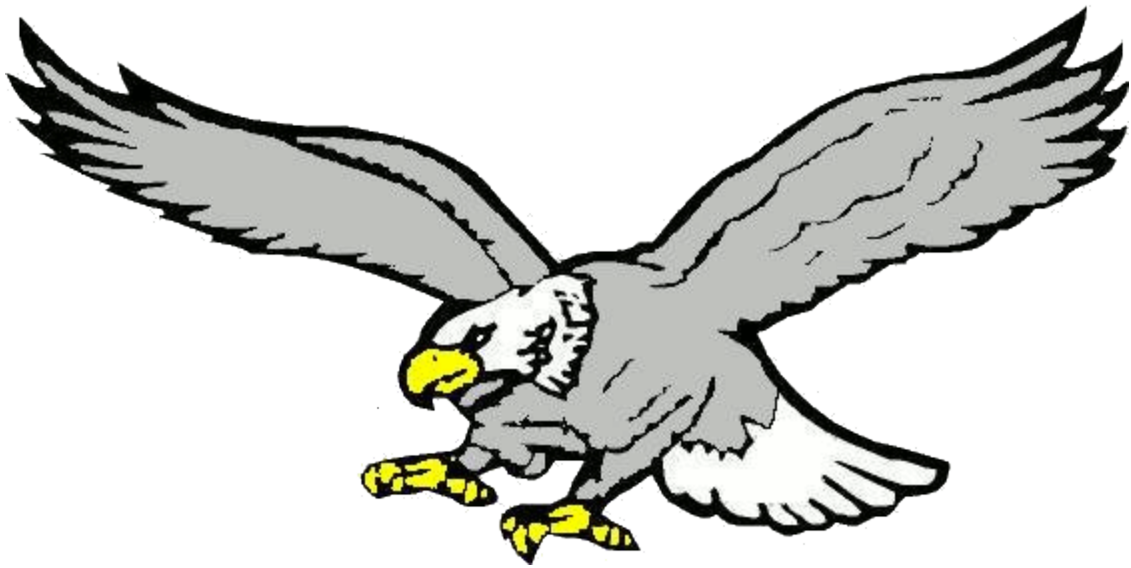


Middle School Course Guide



Bermudian Springs Middle School

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Introduction

The Bermudian Springs Middle School Community is extremely proud of our school, our staff, and especially our students. At our school, we hope to create an environment where everyone feels safe and respected. Middle school students are emerging adolescents, experiencing profound changes in intellectual, physical, social, and emotional areas of their lives. Our school is committed to providing opportunities for creative expression, critical thinking, and personal involvement. The years spent in the middle school will inspire our students to strive for excellence as conscientious citizens and caring, ethical individuals.

The middle school course guide has been compiled to explain the curricular offerings for students in grades 5, 6, 7 and 8. Please take the time to read it and discuss the offerings and program requirements with your child. Every student is given the opportunity to master grade level skills and achieve to his/her highest potential. With your support and direction along with the assistance of our professional staff, we will work collaboratively to provide learning environments where students can mature, achieve success, and have an educational experience encouraging the love of lifelong learning.

Administration

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Course Selection Timeline

January - February

- Master Schedule preparation begins
 - Middle school counselors will visit the elementary school and meet with current 4th grade students (in-coming 5th graders)
 - The 8th grade counselor and high school curriculum leaders will present ninth grade course offerings to our 8th grade students.

April - May

- Teachers analyze individual student information and current year progress in an attempt to correctly recommend next year course placement.
- Master schedule is developed according to teacher recommendations.

May - July

- Course conflicts resolved and courses are balanced by the schools administration and guidance departments.

July - August

- Students receive class schedules.
- Any changes to schedules should be addressed to your child's school counselor by phone or via a signed note indicating requested change(s).



Grading Scale

Grades are issued in accordance to the grading scale of Bermudian Springs School District. Report cards are issued at the end of each 45-day marking period. Students may receive one of two academic distinctions each marking period, distinguished and regular honor roll. All graded courses count towards achieving distinguished or honor roll.

Distinguished Honor Roll includes students who have no grades lower than a 92%.

Honor Roll includes students who have attained an average of 83% or higher with no single course grade lower than 74%.

A: 92 - 100	Excellent
B: 83 - 91	Good
C: 74 - 82	Average
D: 65 - 73	Danger
F: 0 - 64	Failing

Fifth Grade

Fifth graders are welcomed to the middle school by teacher teams. Teachers on each team split the teaching of English language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies. Teaming allows teachers an opportunity to work more closely with fewer students. Each fifth grade student will participate in the MOD's (practical arts) program (see page 13) and will have the option of taking several music classes (see page 15).

English Language Arts

In fifth grade, the students utilize the Wonders Reading series. Students read from challenging literature and informational text with an emphasis on comprehension, vocabulary acquisition, and making connections among ideas and between texts. They learn to respond by quoting accurately and explicitly to support inferences. They gain knowledge of how elements of a story or text interact, and they describe how different points of view influence the description of events. Students also discover how to trace the development of a topic in texts of the same genre and integrate the information they gather.

Students write for different purposes and audiences. Informative, argumentative, and narrative essays are written with an emphasis on proper focus, organization, and content, voice, and word choice. Knowledge of appropriate grammar, sentence structure, punctuation, and capitalization are learned.

Students become skilled at presenting appropriately in formal speaking situations, listening critically, and responding intelligently as individuals or in group discussions.

Mathematics

Students in fifth grade continue the Everyday Math program which began in the elementary school. The following math topics are covered: collection, display, and interpretation of data, operations with whole numbers and decimals, variables, formulas, and graphs, rational number uses and operations, geometry: congruence, constructions, and parallel lines, number systems and algebra concepts, probability as well as discrete mathematics, rates, ratios, and other geometry topics. Additional activities include a review of fundamental math facts and exposure to advanced algebra concepts.

Social Studies

In fifth grade Social Studies, students learn about the early explorers and settlers of the United States. Course content centers on colonization and the American Revolution. Native Americans and westward movement are also studied. A unit on the Civil War is the culminating activity for the year. States, corresponding capitals, and abbreviations are practiced and reviewed throughout the year. It is a goal of the Social Studies department to continue to develop productive and responsible citizens through the teaching of character education.

Science

In fifth grade Science, students learn about energy, forms of energy, insulation, and efficiency. Students will study systems of the human body, composition and inner workings. A unit on simple machines with an emphasis on levers and pulleys is part of a culminating class project. Basic science terms are introduced and practiced throughout the year.

Sixth Grade

Sixth grade students are a part of an eight teacher team. The team is comprised of two mathematics, two science and two social studies teachers. Two of the sixth grade teachers specialize in Language Arts. Students begin each day with their homeroom teacher where attendance and other matters are handled. Each sixth grade student will participate in the MOD's program (see page 13) and has the option of taking several music classes (see page 15).

The following is a typical course load for a sixth grade student:

Language Arts	MOD's
Mathematics	Physical Education
Social Studies	Resource and/or Music(s)
Science	

English Language Arts

All 6th grade English Language Arts goals are geared towards the PA Core standards. Students will read a variety of grade appropriate literature and informational text. Students will read, understand and respond to variety of texts by summarizing, identifying main ideas and supporting details, making connections among ideas and between texts, with focus on textual evidence to support analyses. The sixth grade reading curriculum uses the Pearson Common Core Literature series which includes a variety of fiction and nonfiction stories and grammar. A variety of fiction and nonfiction novels will also be used to apply the reading strategies and skills taught through Pearson. The curriculum also utilizes the online aspect of the series, Pearson Realize (pearsonrealize.com). The online portion provides an electronic version of the textbook as well as assessments and extension activities. Students also participate in Silent Sustained Reading and other recreational reading activities. Students will be able to produce a variety of writings to address task, purpose, perspective and intended audience. The goal is to have students become accomplished writers on all types of writing pieces such as narrative, expository, persuasive, descriptive, and poetry. Activities in grammar are utilized to provide a base to improve the quality of student writing. Students will learn conventions of the English language through our Pearson series and course supplements. Students will be able to use their learning to communicate and listen effectively for varied purposes and audiences in order to learn, reflect and respond. Students will have the opportunity in sixth grade to work independently, in cooperative pairs, in small group, as well as whole group instruction throughout the year. The course is designed to increase student reading and writing abilities and skills while preparing them for the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA).

Mathematics

Students in sixth grade continue the Everyday Math program. The following math topics are covered: collection, display, and interpretation of data, operations with whole numbers and decimals, variables, formulas, and graphs, rational number uses and operations, geometry: congruence, constructions, and parallel lines, number systems and algebra concepts, probability as well as discrete mathematics, rates, ratios, and other geometry topics. Additional activities include a review of the fundamental math facts and exposure to advanced algebraic concepts.



Social Studies

The primary objective of this course is to encourage each student's curiosity about other places and cultures. Upon examination of the way other people live, students will gain a better understanding of their own dynamic society. The course explores Canada and the nations of Latin America. Each student will be challenged through class discussions, activities, projects and other experiences. Through these different opportunities, students will, hopefully, gain an appreciation for social studies. It is a goal of the Social Studies department to continue to develop productive and responsible citizens through the teaching of character education.

Science

Sixth grade Science is intended to heighten the curiosity of each individual student about the wonders of science. FOSS (Full Option Science System) materials and kits are incorporated to provide hands on experiences and foster inquiry based thinking. Covered content is built around the framework of the Pennsylvania Standards and Anchors for Assessment in Science and Technology. Differentiated Instruction is accomplished through a variety of methods and techniques, affording each student an opportunity to understand and appreciate scientific thinking and reasoning. Field Study (outdoor education) is incorporated to foster appreciation of nature, conservation and stewardship.

Seventh Grade

All seventh grade students take the same Language Arts, Social Studies, and Science courses. Students are enrolled in a math course dependent upon ability and prior successful mathematics course completion. Students scoring basic or below basic on the reading PSSA may receive additional reading supports until proficiency can be demonstrated. Every student participates in the MOD - Creative Arts program (see page 13). Students are able to participate in band and chorus as electives (see page 15).

The following is a typical course load for a seventh grade student:

English Language Arts	MOD's
Mathematics	Physical Education
Social Studies	Resource
Science	

English Language Arts

Seventh grade Language Arts focuses on all areas of communication including reading, writing, speaking and listening and encourages students to become lifelong readers and writers. The Pearson Common Core Literature book (2015) supports these goals by offering multi-genre texts: short story, drama, non-fiction and poetry. Students' close-read, analyze, write about, and discuss complex literature with the help of scaffolding as needed. Collaboration among students is encouraged as they discuss and debate various aspects of the text and make connections among and between texts.

Independent reading is essential to becoming a stronger reader and it is stressed to all students that they should read every day. Students select novels in their reading level, discuss them with teachers, and prove comprehension is achieved through on-line AR reading tests. Students are provided a developmentally appropriate reading level so that they can choose from a variety of genres to enhance their enjoyment of reading while also being written at an understandable level for each child.

The writing process is also a focal point of the curriculum. Students are taught to write in order to effectively share information, describe something well, tell a story, engage in evidence-based analysis of a text and support an argument and offer a counter-argument. The five domains of writing are stressed as students work alone and collaboratively to revise and edit their work. The Pearson series combined with other supplements are used for grammar, usage, and mechanics instruction within the classroom. Students use knowledge of the eight parts of speech to improve their writing skills. Vocabulary acquisition includes learning Latin roots and suffixes as well as vocabulary words from the selected text in the literature book and in the Houghton book. Students learn to define words, examine the connotation of a word and interpret an author's choice of wording. As a result, students' writing begins to employ a wider range of vocabulary and they become better writers and readers through the process.

Mathematics

Seventh grade students take one of two mathematics classes depending on their mathematical ability and teacher recommendations.

Math 7: This course is designed to prepare students for proficiency on the 7th grade Pennsylvania State Assessment and for Pre-Algebra in eighth grade. Content includes, but is not limited to: problem solving, applying decimals, fractions, and percentages, data analysis, number patterns, proportions, geometry, and an overview of basic algebraic concepts. The algebraic concepts covered include: integers, algebraic equations, and graphing functions.

Pre-Algebra: This course is designed to prepare students for success on the 7th grade Pennsylvania State Assessment, the Algebra I course in eighth grade, and success on the Algebra Keystone Exam in 8th grade. Content includes, but is not limited to: data analysis and probability, foundations for algebra, solving equations, geometry, solving inequalities, introduction to functions, linear functions, and an introduction into systems of equations.

World (Ancient) History

Seventh grade History focuses on the major civilizations of the ancient Eastern world from the beginning of time through 1500 A.D. The civilizations include Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greece, India, China, Rome, and Medieval Europe. (North and South America were studied in 6th grade.) Students learn through a variety of methods (activities, learning contracts, archaeological dig, etc.) and there are many opportunities to apply your learning to present day experiences. It is a goal of the Social Studies department to continue to develop productive and responsible citizens through the teaching of character education.

Science

Seventh grade Science is primarily a life science course. Through the use of multiple textbooks and inquiry-based lab activities, students will be studying the scientific method, ecology, cells and heredity, changes to living things over time and the diverse life forms (6 kingdoms). Various projects will be required throughout the year (e.g. - leaf project, science project, endangered species project).



Eighth Grade

Eighth grade students are presented with many options to customize their schedules based upon interests and academic abilities. All eighth grade students take the same Language Arts, Social Studies, Health and science courses. There are three mathematics courses offered for eighth graders. Appropriate course placement in math is dependent upon standardized test scores, ability and past classroom performance.

The following is a typical course load for an eighth grade student:

English Language Arts	Physical Education and Health
Mathematics	Social Studies
Science	Foreign Language (Flex) (semester)
Family and Consumer Science (semester)	Resource

English Language Arts

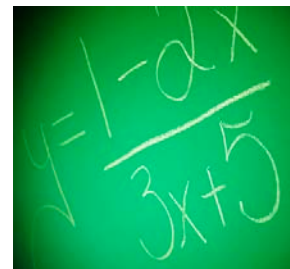
In eighth grade English Language Arts, students will learn to master the PA Core standards for reading informational text, reading literature, writing, and speaking and listening. The Pennsylvania Core State Standards challenge students to tackle high-quality, complex nonfiction texts and great works of literature. This is the first year in which the focus of instruction begins to shift from narrative to exposition. Upon completion of eighth grade, students know how to cite the textual evidence that most strongly supports an analysis or critique. Students are primed to question an author's assumptions and assess the accuracy of his or her claims, and by the end of the year, they are adept at reading closely and uncovering evidence to use in their own writing. Students can, for instance, analyze in writing two or more texts that provide conflicting information on the same topic and identify whether the disagreement is over facts or interpretation. They can analyze how point of view can be manipulated to create specific effects such as dramatic irony and investigate how particular passages within a text connect to one another to advance the plot, reveal a character, or highlight an idea. In order to demonstrate mastery, students will write multiple essays over the course of the year including expository essays, argumentative essays, and at least one research report. Additionally, students will learn conventions of the English language through our series and other course supplements. Students will read selections out of the Prentice Hall Literature book (2010) and at least one supplemental novel. The course is designed to increase student reading and writing abilities and skills while preparing them for the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA).

Mathematics

Eighth grade students take one of two mathematics classes depending on their mathematical ability and seventh grade math class.

Pre-Algebra: This course is designed to prepare students for success on the 8th grade Pennsylvania State Assessment, Algebra I in ninth grade and success on the Algebra Keystone Exam in 9th grade. The content of the class includes, but is not limited to: measures of central tendency and dispersion, analyzing data from graphical representations, probability, operations with real numbers, solving simple and multi-step equations, solving simple and multi-step inequalities, the Pythagorean Theorem, finding volume of three-dimensional shapes, working with geometric transformations, identifying functions and their graphs, and working with linear functions.

Algebra I: This course is designed to prepare students for success on the 8th grade Pennsylvania State Assessment and success on the Algebra Keystone Exam. The in-depth content of the class includes, but is not limited to: solving systems of linear equations and inequalities, the Pythagorean Theorem, finding volume of three-dimensional shapes, working with geometric transformations, properties of exponents, radical expressions, polynomials, rational expressions and functions, and counting permutations and combinations. Students in this course will take the Algebra Keystone exam at the end of the year, and will advance to Geometry in the next grade level.



Health

Health basics are covered in this course including but not limited to - wellness, decision-making, character building and goal setting. Units on mental and physical health are discussed with content encompassing most body systems, nutrition and exercise. A life cycle unit is taught covering information about relationships, development, and pregnancy. Each student is instructed in the steps of cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and the Heimlich maneuver. Students are asked to pay \$2.50 for a CPR book. These units are followed by information on communicable and non-communicable diseases, and habit-forming substances.

Social Studies

The eighth grade Social Studies course covers American history (1789 - 1914). The class begins with the inauguration of the first president, George Washington. It covers all major events in the history of the United States up until the year 1914. It is a goal of the Social Studies department to continue to develop productive and responsible citizens through the teaching of character education.

Science

Eighth grade Science is a combination of Environmental and Physical Science. Students cover a wide range of topics dealing with the environment and the different ecosystems of the world. In Physical Science, students work with gaining an understanding about Chemistry (atoms, elements, and chemical reactions), motion, forces, energy, electricity, magnetism, sound, and light through a variety of projects and inquiry based experiments. Students complete a science fair project as a supplement to classroom discussion which encourages experiential learning of the scientific method.

Flex

Students in eighth grade will receive a half year of language instruction - a marking period in French and a marking period in Spanish. Students will learn basic conversational skills and vocabulary. They will learn about the culture, art, music and literature of France and Spain.

Core Academic Course Progression

The tables below show how students might progress through core academic courses from sixth to ninth grade. The tables do not show every option for course combinations nor do they show all of the elective courses at the high school level. Eighth grade students and their parents will receive additional information about ninth grade options at high school course selection meetings held in the spring.

Language Arts

Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9
Language Arts	Language Arts	Language Arts	Language Arts	Honors English
				CP English
				Academic English

Math

Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9
Math 5	Math 6	Pre-Algebra	Algebra I	Geometry
		Math 7	Pre-Algebra	Algebra I

Science

Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9
Human Sciences	Physical Science	Life Science	Environmental & Physical Science	Earth & Space Science

Social Studies

Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9
American History	Cultural studies Latin America & Canada	World History (BC - 1500 AD)	American History (1789 - 1914)	Pennsylvania History (1914 - Present)

MOD's and Physical Education

Students in grades 5 - 7 rotate through a series of courses with each rotation lasting a marking period. The introduction of these creative arts areas in grades 5 - 7 allows further concentration in areas of student interest during resource time in eighth grade.

Art - Grades 5 - 7

In fifth grade, students learn about art history, use several different types of art media and construct five projects. The course content will begin at the very beginning with the Old Stone Age. In class projects will relate to the Old Stone Age.



In sixth grade, students learn about art history, use several different types of art media and construct four projects. Instruction of art history for sixth graders begins with an analysis of the Renaissance in Italy and Northern Europe. In class projects will relate and strengthen student knowledge of the Renaissance.

In seventh grade, students will learn about art history; use several different types of art media to construct five projects. The course content will begin an emphasis on Impressionism, Post Impressionism and the art of America in the late 1800's. Projects in class and outside of class will relate to the art history being studied.

Computer/Keyboarding - Grades 6 & 7

In sixth grade students will work in the Ultrakey program to begin to learn appropriate keying techniques. Students will master basic computer terminology and the functions of various toolbars in Microsoft Word. Students will begin to be introduced to a variety of computer software as time permits.

In seventh grade students will review and improve keyboarding skills, review basic computer terminology and toolbar functionality. Students will be introduced in greater detail to various Microsoft Office applications specifically Word, Excel and Powerpoint.

Library Sciences - Grade 5

The 5th grade library science MOD teaches students how to use a variety of library resources. In the first few weeks, students become familiar to the middle school library. They extensively learn how to use all aspects of the school's card catalog system: Destiny and Destiny Quest. They also learn how to search independently for various genres throughout the library while also learning the Dewey Decimal System, via call numbers.

Mini-lessons include recognizing current authors, evaluating websites, recognizing different search engines and using local library cards to access various databases. Students analyze the similarities and differences between print and non-print dictionaries, encyclopedias and regional newsprint media.

Students practice research skills by researching all aspects of an assigned country. Students practice note-taking skills through reading a variety of sources: print nonfiction books, encyclopedias, the school's databases, eBooks, the Internet, and the local libraries' databases. Students create an outline and a works cited page to highlight their research. Eight vocabulary tests highlight important terms related to library science and research.

Music - Grades 5 - 7

Fifth and sixth grade music classes introduce students to the following: Rhythm and meter in music and Instrument families in the orchestra. The French composer Camille Saint-Saens, and an American composer - George Gershwin are studied. A unit on the history of rock and roll is included in the course. Seventh grade music classes cover musical components such as meter, unity and variety in music, texture, the human voice, instrument families, and scales. Seventh graders from each class create a song and then perform the creation. Students are introduced to concepts such as distinct periods in music history including Renaissance, Baroque, Classical, Romantic, and 20th century.

Technology Education - Grades 5 - 7

Students in technology education will be introduced to and given an opportunity to expand their knowledge of a variety of technology education skills. Students will be given opportunities to utilize a variety of tools and equipment. Concepts covered in these grades will include but not be limited to designing and building a bridge, designing a web page, learning about energy, alternative forms of energy, power and transportation. Students will design a company working in groups of two and brainstorm about company names, slogans, logos, addresses, phone numbers, and emails. Students will utilize technology to create business cards, company identities, resumes, and a bill of materials. Students will prepare an idea of a prototype (working product) on graph paper. The prototype must meet certain constraints and criteria, as an example it must have two movable parts and it can't cost more than ten dollars. Once students determine the prototype and the bill of materials, they will work in the wood lab to create the prototype. At the end of this MOD, students create an advertisement/commercial to sell their product to the class.

The concentration for students in seventh grade will be on Robotics. Students are introduced to hydraulics, pneumatics, and types of robots through collaborative research. Students will watch videos concerning the future of robots and do robotic research. Students will sketch their ideas and work in groups and decide how to build the robot. Sketches will be utilized to determine a final drawing. Students will build a three axis robotic arm. Upon completion of the robot, there is a grade level competition. The competition consists of moving marshmallows from one plate to another plate in two minutes. Students on the most successful team, moving the most marshmallows in two minutes, win the competition. Students learn how to problem solve, design, measure, use tools and equipment, and teamwork throughout this process. Students learn and reinforce valuable computer skills, designing skills, engineering, public speaking skills, and teamwork throughout the technology education course. Students will need these skills to help them in future technology education classes and in the real world. Teamwork and collaboration are skills continually stressed each class period.

Family and Consumer Science - Grade 8

Students in FCS will spend time on understanding children - development, maturity and how to handle emergencies. Students will learn about the important parts of a sewing machine and complete a gym bag project while learning to sew. Students will also learn about the food plate and how to make healthy lifestyle decisions on appropriate and inappropriate dietary decisions. Students will better understand foods while learning to use a microwave, being safe

Family and Consumer Science, cont.

in the kitchen and be able to measure and follow detailed recipe directions. Students will be introduced to budgeting concepts and personal money management regarding personal budgeting and saving decisions. Students will also learn about recycling and complete a project using discarded items and recycling them into a new useable item.

Physical Education

All grades receive a variety of lifetime physical activities and are introduced to team sports. Our main focus is the promotion of individual physical and health-related fitness accomplished through measuring heart rate, goal setting and various self and teacher evaluations. Lifetime sports and cooperative activities include but are not limited to, cross country running, track and field events, yoga, taeko, pilates, dance, jumping rope and weight lifting. Team sports activities including but not limited to, basketball, soccer, softball and football to name just a few. Students are required to purchase a PE uniform to participate. The overall goal of the physical education department is to instill in students the desire to understand healthy living with a broad array of healthy physical activities.

Music Electives

5th and 6th Grade Concert Band

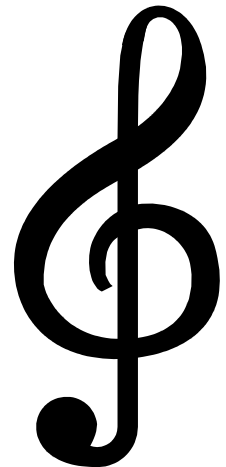
The Bermudian Springs Middle School concert band is comprised of any student who wishes to participate on Brass, Woodwind and Percussion instruments. Students will learn skills in basic note fingerings, rhythmic and melodic techniques and overall musicianship. Students are evaluated based on overall achievement in these skills as well as in an ensemble setting at band adjudication festivals.

7th and 8th Grade Concert Band

The Bermudian Springs Middle School concert band is comprised of any student who wishes to participate on Brass, Woodwind and Percussion instruments. Students will learn skills in intermediate to advanced note fingerings, intermediate to advanced rhythmic and melodic techniques and overall musicianship. Students are evaluated based on overall achievement in these skills as well as in an ensemble setting at band adjudication festivals.

5th/6th and 7th/8th Grade Chorus

The Bermudian Springs Middle School chorus is made up of any 5th, 6th, 7th, or 8th grade student who desires to participate in a choral group. The chorus meets to rehearse 3 days out of the 6 day cycle. The students prepare in the fall months for the Veteran's Day assembly and the Christmas concert. During the winter months the chorus prepares for their spring concert in May. Singing and choreography are stressed components of the instruction.



English as a Second Language

ESL (English as a Second Language) Level 1 - Grades 5 - 8

This class is designed for students for whom English is not their first language, and who are in the beginning stages of learning English. This class meets for two periods daily. For newly arrived students, the goal is to help them become acculturated to the United States and to the U.S. school environment. Additionally, the class is designed to help students gain English skills which will enable them to be successful in their classes at Bermudian, as well as to allow for comfortable communication with native English speakers outside the school. English language concepts of reading, writing, speaking, and listening are included in this class.

ESL (English as a Second Language) Level 2 - Grades 5 - 8

This class is designed for students for whom English is not their first language, and who are in the intermediate to advanced stages of learning English. This class meets for one period daily. The goal of the class is to help students to continue to develop and refine their English skills. Emphasis is placed on higher-level English skills, both oral and written. Academic language usage and vocabulary, which will allow students to function academically on a level with their native English-speaking peers, is emphasized. English language concepts of reading, writing, speaking, and listening will be covered.

Library Media Program

The library media program focuses on preparing all students to be effective users of ideas and information. This is accomplished through integrating the library media program into the curriculum. The library staff, administrators, teachers, and parents work together to help students become proficient readers and learners.

In the beginning of the year, 5th grade students are oriented to the middle school library. Throughout the year students regularly check out books for pleasure reading and for book reports. Fifth grade students also spend a 45 day MOD class working on using various resources and learning researching skills.

Sixth grade students are introduced to print and electronic resources through mini-research projects related to classroom studies. Many sixth grade students visit the library throughout the day to attain books for reports and for pleasure reading.

Seventh and eighth grade students complete research assignments that require further utilization of resources and the development of research skills. By eighth grade, students engage in research activities that require the ability to discern the best resources to use for specific research projects.

Throughout the four years students are in the middle school, they are encouraged to become independent readers and appreciate the importance of libraries.

Gifted Program

Students are given the opportunity to meet and work with a small group of their intellectual peers by grade level geared towards providing academic enrichment, advancement and supplementing the regular curriculum. Seminar sessions are developed to give students the opportunity to direct their own learning, pose creative solutions to a topic, and discover the relevancy of historical facts by relating them to current events. Enrichment topics are designed to extend the regular classroom curriculum and provide an opportunity for research and study in topics of interest.

Independent Study

Students will have the opportunity to participate in a nine-week independent study project to further expand their knowledge or interest and awareness in a topic of choice. Topics may include extensions of the core curriculum, career exploration, or a topic of specific interest to the student.

Selected Topics

Selected topics will be developed into thematic units for a nine week period to provide students with the opportunity to:

learn research skills; gather and collate information from a variety of reliable sources; explore the use of science and technology and apply it in novel ways to extend learning; participate in enrichment topics in mathematics and reading that extend the grade level curriculum and interact, share, and evaluate factual information with group participants in conversation and debate.

Stock Market Game

The goal of the Stock Market game is to increase student understanding of our free market economy and the securities markets through participation in a simulation competition. During this competition students will work in teams to invest a hypothetical one hundred thousand dollars in the stock market. Teams will select stocks, buy and sell shares and analyze their investments during a ten week period. Students compete with other students across the nation during this ten week period.

Foreign Language Seminar

Students in fifth, sixth and seventh grade have the opportunity to select a French or Spanish Seminar class that meets one day in the six-day cycle. Students become familiar with the culture, customs, and food of the country. The students will learn about the country and practice basic conversational skills by completing the steps to become a foreign exchange student, i.e. completing a passport, letters to their host family, etc.

Special Education Programs

Instruction for students with learning disabilities is provided in the Learning Support Program. A full continuum of services is offered. A co-teaching model is provided for students who need accommodations in Science and Social Studies in regular education. Small group instruction in the learning support room is available in the content areas of reading and math for students who need more intensive remediation and support. Eligibility for these courses is determined by the individual program designed for the student based on their level of need. Supplemental services are provided and modifications are made within the regular education classroom as the first level of intervention.

5th - 8th Grade Language Arts

The READ 180 Intervention Program is utilized in the learning support program to provide systematic instruction in reading, writing, and vocabulary. The students participate in small-group rotations that give them time to work each day on modeled and independent reading, skills instruction, and interactive software designed to help students apply comprehension skills, improve word recognition, and boost reading fluency skills. The PA Core Standards are incorporated into instruction and guide the goals written for individual student programs.

5th - 7th Grade Math

The Everyday Math program is utilized with our students who need more intensive instruction at a slower pace. The goal of this class is for our students to achieve grade level standards and remediate below grade level skills. Supplemental materials and manipulatives are used to give students additional skills practice and provide reinforcement of computation and problem-solving skills. The PA Core Standards are incorporated into instruction and guide our student goals.

8th Grade Math

The Algebra Readiness program is utilized in the eighth grade learning support classroom to provide a comprehensive program for students who need additional foundational skills in mathematics to prepare them for future work with the abstract concepts in Algebra. The program incorporates the PA Core Standards and targets the specific standards that need to be understood to develop fluency and mastery in mathematics. Students will learn strategies to promote the understanding of how numerical operations are related to one another.

Time Schedules

Each grade level follows a slightly different schedule during the day to accommodate four different lunch periods (noted by - Lunch). Normal class periods are 42 minutes in duration with the exception of a 30 minute lunch.

5th Grade		6th Grade		7th Grade		8th Grade	
Period	Start End	Period	Start End	Period	Start End	Period	Start End
HR	7:40 7:57	HR	7:40 7:57	HR	7:40 7:57	HR	7:40 7:57
1	8:00 8:42	1	8:00 8:42	1	8:00 8:42	1	8:00 8:42
2	8:45 9:27	2	8:45 9:27	2	8:45 9:27	2	8:45 9:27
3	9:30 10:12	3	9:30 10:12	3	9:30 10:12	3	9:30 10:12
4	10:15 10:57	4	10:15 10:57	4	10:15 10:57	4	10:15 10:57
Lunch	11:00 11:30	5	11:00 11:30	5	11:00 11:42	5	11:00 11:42
Recess	11:30 11:42	Lunch	11:30 12:00	6	11:45 12:30	Recess	11:45 12:00
5	11:45 12:27	Recess	12:00 12:12	Lunch	12:30 1:00	Lunch	12:00 12:30
		5	12:15 12:27				
6	12:30 1:12	6	12:30 1:12	Recess	1:00 1:12	6	12:30 1:12
7	1:15 1:57	7	1:15 1:57	7	1:15 1:57	7	1:15 1:57
8	2:00 2:42	8	2:00 2:42	8	2:00 2:42	8	2:00 2:42

