



Welcome to Brier Terrace Middle School 23-24



Here is the list of our electives for 8th graders. Please review them with your parent/guardian and select your top five choices in the Google Form.

★ **Percussion Ensemble**

This yearlong class includes 7th and 8th grade students who already know how to play percussion instruments, but also is open to beginners who have never played and want to join the band. Students learn how to read music and learn to play all our percussion instruments (snare drum, bass drum, timpani, mallets, and accessories). Students from this class join the concert bands as the percussion section. This class is fun because we play our instruments every day, we play exciting music, and we get good quickly. We have evening performances and go on field trips. This class has required materials that cost approximately \$100. We do have a Lending Program in place to assist families in need. (Year-Long)

★ **Journalism/Yearbook**

Journalism captures moments both in the classroom and in our greater community. They strive to represent the diverse students and interests that make up BTMS. Students who join should be interested in photography, writing, graphic design, video production, yearbook creation, and/or website management. Students should be highly motivated to learn skills in project management, collaboration, and meeting deadlines. (Year-Long)

★ **ASB/Student Leadership**

Want to help make BTMS awesome? Want to learn to be a leader and help plan some awesome school activities? If so, this is the class for you! This class will help you develop leadership skills to plan and lead fun activities and events that promote spirit in our school and pride in our community. We will focus on teaching the important qualities needed to be a good leader as well as improve group interaction, discussion skills and problem solving. This class may be taken as your elective or as a second elective if you register for zero period PE. (Year-Long)

★ **STEM Foundations**

This year-long class is designed for all 8th graders who are excited about Engineering and Technology. Students from this class also make up the members of the TSA Club that competes in various competitions at the regional and state levels. After being certified on the lab tooling, you will have the opportunity to apply STEM concepts at the high school level as you design and build a CO2 Dragster, Solar Electric Vehicle, Balsa Structure and Mousetrap Powered Car. We will finish out the year with the Cardboard Boat competition where you will design and build a boat that carries 2 students using only cardboard and duct tape. If you enjoy designing and building, this class is for you! (Year-Long)

★ **Spanish 1**

In first year Spanish you will learn the foundations of the language that include understanding, speaking, questioning, reading, and writing in a culturally and language rich environment. This course encourages grammatical correctness by modeling correct grammar through listening and conversation. Topics covered are greetings, everyday activities, places, common items (e.g., school supplies, clothes), and present and progressive tenses. The course will be assessed through a variety of methods such as dialogues, skits, short presentations, tests and quizzes, daily assignments, and projects.

(First year language may not be the most appropriate placement for Native and Heritage speakers. For appropriate placement, please see the instructor before registering).

(Year-Long)

★ **Art**

Experience new ways to express yourself in art. Open to 7th/8th graders who are interested in hands-on learning and would like to create high quality, exhibition-worthy projects in drawing, painting, and 3-D art. Whatever your skill level, you will enjoy how your talent develops. (Semester-Long)

★ **Foods**

The FACSE (Food & Cooking Sciences) program promotes practical learning and life-long skills in areas of nutrition, basic cooking skills, meal planning and preparation. Students will design a cookbook and prepare a meal for their families as their final project. Working in teams, students prepare a variety of foods. This class will bring out the chef in anyone. **(Semester-Long)**

★ **Coding**

This introductory course focuses on coding using JavaScript, covering basic Computer Science topics as well as website design and game design concepts. Students engage with computer science as a medium for creativity, problem solving, and fun. The course inspires students as they control their own character and master each level as well as designing websites and gaming levels. **(Semester-Long)**

★ **Sci-Ma-Tech**

Science, Math, Technology. This semester-long class is designed for both 7th and 8th grade students. In this class you will become certified to use the lab tooling, measure and create 3 view drawings. Using these skills you will build a solid fuel rocket and a tower that holds over 100 pounds, weighs less than 25 grams and ejects "Bubba" the ping pong ball to safety as the structure crashes to the ground. You will work with computer controlled lasers and 3D printers to create 6 projects, including the LED light project. Finally use your skills to design and build an Egg Crash Car that will provide safety for an egg as it experiences the three crashes of a head on collision. If you enjoy hands-on projects, you are going to love Sci-Ma-Tech! **(Semester-Long)**

★ **Symphonic Band**

Symphonic Band is a yearlong class of 8th grade students who have completed Concert Band as 7th graders. We continue to have fun playing even more fun music that gets more exciting and advanced. This class performs at school-wide assemblies, evening concerts, and has many field trip opportunities throughout the year. You know why you're here!! Of course you want to keep going! **(Year-Long)**

Jazz Band

Jazz Band is an 8th grade course that students must audition for. This is a super fun and rewarding class where you play and learn about many genres within the jazz tradition. Jazz Band is an advanced course that supplements the core music curriculum. It is intended to reward students who are committed to learning music and seeking new challenges. Jazz students must also be enrolled in one of the core music classes: Symphonic Band, Percussion Ensemble, or 8th grade Orchestra. To make space in the day for the extra class, Jazz students are also enrolled in zero Period PE. If you have questions about auditions, please see Ms. Zumbo. **(Year-Long)**

★ **Symphonic Orchestra**

(Pre-req 7th- grade Orch) This class is available to 8th-grade orchestra students. Students have the opportunity to perform exciting music while improving on their instruments. This class includes field trips, school-wide assembly and evening performances. Students develop skills that allow them to prepare and excel in future music opportunities - including high school music groups of all kinds! **(Year-Long)**

