

Berkshire Middle School

2023/2024 Course Selection Guide

Main Office

www.berkshireschools.org

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Mr. Shaun Forbes, Dean of Students

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Dear Families and Students,

This course selection guide is designed to provide students, parents, and staff with an overview of the curriculum of Berkshire Middle School. This guide should assist students in selecting courses for next year and to plan their program of study in Middle School. Other pertinent information is contained in this book, including athletic eligibility. It is essential that you carefully read and understand the descriptions of the courses you select. **Remember that any courses taken for high school credit will be included on the high school transcript and will be calculated into the high school grade point average.**

We urge students to take advantage of the educational opportunities that are available. The Middle School years are significant for planning for the future. Working together, we can make a better future and ensure *Berkshire students will have every opportunity to maximize their potential as an individual and a responsible citizen.* Families, your involvement is crucial in making the scheduling process positive and effective for your child.

College Credit Plus (CCP)

7th and 8th grade students that meet the eligibility requirements have the opportunity to take college classes for both college credit and high school credit, free of charge. A letter of Intent must be submitted by April 1st of the year prior to entry to access this opportunity. Information about the CCP program may be found on the district website.

If you have any questions regarding scheduling, please call the guidance office at 440-834-3380 X 1103.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Cindy Metzger
Middle School Counselor



HONOR AND MERIT ROLL QUALIFICATIONS

Students with a minimum 3.4 grade point average* and no course grade lower than a 70% in any nine (9) week grading period, qualify for the Honor Roll.

Students with a 3.00 to 3.399 grade point average* and no course grade lower than a 60% in any nine (9) week grading period, qualify for the Merit Roll.

***Grade Point Average** - To calculate the grade point average earned by a student, divide the quality points (A=4, B=3, C=2, D=1, F=0) by the number of course credits attempted. For more information about G.P.A.s, contact your student's guidance counselor.

PRESIDENTIAL AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE AND ACHIEVEMENT (6th Grade)

Achievement

The President's Award for Educational Achievement is a great honor for our 6th Graders. Students receiving this award must demonstrate high educational achievement throughout grades 4,5,6. Students receiving this award have received a 3.5 or higher throughout these grade levels.

Excellence

The President's Award for Educational Excellence is a great honor for our 6th Graders. Students receiving this award must demonstrate high educational achievement throughout grades 4,5,6. Students receiving this award have received all A's throughout these grade levels.

MIDDLE SCHOOL HONOR SOCIETY REQUIREMENTS (7th and 8th Grade)

1. Membership in the Middle School Honor Society is both an honor and a responsibility. It is an honor bestowed by faculty to eligible Seventh and Eighth graders only.
2. Students selected for membership are expected to demonstrate the qualities of scholarship, service, leadership, character, and citizenship. To be eligible for selection, a student must meet the following criteria:
 - **Scholarship:** Have at least a 3.6 cumulative grade point average after the first semester at Berkshire Junior High School.
 - **Service:** NJHS members are required to complete 12 hours of service work each year and participate in the Berkshire Chapter Service Projects.
 - **Leadership:** Take the initiative in class and school activities.
 - **Character:** Demonstrate such qualities as reliability, honesty, sincerity, courtesy, concern, and respect for others.
 - **Citizenship:** Demonstrate civic involvement in and out of school.

MIDDLE SCHOOL ATHLETIC AND EXTRACURRICULAR ELIGIBILITY

The following criteria will determine a student's eligibility for participation in athletics and/or extra-curricular activities.

- All beginning seventh graders are eligible for the first 9-week grading period.
- Any seventh or eighth grade student past the fall quarter of their seventh grade year must pass five classes.
- Students who are absent for the day are not permitted to participate in, or attend, after-school functions (athletic events, dances, plays, etc.). Students who wish to participate in or attend extra-curricular activities must be in school no later than **11:00 a.m.** on the day the activity occurs. Students wishing to participate in or attend school activities on Saturday must be in school no later than **11:00 a.m.** on the Friday preceding the event. The Principal must approve any exceptions to this policy. If a student goes home ill during the day regardless of the time, that student **WILL NOT** be permitted to participate in extracurricular activities.
- All students participating in a sport must first have a sports physical on file before the student will be allowed to practice or participate in a sport.
- The policy of Middle School sports programs is that students who do not participate in a scheduled practice the day before a game, will not participate in that game.



REQUIRED COURSES – GRADE 5

English 5 or ******(Accelerated English 5)

Science 5

Social Studies 5

Math 5 or ******(Accelerated Math 5)

Rotation of Encore Courses By Quarter

Physical Education

Art

Computer Science 5

Cultural Studies

All Year Long Encore Courses

Band OR Choir

******Students will be assessed and assigned to English 5 or Accelerated English 5, Math 5 or Accelerated Math 5, based on a Readiness Exam and multiple data points as well as teacher recommendation.

Physical Education, Art and technology and study hall/homework help will be rotated throughout the school year by quarter. Please see course descriptions for more information.

CHOICE ELECTIVE (Choose 1 Option)

Middle School Band (1 year)

OR

Middle School Choir (1 year)



COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

GRADE 5

5th GRADE ENGLISH

Fifth grade English is a literature-based course of study that focuses on reading comprehension and writing skills aligned with the Ohio Learning Standards. The course includes reviewing elements of grammar, syntax, mechanics and usage as well as exploring literary elements. Students will practice various forms of daily journaling, writing, including research based. Students will read both fiction and nonfiction articles, novels and poetry. Summer reading recommendations will be provided for fun and enjoyable reading at home.

5th GRADE ACCELERATED ENGLISH

Prerequisite: 4th grade English, Assessment scores and Teacher recommendation. Skills assessment may be administered for placement.

Accelerated English 5 provides students with a challenging curriculum that is aligned to the Ohio Learning Standards. At the advanced level, students will use a wide variety of text to increase their use of critical thinking skills. The curriculum moves at an accelerated pace with a more concentrated focus on independent reading, writing, analysis, and problem solving. The primary goals of the course are to foster independent learning and encourage in-depth exploration of the content.

Success in this course requires committed students who are willing to work above the expectations required in a regular 5th grade English class. Each student in this class is expected to adhere to high standards of preparedness, participation, and responsibility. Outside and summer reading/writing assignments may be required. Summer reading recommendations will be provided for fun and enjoyable reading at home.

5TH GRADE SCIENCE

The fields of life science, earth and space science, and physical science are addressed in the 5th grade science curriculum. Students will use a variety of methods including hands-on small group activities and experiments to learn about such topics as structures and functions of ecosystems, cycles and patterns in the solar system, forces that affect motion, and light and sound as forms of energy.

5th GRADE MATH

In math 5, the course will focus on five critical areas: (1) operations and algebraic thinking (2) number and operations in base ten. (3) number and number operations—fractions (4) measurement and data (5) geometry.

5th GRADE ACCELERATED MATH

Prerequisite: Standardized Test Scores, Teacher Recommendation and Achievement in 4th Grade Mathematics.

5th GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES

This course is an integrated study of the study of the Western Hemisphere, its geographic features, early history, cultural development and geographic change. Students learn about the early inhabitants of the Americas and the impact of European exploration and colonization. The Geographic focus includes the study of contemporary and regional characteristics, the movement of people, the products and ideas, and cultural diversity. Students develop the understanding of the relationship between markets and available resources.

MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND (Full Year Course)

Middle School Band is a yearlong course. This course will concentrate on developing a characteristic sound, performing a wide variety of repertoire, music reading skills, and relating musical experiences to history, culture, careers and other content areas. The Middle School Band participates in multiple musical performances throughout the year. Participation in these events is a required component of the course curriculum.

MIDDLE SCHOOL CHOIR (Full Year Course)

Middle School Choir is open to students with a desire to expand their musical knowledge through singing. Students will work to develop a characteristic, mature vocal sound, proper singing posture, correct vocal formation and diction, as well as basic music theory and note reading. Middle School Choir offers enjoyment and satisfaction of musical performances throughout the community and at school concerts. Participation in these events is a required component of the course curriculum.

ENCORE ROTATION COURSES BY QUARTER

5TH PHYSICAL EDUCATION

This course includes learning skills necessary to perform a variety of activities, striving toward an improved level of fitness, and involvement in regular physical activity. Areas to be covered include: total fitness, fundamental motor skills and movement, lifetime sport and leisure skill development, along with team sports. Sportsmanship and an understanding of the differences of each person's abilities in a physical education setting will be stressed. The objective of this class is to improve the overall physical fitness levels of each student.

5TH GRADE ART

Art will concentrate on introducing students to the basic elements and principles of art. Students will reinforce this knowledge by creating works of art in various art media such as drawing, painting, and printmaking...etc. Students will demonstrate that personal experiences and cultural influences generate ideas and themes in art.

COMPUTER SCIENCE 5

Students will learn the fundamentals of coding through a block-based programming language using Code.org's Computer Science Fundamentals. This curriculum teaches students computational thinking, problem solving, and programming concepts. Students will create their own programs that they can share.

5th GRADE HISPANIC CULTURE (quarter long course)

This class will help to promote global awareness and Hispanic-Latin culture through mediums such as art, music, foods, celebrations, and sports. The course will be primarily in English; however, students will encounter and incorporate some Spanish language as well. This course will be a fun, creative, and interesting way to introduce students to Hispanic-Latin culture that will be built upon later in Spanish language courses.

REQUIRED COURSES – GRADE 6

English 6 or ******(Accelerated English 6)

Science 6

World History 6

Math 6 or ******(Accelerated Math 6)

Rotation of Encore Courses By Quarter

Physical Education

Art

Computer Science 6

Spanish Celebrations

All Year Long Encore (Special) Courses

Band OR Choir

******Students will be assessed and assigned to Math 6 or Accelerated Math 6, based on a Readiness Exam and multiple data points as well as teacher recommendation.

Physical Education, Art and Technology and Spanish Celebrations will be rotated throughout the school year by quarter. Please see course descriptions for more information.

CHOICE ELECTIVE (Choose 1 Option)

Middle School Band (1 year)

OR

Middle School Choir (1 year)



COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

GRADE 6

6TH GRADE ENGLISH

Sixth grade English is a literature-based course of study that focuses on reading comprehension and writing skills aligned with the Ohio Learning Standards. The course includes reviewing elements of grammar, syntax, mechanics and usage as well as exploring literary elements. Students will practice various forms of writing, including research based. Students will read both fiction and nonfiction articles, novels and poetry. Summer reading recommendations will be provided for fun and enjoyable reading at home.

6TH GRADE ACCELERATED ENGLISH

Prerequisite: 5th grade English, Assessment scores and Teacher recommendation. Skills assessment may be administered for placement.

Accelerated English 6 provides students with a challenging curriculum that is aligned to the Ohio Learning Standards. At the advanced level, students will use a wide variety of text to increase their use of critical thinking skills. The curriculum moves at an accelerated pace with a more concentrated focus on independent reading, writing, analysis, and problem solving. The primary goals of the course are to foster independent learning and encourage in-depth exploration of the content.

Success in this course requires committed students who are willing to work above the expectations required in the regular 6th grade English classes. Each student in this class is expected to adhere to high standards of preparedness, participation, and responsibility. Outside and summer reading/writing assignments may be required.

6TH GRADE SCIENCE

The fields of life science, physical science, and earth science are addressed in the sixth grade science curriculum. Students participate in hands-on learning to learn about cells, minerals, rocks and soils in terms of matter and their properties (chemical and physical). All matter is made of small particles called atoms. The properties of matter are based on the order and organization of atoms and molecules. Students also explore how energy and energy transformation affect matter.

6TH GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES

In grade six, students study the Eastern Hemisphere (Africa, Asia, Australia and Europe), its geographic features, early history, cultural development and economic changes. Students learn about the development of river civilizations in Africa and Asia, including their government, cultures and economic systems. The geographic focus includes the study of contemporary regional characteristics, the movement of people, products and ideas, and cultural diversity. Students develop their understanding of the relationship between markets, resources and competition.

6TH GRADE MATH

In MATH 6, the course will focus on five critical areas: (1) developing an understanding of and applying proportional relationships; use ratio reasoning to solve problems (2) developing an understanding of operations with rational numbers (3) Applying and extending previous understandings of arithmetic to algebraic expressions and reason about and solve one-variable equations and inequalities (4) 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; and (5) develop understanding of statistical problem solving and summarize and describe distributions

6TH GRADE ACCELERATED MATH

Prerequisite: Standardized Test Scores, Teacher Recommendation and Achievement in 5th Grade Mathematics.

MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND (Full Year Course)

Middle School Band is a yearlong course. This course will concentrate on developing a characteristic sound, performing a wide variety of repertoire, music reading skills, and relating musical experiences to history, culture, careers and other content areas. The Middle School Band participates in multiple musical performances throughout the year. Participation in these events is a required component of the course curriculum.

MIDDLE SCHOOL CHOIR (Full Year Course)

Middle School Choir is open to students with a desire to expand their musical knowledge through singing. Students will work to develop a characteristic, mature vocal sound, proper singing posture, correct vocal formation and diction, as well as basic music theory and note reading. Middle School Choir offers enjoyment and satisfaction of musical performances throughout the community and at school concerts. Participation in these events is a required component of the course curriculum.

ENCORE ROTATION COURSES BY QUARTER

6th GRADE PHYSICAL EDUCATION

This course includes learning skills necessary to perform a variety of activities, striving toward an improved level of fitness, and involvement in regular physical activity. Areas to be covered include: total fitness, fundamental motor skills and movement, lifetime sport and leisure skill development, along with team sports. Sportsmanship and an understanding of the differences of each person's abilities in a physical education setting will be stressed. The objective of this class is to improve the overall physical fitness levels of each student as well as to provide knowledge, skills, tactics, and strategies to perform individual and team activities.

6th GRADE ART

Art students will concentrate on introducing students to the basic elements and principles of art. Students will reinforce this knowledge by creating works of art in various art media such as drawing, painting, and printmaking. Students will demonstrate that personal experiences and cultural influences generate ideas and themes in art.

COMPUTER SCIENCE 6

Students will continue building their coding skills using Code.org's Computer Science Fundamentals. Students will create additional games, art, and digital stories that they can share

6th GRADE HISPANIC CELEBRATIONS (quarter long course)

In order to promote global awareness and Hispanic-Latin culture 6th grade students will take this Celebrations course. It will focus on holidays, cultural traditions, and festivals celebrated throughout the year in Spanish-speaking countries. Each month students will explore holidays and festivals celebrated that month in different Spanish-speaking countries around the world. They will read, write, watch videos, research, and complete projects while exploring other cultures. The course will be primarily in English; however, students will encounter and incorporate some Spanish language as well. This course will be a fun, creative, and interesting way to introduce students to Hispanic-Latin culture that will be built upon later in Spanish language courses.

REQUIRED COURSES – GRADE 7

English 7 or **(Accelerated English 7)

Science 7 or **(Accelerated Science 7)

World Studies 7

Math 7 or **(Accelerated Math 7)

**Students will be assessed and assigned to Math 7 or Accelerated Math 7, based on a Readiness Exam and multiple data points as well as teacher recommendation.

Rotation of Encore Courses By Semester

Physical Education/Health

Art

Web Design 7

Introduction to Spanish

All Year Long Encore Courses

Band OR Choir

Physical Education/Health, Art, Web Design 7 and Intro to Spanish will be rotated throughout the school year by semester. Please see course descriptions for more information.

CHOICE ELECTIVE

Middle School Band (1 year)

OR

Middle School Choir (1 year)



COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

GRADE 7

7th GRADE ENGLISH

Seventh grade English is a literature-based course of study that focuses on reading comprehension and writing skills. The course includes reviewing elements of grammar, syntax, mechanics and usage as well as exploring literary elements. Students will practice various forms of writing, including research based. Students will read both fiction and nonfiction articles, novels and poetry.

7th GRADE ACCELERATED ENGLISH

Prerequisite: 6th grade English, Assessment scores and Teacher recommendation. Skills assessment may be administered for placement.

Accelerated English 7 provides students with a challenging curriculum that is aligned to the Ohio Learning Standards Curriculum for English 7. At the advanced level, students will use a wide variety of text to increase their use of critical thinking skills. The curriculum moves at an accelerated pace with a more concentrated focus on independent reading, writing, analysis, and problem solving. The primary goals of the course are to foster independent learning and encourage in-depth exploration of the content. Success in this course requires seriously committed students who are willing to work above the expectations required in a regular 7th grade Language Arts class. Each student in this class is expected to adhere to high standards of preparedness, participation, and responsibility. Outside and summer reading/writing assignments may be required.

7th GRADE SCIENCE

The fields of life science, physical science, and earth science are addressed in the seventh grade science curriculum. Students will use a variety of hands-on, small group activities to learn about such topics as structure and diversity of organisms, cells, life processes, weather, climate, biomes, waves (including sound and light) and the nature and transformation of energy.

7th GRADE ACCELERATED SCIENCE

Prerequisite: Teacher Recommendation, and a score of "Advanced" on the district Science Readiness Exam. Advanced Science is an integrated science course that covers earth, life and physical science concepts. This course is an accelerated pace covering the 8th grade state standards. This course will prepare students to take Physical Science in 8th Grade.

7th GRADE WORLD STUDIES

This course is an integrated study of world history that begins with ancient Greece and continues through the period of global exploration. All four social studies strands are used to illustrate how historical events are shaped by geographical, social, cultural, economic and political factors. Students develop their understanding of how ideas and events from the past shaped the world today.

7th GRADE MATH

In Math 7, the course will focus on four critical areas: (1) developing an understanding of and applying proportional relationships; (2) developing an understanding of operations with rational numbers and working with expressions and linear equations; (3) 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; and (4) drawing inferences about populations based on samples.

A TI-30XIIS calculator is required for this course.

7th GRADE ACCELERATED MATH

Prerequisite: Standardized Test Scores, Teacher Recommendation and Achievement in 6th Grade Mathematics. This class is designed for students preparing to take Algebra I during their 8th grade year. Students will be covering most of the content in 7th Grade Mathematics as well as all of the content for 8th Grade Mathematics.

MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND (Full Year Course)

Middle School Band is a yearlong course. This course will concentrate on developing a characteristic sound, performing a wide variety of repertoire, music reading skills, and relating musical experiences to history, culture, careers and other content areas. The Middle School Band participates in multiple musical performances throughout the year. Participation in these events is a required component of the course curriculum.

MIDDLE SCHOOL CHOIR (Full Year Course)

Middle School Choir is open to students with a desire to expand their musical knowledge through singing. Students will work to develop a characteristic, mature vocal sound, proper singing posture, correct vocal formation and diction, as well as basic music theory and note reading. Middle School Choir offers enjoyment and satisfaction of musical performances throughout the community and at school concerts. Participation in these events is a required component of the course curriculum.

ENCORE ROTATION COURSES BY SEMESTER

7th GRADE PHYSICAL EDUCATION

This course includes learning skills necessary to perform a variety of activities, striving toward an improved level of fitness, and involvement in regular physical activity. Areas to be covered include: total fitness, fundamental motor skills and movement, lifetime sport and leisure skill development, along with team sports. Sportsmanship and an understanding of the differences of each person's abilities in a physical education setting will be stressed. The objective of this class is to improve the overall physical fitness levels of each student as well as to provide knowledge, skills, tactics, and strategies to perform individual and team activities.

7th GRADE HEALTH

This course emphasizes physical, mental-emotional, and social health. Units include Building a Healthy Foundation, Personal Responsibility and Decision Making, Food and Nutrition, Physical Activity and Weight Management, Tobacco, Alcohol and Drugs, and Communicable Diseases. A presentation on the importance of abstinence by Teen Pregnancy Prevention is also a part of the curriculum. Students will have a final project due at the end of the course. . .

ART

Art class will concentrate on introducing students to the basic elements and principles of art. Students will reinforce this knowledge by creating works of art in various art media such as drawing, painting, and printmaking. Students will demonstrate that personal experiences and cultural influences generate ideas and themes in art.

WEB DESIGN 7

Students will be introduced to computer science as a vehicle for problem solving, communication, and personal expression through Code.org's Computer Science Discoveries. Students will learn the HTML and CSS languages to create web pages and websites that they can publish and share.

7th GRADE INTRODUCTION TO SPANISH (semester long course)

The introductory course in Spanish is to promote a familiarity with the vocabulary and culture through group activities, games, oral participation, and written activities. Pertinent geography and grammar will also be studied. Each lesson will conclude with a quiz or project to demonstrate understanding. Study skills will be modeled and should be practiced regularly in order to be successful. This course is highly recommended if the student plans to take Spanish 1 for high school credit as an 8th grader.

REQUIRED COURSES – GRADE 8

English 8 or ******(Accelerated English 8)

Science 8 or ******(Physical Science)

American History 8

Mathematics 8 or ******(Algebra I)

******Students will be assessed and assigned to Math 8 or Accelerated Math 8, based on a Readiness Exam and multiple data points as well as teacher recommendation.

Rotation of Encore Courses By Semester

Physical Education

Art

Programming 8

Makerspace

All Year Long Encore Courses

Middle School Band

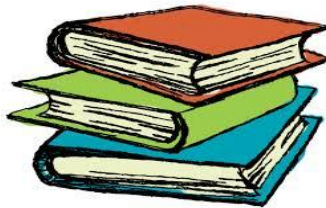
OR

Middle School Choir

Elective Courses

Spanish 1

Physical Education, Art and technology and study hall/homework help will be rotated throughout the school year by quarter. Please see course descriptions for more information.



COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

GRADE – 8

8th GRADE ENGLISH

The students will also be required to read independently outside of class.

Eighth-grade English class features: (1) Reading with emphasis on the sophistication of what students read and the skill with which they read; (2) writing to enhance a student's ability to plan, revise, edit, and publish many types of writing, including arguments, informative/explanatory texts, narratives; (3) speaking and listening skills to develop a range of broadly useful oral communication and interpersonal skills; (4) language conventions and vocabulary, including the essential "rules" of standard written and spoken English and the acquisition of vocabulary. The students may be required to read independently outside of class.

8th Grade ACCELERATED ENGLISH

Prerequisite: 7th grade Regular or Accelerated English Language Arts 7 and a Teacher recommendation. Skills assessment may be administered for placement.

Accelerated English 8 provides students with a challenging curriculum that is aligned to the Ohio Learning Standards Curriculum for English. At the advanced level, students will use a wide variety of text to increase their use of critical thinking skills. The curriculum moves at an accelerated pace with a more concentrated focus on independent reading, writing, analysis, and problem solving. Opportunities are provided for students to develop questioning and research strategies that assist them in organizing and presenting information in oral, visual, and written formats. The primary goals of the course are to foster independent learning, encourage in-depth exploration of the content, and build the skills necessary for the transition to high school.

Success in this course requires seriously committed students who are willing to work above the expectations required in a regular 8th grade English class. Each student in this class is expected to adhere to high standards of preparedness, participation, and responsibility. Likewise students should be highly motivated self starters, who are independent thinkers. Outside and summer reading/writing assignments may be required.

8th GRADE SCIENCE

Eighth grade science is an integrated science course which elaborates on the earth and space, life and physical science concepts introduced in seventh grade. Students will be able to demonstrate an understanding of natural phenomena that shape the features of Earth and the solar system, explore principles of genetics, and study the force and motion of objects.

PHYSICAL SCIENCE

Credit: 1.00 **Prerequisite:** "C" or higher in Accelerated Science 7 and Teacher recommendation required

Physical Science is an inquiry into the physical principles that govern the world around us.

The subject matter will concentrate on physics and chemistry, using mathematical concepts and formulas. Various concepts will be explored in a laboratory setting and through class lectures and demonstrations. Physics topics to be discussed include motion, forces, energy, heat, waves, sound and light. Chemistry topics include phases of matter, the Periodic Table, chemical bonding, molecular mixing, chemical reactions and acids and bases. Skills necessary for the collection and interpretation of data will also be stressed.

NOTE: Physical Science is a high school course for high school credit and the final grade will affect the student's high school GPA on their high school transcript.

8th AMERICAN HISTORY

The goal of eighth grade American History is for students to demonstrate an understanding of our country's past from exploration (1490's) through the Civil War and Reconstruction (1877). Students focus on this expanse of history through examining primary and secondary source documents, maps, charts, film, art and lecture out-lined notes. Students will complete assignments (both in class and as homework), projects, quizzes and tests to prove their level of understanding.

***Note:** The eighth grade trip to Washington D.C. takes place each spring and is highly encouraged as a hands on experience which supplements this course.

8th Grade MATH

This course will focus on four critical areas: (1) formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations, including modeling an association in bivariate data with a linear equation, and solving linear equations and systems of linear equations; (2) grasping the concept of a function and using functions to describe quantitative relationships; (3) analyzing two- and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence, and understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem; (4) working with irrational numbers, integer exponents, and scientific notation.

A TI-30XIIS calculator recommended for this course.

ALGEBRA I

Prerequisite: Algebra I Readiness Test and Teacher recommendation

Credit: 1.00 (High school credit)

This course will focus on five critical areas: (1) relationships between quantities and reasoning with equations; (2) linear and exponential relationships; (3) descriptive statistics; (4) expressions and equations; and (5) quadratic functions and modeling. This course is suitable for any student planning to further their education by attending any postsecondary institution (college or university).

A graphing calculator is recommended for this course, preferably a TI-84.

NOTE: Algebra I is a high school course for high school credit and final grades will affect the student's GPA on their high school transcript.

8th GRADE SPANISH I

Prerequisite: Final grade of "B" in Language Arts 7 & teacher recommendation/approval.

Credit: 1 (High school credit)

Class fee: \$22

This is an opportunity to take a full year high school language course as an 8th grader. Students will learn and attain proficiency in the four skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing of the Spanish language. They will acquire an understanding and appreciation of another culture's way of life. Materials presented will require a high level of active student participation through dialogues, dramatizations, and use of audio-visual aids. Students must be willing to study and complete some homework outside of class to be successful in this course. The program will also introduce aspects of civilization, geography, and culture of Spain and Latin America.

NOTE: Spanish I is a high school course for high school credit and final grades will affect the student's GPA on their high school transcript.

8TH GRADE ENCORE ROTATION COURSES BY SEMESTER

8th GRADE PHYSICAL EDUCATION

This course includes learning skills necessary to perform a variety of activities, striving toward an improved level of fitness, and involvement in regular physical activity. Areas to be covered include total fitness, fundamental motor skills and movement, lifetime sport and leisure skill development along with team sports. Sportsmanship and an understanding of the differences of each person's abilities in a physical education setting will be stressed.

8th GRADE ART

Art class will concentrate on introducing students to the basic elements and principles of art. Students will reinforce this knowledge by creating works of art in various art media such as drawing, painting, and printmaking. Students will demonstrate that personal experiences and cultural influences generate ideas and themes in art. Eighth grade art students will also be exposed to select artists and their distinctive styles.

PROGRAMMING 8

Students will create authentic artifacts and engage with computer science as a medium for creativity, communication, problem solving, and fun. Students will program animations, interactive art, and games through Carnegie Mellon University's Exploring Programming curriculum where students will learn the programming language Python.

MAKERSPACE

MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND (Full Year Course)

Middle School Band is a yearlong course. This course will concentrate on developing a characteristic sound, performing a wide variety of repertoire, music reading skills, and relating musical experiences to history, culture, careers and other content areas. The Middle School Band participates in multiple musical performances throughout the year. Participation in these events is a required component of the course curriculum.

MIDDLE SCHOOL CHOIR

Middle School Choir is open to students with a desire to expand their musical knowledge through singing. Students will work to develop a characteristic, mature vocal sound, proper singing posture, correct vocal formation and diction, as well as basic music theory and note reading. Middle School Choir offers enjoyment and satisfaction of musical performances throughout the community and at school concerts. Participation in these events is a required component of the course curriculum.

MIDDLE SCHOOL CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT COUNCIL

Students will assist in planning events for their classmates, fundraise, and volunteer in the community. Regular meetings will be scheduled.

MIDDLE SCHOOL HONOR SOCIETY

Middle School Honor Society has a minimum of a 3.6 grade point average. Also, they have exhibited service, character, leadership and citizenship at school and in the community. Joining is by invitation only to eligible seventh and eighth graders in the spring.

THESPIANS/STAGE CREW

The Thespians are an international student organization of theatrical arts. Membership in this organization is gained through participation in the theater-arts program at Berkshire. This can be accomplished through active participation in plays, musicals, stage crew and even as an audience member of professional and/or other regional theater productions. At Berkshire, there are two yearly productions. There is the "Fall Play", which is usually a straight stage production or a comedy. In the spring of the year, Berkshire produces a musical. Stage Crew works parallel with the B.H.S. productions. This includes building of sets, transformation of the stage, costuming, sound, and lighting. Thespians and Stage Crew are open to students in grades 5-12.

SCIENCE OLYMPIAD

Science Olympiad is an academic competition for teams of students that compete in 23 different events. The events span scientific disciplines including physics, chemistry, biology, earth science, engineering, inquiry, and space science.

STEM CLUB

Hands on learning that is based on the concepts of STEM curriculum and theories. This after school program will extend the students exposure to STEM projects and learning.

CODING FOR GIRLS

Girls Who Code is a nonprofit organization which aims to support and increase the number of women in computer science by equipping young women with the necessary computing skills to pursue 21st century opportunities.

BERKSHIRE MIDDLE SCHOOL SCHOOL ATHLETICS

BASKETBALL

CHEERLEADING

CROSS COUNTRY

FOOTBALL

SOCCER

TRACK

VOLLEYBALL

WRESTLING



Go Badgers

Berkshire Middle School

14155 Claridon-Troy Rd.
Burton, OH 44121

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Berkshire is preparing to schedule classes for the 2023-2024 school year. Please carefully review the course information in the Middle School Course Selection Guide which can be found on the Berkshire Website under “Schools”, “Middle School”, “Key Links”. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs. Metzung at 440-834-3380 X 1103.

REQUIRED COURSES

ENG500	English Language Arts 5
SCI500	Science 5
MAT500	Math 5
SOC500	Social Studies 5
ADVISORY	30 Min. Advisory/Study Hall

Students that meet the requirements through assessments and teacher recommendation will be assigned to:

ENG500	English Accelerated Language Arts 5
MTH 500	Accelerated Math 5

REQUIRED ENCORE COURSES (Rotated by Quarter)

Art
Physical Education
Computer Science 5
Strategies for Success/Study Hall

ELECTIVE COURSES

Please mark the space provided if your student would like to participate in the Middle School Band OR Middle School Choir. Must **choose 1 option**.

_____ Middle School Band (1 full year commitment)
OR
_____ Middle School Chorus (1 full year commitment)

PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN THIS FORM TO MRS. METZUNG NO LATER THAN APRIL 7, 2023.

Student's Name (please print)

Parent/Guardian Signature

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14155 Claridon-Troy Rd.
Burton, OH 44121

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REQUIRED COURSES

ENG600 English Language Arts 6
SCI600 Science 6
MAT600 Math 6
SOC600 Social Studies 6
ADVISORY 30 Min. Advisory/Study Hall

Students that meet the requirements through assessments and teacher recommendation will be assigned to:

ENG600 English Accelerated Lang Arts 6
MTH600 Accelerated Math 6
SCI600 Accelerated Science 6

REQUIRED ENCORE COURSES (Rotated by Quarter)

Art
Physical Education
Computer Science 6
Spanish Celebrations

ELECTIVE COURSES

Please mark the space provided if your student would like to participate in the Middle School Band OR Middle School Choir. **Must choose 1 option.**

_____ Middle School Band (1 full year commitment)

OR

_____ Middle School Chorus (1 full year commitment)

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REQUIRED COURSES

ENG700	English 7
SCI700	Science 7
MAT700	Math 7
SOC700	World Studies 7
ADVISORY	30 Min. Advisory/Study Hall

Students that meet the requirements through assessments & teacher recommendation may be assigned to:

ENG705	Accelerated English 7
SCI705	Accelerated Science 7
MTH 705	Accelerated Math 7

REQUIRED ENCORE COURSES (Rotated by Semester)

Art
Physical Education/Health
Web Design 7
Intro to Spanish

ELECTIVE COURSES

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_____ Middle School Band (1 full year commitment)
OR
_____ Middle School Chorus (1 full year commitment)

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REQUIRED CORE COURSES

ENG800 English 8
SCI800 Science 8
MAT800 Math 8
SOC800 American History
ADVISORY Advisory/Study Hall

Students meeting requirements through assessment and teacher recommendation may be assigned to:

ENG805 Accelerated English 8
SCI103 Physical Science 8
MTH105 Algebra I

Eligibility is based on the Algebra Readiness Test and/or the Science Readiness Test given in the spring of 7th grade and/or previous year's math and/or science performance along with teacher recommendation. Students meeting these requirements may elect to take the accelerated courses.

REQUIRED ENCORE COURSES

(If you are not in Band/Choir or Spanish you are required to take all 4 options below)

Art (Semester) _____
Physical Education/Fitness and Leadership (Semester) _____
Programming 8 (Semester) _____
Makerspace/SH (Semester) _____

BAND AND CHOIR OPTIONS

(If you choose one option below, please choose 2 options above.)

If you choose a Music option and Spanish 1, you will fulfill your Encore time and will not choose an option above.)

Middle School Band (1 Full Year Commitment) _____
OR
Middle School Choir (1 Full Year Commitment) _____
Spanish I (1 Full Year Commitment) _____

Eligibility is required for Spanish 1 based on assessments, and teacher recommendations.

****Please note:** Algebra, Physical Science and Spanish I are High School credit courses. These credits will appear on the high school transcript. This will affect your student's High School Grade Point Average (GPA).

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Student's Name (please print)

Parent/Guardian Signature

