

EIGHTH GRADE REGISTRATION HANDBOOK 2022-2023



Brentwood Middle School
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BRENTWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL

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Dear Students and Parents,

This booklet is intended to help provide you with an overview of the middle school courses offered during the school year. Please take time to read it over with your child and make your course selections together. We are proud of the diversified exploratory courses offered to our students that create opportunities for them to participate in a wide variety of experiences.

I know you will find our course offerings to be engaging and motivational for students. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to speak with our counselor or call the school office. Thank you for your continued involvement and support.

Dr. Andrew Loiterstein
Principal

Mrs. Anne Bosche
Counselor

Mission Statement

Our daily mission at Brentwood Middle School is to achieve excellence in both academics and character.

Enrichment Opportunities

Eighth grade students may be selected to participate in Challenge English, Challenge Mathematics and/or Accelerated Algebra I. These classes accelerate the regular curricula and focus on cross-curricular projects that enhance and strengthen critical thinking, problem solving, and writing skills. These students will be identified using standardized test scores grades and effort. Parent permission will be required. Notifications will be mailed home in May.

Further, enrichment activities will be offered in all core subjects. Teachers regularly provide for students of varying abilities within each class through enrichment activities. Some teachers and departments may temporarily group students for various activities or projects. With the small class size, it is easy for staff to create individual plans for students to meet their varying needs and learning styles.

Remediation Opportunities

For students who need extra help or skill strengthening, BMS has several options. Special School District Resource classes are offered for identified students. Literacy Workshop and Math Workshop are offered to those eighth grade students to further strengthen their reading and/or math skills. In addition, all grades offer after school help sessions. Check with your child's team teacher for such services.


EIGHTH GRADE COURSE OFFERINGS

Required Courses

- English
- Mathematics
- Physical Education/Health
- Science
- Social Studies


Elective Course

You will get ONE of these



- French
- German
- Spanish

You will get TWO of these



- Art
- Band
- FACS (Family and Consumer Science)
- Project Lead the Way: Computer Science

Additional Courses

Staff recommendation required.

- Challenge English
- Accelerated Algebra I
- Learning Strategies (Special School District)
- Literacy Workshop
- Math Workshop

EIGHTH GRADE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

ENGLISH

Eighth grade students will study reading and writing primarily through a workshop model, whereby they will investigate different genres of writing and literature. The curriculum emphasizes the use of the writing process to refine work over several attempts using peer and instructor feedback. Genres will address in their writing include literary essays, memoirs, research papers, position papers, and investigative journalism. Our reading curriculum emphasizes critical thinking and thoughtful application of reading strategies to unfamiliar texts. Units we will cover include author studies, thematic book studies, literary nonfiction, dystopian fiction, and Shakespeare. The course also features an immersion in grammar and vocabulary.

SCIENCE

This course continues to integrate life and physical science throughout the year, in accordance with district, state, and national science standards. This inquiry-based class provides a hands-on approach that presents many opportunities for students to work in laboratory situations. Science process skills are reinforced in every unit of study. Topics included in eighth grade are scientific problem solving, measuring, physical and chemical properties and changes, kinetic theory, structure of matter, the periodic table, cells, reproduction and heredity.

MATHEMATICS

The eighth grade mathematics course continues the development of skills, concepts, and applications taught in the middle school mathematics program. It is designed to provide students with a strong foundation of computation skills and conceptual understanding in real-life problem solving. This course will focus on the following key concepts: linear relationships, solving multi-step equations symbolically, the Pythagorean Theorem (rational and irrational numbers), performing operations with numbers written in scientific notation, exponential growth and decay relationships, properties of exponents, symmetry and transformations, making sense of symbols in algebra, linear systems of equations and inequalities, and data/statistics. The Connected Mathematics Program will help students develop a better understanding of the connections between mathematics and its applications in the real world.

SOCIAL STUDIES

This course is designed for students to gain an understanding of the early beginnings of a new and continent and the shaping of a nation and its people. Students will understand cause and effect of geographical, economic, political and social factors that developed our nation's history. Emphasis is on the reading and writing strategies using historical content to strengthen student comprehension and understanding. Skills such as note taking, journal organization, test taking, research and computer literacy will be utilized throughout the course of the year.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical Education is all about teaching of skills, acquisition of knowledge, and development of positive attitudes toward lifetime physical activity. A variety of individual, dual, and team sports, as well as physical fitness and wellness are offered throughout the year. Fall activities include volleyball, soccer, flag football, tennis and

personal fitness. Winter activities offered are basketball, floor hockey, field hockey, team handball, badminton, lacrosse, pickleball, speedminton, fitness center, and table tennis. Spring activities include wiffleball, track, softball, ultimate Frisbee, orienteering, and pedometer skills. Personal fitness is assessed in the fall and spring and is emphasized throughout the year. Team building activities are integrated into the curriculum as well.

The Health curriculum will be taught in conjunction with PE class. Each month one Physical Education class will be dedicated to the Health grade level expectations. Each year, the emphasis will be on the following topics with greater depth and detail given each successive year: Tobacco, Alcohol, and Other Drug Use/Abuse, Mental health, Environmental health, Personal and Family Health, Disease Prevention and Control, Consumers Health and Safety, HIV/AIDS Prevention, Injury Prevention and Safety and Nutrition and Fitness.

ELECTIVE COURSES

ART

Students will produce original art works in drawing, painting, mixed media, and three-dimensional construction. Art students will demonstrate the Elements of Art and Principles of Design within the create art making process. Student artists will use many different types of materials to produce drawings, paintings, mixed media compositions, and sculptures.

BAND

Band at the eighth grade level involves advanced literature and technical development for the middle school instrumentalist. Most players are in their third year of playing and will opportunities to join the high school band in performances at home football and basketball games. They will be able to participate in large ensemble and small ensemble festivals as well as other concerts during the school year.

FACS (Family and Consumer Science)

In FACS, students get a “taste” of many areas in the Family and Consumer Science curriculum. Units of study include sewing, family matters, child growth & development, cooking, and nutrition. Students should be able to apply their learning in a practical setting.

PROJECT LEAD THE WAY (Computer Science)

- **Computer Science for Innovators and Makers** – Students discover computer science concepts and skills by creating personally relevant, tangible, and shareable projects. Students will learn about programming for the physical world by blending hardware design and software development. They will design and develop a physical computing device, interactive art installation, or wearable, and plan and develop code for microcontrollers that bring their physical designs to life. Physical computing projects will promote student awareness of interactive systems, including Internet of Things (IoT) devices, and broaden their understanding of abstract computer science concepts through meaningful and authentic applications.

- **App Creators** – Students will computationally analyze and develop solutions to authentic problems through mobile app development, and will convey the positive impact of the application of computer science to other disciplines and to society. Students will customize their experience by choosing a problem that interests them from the areas of health, environment, emergency preparedness, education, community service, and school culture. Because problems in the real world involve more than one discipline, the unit will introduce students to biomedical science concepts as they work on solutions for the specific problems they choose to tackle.

WORLD LANGUAGE

Eighth grade students at Brentwood Middle School have the opportunity to earn high school credit by taking a yearlong language course (French, German, or Spanish). Students that complete the course with a grade of C or better earn one credit toward the twenty-eight required for graduation from Brentwood High School. If students take a language class their eighth grade year they will have the opportunity to take language classes for college credit through the University of Missouri – St. Louis during their junior and senior years. They can earn up to ten hours of college credit in their chosen language before they leave high school. These college credit courses are weighted and this can have a positive impact on the students' grade point averages and their class rankings.

FRENCH

Eighth grade French is offered for high school credit. Students enrolled in this course will gain skills to converse in French about familiar topics, such as hobbies, food, school, and family. Moreover, students will establish a foundation for further study of the French language, as well as acquire knowledge of francophone culture and geography.

GERMAN

This course is offered for high school credit. Students enrolled in this course will gain skills to converse in German about the following topics: sports and leisure activities, food and beverages, family and friends, weather, school, clothes, and shopping. Students will also acquire knowledge of German culture and geography.

SPANISH

Spanish is offered for high school credit. It teaches listening, speaking, reading, and writing through a structured conversational approach. Listening and speaking skills are developed through vocabulary and grammar assessments, along with group conversations about daily activities. Reading comprehension and written expression begin with simple sentences. The textbook, cultural notes, and other supplementary materials introduce the Spanish-speaking people through glimpses of their history, geography, literature, and customs.

Because language learning requires time and effort outside of class, homework is very beneficial. The first year of Spanish is considered an introductory course, and it is expected that the student will continue with the second year to achieve a minimum level of proficiency that is now required by most Missouri state universities. A student who desires higher proficiency should plan a four-year sequence.

ADDITIONAL COURSES

Placement based on staff recommendation

CHALLENGE ENGLISH

Eighth grade students will study reading and writing primarily through a workshop model, whereby they will investigate different genres of writing and literature. The curriculum emphasizes the use of the writing process to refine work over several attempts using peer and instructor feedback. Genres will address in their writing include literary essays, memoirs, research papers, position papers, and investigative journalism. Our reading curriculum emphasizes critical thinking and thoughtful application of reading strategies to unfamiliar texts. Units we will cover include author studies, thematic book studies, literary nonfiction, dystopian fiction, and Shakespeare. The course also features an immersion in grammar and vocabulary. The challenge course covers concepts in greater depth and expects greater rigor in the writing produced and literature examined than the regular English 8 course.

ACCELERATED ALGEBRA I

Accelerated Algebra I builds on basic algebraic concepts at a deeper level and a faster, more rigorous pace than a traditional Algebra I course. Highly motivated students with an interest and desire to build a foundation in analytical mathematics are encouraged to work to the level of this challenging course. Students will operate with real and complex numbers, systems, factor polynomials, solve linear equations and inequalities, and develop an understanding of quadratic functions. Students will make applications with exponential functions radical expressions, and proportions. Students will investigate patterns, tables, matrices, models, and graphs as they are used to solve problems. A placement exam will be given to all students who wish to enroll in this course.

LEARNING STRATEGIES

Learning strategy courses are provided by Special School District. A student must have a current educational diagnosis and Individual Education Plan (IEP) in order to be eligible. These classes include instruction in: reading, written expression, math, organizational skills, social skills, and task-related skills. The curriculum is individualized and driven by each student's individual goals and objectives.

LITERACY WORKSHOP

Students will work to further strengthen their reading comprehension and fluency scores and gain tools for increased success both in and out of class. Students will read short stories, current events, and high interest articles that relate to content area classes and individual interests. Additionally, students will spend a portion of each class period working on *Reading Plus* which is a web-based reading program that helps increase individual reading fluency and comprehension.

MATH WORKSHOP

This course is designed to meet the varying needs of students in math. Math Workshop will provide opportunities for students to strengthen and reinforce math skills in order to help them be more successful academically.

EIGHTH GRADE REGISTRATION FORM

2022-2023

~ Complete the information below and then return it to the school office ~

Name

Parent/Guardian Phone

Address/City/State/Zip

Required Courses

English, Mathematics, Physical Education, Science, and Social Studies,

Elective Courses

Most students will have one **world language** AND two of the following: **Art, Band, FACS, or Project Lead the Way.**

Please rank your world language choices in order from 1 to 3 by placing a "1" by your top choice, then a "2" and so on. Every effort will be made to honor your first choice, but this may not always be possible.

_____ French

_____ German

_____ Spanish

Please rank the choices below with a "1" for your top choice, a "2" as your next choice, and so on. Every effort will be made to honor your first choices, but this may not always be possible.

_____ Art

_____ Band (Instrument Choice _____)

_____ FACS

_____ Project Lead the Way: Computer Science

I would like my child to be considered for: **Reading support** and/or **Math support**
(Please check all that apply)

Student Signature _____

Parent Signature _____