



2021-22

# Middle School Registration Guide

This document includes information about middle school and how to register for classes. If you have questions or would like more information, please call 763-391-7091

Este documento incluye información sobre la escuela intermedia y cómo registrarse para las clases. Si usted tiene preguntas o si desea más información, por favor llame al 763-315-7649.

Daim ntawv no muaj cov ntaub ntawv hais txog tsev kawm ntawv qib nrab (Middle School) thiab kev cuv npe rau cov chav kawm rau tom tsev kawm ntawv qib nrab (Middle School). Thov hu rau 763-569-7669 yog hais tias koj muaj lus nug lossis koj xav paub txog cov ntaub ntawv no ntau tshaj ntxiv.

Hồ sơ này bao gồm thông tin về các trường trung học và vấn đề đăng ký các lớp học tại các trường trung học. Xin vui lòng gọi 763-585-7319 nếu quý vị có thắc mắc hoặc nếu quý vị muốn biết thêm thông tin.

OSSEO AREA SCHOOLS

ISD  279

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If you are considering open enrollment to a middle school other than your assigned attendance area school, apply for open enrollment and complete registration as if you were planning to attend your assigned school. If your application for open enrollment is approved, your course registration information will be transferred to your new school and any necessary adjustments to the schedule will be handled by your new school.



# Welcome!

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to middle school in Osseo Area Schools! This guide will help you learn more about middle school and how we will help your student excel and thrive during these years of rapid physical, emotional, and intellectual growth.

The middle school years.

Voices are changing. Bodies are growing so fast that legs actually ache. Friendships come and go. These are the middle school years, and there's nowhere else our teachers would rather be than with your student on his/her middle school journey.

In middle school, young adolescent minds thrive on active, engaged learning. More hands-on learning with less lecture. Active discussion vs passive listening. Connecting classroom learning to real-life situations. Learning with student mobile device and other devices in ways that were inconceivable just a few years ago. Our middle school program is designed to keep young adolescents engaged and challenged; help them discover new interests; and support their intellectual, social and emotional growth.

We hope this guide will help you become familiar with the middle school program in Osseo Area Schools, and we look forward to welcoming you and your student next fall!



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**“Youth comes but once in a lifetime.”**

*-- Henry Wadsworth Longfellow*

# Osseo Area Schools Middle Schools



## **Brooklyn Middle School (BMS)**

A Science, Technology, Engineering,  
Arts and Math School (BMS)  
7377 Noble Avenue North  
Brooklyn Park MN 55443  
763.569.7700  
School Mascot: Bulldog  
School Colors: Red and Black



## **Maple Grove Middle School (MGMS)**

7000 Hemlock Lane North  
Maple Grove MN 55369  
763.315.7600  
School Mascot: Mustang  
School Colors: Blue and White



## **North View Middle School (NVMS)**

5869 69th Avenue North  
Brooklyn Park MN 55429  
763.585.7200  
School Mascot: Knight  
School Colors: Blue and Silver



## **Osseo Middle School (OMS)**

10223 93rd Avenue North  
Osseo MN 55369  
763.391.8800  
School Mascot: Oriole  
School Colors: Orange and Black

## **279 Online**

11200 93rd Avenue North  
Maple Grove, MN 55369  
763.391.8670







# Examine Interests

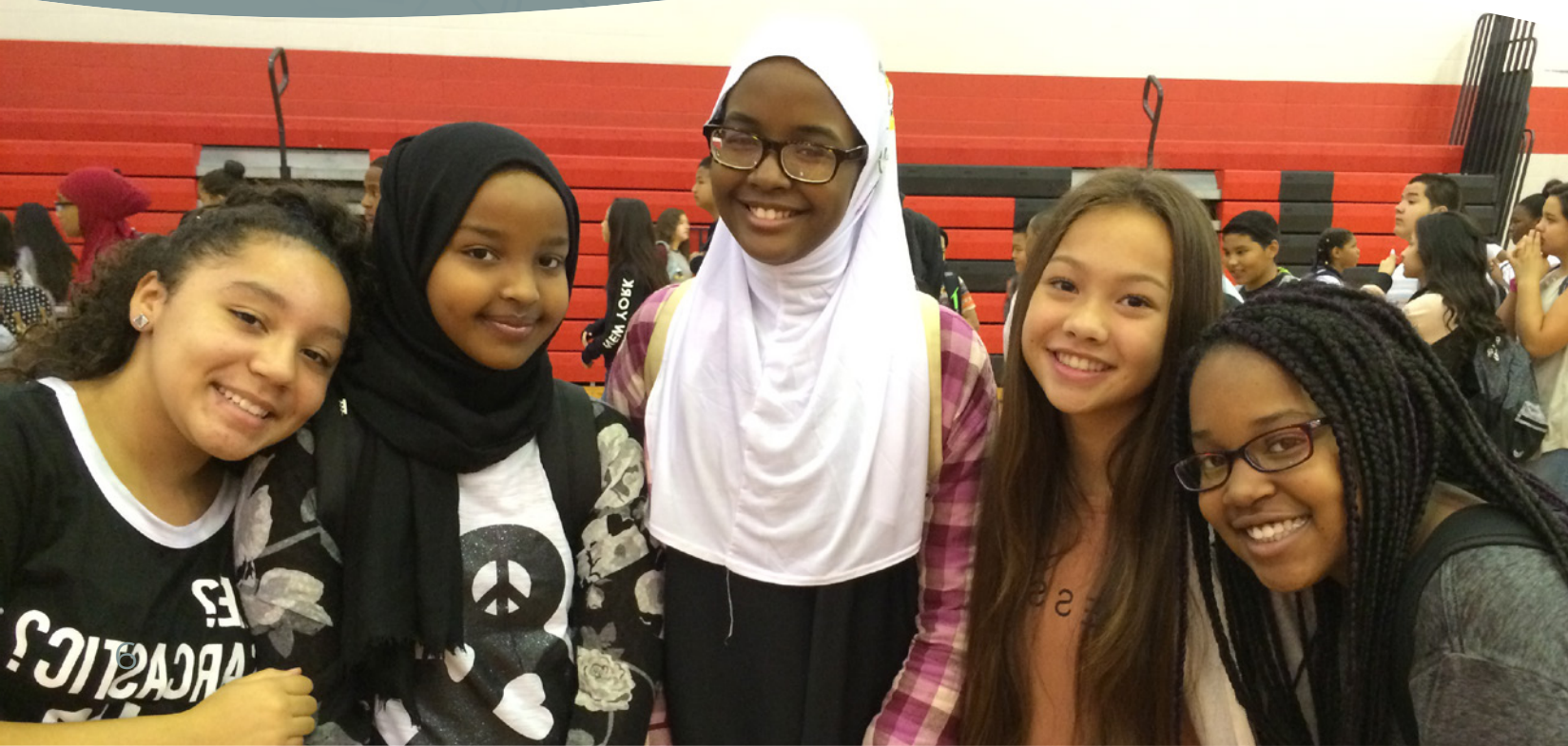
In middle school, students take required core subjects and elective courses. In sixth grade and seventh grade, the elective courses are designed to help students experience different subjects so they can identify interests for further study in eighth grade and in high school.

## Required and Choice Elective Classes

*Required elective* classes are required elements of a middle school education so that students can gain exposure to a variety of new learning, experiences, and opportunities. Sixth-graders take required elective classes in art, music, physical education, and technology education/STEAM (Science Technology, Engineering, Arts & Mathematics). Seventh-graders take the required elective class Health & Wellness 7.

*Choice elective* classes are available in 7th and 8th grade. Students can choose to go deeper in the elective of their choice, including art, creative technology, family and consumer science, health and wellness, music, physical education, technology education/STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts & Mathematics), and world language.

A basic overview of courses by grade appears on page 7. Please note that course options may vary slightly among schools, particularly in magnet schools.



## Grade 6

### **Required**

Advisory, including enrichment and academic support  
English & Language Arts 6  
Foundations of Algebra or Pre-Algebra  
Earth Science 6  
Minnesota Studies 6

### **Required Elective Courses**

Physical Education 6  
Music 6 Choose one of the following options:  
    Introduction to Band, Band, Choir, Making Music,  
    Introduction to Orchestra, Orchestra  
Art 6/Art STEAM 6  
Gateway to Technology 6/Gateway to Technology  
    STEAM 6 (Science, Technology, Engineering,  
    Arts & Mathematics)

## Grade 7

### **Required**

Advisory, including enrichment and academic support  
English & Language Arts 7  
Pre-Algebra, Linear Algebra, or Algebra I  
Life Science 7  
US Studies 7

### **Required Elective Courses**

Health & Wellness 7

**Choice Elective Courses** (*choose courses to create one of the following combinations: 1 every day and 1 every other day; or 3 every other day*)

Art 7/Art STEAM 7  
Creative Technology: Design and Problem Solving  
Family & Consumer Science 7  
Gateway to Technology 7/Gateway to Technology  
    STEAM 7(Science, Technology, Engineering,  
    Arts & Mathematics)  
Music 7: Band, Choir, Orchestra  
Music 7: Introduction to Band, Introduction to  
    Orchestra  
Physical Education 7  
Physical Education 7 PLUS  
World Language: French 1 or Spanish 1

## Grade 8

### **Required**

Advisory, including enrichment and academic support  
English & Language Arts 8  
Linear Algebra, Non-Linear Algebra, or Geometry  
Earth Science 8  
Global Studies 8

**Choice Elective Courses** (*choose courses to create one of the following combinations: 2 every day; 1 every day and 2 every other day; or 4 every other day*)

Art 8/Art STEAM 8  
Creative Technology: Innovation and Multimedia  
Family & Consumer Science 8  
Health & Wellness 8  
Gateway to Technology 8/Gateway to Technology  
    STEAM 8 (Science, Technology, Engineering,  
    Arts & Mathematics)

At BMS only:

    Design Runway  
    Intro to Culinary Arts  
    Performance Choir  
Music 8: Band, Choir, Orchestra  
Physical Education 8  
Physical Education 8 PLUS  
World Language: French 1 or Spanish 1/ French 2 or  
    Spanish 2

“One’s destination is  
never a place, but a new  
way of seeing things.”

- Henry Miller

# Sample daily student schedule

6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade
Advisory	Advisory	Advisory
English & Language Arts 6	English & Language Arts 7	English & Language Arts 8
Math	Math	Math
Earth Science 6	Life Science 7	Earth Science 8
Minnesota Studies 6	US Studies 7	Global Studies 8
Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
Music 6/Phy Ed 6 Art 6/Art STEAM 6/Gateway to Technology 6/Gateway to Technology STEAM 6	Health & Wellness 7/Elective I Elective II/Elective III	Elective I/Elective II Elective III/Elective IV

## Course Selection Listed by Subject Area

### ART

Art 6/Art STEAM 6  
Art 7/Art STEAM 7  
Art 8/Art STEAM 8

### ENGLISH & LANGUAGE ARTS

English & Language Arts 6  
English & Language Arts 7  
English & Language Arts 8

### FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCES

Family & Consumer Sciences 7  
Family & Consumer Sciences 8

### HEALTH

Health & Wellness 7  
Health & Wellness 8

### MATH

Foundations of Algebra  
Pre-Algebra  
Linear Algebra  
Non-Linear Algebra  
Algebra I  
Geometry

### MUSIC

Intro to Band 6  
Band 6  
Intro to Band 7  
Band 7  
Band 8  
Choir 6  
Choir 7  
Choir 8  
Making Music 6  
Intro to Orchestra 6  
Orchestra 6  
Intro to Orchestra 7  
Orchestra 7  
Orchestra 8

### PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical Education 6  
Physical Education 7  
Physical Education 7 PLUS  
Physical Education 8  
Physical Education 8 PLUS

### SCIENCE

Earth Science 6  
Life Science 7  
Earth Science 8

### SOCIAL STUDIES

Minnesota Studies 6  
US Studies 7  
Global Studies 8

### TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION/ STEAM

Gateway to Technology 6/Gateway  
to Technology STEAM 6  
Gateway to Technology 7/Gateway  
to Technology STEAM 7  
Gateway to Technology 8/Gateway  
to Technology STEAM 8  
Creative Technology: Design and  
Problem Solving  
Creative Technology: Innovation  
and Multimedia

### WORLD LANGUAGES

French 1  
Spanish 1  
French 2  
Spanish 2





# COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

## ART

### Art 6

#### Art STEAM 6 At BMS

##### *Required Elective*

This class explores fun opportunities in two- and three-dimensional art. Through hands-on activities, students experiment with drawing, clay/pottery, painting, printmaking, digital art, calligraphy and collage. By the end of this course, students will have gained an understanding of the elements of art and principles of design.

### Art 7

#### Art STEAM 7 At BMS

##### *Choice Elective*

This class builds on the skills taught in Art 6 to create new and exciting opportunities in two and three-dimensional art. The hands-on course goes deeper into building techniques and methods with drawing, clay/pottery, painting, printmaking, digital art, calligraphy and collage. The goal is to provide students with broader understanding of the elements of art and principles of design.

### Art 8

#### Art STEAM 8 At BMS

##### *Choice Elective*

Students in this course focus on the processes behind the creation of art using knowledge and skills developed through the elements of art and principles of design. Students use both two and three-dimensional media to develop their artistic voice through taking creative risks and experimenting with new techniques in drawing, clay/pottery, painting, printmaking, digital art, calligraphy and collage. The goal is to provide students with the foundation and confidence for a lifelong appreciation of the visual arts.

## ENGLISH & LANGUAGE ARTS

### English & Language Arts 6 Language

##### *Required*

Students focus on developing and strengthening skills in writing, reading, speaking, listening, and thinking. Students will analyze text to determine meaning and cite evidence from texts to support analysis. Students will use the writing process to create informational and narrative compositions. Students will study vocabulary and grammar.

### English & Language Arts 7 Language

##### *Required*

This course stresses sentence and paragraph writing in composition, study of short stories and novels in literature, independent reading, reference skills, spelling, grammar, and usage. Students gain critical and creative writing skills. Group and individual projects throughout the year focus on writing, research, and speaking.

### English & Language Arts 8 Language

##### *Required*

This course emphasizes paragraph writing in composition, short stories and novels in literature, independent reading, research skills and language development centered on spelling, vocabulary, and grammar. Literature is explored in-depth with an emphasis on comprehending and interpreting what authors have communicated. Students gain critical and creative thinking skills, as well as writing, research, and speaking skills. Individual and group projects occur throughout the year.

## FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCES

### Family & Consumer Sciences 7 *Choice Elective*

Enjoy making things? In this yearlong class, students explore a variety of topics, including food preparation, nutrition, career exploration, understanding personal purchases, financial literacy, growth and development of children, and a design project. Students learn the basics of cooking and work in small group cooking labs. Students learn how to become informed and responsible lifelong learners who are able to make healthy decisions regarding diet, fitness and lifestyle. Students also investigate the exciting world of careers.

### Family & Consumer Sciences 8 *Choice Elective*

Want to do a little of everything? From children to food and design to money, this project based course gives students more practice with skills that help daily life and lead to success in the workplace. Students will explore design, personal financial responsibility, and the science behind food preparation. Students will work collaboratively to make floor plans, develop financial awareness and prepare delicious healthy foods. Exploring careers and occupational pathways are woven into this fun and fast-paced curriculum.

### Intro into Culinary Arts 8 *Choice Elective*

Students will be learning how to prepare, safely handle, cook and taste scratch-made food with inspiration from cultures around the world. Students will be involved in preparing a menu and hosting an event to present their learning in a restaurant type format; they will act as hosts, servers and chefs for parents and the community during school and district events.



## HEALTH

### Health and Wellness 7

#### *Required Elective*

This course empowers students to make healthy decisions that influence self, family and community. Students are given opportunities to enhance and explore their health within the context of the following topics: introduction to health, decision making and goal setting, safety and injury/violence prevention; substance use/abuse; personal health / nutrition / fitness; community / consumer health; social/mental / emotional health; disease prevention / HIV-AIDS; and basic family life.

### Health and Wellness 8

#### *Choice Elective*

Students learn and apply strategies that will enhance their ability to make healthy choices and reach optimal lifelong health. Students are taught the following units: sports nutrition (focusing on enhancing athletic performance), prevention and treatment of sports injuries, basic first aid, and American Red Cross CPR/AED training and certification. The specific unit on sex education is taught on a dual track: abstinence until marriage or abstinence as the best choice for teens. Prior to that unit being taught, parents/guardians will receive information about the content of each track so they can choose which one is right for their student. Students will also be given the opportunity to take part in community service learning.

## MATH

### Foundations of Algebra

#### *6th grade: Required*

Students will use positive and negative integers, rational numbers and algebraic properties to solve problems. Students will use mean, median and range to display, interpret data and calculate probability. Other topics include ratio, measurement, scale, translations, reflections, and probability.

### Pre-Algebra

*6th grade: Students should seek advice from current teacher before registering for this class*

#### *7th grade: Required*

This course builds skills for rational numbers and their operations and their algebraic representations. Topics from math strands such as measurement conversions, area, averages, and data displays are introduced in this course. Other topics include equations and functions, geometry, square roots, and probability.

### Linear Algebra

*7th grade: Students should seek advice from current teacher before registering for this class*

#### *8th grade: Required*

This course provides a strong foundation in linear algebra and builds skills for rational numbers and their operations, equations, and inequalities. Topics include understanding expressions, equations, and function notation. Linear equations, linear functions, linear inequalities, and graphing will be covered in depth.



## Non-Linear Algebra

*8th grade: Students should seek advice from current teacher before registering for this class;*

This course revisits linear functions and introduces quadratic, exponential (and rational) function families. Students explore functions in tabular, algebraic, and graphical forms. Students write and solve algebraic and application problems. Additional topics include statistics and probability.

## Algebra 1

*7th grade: Students should seek advice from current teacher before registering for this class;*

This class is organized around families of functions, with a special emphasis on linear and quadratic functions. Algebra 1 may include lessons on probability, data analysis, and geometry.

## Geometry

*8th grade: Students should seek advice from current teacher before registering for this class;*

In Geometry, students will develop reasoning and problem solving skills. The course will include analyzing properties of two and three dimensional objects, establishing the validity of geometric conjectures, trigonometry, transformations, angles, parallel and perpendicular lines, and triangle relationships.

## MUSIC

*6th-graders are required to choose one music elective.*

### Intro to Band 6

*Required Elective*

Intro to Band 6 is for students who did not take band in grade 5. Students learn the beginning elements of playing a woodwind or brass instrument. Students meet every other day and are expected to perform at evening concerts during the year. Upon completion of this course, students are ready to enroll in Band 7.

### Band 6

*Required Elective*

In Band 6, students meet in class every other day. You can expect your performance skills (individually and as an ensemble) and musical knowledge to grow quickly! Band 6 musicians are required to perform in two evening concerts during the year. Prerequisite: Completion of Band 5 or audition with the band director.

### Choir 6

*Required Elective*

6th grade choir is for students who enjoy singing in an ensemble! Choir classes meet every other day, and students can expect their performance skills and musical knowledge to grow quickly. A variety of music will be performed. All Choir 6 musicians are required to perform two evening concerts during the year.

## Making Music 6

*Required Elective*

What role does music play in our lives and in the lives of those around us? While learning the answers to these questions, students also experience making music in many ways. This course is for students not participating in one of the performance classes (choir, band, or orchestra).

Note: Open to grades 6-8 at the Online Academy

### Intro to Orchestra 6

*Required Elective*

Intro to Orchestra 6 is for students who did not take orchestra in grade 5. Students learn the beginning elements of playing an orchestra instrument: violin, viola, cello or bass. Students meet every other day and are required to perform at evening concerts during the year. Upon completion of this course, students are ready to enroll in Orchestra 7.

### Orchestra 6

*Required Elective*

In this every-other-day class, students can expect their performance skills (individually and as an ensemble) and musical knowledge to grow quickly! These musicians perform two evening concerts during the year and participation in these concerts is required. Prerequisite: Completion of Orchestra 5 or audition with the orchestra director.

### Intro to Band 7

*Choice Elective*

Intro to Band 7 is for students who did not take band in grade 5 or 6. Students learn the beginning elements of playing a woodwind or brass instrument. Because this class meets every day, students can expect to learn playing skills at an accelerated level. Intro to Band 7 musicians are required to perform at evening concerts during the year. Upon completion of this course, students are ready to enroll in Band 8.



## Band 7

### *Choice Elective*

In Band 7, students continue their individual and ensemble musical growth. Band 7 students are required to perform two evening concerts during the year. Prerequisite: Completion of Band 6, Intro to Band 6 or audition with the band director.

## Choir 7

### *Choice Elective*

7th grade choir is for students who enjoy singing. In this class, students continue to develop their individual and ensemble vocal skills. A variety of music is performed. All Choir 7 musicians are required to perform two evening concerts during the year.

## Intro to Orchestra 7

### *Choice Elective*

Intro to Orchestra 7 is for students who did not take orchestra in grade 5 or 6. Students will learn the beginning elements of playing an orchestra instrument: violin, viola, cello or bass. Because this class meets every day, students can expect to learn playing skills at an accelerated level. Students are required to perform at evening concerts during the year. Upon completion of this course, students are ready to enroll in Orchestra 8.

## Orchestra 7

### *Choice Elective*

In Orchestra 7, students continue their individual and ensemble musical growth. This ensemble performs two evening concerts during the year and participation in these concerts is required. Prerequisite: Completion of Orchestra 6, Intro to Orchestra 6 or audition with the orchestra director.

## Band 8

### *Choice Elective*

As your skills develop, so does the satisfaction you gain from playing your instrument! In daily band rehearsals, students learn more advanced playing techniques and expand their knowledge of music and music theory. The band performs several evening concerts throughout the year and participation in these concerts is required. Prerequisite: Completion of Band 7, Intro to Band 7 or audition with the band director.

## Choir 8

### *Choice Elective*

As your vocal skills develop, so does the satisfaction you gain from singing in an ensemble. This choir is for all students who enjoy singing! Students are exposed to a variety of music. They continue to develop performance skills and expand their knowledge of music and music theory. The choir performs several evening concerts throughout the year and participation in these concerts is required.

## Orchestra 8

### *Choice Elective*

As your skills develop, so does the satisfaction you gain from playing your instrument. Students learn more advanced playing techniques and expand their knowledge of music and music theory. The orchestra performs several evening concerts throughout the year and participation in these concerts is required. Prerequisite: Completion of Orchestra 7, Intro to Orchestra 7 or audition with the orchestra director.

## Performance Choir (BMS only)

In this class students will express themselves and their creativity by singing and dancing in a group. The choreography (dancing) will be created and taught by students in the class. Students will perform several times throughout the year. This class will strive for artistic excellence

## 279 ONLINE ONLY

### 279 Online Band

In 279 Online Band, you can expect your performance skills (individually and as an ensemble) and musical knowledge to grow! Students will learn more advanced playing techniques and expand their knowledge of music and music theory.

### 279 Online Orchestra

In 279 Online Orchestra, you can expect your performance skills (individually and as an ensemble) and musical knowledge to grow! Students will learn more advanced playing techniques and expand their knowledge of music and music theory.

### 279 Online Choir

In 279 Online Choir is for students who enjoy singing. In this class, students continue to develop their individual and ensemble vocal skills. A variety of music is performed. They continue to develop performance skills and expand their knowledge of music and music theory.

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

### Physical Education 6

#### *Required Elective*

This activity-based course is organized around the movement themes of body control, fitness, propelling, receiving, and striking. The emphasis is on fundamentals, rules, strategies and individual physical fitness. A high level of participation is expected, and students are required to change into appropriate clothing for participation. Activities may include basketball, soccer, volleyball, tennis, badminton, cooperative games, table tennis, fitness training, swimming and other indoor/outdoor activities.



## Physical Education 7

### *Choice Elective*

This activity-based course is organized around an active and healthy lifestyle. The emphasis is on fundamentals, rules, strategies and individual physical fitness. Activities may include, team/individual games, cooperative games, fitness training, swimming and other indoor/outdoor activities. A high level of participation is expected, and students are required to change into appropriate clothing for participation.

## Physical Education 7 PLUS

### *Choice Elective*

This course promotes an active and healthy lifestyle with a focus on cardiovascular fitness, weight training, and being physically active. Additional activities may include individual/team sports, cooperative games, fitness training, swimming, and other indoor/ outdoor activities. A high level of participation is expected, and students are required to change into appropriate clothing for participation.

## Physical Education 8

### *Choice Elective*

This course provides students with the skills, knowledge, and attitudes needed for an active lifestyle. The goal is to introduce students to as many activities as possible so they will remain active and healthy throughout their lifetime. Activities may include, team/individual sports, cooperative games, fitness training, swimming, and other indoor/outdoor activities. A high level of participation is expected, and students are required to change into appropriate clothing for participation.



## Physical Education 8 PLUS

### *Choice Elective*

This course promotes an active lifestyle for all students. Student learn and practice the skills, knowledge and attitudes needed for an active lifestyle with a focus on cardiovascular fitness, weight training, and being physically active. Additionally, students will be physically active in many activities that may include team/individual sports, cooperative games, fitness training, swimming, and other indoor/outdoor activities.

## SCIENCE

### Earth Science 6

#### *Required*

Using the lens of discovery through astronomy, physical and historical geology, human impacts, and meteorology, students will develop scientific literacy skills. Students work with scientific equipment in various settings throughout the course. Methods of study will be interdisciplinary with an emphasis on creative problem solving, observation, communication skills, and analysis among other cross-cutting concepts.

### Life Science 7

#### *Required*

Students will study the scientific method, cells, animals, plants, and human body systems. Students will have hands-on experiences with problem solving, dissection, microscope work, and various other lab activities. Emphasis is placed upon creative problem solving activities, communication skills, group projects, and interdisciplinary activities.

### Earth Science 8

#### *Required*

Students will study astronomy, physical and historical geology, hydrology, and meteorology. Students work with scientific equipment in various settings throughout the course. Methods of study will be interdisciplinary with an emphasis on creative problem solving, observation, communication skills and research.

## SOCIAL STUDIES

### Minnesota Studies 6

#### *Required*

Students will expand their understanding of Minnesota history by exploring the geographical and historical developments in our state. Students will learn how individuals, groups, and events have shaped the state's history. They will analyze the interaction among the various cultures, emphasizing their contributions to society. Minnesota's role and connection to national and international events will be explored. Students will also learn basic concepts of government and personal finance.

### US Studies 7

#### *Required*

Students will survey the development of the United States through history from the 1800s to the present while integrating government, geography, and economic concepts. This course will include critical analysis of primary and secondary resources along with in depth research of historical topics.

### Global Studies 8

#### *Required*

Students will be introduced to cultures and civilizations throughout the world from ancient to modern times. Students will explore world geography as it affects the cultures and civilizations covered in this course. They will analyze connections between revolutions, independence movements, and social transformations, and understand reasons for the creation of modern nation states. Students will be involved in civic discussions on contemporary issues, research, group and individual problem solving, simulations, and a variety of critical and logical thinking activities.

## TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION/STEAM

### Gateway to Technology 6 Gateway to Technology 6 STEAM at BMS

*Required Elective*

Gateway to Technology 6 is a hands-on, lab-based, Project Lead the Way course where students use a variety of tools as they learn about the design process to solve problems and understand the influence of creative and innovative design on our lives. Students learn and recognize the value of an engineering notebook to document and capture their ideas. Students use industry standard 3D modeling software to create a virtual image of their designs and produce a portfolio to showcase their creative solutions. Materials safety, the use of tools and machines, and the principles of design are focuses of study. The course curriculum meets national STEM standards and integrates age-appropriate knowledge with developing STEAM awareness.

### Gateway to Technology 7 Gateway to Technology 7 STEAM at BMS

*Choice Elective*

Gateway to Technology 7 is a hands-on, lab-based, Project Lead the Way course that provides project-based learning – a hands-on approach – that is exciting and challenging for a wide range of students. The curriculum relates technology to students' daily lives. It promotes communication and collaboration by emphasizing a teaming approach. Through this approach, students use their strengths to accomplish project goals while learning challenges at all ability levels. The course curriculum meets national standards and integrates age-appropriate knowledge with developing STEAM awareness.

### Gateway to Technology 8 Gateway to Technology 8 STEAM at BMS

*Choice Elective*

In this hands-on, lab-based, Project Lead the Way course, students deepen understanding of engineering technologies. Students gain knowledge and skills to experience industry standard production technologies through hands-on experiences. Students use tools and machines and practice using the principles of design. The course curriculum meets national standards and integrates age-appropriate knowledge with developing STEAM awareness.

### Creative Technology: Design and Problem Solving (Gr 7 and 8 only)

*Choice Elective*

*Note: This course is offered every other year, alternating with Creative Technology: Innovation and Multimedia.* Creative Technology: Design & Problem Solving explores the principles of design through the design cycle. Students will engage in different activities using digital technologies in order to create solutions to complex problems. In addition to developing specialist skills, students will have the opportunity to work collaboratively with peers in other creative and technical areas. The goal of this course requires project-based work across core subject areas, leading students to develop flexible creative and technical skills which will prepare them for their future.

### Creative Technology: Innovation and Multimedia (Gr 7 and 8 only)

*Choice Elective*

*Note: This course is offered every other year, alternating with Creative Technology: Design and Problem Solving.* Students will explore the principles of innovation and problem solving through the design cycle. They will engage in a variety of activities using digital technologies in order to create solutions to complex problems. Students will use digital multimedia tools, such as Photoshop, Inventor and iMovie to create products and solutions for a variety of complex problems.

## WORLD LANGUAGES

### French 1 (Gr 7 and 8 only)

*Choice Elective*

French 1 introduces students to communicating in French and becoming familiar with French-speaking cultures. Students receive instruction in all of the French Level 1 standards. The main linguistic goal is to achieve some degree of comfort with spoken French. The course also includes an initial familiarization with French written materials. Students explore the role of culture by learning about themselves and others as cultural beings.

Important note: Students planning on attending a postsecondary institution are strongly encouraged to continue the French course sequence by participating in French 2, 3, 4, and beyond during their high school experience.

“Children, after all, are not just  
adults-in-the-making. They are people whose  
current needs and rights and experiences  
must be taken seriously.”

-Alfie Kohn



### Spanish 1 (*Gr 7 and 8 only*)

#### *Choice Elective*

Spanish 1 introduces students to communicating in Spanish and becoming familiar with Spanish-speaking cultures. Students receive instruction in all of the Spanish Level 1 standards. The main linguistic goal is to achieve some degree of comfort with spoken Spanish. The course also includes an initial familiarization with Spanish written materials. Students explore the role of culture by learning about themselves and others as cultural beings.

Important note: Students planning on attending a postsecondary institution are strongly encouraged to continue the Spanish course sequence by participating in Spanish 2, 3, 4, and beyond during their high school experience.

### French 2

#### *Choice Elective*

French 2 continues on from French 1. Students will focus on increasing the size of their vocabulary and using more complex sentence structures. Students spend time in class reading and writing, speaking and listening French. Students will be able to communicate more easily with native speakers.

Important note: Students planning on attending a postsecondary institution are strongly encouraged to continue the French course sequence by participating in French 3, 4, and beyond during their high school experience.

### Spanish 2

#### *Choice Elective*

Spanish 2 continues on from Spanish 1. Students will focus on increasing the size of their vocabulary and using more complex sentence structures. Students spend time in class reading and writing, speaking and listening Spanish. Students will be able to communicate more easily with native speakers.

Important note: Students planning on attending a postsecondary institution are strongly encouraged to continue the Spanish course sequence by participating in Spanish 3, 4, and beyond during their high school experience.



# Challenge Young Minds

Middle school teachers use teaching strategies that help students learn and practice higher-level thinking, reading, and writing skills. Developing these skills in middle school helps students achieve at higher levels and prepares them for more challenging coursework in high school. Our teachers help students learn key concepts and skills at high levels and in the way that is most effective for them.

## Gifted Education in Middle School

The middle school approach for high-achieving students blends two strategies:

### Cluster Classrooms

Similar to the elementary gifted education cluster model, students in grades 6-8 are placed in classes with a cluster (core group) of students at their same instructional level with teachers specifically trained to meet the needs of gifted adolescent learners. This model narrows the range of instructional levels, allowing teachers to differentiate more effectively than they can in a classroom with a wide range of student abilities. In addition, every middle school has a differentiation specialist working with teachers to support effective differentiated teaching in every classroom.

### Rigorous Curriculum and Acceleration

Offering rigorous curriculum means providing depth, flexible pacing, complexity, choice and increased student engagement and self-directed learning. The more challenging materials allow high-achieving students to go deeper with their learning than before.

In every core class (English/language arts, math, social studies and science), teachers differentiate instruction so that students continue to go deeper to extend their mastery of the content they are expected to learn. Teachers identify students who can and should tackle more challenging work within a course.





## Earning High School Credit in Middle School

**Math:** Students who qualify and elect to participate in the accelerated math course offerings (Algebra I, Non-Linear Algebra, Geometry) can earn high school credit.

**World Language:** Students who elect to participate in French 1 and 2 or Spanish 1 and 2 can earn high school credit.

Please consult with your middle school counselor for more information about earning high school credit in middle school.

## What is Differentiation?

Differentiation means adjusting teaching and learning activities to meet the specific needs of individual students. The goal is to help every student be challenged and to make strong academic growth. Differentiated instruction sometimes means taking different approaches to help students learn the same concept.

### Example: English

Non-Differentiated Teaching	All students read the same novel. All students participate in the same activities, regardless of learning.
Differentiated Teaching	Students have a choice of 4-5 novels with a common theme (for example, courage). Discussions occur in literature circles according to novel chosen. Students are assigned a variety of roles during this activity, depending on their learning style and interests. Then, whole class activities take place focusing on the common theme of courage.

### Example: Science

Non-Differentiated Teaching	All students study the same science topic and complete the same project to demonstrate their learning.
Differentiated Teaching	Students are given the same assignment: define, describe, and provide a possible solution to an environmental problem. Students have a choice of problems: acid rain; climate change; ozone depletion; waste disposal; water; or air pollution. Students may also propose their own problem. Students can choose how to demonstrate their learning: speech; digital poster; paper; create a website; or something else of their choice.

### Who determines my student's cluster classroom placement?

Current elementary teachers help identify each incoming 6th grade student's middle school cluster grouping. Current middle school teachers do the same for continuing students in 7th and 8th grade.

# Transition to Middle School

## Welcoming New Students

Our middle schools are ready to welcome you and your student to middle school next fall! Every school has a plan to welcome new students and families.

Students receive leadership training so that they are equipped to welcome and serve as 8th grade mentors to new students each year. Every school has a student leadership program (WEB: Where Everyone Belongs or GPS: Guides to Personal Success) that actively engages new students, builds community, and strengthens school climate and culture.

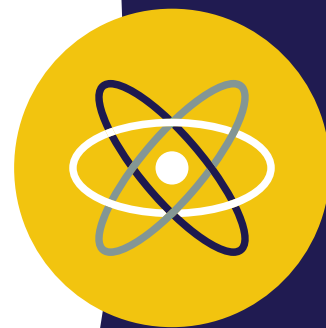
## Supporting All Learners

In addition to meeting the needs of high-achieving students, each school has support systems in place to assist students with other types of needs.

- Special education services are available in every school.
- English Learner Program services are available at every K-12 school.
- School counselors are available to support student learning through educational, social/emotional, and career development.

## Registration for Middle School Courses

School counselors provide course registration information to all incoming 6th graders for the upcoming year. Incoming 7th and 8th graders follow the registration process at their current middle school. If you have questions about course registration for your student, please contact the counseling office at your student's middle school (see phone numbers on page 5).





# Specialty-Themed (Magnet) School

## Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) at Brooklyn Middle School

Brooklyn Middle School offers a school-wide STEAM (STEM plus Arts) program that provides a middle school path for students in both of our district's elementary magnet schools (Arts and STEM).

### **Brooklyn Middle School's STEAM program supports students as they:**

- (a) Engage in inquiry-based learning experiences that use STEAM to solve problems;
- (b) Set goals and work to obtain the skills, knowledge and experiences that will position them for future success, particularly in the STEAM disciplines;
- (c) Participate in authentic real-world experiences with practicing scientists, engineers, and technical professionals; and
- (d) Participate in challenging and accelerated opportunities to demonstrate content mastery.

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*"The important thing in science  
is not so much to obtain new  
facts as to discover new ways of  
thinking about them."*

- William Lawrence Bragg

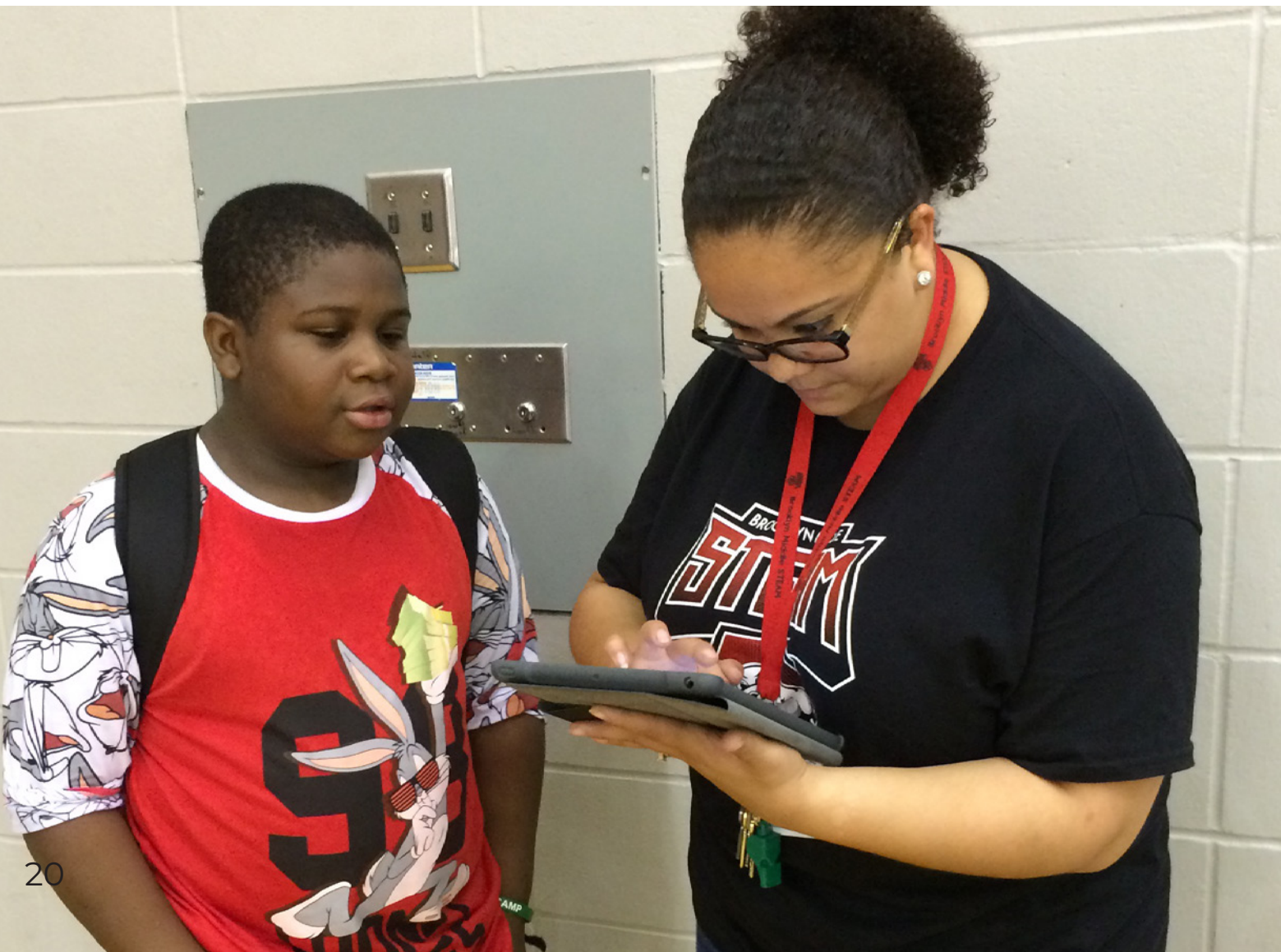
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# Digital Learning for All

Thanks to a supportive community, our district's technology levy is allowing students and teachers to transform teaching and learning in ways that could not have been imagined just a few years ago.

1:1 programs enable the creation of learning experiences that are personalized in path, place, and pace:

- Path - learning activities and experiences are differentiated and students have some choice in content, process, and product based on interests and needs.
- Place - the opportunity to learn expands as students can access learning materials and activities both in and out of school.
- Pace - mastery of content and learning objectives is accelerated as students set goals and monitor their learning.







## Schoology

Schoology is a web-based learning management system that supports online learning, communication, and collaboration among teachers, students, and families. With Schoology, students can access homework and class resources anytime, anywhere. It's much easier for students to keep their homework assignments organized in Schoology than in their locker. Schoology means fewer assignments lost; richer conversations and support when students have questions; and greater access to study tools.

Students and staff access Schoology through a web browser by visiting [osseo.schoology.com](http://osseo.schoology.com) and logging in with their ISD 279 network username and password. Student and staff iPads also have the Schoology iOS app installed. Learn more about Schoology:

[www.district279.org/schoology](http://www.district279.org/schoology)

## Classroom Technology

Many of our classrooms have voice distribution systems that amplify the teacher's voice in a way that helps ensure that all students can hear, regardless of where they are seated. Voice amplification systems contribute to improved student learning, increased attention, and less vocal strain.

All classrooms have digital projection systems and many have interactive whiteboards that allow teachers to display information from a computer to the entire class.

Some classrooms have hand-held student-response systems that allow students to respond to questions privately so that only their teacher can see how well they are grasping the material being taught. These systems allow teachers to gather real-time data about how students are doing so that they can quickly adjust instruction in response to student needs.



## Get Involved

Each middle school offers before- and/or after-school programs such as arts (visual, fine, performing), anime, cardio/strength training, chess club, and morning/afternoon hoops. There's something for everyone!

Middle school students in grades 7-8 are also eligible to participate in a variety of athletics programs for grades 7-12 at the high school level. Athletic offerings may vary by middle school.

### Fall (Aug-Sept-Oct)

Cheerleading  
Cross Country  
Girls Swimming  
Girls Tennis  
Soccer

### Winter (Nov-Dec-Jan)

Alpine Skiing  
Gymnastics  
Hockey  
Nordic Skiing  
Boys Swimming  
Wrestling

### Spring (Mar-Apr-May)

Baseball  
Golf  
Lacrosse  
Girls Softball (Fast Pitch)  
Synchronized Swimming  
Boys Tennis  
Track

In addition, a variety of co-curricular activities are available in middle school. Activities may vary by school, but often include:

**Band**

**Choir**

**Orchestra**

**Destination ImagiNation**

**Student Council**

**Drama**

**Musical**

### Out-of-School Time Activities for Middle School Students

Middle school students have many opportunities to be involved in out-of-school time activities that help students build leadership skills, explore a wide range of interests, and have fun. In addition to clubs, athletics, and other extracurricular activities, all of our middle schools offer after-school activities organized and supervised by the district's Community Education department and available for students in grades 6-8. To learn more about out-of-school time and non-school day activities for middle school students, contact Community Education at 763-391-7223 or visit [www.district279.org/community-education](http://www.district279.org/community-education).

*This document contains the most complete information available as of the date it was published. Information is subject to change; be sure to contact your school if you have any questions about middle school.*





Our mission is to inspire and prepare all students with the confidence, courage and competence to achieve their dreams; contribute to community and engage in a lifetime of learning.





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OSSEO AREA SCHOOLS

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