argument/opinion, and descriptive modes. Students also focus on constructively critiquing their own and others' writing. In addition, students practice proper conventions of the English language in both speaking and writing, and recognize and apply grade-appropriate vocabulary.
- Grade 8: This year, there will be a strong emphasis placed on the value of writing and development of our writing skills. Students will explore creative, narrative, descriptive, expository, persuasive, and poetic writing styles. The study of grammar will be a critical part in starting the writing process. Vocabulary and regular language usage will also be a daily focus throughout our school year. In addition, students will have the opportunity to explore some different forms of literature and study the literary elements through cultural themes.

SOCIAL STUDIES

- Grade 6: Students learn about Ancient Civilizations starting with the Fertile Crescent. Other ancient civilizations are explored including Mesopotamia, Egypt, Nubia, China, India, Greece and Rome through Medieval times. Information presented ties ancient civilizations to the conditions in the modern day and the focus is on history, geography, multiculturalism, world religions, humanities, citizenship, debatable issues and current events.
- Grade 7: The seventh grade social studies curriculum focuses on map skills, physical, and human geography. The goal is for students to realize how and why different places of the world affect, depend on, and relate to one another both historically and throughout the world today. Students will analyze the physical, human, and cultural geography of Latin America, Europe, Africa, and Southwest Asia using the Five Themes of Geography and the Eight

Elements of Culture. Skills including reading maps, interpreting graphs, charts and diagrams, absolute and relative location, and measuring distance using a scale bar will also be taught.

Grade 8: The eighth grade social studies curriculum includes the tracing of United States history from colonial times until the end of the Civil War. The contributions of Pennsylvania to this time period are also studied. Elements of economics and geography are a part of the course of study. In addition, the course expands upon the historical development and current expression of United States civics.

READING

Grade 6: Students will read a variety of genres throughout the course of the year. Emphasis is placed on building vocabulary, comprehension strategies and critical reading/thinking skills in fiction and non-fiction writing. Some of the reading material will be assigned, while students will also have opportunity to select books they are interested in.

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.

Grade 7: The seventh grade reading program is designed to improve reading, learning and thinking skills. The program integrates literature, writing, speaking and listening. Emphasis is placed on building vocabulary, comprehension strategies, critical reading/thinking and reading interests while exploring literature from various genres. While exploring different genres in reading, students will have opportunity to select books they are interested in and will be motivated to read more to become lifelong readers.

Grade 8: Emphasis is placed on reading strategies to develop skills and motivation to create life-long readers. A wide variety of reading material is used throughout the year with quality literature being the basis. Having students access prior knowledge, predict outcomes, set reading purposes, think while reading, and react to what is read while modeling these same strategies forms the basis of the reading instruction in eighth grade. Setting time aside for independent reading gives the students a chance to pursue their own reading interests and promotes reading for a lifetime.

LATIN

Grade 8: The Latin class introduces eighth graders to the basics of Latin vocabulary and sentences, to enhance each student's linguistic intelligence. Students will explore the connections between Roman and American cultures while learning the language that has been influential to Western civilization in so many ways. The primary goal of the course is to build vocabulary and linguistic ability in English, and to provide students with a framework to acquire German, Spanish, or Chinese in the high school.

GIFTED SUPPORT

The gifted program is designed to extend the regular curriculum. Critical reading and thinking skills are enhanced through novel reading, vocabulary work, group discussions, and extension projects. Writing skills are strengthened as students react to current readings. Students participate in a variety of units, according to the interests and needs of the class, 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. In addition, students will improve oral presentation skills and self-confidence while speaking.

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

Grade 6-8: Through participation in activities such as field hockey, soccer, basketball, volleyball, tennis, flag football, speedball, softball, lacrosse and various indoor and outdoor games, students have the opportunity to develop skills in ball control and body control. Previously learned skills form the foundation

upon which more highly developed skills are built. Personal fitness concepts and techniques are also discussed and practiced for the sake of both present and future well-being. Safety is stressed in all activities.

HEALTH

Grade 6-8: Students will acquire the knowledge, attitudes, and decision-making skills that will help them make informed choices about their present and future well being. Topics of study include: communication skills, body systems, safety and basic first aid, wellness factors, infectious and noninfectious diseases, nutrition as it relates to disease, drug and alcohol prevention, healthy relationships, growth and development, environmental factors that influence health and consumer skills.

ART

Grade 6: A variety of two-dimensional and three-dimensional art mediums will be used in sixth grade art class, with emphasis placed on process as well as product. Students will explore the arts in the context of other disciplines, making connections to literature, social studies, world history, mathematics, and science. Grade six students will develop the ability to state what they like and dislike about various forms of visual art and will explain why they hold their opinions. They will describe and evaluate art forms using specific visual arts criteria, and will expand their appreciation of the visual arts and personal artistic expression.

Grade 7: Students will be encouraged to see, think, feel, enjoy, and grow in artistic awareness and creativity. They will develop advanced inquiry skills and vocabulary as they explore the meanings of art works through subject matters, themes, and symbols. Emphasis will be placed upon the development of confidence in the ability to create original two- and three-dimensional art works. As students develop skills in creating, they will not only understand and appreciate art, but they will also develop the competence in handling the materials and tools required for producing their art works. They will learn that artists create art by searching for ideas to express themselves visually, employing design skills, and manipulating materials expressively.

Grade 8: The eighth grade art program increases the student's confidence in skills learned in seventh grade, as well as introduces new skills to promote a high level of interest and learning. Emphasis is placed upon creating original art work and expressing experiences visually, and developing a searching, experimental attitude toward the independent solution of problems. Students develop an awareness of beauty in the environment, understand the

importance of art and design in everyday life, and learn about careers in art and community art resources.

MUSIC APPRECIATION

- Grade 6: Sixth Grade Music Appreciation establishes an environment where each student is taught the concepts and fundamentals that provide the knowledge and skills to appreciate the art of music and improve musical literacy. Students will also explore the history, development, and features of American musical genres including Blues and Musical Theater.
- Grade 7: Instrumental music creates the focus of work in the seventh grade music curriculum. The playing of guitars is used to explore rhythm, melodies, singing, and performance skills. Each student learns basic chords and strumming techniques on the acoustic guitar.

LIBRARY SKILLS

- Grade 6-7: The school library curriculum emphasizes information literacy, media literacy, visual literacy, and technology literacy skills across all subjects. Its' primary goal is to supplement the cross curricular researching needs. Students will demonstrate proficiency in extracting information from multiple (print and electronic) non-fictional text. Students will refine their researching skills with note taking skills, constructing bibliographic citations, collaborating and sharing their findings. Literature appreciation will be explored through the discussion of literature genres and examples of age-appropriate, quality literature. The library program encourages continual practice of locating information beyond the walls of the school library, evaluating, and using accurate and reliable information ethically.

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES

- Grade 8: FCS covers two subject areas - Child Development and Foods addressing state standards set in the areas of nutrition and child development. The Child Development program examines the skills and understanding students need to become good caregivers. Lessons on child care skills, safety, play and literature, child developmental milestones and positive guidance are included. The Foods section introduces students to kitchen safety and sanitation. Lessons included cover kitchen tools, large and small appliances, etiquette, table-setting, food pyramid guidelines for meal planning and

cooking labs. Grades are based on class work, participation, projects, labs, tests and quizzes.

EXPLORE

Grade 6-8: This course is designed to provide students with a hands-on learning experience that will help develop and enhance their communication, creativity, critical thinking, and collaboration skills. Students will work in teams to research, design, and build projects to solve both basic and complex tasks. They will learn how to do basic coding through online software. Students will also learn how to build and program LEGO robots. Towards the end of the course they will take what they've learned and participate in a World's Fair that is taking what they have learned and applying it to solve a problem in society or improve an invention.

WHAT I NEED (WIN)

Grade 6-8: Students in the middle school will have scheduled time each cycle devoted to supporting their academic growth by providing structure to address their specific academic need. WIN is, as the name implies, support for what each child needs to be successful. This period can be used for tutoring with individual teachers or small group work targeted at specific learning outcomes. Teachers will assign students, on a flexible basis, to the appropriate enrichment period that best fits their academic need.

2020-2021 Club Offerings

Please note: All clubs and activities are subject to the enrollment criteria and have a limited number of sections. Should we not be able to schedule a club that was selected, we will be in contact over the summer or at the start of the 2020-2021 School Year to review what options are available.

Semester Clubs:

Animaniacs
Art Club
Axis and Allies/World War II
Book Club
Card Games
Coloring and Drawing
Fitness Club
Genius Hour
Harry Potter
Math Counts
Read, Relax, and Recharge
Running
Star Wars
Study Hall
Thinking Games
World Cup

Year Long Clubs:

Band
BBN
Chorus
Fellowship of the Ring
K'Nex
Lego Club
Rube Goldberg
Student Council
Yearbook

Club Descriptions

Animaniacs

Grades 6, 7, 8

Do you love watching and talking about old cartoons? In Animaniacs, we will watch American cartoons spanning the 20th Century and discuss the technological, artistic, social, and educational development that helped to create them. We will start with the earliest experimental cartoons and animation shorts shown in movie theaters before feature films, and work our way through the decades to end our study with television cartoons in the 1990's. We will enjoy Cartoons from the major animation companies, including Looney Tunes, Disney, Terrytoons, MGM, Hanna Barbera, Filmation, and more!

Art Club

Grades 6, 7, 8

Art club will involve a hands-on study of various artistic media. Students will create and produce works of art that model traditional and contemporary artistic techniques, each reflecting the student's own unique style. A combination of art history, artistic design/aesthetics, analysis, and criticism, will provide art interested students with an additional means of expression beyond the middle school art curriculum.

Axis and Allies: World War II

Grades 6, 7, 8

Based upon real military strategic conditions during World War II, Axis and Allies is a game that combines elements of several games including Risk, Chess, and even Monopoly. Students will be taught how to play, and then, play the game during club time.

BBN (Brandywine

Broadcast Network)

Grades 7 & 8

(Full Year)

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. Students are required to complete an essay and obtain two teacher recommendations when signing up for BBN. Club members will be chosen by a selection process, taking into consideration the essay and teacher recommendations.

Book Club

Grades 6, 7, 8

Join Mrs. Peters to explore a new genre each quarter! We will read books as a group, you will select books in the genre to read on your own, and collectively we will decide on a way to share our book reviews with the school. Students should be prepared to read at

least two books a quarter outside of their other academics to participate in this club.

Card Games

Grades 6, 7, 8

The club will explore a variety of games involving cards, strategies, and the games that people can play with cards.

Coloring & Drawing Club

Grades 6, 7, 8

Are you looking for a quiet place to end your school day, a place to unwind from the day or a place you can pursue your hobby of coloring? Then the Coloring and Drawing Club is your answer! In this club, we will have relaxing time coloring different pages from adult coloring books of your choice or maybe you can create your own for the club to do.

Fellowship of the Ring/Hobbit

Grades 6,7,8

Students will watch and analyze the extended versions of The Hobbit and The Lord of the Rings Trilogy. We will discuss character development, conflict, plot development, setting and other literary analytical things. We will go on a quest with Bilbo Baggins, who is swept into an epic quest to reclaim the lost Dwarf Kingdom of Erebor, which was long ago conquered by the dragon Smaug. At the completion of Bilbo's journey, we follow Frodo on a journey of his own as he tries to destroy the Ring of Power. Join the Fellowship of the Ring club and enjoy watching and analyzing The Hobbit Trilogy and The Lord of the Rings Trilogy.

Fitness Club/Weight Training

Grades 6,7,8

This co-ed club is offered for students who want to improve their overall physical conditioning and strength. Aerobic and Anaerobic programs will be developed for the members of this club.

Genius Hour
Grades 6,7,8

Is there a topic you are interested in? A skill you want to learn how to do? This club gives you the opportunity to self-select a topic of your choosing, build a plan to learn about your topic, and then learn all about your selected topic. You are in the driver's seat to learn about something new, cool, or fun.

Math Counts
Grades 6,7,8

MATHCOUNTS is a national program to promote mathematics in middle schools. This club provides students in 6th through 8th grade the opportunity to compete in live, in-person contests with their peers. Any number of students can participate in team meetings and compete in the school competition. Of these students there will be a group of ten that will go on to compete in February. This is a great opportunity to represent our school by competing with all 18 school districts in Berks County.

Platform 9 and $\frac{3}{4}$
Grades 6,7,8

This Harry Potter club is a club for all things Harry Potter! From books, to movies, to games, to spells, potions and trivia. We dive deeper into the phenomenon that is Harry Potter!

Read, Relax, and Recharge
Grades 6,7,8

This club would provide readers with a calm, relaxing atmosphere in which to read, to share ideas about good books, and reinforce a time for students to engage in mindfulness activities. In this club, students have the opportunity to read for leisure and chat about good books with other bibliophiles. In addition, students can use this time to relax, practice mindfulness, and recharge at the end of a busy school day.

Running Club
Grades 6, 7, 8

The students will learn how to train for a 5K race. The club will begin with a timed mile. Over the semester, students will work on their pacing, speed, and endurance. The club will end with the students

running a timed mile for a second time to see how their hard work has paid off. Students will also have the opportunity to participate in a local 5K race in Topton.

STEM Club
Grades 6,7,8
(Full Year)

The STEM club will be working on K'Nex challenges and the First LEGO league challenge as a team. We are adding a Rube Goldberg club this year as well. The club will then travel and compete against other schools. Once the challenges are over, the club will work on other side projects that will be determined at a later date.

Star Wars
Grades 6,7,8

Students will watch episodes of the Star Wars animated series, The Clone Wars. Each episode begins with a precept that identifies the theme of the story. After watching the episode, we will discuss the precept and its meaning. Students will be asked to identify the plot sequence of the story, beginning with the exposition and ending with the resolution. We will discuss the main conflict of the episode and identify how the precept connects to the story. We will follow the adventures of Anakin Skywalker, Yoda, Obi-Wan Kenobi and other popular characters from the Star Wars universe as they battle the Galactic Empire and try to restore peace and order in the galaxy. Join the Star Wars Club and enjoy analyzing the underlying themes of every exciting episode of The Clone Wars. May the force be with you.

Student Council/Service
Grades 6,7, & 8
(Full Year)

Student Council is a “student-led” school and community service organization. We will address the needs of both our school and our community. Students will participate in planning and holding a variety of school activities, such as school dances, spirit weeks, and many community fundraising

projects. Membership is determined by application, and members will be selected based on leadership qualities, motivation, school spirit, good academic standing, and a strong desire to help others.

Study Hall
Grades 7 & 8

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 to complete assignments.

Thinking Games
Grades 6, 7, 8

Students will be actively engaged in strategic board games. The board games will enhance math skills, cognitive skills, working with money, thinking out of the box, and many other brain teasers. This club will incorporate cooperation and social skills with one another. The club will have a variety of options for the students to choose from, such as: checkers, dominoes, scrabble, Othello, monopoly, and others. This club is to get the students away from all the electronic games and play “old-fashioned” strategic games.

World Cup
Grades 6,7,8

Students will learn about the World Cup Competition and its history in the first sessions of this club. Following this, students will compete in a 3x3 soccer tournament where each team will represent a National Soccer team and compete in a mini-World Cup through both the group stage and the Knockout rounds. This is an excellent game for students to learn about and participate in the Beautiful Game.

Yearbook
Grades 7 & 8
(Full Year)

If you are interested in photography, scrapbooking, and graphic design, Yearbook is the club for you! Throughout the course of the year, students have the

opportunity of capturing memories of the school year so that nothing can be forgotten. As the students develop this book, they will learn about photography, layout design, proofreading, editing, and the importance of telling our story. The club is a year-long commitment. Anyone who is interested in being part of the Yearbook staff needs to complete an application. Selection will then be determined based on student's work ethic, ability to work cooperatively with others, responsibility, and motivation.

Electives (Graded Classes)

Band
(Full Year)

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. Please note, 7th and 8th grade students who sign-up for Band should have participated in Band in 6th grade.

Chorus
(Full Year)

Chorus is an elective course designed for students who enjoy singing and desire to improve their music and singing skills. Students 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.