

BUTLER AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

COURSE SELECTION GUIDE

2024-2025 School Year



Intermediate High School
(Grades 6, 7, & 8)

**TITLE IX/SECTION 504
STATEMENT**

Butler Area School District is an equal opportunity educational institution and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or handicap in its activities, programs, or employment practices as required by Title VI, Title IX, and Section 504.

For information regarding civil rights or grievance procedures, contact Dr. Brian Slamecka, Title IX Coordinator, or Mr. Aaron Royhab, Section 504 Coordinator, at 110 Campus Lane, Butler, PA 16001, 724-214-3121. For information regarding services, activities, and facilities that are accessible to and usable by handicapped persons, contact Mr. Aaron Royhab at 724-214-3121.

**STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY AND
PURPOSE**

The purpose of our academic program is to help prepare students to succeed in an ever-changing global society through academically rigorous and individualized learning experiences within a nurturing and safe environment.

At Butler Intermediate High School, we believe every student, regardless of their background, interests or inherent abilities, can learn and grow at school. The IHS is committed to fostering a culture of forward-thinking, innovative, and lifelong learning. In addition, the IHS strives to instill a desire for students to take ownership of their learning as the student matures academically, socially, and emotionally.

We believe in offering a rigorous academic curriculum that prepares students for high school. We believe learning is a process that must include a wide variety of teaching methods

and learning opportunities that inspire students while offering them relevant, real world experiences. We believe in fostering a tolerant and inclusive environment that supports self-expression and encourages treating one another with respect. Finally, we believe in the importance family plays in a child's education and are committed to building relationships with our families and our community.

PROGRAM OF STUDIES
2024 – 2025 School Year
BUTLER INTERMEDIATE HIGH SCHOOL
551 Fairground Hill Road, Butler, PA 16001
724-214-3400

Butler Area School District Website: www.basdk12.org

**ADMINISTRATIVE
PERSONNEL**

ADMINISTRATION

Superintendent	Dr. Brian White, Jr.
Asst Superintendent	Dr. Brian Slamecka
Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Prof Dev	Ms. Julie Hopp
Director of Special Ed.	Mr. Aaron Royhab
Asst. Director of Sp.Ed	Mrs. Cari Boozel
Int. High Principal	Mr. Stephen Dobransky
Int. High Asst. Principal	Mrs. Gretchen Crissman
Int. High Asst. Principal	Mr. Harold Dunn
Center Ave. Principal	Mr. Keenan McGaughey

ACADEMICS
(Program of Studies & Curricula)

We strongly urge students to plan their academic programs with goals in mind. Any requirements for post-secondary careers should be considered in course selections. The Career Readiness Software, **Xello**, provides lessons and activities related to potential careers. Guidance services should also be considered when planning course selections.

SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

The Butler Area School District is responsible for providing students with disabilities an individualized education program (IEP), tailored to their unique needs in grades K-12. For students who receive Special Education services, your student's current Special Education case manager will collaborate with you, general education teachers, school counselors, and building administrators to make scheduling recommendations for the upcoming school year.

For those students who receive special education services who will be transitioning to a new building for the upcoming year, their current case manager will work to review strengths, needs, services, and scheduling recommendations with the Special Education team at the receiving building. Please be in contact with your student's current Special Education case manager with questions or concerns specific to your student's program.

CURRICULUM

In grades 6-8 at the Intermediate High School, all students are assigned six academic periods and two elective periods. In addition to the core courses and the elective periods all students are scheduled for an advisory period during their 9-period day.

The academic subjects are assigned for the entire year, but the elective subjects are assigned for different portions of the school year to provide varied experiences in these areas. The subjects and time periods are as follows:

Sixth Grade:	
Art	12 wks.
Family & Consumer Science	12 wks.
Fundamentals of Computers	12 wks.
Music	12 wks.
STEM	12 wks.
Physical Education	12 wks.

Seventh Grade:	
Art	9 wks.
Exploratory World Language	9 wks.
Physical Education/Health	18 wks.

Eighth Grade:	
Art	9 wks.
Family and Consumer Science	9 wks.
General Music	9 wks.
Geography	9 wks.
Physical Education/Health	18 wks.
Technology Education	18 wks.

CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS

Butler Intermediate High School has a variety of Remedial Programs which include PSSA & Keystone Preparation for Math and an integrated English language arts program to help students reach proficiency. Math and/or Reading Preparation may be required for students' not scoring proficient in those areas. Requirements will be identified by the student's score on the most recent State Assessment (PSSA). Some students who have attained proficiency but may need additional skill work to maintain proficiency, may be included in the math and/or reading preparation courses.

GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT (724-214-3413)

Every student in grades 6 through 12 has a counselor who is available to assist students and parents in planning programs of study for high school and post-high school needs. The counselors are also responsible for such special services as testing, college fair, career programs, assistance with plans for college, including information and help for those with financial problems, and personal adjustment. The services of the school psychologists are also available for any special testing which might be required for specific students.

A plan for every student is our goal and we urge each one, together with his/her parents, to review carefully his/her individual plans with the counselor. Administrative personnel will assist with planning as opportunities arise. Any student who has an educational, vocational, or personal problem is encouraged to visit the Guidance Office and discuss it with a counselor.

GUIDANCE COUNSELORS

Mrs. Megan Tinklepaugh	Grade 6
Ms. Lisa Philipkoski	Grade 7
Mrs. Jennifer Misencik	Grade 8

PERMANENT RECORD FILE

Each student has a permanent record file in the guidance office. This file provides a record of a student's grades, attendance, and any record of standardized tests administered by the school.

TRANSCRIPTS

Each student must have a parental consent form on file in the guidance office before a transcript can be sent. Students moving to another community need a transcript sent to the new school; requests are completed by the guidance office secretary.

MARKING SYSTEM

Butler Area School District uses a five-letter grading system: A, B, C, D, E. Students should know the basis on which marks are determined and continually strive to meet the requirements. The following is the grading scale for the Butler Area School District.

A	Superior	100%-90%
B	Above Average	89%-80%
C	Average/Fair	79%-70%
D	Lowest Passing Mark	69%-60%
E	Not Accepted For Credit	59% & Below

Final averages will be determined using the following weights.

GRADES 6-8

1st	Nine Weeks	25%
2 nd	Nine Weeks	25%
3 rd	Nine Weeks	25%
4 th	Nine Weeks	25%
Final Grade		100%

REPORT CARDS/REPORT PERIODS

1. Grades will be issued to students at the end of each quarterly (nine-week) grading period. Report cards will be uploaded online for parents to view under the student's account "Grade" area. A computer-generated report card will be mailed home only to those students without Internet access after all grades have been entered into the student grading system.
2. Mid-quarter progress reports will be posted online when a student is failing, is in danger of failing, or has dropped two or more letter grades since the previous report card. Progress reports will be mailed home to those students who do not have Internet access.
3. Students enrolled in 12-week and 6-week courses will be notified of their grade via paper report issued by the assigned teacher. These grades will be included on report cards during the following report period.

WITHDRAWALS

Any student withdrawing from school should report first to the school counselor for a brief exit interview. Arrangements can then be made for the student to fulfill any remaining obligations to the Butler Area School District. After the Guidance Office receives a request from the student's new school, a transcript of grades and other records can be sent.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

A minimum of 23 credits in the ninth, tenth, eleventh, and twelfth grade is required for graduation. Required subjects that are failed must be rescheduled and completed with passing grades.

Course	Credits
English Language Arts	4.0
English 9 (Required, 1 credit)	
English 10 (Required, 1 credit)	
English 11 (Required, 1 credit)	
English 12 (Required, 1 credit – can be earned by taking both BC3 College Within the High School courses)	

Mathematics*	3.0
See Math Flowchart (pg. 16)	

***NOTE: Three full math credits must be earned between grades 9 through 12, regardless of the level of mathematics courses.**

Science	3.0
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Social Studies	4.0
World History to 1450 (Required, 1 credit)	
World History 1450 to Present (Required, 1 credit)	
Modern Amer. History (Required, 0.5 credit)	
American Government 11 (Required, 0.5 credit)	
Economics 12 (Required, 0.5 credit)	
A.P. U.S. (can replace Modern American History and American Government)	
A.P. European History or A.P. Comparative Government (can replace Economics)	
A.P. Macro Economics (can replace Economics)	

Arts/Humanities	2.0
Two units Humanities, or two units Arts	
- OR -	
One unit Arts and One unit Humanities	
<u>Arts:</u> Visual Arts, Practical Arts (includes Industrial Arts and Family & Consumer Sciences), General Music, Band, Chorus, Orchestra, Leadership (4 th year only)	
<u>Humanities:</u> Social Studies, English, Language, Philosophy	

Comprehensive Personal Health 0.5

Physical Education	1.0
Physical Education 9 (Required, .25 credit)	
Physical Education 10 (Required, .25 credit)	
Physical Education 11 (Required, .25 credit)	
Physical Education 12 (Required, .25 credit)	

STEM	1.0
"Science, Math, Tech Ed., Computer, Radio/TV Production, Audio Recording, BAVTS Programs"	

Electives	4.5
Elective credit is earned for any course a student passes that is not used to meet specific graduation requirements	

TOTAL 23 Credits

Approved: Board of School Directors
April 18, 2016

PSSA EXAMS

Students in grades 6, 7 and 8 are required to take the mandated Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) Exams.

Grade 6	ELA	Math	
Grade 7	ELA	Math	
Grade 8	ELA	Math	Science

CLASS RANK

Class rank calculations shall begin when a student enters ninth grade. Algebra I, Basic and Advanced Computer Programming, and world languages taken in grades 7 or 8 will show on transcripts, but not affect class rank. Eighth grade Geometry will show on transcripts and will also be calculated into a student's high school GPA.

Class rank will be based on a weighted cumulative GPA for which quality points are assigned to final course grades as follows:

A=4.0 B=3.0 C=2.0 D=1.0 E=0

Additional points for courses with Honors (0.0125) or Advanced Placement (0.0500) designations will be added to the cumulative GPA to arrive at the weighted value used for class rank.

**CRITERIA: ADMISSION
TO BASIC LEVEL CLASSES
GRADE 7 & 8**

For placement in the following basic level classes: English, science, and social studies students must meet the following criteria:

- Scoring Below Basic on the most recent PSSA Reading Assessment
- Teacher recommendation

For mathematics basic level placement, the student must meet the following criteria:

- Scoring Below Basic on the most recent PSSA Math Assessment.
- Teacher Recommendation

**EXPLANATION
OF ABILITY LEVELS**

All Levels: Students from all ability levels may schedule this course.

Basic Level: Course content is designed for students who read two years below grade level.

Academic Level: Course content is designed for the middle ability achieving student. (includes courses with “Academic” course titles)

Honors Level: Course content is designed for the high achieving student.

Gifted Level: Course content is designed for the identified gifted student. Individual and group modifications will be provided.

HONORS COURSES

For purposes of establishing the GPA for honor roll purposes only, the following will apply to honors level classes:

A = 4.0125
B = 3.0125
C = 2.0125
D = 1.0125
E = 0

**GIFTED EDUCATION
PROGRAM**

Programs for the gifted child in the Butler Area School District may have three components, beginning with the Gifted Individualized Education Program (GIEP) and including options and modifications. The GIEP is a written form that spells out the specific programs and services the child will receive. The GIEP also contains goals and objectives for the child, the date services are to start, and other information about the program. Options are all of those co-curricular activities and offerings of an enrichment nature from which any gifted student may select. Preparation for and participation in the selected options usually require a combination of some scheduled in-school time and/or out-of-class time and some out-of-school time on the part of the student. Modifications are those alterations of an acceleration and/or enrichment nature made in scheduling classes or within the classroom that are designed because there is strong evidence that the student has demonstrated advanced knowledge and/or skills in certain areas. Usually, this means acceleration in skill areas such as math and acceleration, enrichment, or both in the content areas such as social studies. Modifications within the classroom are made by the teacher as indicated in the GIEP. For additional information on Gifted Education, parents and students should refer to Butler Area School District’s Gifted Education Program

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (ELL) PROGRAM

English Learner Students (EL's) will receive instruction in the same curriculum areas as the district's English-speaking students. Equity in providing for these students' successful achievement of the standards and graduation requirements will be addressed by the regular classroom teachers and/or the EL teacher. The amount and type of EL instruction provided will depend upon the student's level of language development and proficiency as determined by an appropriate English Language Proficiency assessment. Instruction will take place as a "pull out" activity or in the mainstream classroom with supportive services.

SUMMER SCHOOL

A program is available in the summer for those students who need to make up failures in the core subjects. Summer school schedules and applications will be available on-line and in the guidance office.

Physical Education may also be taken in the summer as an accelerated course (applies only to students entering 9-12 grades). Upon the recommendation of the school administration and physical education department, the Board Education committee has approved the following guidelines for summer school physical education:

1. The District will offer as many classes as can be accommodated at the two secondary schools. Summer school will not be offered at elementary sites.
2. If there are more requests than can be accommodated, registration will be by lottery.
3. Students who schedule summer school physical education must have seven (7) periods of classes for the fall and spring semesters of the upcoming school year. Once a student has taken summer

school physical education, he or she will not be permitted to drop a class during the school year unless it is a drop/add approved by the principal.

4. Students who elect summer school physical education will be expected to participate fully in all activities, including swimming. Students with medical conditions preventing them from swimming must submit documentation from a physician prior to the first day of class.

If you have any questions regarding the summer school physical education program, please contact Your building principal.

POLICY ON REPEATED SUBJECTS

When a student passes a subject and chooses to repeat the course to increase his/her knowledge of that area, the following provisions apply when determining the quality point average: the grade given at the completion of the course the first time and the second time will be used. When a student fails a subject and repeats the course to obtain credit for it, the quality point for the "E", as well as the quality point for the passing grade are included in the student's final average.

BASD Secondary Instructional Options

In selecting courses, there is a distinction between a student's chosen **Attendance Model** and the **Instructional Model** in which any given course is offered. For the 2024-25 school year, Butler Area School District students are able to choose one of three **Attendance Models**, while courses will be offered through one or more **Instructional Models**.

Attendance Models - Based on the student's entire day

In-person (Attend school building for classes)

Cyber (Complete courses online)

Hybrid (Mix of online and in-person courses by class)

Instructional Models - Based on each individual course

Live Instruction at School:

In-person at school

Virtual Blended - Self Paced with Weekly Deadlines:

Edgenuity

Google Classroom

The Virtual Blended (VB) model combines asynchronous settings with the addition of live support when available. The Blended Classroom will primarily use Edgenuity. However, for some courses, other platforms such as Google Classroom may be used.

Students will be required to maintain a steady pace in their coursework. In addition, they will be required to attend scheduled live support sessions. The Virtual Blended model offers the flexibility of a self-paced course combined with scheduled teacher office hours to support students.

Virtual Blended classes are available to students in grades 6-12. Scheduling is flexible, however once enrolled, student attendance is required.

Disclaimer for Student Registration and Student Handbook

Students are expected to meet the following expectations:

1. Attend assigned live classes and live support sessions as scheduled.
2. Virtual Blended students are expected to meet the weekly course deadlines.
3. Make consistent academic progress.
4. Participate in standardized testing unless exempted.
5. Specific course participation requirements as specified in the course registration book.

Failure to meet these requirements could result in one of the following actions:

1. Being assigned to attend school at their respective normal school for periodic in person check in sessions.
2. Being assigned to attend school at their respective normal school and completing cyber work in person.
3. Being removed from the Cyber Education program and returning to school in person.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS
GRADES 6-8

**ART 6
AG06**

Grade 6 12 wks. All levels

This course is designed to expose students to the world of art by focusing on a variety of media and artists. Students will have an opportunity to study and create different forms of art, including drawing, painting, water color, sculpture, and printmaking. Students will be introduced to the elements and the principles of design through class discussions, writing assignments, visual resources, and hands-on activities.

**ART 7
AG07**

Grade 7 9 wks. All levels

This course is designed to expose students to the world of art by focusing on a variety of media and artists. Students will have an opportunity to study and create different forms of art, including drawing, painting, water color, sculpture, and printmaking. Students will be introduced to the elements and the principles of design through class discussions, writing assignments, visual resources, and hands-on activities.

**ART 8
AG08**

Grade 8 9 wks. All levels

Art appreciation and art history are emphasized through class discussions, writing assignments, reading assignments, and visual resources. Students enhance their artistic understanding by producing several projects using a variety of mediums. Creativity and creative thinking are stressed through exploration of theme and artistic technique. Art careers will also be discussed.

**FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE
FC06**

Grade 6 12 wks. All Levels

This is a required 12-week course, which will introduce students to the various areas of Family and Consumer Sciences. Topics covered may include: Financial and Resource Management; Balancing Family, Work and Community Responsibilities; Food Science, Safe Food Handling and Nutrition; Basic Clothing Maintenance; and Child Development.

**FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE
FC08**

Grade 8 9 wks. All Levels

This is a required quarter-long course, which will introduce students to the various areas of Family and Consumer Sciences. Topics covered may include: Financial and Resource Management; Balancing Family, Work and Community Responsibilities; Food Science, Safe Food Handling and Nutrition; Basic Clothing Maintenance; and Child Development.

HEALTH/PHYSICAL EDUCATION

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION
PE06**

Grade 6 12 wks. All Levels

This course is on a rotational basis throughout the 12 weeks. The course will introduce basic fundamentals, progressive skills and content knowledge for team sports, individual sports, and personal fitness. The content will consist of co-educational activities, lifetime activities, personal fitness.

HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION PE07 or PE08

Grade 7 or 8 18 wks. All Levels

This course is on a rotational basis throughout the 18 wks. The course will introduce basic fundamentals, progressive skills and content knowledge for team sports, individual sports, swimming and personal fitness. The content will consist of co-educational activities, lifetime activities, personal fitness and development of swimming strokes (American crawl, Backstroke, Side stroke). The subject matter in health will be an introduction to body systems, nutrition, personal hygiene, tobacco, and alcohol.

ADAPTIVE PHYSICAL EDUCATION PA78

Grades 6, 7 or 8 All Levels

*Prerequisite: Medical
Excuse/IEP*

This co-educational course is assigned for those students who are physically unable to participate in regular class activity or those who cannot have the physical education curriculum modified to meet the needs of their physical limitations. A medical excuse and adaptive form signed by the physician must be available to the instructor the first week of the course. Activities will depend on the student's capabilities and physician's recommendations. This course follows the same guidelines as regular P.E. class. The student will be informed of the dangers associated with **chemical use and abuse**.

STEAM 6 ITS6

Grade 6 12 wks.

This course is designed to expose students to multiple technologies and will illustrate how all the subjects of STEAM are interdependent. Students will study technology, including the various types, as well as how it advanced and its effects on society. Throughout the trimester, students will gain hands-

on experience with: 3D printing, block-based coding, animations, game development, text-based coding (Python language), and robotics.

TECHNOLOGY AND APPLIED ENGINEERING

The Technology and Applied Engineering Course is broken into two 9-week sections, Intro to Technology Education and Project Lead the Way (PLTW) Automation and Robotics.

STEM MATERIALS & PROCESSES IES8

Grade 8 9 wks. .25 Credit

This course offers students a hands-on exploration of practical skills in woodworking, metalworking, plastics and other shop-related activities, coupled with an in-depth understanding of the Engineering Design and Manufacturing Processes. Students will engage in creative problem-solving, brainstorming ideas, progressing through the stages of planning prototyping, and refining their designs.

MECHATRONICS IEM8

Grade 8 9 wks. .25 Credit

This is a standards-based course that will cover the design engineering process and apply that to classroom projects. These projects will include: Engineering, problem solving, mechanical drawing, architectural drawing, and game development.

LANGUAGE ARTS

ENGLISH

As outlined in the current English curriculum for grades 7 and 8, students will follow a standards-based, prescribed course of study that encompasses literature, informative texts, reading skills, grammar, and writing activities appropriate to grade level.

All students will be taking a two-period English Language Arts course in which all English and reading skills will be taught. These students will use this time to hone writing and grammar skills, enhance vocabulary, and improve reading comprehension.

The English Department will administer the NWEA Map Assessment throughout the school year to assess students' performance on these state standards in reading and writing. Classroom instruction will be tailored to meet the needs of the students as evidenced by their test results.

- Students will produce both formal and informal types of writing. Some of the writing pieces will focus on specific skills, particularly those skills required for a student to be proficient on the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA).
- Each of the units in the curriculum will include at least one open Text-Dependent Analysis (TDA) writing prompt that will be scored using the Pennsylvania Writing Assessment Domain Scoring Rubric.
- All other pieces of writing each semester will be purposeful in addressing other forms of written expression in connection with other curricular goals. These pieces might include journals, multi-paragraph essays, research papers, creative pieces in a variety of genres, essay responses of significant length to test questions, reaction papers, and self-reflections.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 6

EA06

Grade 6 36 wks. Double Period

Students will develop reading and writing skills that are aligned with the PA Common Core Standards. This course will prepare students for the ELA PSSA Exam.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 7

EB07

Grade 7 36 wks. Double Period

Students will develop reading and writing skills that are aligned with the PA Common Core Standards. This course will prepare students for the ELA PSSA Exam and also 8th Grade English Language Arts. Basic grammar skills and writing mechanics will be integrated into the course, as well as tools for improving vocabulary and defining unknown words. Reading skill remediation will be incorporated throughout the instruction in this course.

ACADEMIC ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 7

EA07

Grade 7 36 wks. Double
Period

Academic English Language Arts 7 combines reading and writing instruction. In this course, students will develop reading and writing skills that are aligned with the PA Common Core Standards. This course will prepare academic-level students for the PSSA exam and 8th Grade ELA through the study of literature, informative texts, reading skills, grammar, and writing in various formats.

HONORS ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 7 EH07

Grade 7 36 wks. Double Period
It is recommended that a student have an "A" average in Language Arts and Score advanced on the 5th grade PSSA

Honors English Language Arts 7 will cover the entire 7th grade English Language Arts curriculum at an honors level.

Students will develop reading and writing skills that are aligned with the PA Common Core Standards. The student will move more rapidly, and an in-depth study will be done in writing research, and literature. Additional enrichment opportunities will be available for accelerated students.

HONORS GIFTED ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 7 EG07

Grade 7 36 wks. Double Period

Prerequisite: Students must be in the Gifted Program. Students must also meet the criteria for Honors English 7.

This intensified course will parallel the honors integrated language arts curriculum. Students will, however, have a more in-depth view of novels, poetry, and drama. Research writing and critical thinking skills will also be enforced. Additional in-depth projects and learning opportunities will be utilized whenever possible to enhance the curriculum and challenge students.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 8 EB08

Grade 8 36 wks. Double Period
Prerequisite: Admittance will be based on the recommendation of the 7th grade ELA Teacher

Students will continue working with the mechanics of the English language -- writing, speaking, and

listening. Through high-interest, appropriate-level literature selections, students will have the opportunity to develop stronger vocabulary and practical composition skills. Sentence construction, paragraph development and spelling will also be stressed. Reading skill remediation will be incorporated throughout the instruction in this course.

ACADEMIC ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 8 EA08

Grade 8 36 wks. Double Period

This course is a continuation of Academic Language Arts 7. Academic ELA 8 will emphasize critical reading of literature and informative texts as well as improve students' writing and analytical skills. Writing assignments will focus on Text-Dependent Analysis. This course will prepare students for the PSSA English Language Arts exam and lay a foundation for the Keystone Literature exam administered in high school.

HONORS ENGLISH LANGUAGE 8 EH08

Grade 8 36 wks. Double Period

*Prerequisite: It is recommended that a student have an "A" average in English 7 or a "B" average in Honors English 7 and score advanced on the 6th grade Reading PSSA.
If borderline, a student should consult with his/her teacher or guidance counselor.*

An enriched English program is offered to recommended students with outstanding abilities in reading and language usage. The same basic concepts of the Academic English 8 courses are covered; however, it is an accelerated program in which more challenging pieces of literature are offered, more sophisticated language skills are stressed, and more mature and diversified writing is required. Several optional enrichment activities will be available for interested students.

HONORS GIFTED ENGLISH LANGUAGE 8 EG08

Grade 8 36 wks. Double Period

Prerequisite: Students must be in the Gifted Program. Students must also meet the criteria for Honors English 8

This intensified course will parallel the honors integrated language arts curriculum. Students will, however, have a more in-depth view of novels, poetry, and drama. Research writing and critical thinking skills will also be enforced. Considerable emphasis will also be placed on creativity and higher-level thinking skills. Field trips or guest speakers will be arranged whenever possible to enhance the curriculum.

READING

Butler Area School District has made a commitment to provide reading instruction to our students to allow for their success on the PSSA, the Keystone Exams, and in achieving the District graduation requirements. To identify the most appropriate reading program for each student, the principals and guidance counselors review the most recent student data to allow for informed decision-making. Consequently, changes to a student's reading program may occur.

All 6th, 7th, and 8th-grade students will be taking a double-period English Language Arts course. This will replace a separate English and Reading course.

Students requiring additional reading support will be enrolled in a supplemental reading program with a progression of levels for students to move through to acquire the necessary skills to meet their reading goals.

On-going assessment, including PSSA, NWEA, and course assessments will be utilized to determine reading needs. All of the skills required for a student to be a successful reader will be

incorporated into the lessons presented at each level: phonemic awareness; word recognition and spelling; vocabulary and word meaning; grammar and usage; listening and reading comprehension; speaking and writing skills.

READING SKILLS AND STRATEGIES

READING INTERVENTION

Grades, 6, 7, and 8

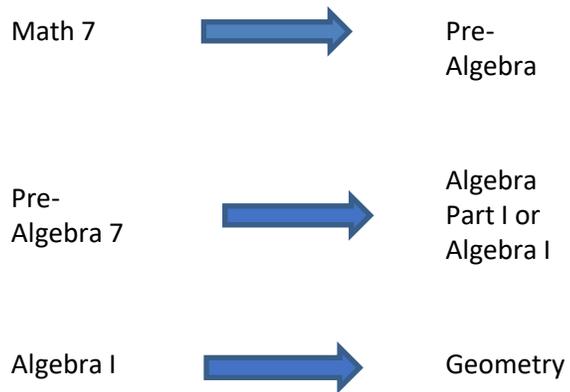
Students identified as requiring additional reading skills and Strategies to be successful on standardized tests are required to take this course.

Eligibility for Students Scheduling PSSA Reading Intervention		
Advanced		<hr style="border: 0; border-top: 1px solid black; margin-bottom: 5px;"/> Reading Intervention Eligibility Range <hr style="border: 0; border-top: 1px solid black; margin-top: 5px;"/>
Proficient		
Basic		
Below Basic		

This course is skills-based, addressing such areas as vocabulary, reading strategies, and test taking skills. The goal of this course is to assist students in acquiring the necessary skills to achieve a score of proficient on the PSSA Reading Assessment.

MATHEMATICS

Recommended Math Course Sequences Grades 7-8



**RECOMMENDED MATH PACING CHART
GRADE 8-12**

This chart represents the most commonly recommended course sequences in the math program; however, students may select an alternative course.

	SEQUENCE I	SEQUENCE II	SEQUENCE III	SEQUENCE IV	SEQUENCE V
8th Grade	Pre-Algebra	Algebra I Part I	Algebra I*	Algebra I	Geometry
9th Grade	Algebra I Part I	Algebra I Part II Or Algebra I	Algebra I*	Geometry or Honors Geometry	Honors Algebra II
10th Grade	Algebra I Part II*	Keystone Algebra or Geometry	Keystone Algebra or Geometry	Algebra II or Honors Algebra II	Honors Pre-Calculus
11th Grade	Keystone Algebra or Geometry	Geometry or Intro to Tech Math or Algebra II	Algebra III or Tech Math I Honors Pre-Calculus and/or Honors or AP Statistics	Algebra III or Tech Math I Honors Pre-Calculus and/or Honors or AP Statistics	AP Calculus AB and/or Honors or AP Statistics
12th Grade	Geometry or Algebra II or Intro to Tech Math	Intro to Tech Math or Algebra II Or Algebra III	Algebra II or Intro to Tech Math or Algebra III or Tech Math I	Algebra III or Pre-Calculus or AP Calculus AB and/or Honors or AP Statistics	AP Calculus BC and/or Honors or AP Statistics

At the end of 8th grade Algebra I, if a student does not demonstrate proficiency on the Keystone Algebra I Exam, that student must retake Algebra I. At the end of Algebra I or Algebra I Part II taken later than 8th grade, if a student does not demonstrate proficiency on the Keystone Algebra I Exam, that student must enroll in the Keystone Algebra course. In either case, a student may enroll in Geometry concurrently if the Keystone Exam score is in the top quarter of the Basic range and the Algebra I course grade is at least a "B".

MATHEMATICS 6
MA06

Grade 6 36 wks. Double period

Students will develop math skills that are aligned with the PA Common Core Standards. This course will prepare students for the Math PSSA Exam.

MATHEMATICS 7
MB07

Grade 7 36 wks. Basic to Low Average Level

Offered as two single periods (1 credit)

Prerequisite: Students should meet all of the following and have Teacher Recommendation:

1. Scoring a "C" average or lower for quarterly grades.
2. Reading below grade level.
3. Sixth grade concepts will be reviewed before studying seventh grade concepts.

This course is a 1-credit block divided into 2 single periods with the first period focusing on core instruction and the second period incorporating application, problem solving, intervention and enrichment opportunities.

Mathematics 7 will develop the concepts of proportional relationships, percents, integers, rational numbers, expressions, equations, inequalities, geometric figures, probability and statistics. Completion of this course leads to a Pre-Algebra course.

PRE-ALGEBRA, 7
MP07

Grade 7 36 wks. Average & Above Level

Offered as two single periods (1 credit)

Prerequisite: Students should meet all of the following and have Teacher Recommendation:

Scoring a C average or higher for quarterly grades.

*Reading at or above grade level.
Ready to use the skills from sixth grade independently within seventh grade problem solving.*

This course is a 1-credit block divided into 2 single periods with the first period focusing on core instruction and the second period incorporating application, problem solving, intervention and enrichment opportunities.

Pre-Algebra 7 will emphasize algebraic skills and concepts such as variables, equations, and problem solving over the set of real numbers. Other topics include: proportionality, linear relationships, data analysis, probability, and an introduction to geometry. This course is designed to prepare a student to take Algebra I the following year.

ALGEBRA I, 7
MAG7

Grade 7 36 wks. Honors Level
1.0 Credit (included on transcript)

Offered as two single periods

Prerequisite: Students should meet all of the following and have Teacher Recommendation:

1. Qualify for Pre-Algebra 7
2. Scoring at the highest levels in 6TH grade math
3. Demonstrating a superior work ethic and commitment to academics. (focus on math & science)
4. Completion of the Algebra 7 Bridge Program or Comparable Pre-Algebra course during the spring semester of sixth grade.

This course is a 1-credit block divided into 2 single periods with the first period focusing on core instruction and the second period incorporating application, problem solving, intervention and enrichment opportunities.

Algebra 7 is recommended for those students who excel in mathematics and are planning a post-

secondary education in science and math. This course consists of operations with real numbers and expressions (with radicals and polynomials), linear equations, linear inequalities, functions, coordinate geometry, data analysis and probability. Daily work outside of class will be an important component of this course.

Students in this course will be required to take the end-of-course Keystone Exam

STUDENTS SCORING BASIC OR BELOW ON THE KEYSTONE EXAM WILL BE REQUIRED TO REPEAT ALGEBRA I IN 8TH GRADE.

PRE-ALGEBRA, 8 MP08

Grade 8 36 wks. Basic to Low Average Level

Prerequisite: Teacher Recommendation.

Pre-Algebra 8 will emphasize basic algebraic skills and concepts such as variables, equations, and problem solving over the set of real numbers. Other topics include graphing in the coordinate plane, data analysis, probability and an introduction to geometry.

This course is designed to prepare students to take Algebra 1 Part 2 or Algebra 1 in 9th grade.

ALGEBRA I PART I MP18

Grade 8 36 wks.

Prerequisite: Teacher Recommendation.

This course consists of solving equations and inequalities in one and two variables, functions, linear relationships and systems of linear equations and inequalities. Problem solving techniques and real-world applications will be implemented through the course. **This course is designed to prepare a student to take Algebra I Part 2 or Algebra 1 in 9th grade.**

ALGEBRA I, 8 MAG8

Grade 8 36 wks. Average and Above Level
1.0 Credit

Prerequisite: Students need to be in Pre-Algebra 7th, have at least a "C" average or higher, and have Teacher Recommendation.

Algebra 8 consists of operations with real numbers and expressions (with radicals and polynomials), linear equations, linear inequalities, functions, coordinate geometry, data analysis and probability.

STUDENTS SCORING BASIC OR BELOW ON THE KEYSTONE EXAM WILL BE REQUIRED TO REPEAT ALGEBRA I IN 9TH GRADE.

HONORS GEOMETRY 8 MG30

Grades 8 36 wks. Honors Level
1.0 Credit

(towards GPA and High School transcript)

Honors Geometry 8 is designed to challenge the better academic student. The course explores geometric relationships through formal proofs. Figures studied include lines (parallel and perpendicular), angles, triangles, quadrilaterals, circles, and three-dimensional figures.

MUSIC

GENERAL MUSIC 6 GM 06

6th grade students will develop knowledge and skills related to the elements of music, the connection of music to history and culture, as well as music's many interdisciplinary connections. Topics studied in 6th grade general music include: beat vs. rhythm, treble and bass staff, note names, bucket drumming, ukulele, famous composers, and composition.

MUSIC ELECTIVES 6

Full year music electives are offered for 6th grade students during the advisory period. During scheduling, a separate selection sheet will be distributed to incoming 6th grade students. Students will have the option of selecting chorus 6, band 6, and/or orchestra 6. Grade 6 ensembles during advisory period.

GENERAL MUSIC 8 GM08

Grade 8 9 wks. All Levels

This course is intended to continue the exploration of various musical topics. Topics will be selected from the following categories: musical styles of the 20th century, musical theater, careers in music, keyboard instruments, exploring the keyboard through creative performance. During the study of these topics, students will explore various related composers.

MIXED CHORUS 7 NC07

Grade 7 36 wks. All Levels

This elective course is designed to provide students with a mixed vocal experience. The student is expected to actively participate in exploring and performing medium difficulty levels of Soprano/Alto/Baritone and Soprano/Alto/Tenor/Bass choral literature. Fundamental elements and techniques of vocal production and style, music reading, and rehearsal and performance skills will be stressed. Participation in an after-school concert (each semester) is a course requirement.

MIXED CHORUS 8 NC08

Grade 8 36 wks. All Levels

This elective course is designed to provide

students with a mixed vocal experience. The student is expected to actively participate in exploring and performing medium difficulty levels Of Soprano/Alto/Baritone and Soprano/Alto/Tenor/Bass choral literature. Fundamental elements and techniques of vocal production and style, music reading, and rehearsal and performance skills will be stressed. Participation in an after-school concert (each semester) is a course requirement.

STRING ORCHESTRA I

Grade 7 36 wks. All Levels
Prerequisite: Participated in Middle School Instrument program & have teacher recommendation.

This course is intended to offer the string student an ensemble experience while developing skills and knowledge of orchestral repertoire through the study of popular and classical music. Basic string techniques, music reading, and rehearsal and performing skills will be emphasized.

STRING ORCHESTRA II

Grade 8 36 wks. Intermediate to Advanced Levels
Prerequisite: Students must have participated in 7th grade orchestra or schedule an audition.

This course is intended to offer the string student an intermediate level ensemble experience while developing skills and knowledge of orchestral repertoire through the study of popular and classical music. This ensemble is for students who have proficient skills and knowledge on their instrument. Students will work on advanced orchestral skills such as shifting, bowing technique and phrasing. The purpose of this ensemble is to increase the student's overall musicianship and performance.

BAND I

Grade 7 36 wks. Basic Level

Prerequisite: Students must be participating in the middle school instrumental music program and have a teacher recommendation.

This is a performance ensemble designed for the student that has completed an entry level instrumental method or has some ensemble experience. The students will work on expanding their knowledge about their instrument, extending range and improving tone production. Students will work on complex rhythms, syncopation, cut time, 6/8, dynamics, articulation, basic phrasing, expression, introduction to sight-reading, and music terminology. Ensemble performance will be emphasized.

BAND II

Grade 8 36 wks. Int. to Advanced Level

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation, advanced skills on their instrument, ability to perform extended range, and two or more years advanced ensemble experience.

This is a performance ensemble designed for the student that has proficient skills and knowledge on their instrument. Students will work on sight-reading, enhanced technique such as trills, glissandos, grace notes, dynamics, and phrasing. Students will work on advanced techniques, articulation, and ear training. The purpose of this ensemble is to increase the student's knowledge of various musical styles, musicianship, and total performance.

SCIENCE

SCIENCE 6

SA06

Grade 6 36 wks.

Students will develop science skills that are aligned with the PA Common Core Standards. This course will prepare students for the Science PSSA Exam administered in 8th grade.

SCIENCE 7

SB07

Prerequisite: Admission to Basic Level Classes and teacher recommendation

Science 7 is a science survey course designed to meet the educational needs of students identified in the above prerequisites. Topics will include Life Science, Environmental Science, and the Nature of Science. Instruction of this course takes into consideration the learning needs of the struggling reader.

ACADEMIC SCIENCE 7

SA07

Grade 7 36 wks. Average Levels

Academic Science 7 is intended for students with an average interest and ability in science. The students will study Life Science, Environmental Science, and the Nature of Science. The course will be taught in lecture and laboratory settings.

HONORS SCIENCE 7

SH07

Grade 7 36 wks. Honors Level

Prerequisite: The student should earn an "A" average in 6th grade science, enrolling in Pre-Algebra 7, and have the recommendation of his/her science teacher.

Honors Science 7 is intended for students with a high level of ability and interest in science. The student will study Life Science, Environmental Science, and the Nature of Science.

**HONORS GIFTED
SCIENCE 7
SG07**

Grade 7 36 wks. Gifted Level

Prerequisite: Students must be in the Gifted Program. Students must also meet the criteria for Honors Science 7.

This intensified course will parallel the Honors Science 7 curriculum. Group and individual modifications are provided for gifted students.

**SCIENCE 8
SB08**

Grade 8 36 wks. Basic Level

Prerequisite: Admission to Basic Level Classes and teacher recommendation

Science 8 is a science survey course designed to meet the educational needs of students identified in the above prerequisites. Topics will include Physical Science, Space Science, and the Nature of Science. Instruction of this course takes into consideration the learning needs of the struggling reader.

**ACADEMIC SCIENCE 8
SA08**

Grade 8 36 wks. Average Levels

Academic Science 8 meets the needs of the majority of students. This course is a survey of Physical Science, Space Science, and the Nature of Science. The course will be taught in lecture and laboratory settings.

**HONORS SCIENCE 8
SH08**

Grade 8 36 wks. Honors Level

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation. Students should have taken Pre-Algebra, or Algebra I (with a "B" average). Also, an "A" average in Science 7 or a "B" average in Honors Science 7.

Honors Science 8, intended for students with a high level of ability and interest, includes a survey of Physical Science, Space Science and the Nature of Science. The course will be taught in lecture and laboratory settings.

**HONORS GIFTED SCIENCE 8
SG08**

Grade 8 36 wks. Gifted Level

Prerequisite: Gifted Student. Students should have taken Pre-Algebra or Algebra I with a "B" average, and have an "A" average in Science 7 or a "B" average in Honors Science 7.

This intensified course will parallel the Honors Science 8 curriculum. Group and individual modifications are provided for gifted students.

SOCIAL STUDIES

**HISTORY 6
HA06**

Grade 6 36 wks.

Students will develop history skills that are aligned with the PA Common Core Standards. Topics discussed will include an overview of ancient world history.

**AMERICAN HISTORY 7
HB07**

Grade 7 36 wks. Basic Level

Prerequisite: Admission to Basic Level Classes

This course is a survey of American history from the colonial period through the end of the American Civil War. The instruction level is geared to help those students who have difficulty reading and comprehending historical materials. Alternative learning materials may be used to compliment the textbook.

**ACADEMIC AMERICAN HISTORY 7
HA07**

Grade 7 36 wks. Average Level

This course provides the students with a chronological survey of American history from the colonial period to the conclusion of the American Civil War. The use of alternative textbooks and learning methods can be a part of this class. This course is designed to meet the needs of the majority of students.

**HONORS AMERICAN
HISTORY 7
HH07**

Grade 7 36 wks. Honors Level

Teacher Recommendation

It is recommended that a student have an "A" average in 6th grade Social Studies and score advanced on the 5th Grade

Reading PSSA. If borderline, the student should consult with his/her Social Studies and/or Reading teachers.

This course provides the students with a chronological survey of American history from the colonial period up to the conclusion of the American Civil War. This level is designed for those students with an interest in social studies, a motivational level higher than average, and an above-average reading ability.

**HONORS GIFTED AMERICAN HISTORY 7
HG07**

Grade 7 36 wks. Gifted Level

Prerequisite: Students must be in the Gifted Program. Students must also meet the criteria for Honors American History 7.

The course provides the student with a chronological survey of American history from the colonial period up to the end of the American Civil War. This course is designed for highly motivated students with a genuine interest and ability in the general area of Social Studies. Special project work and positive active involvement is class discussions will be expected of all class members. This class will also include selected enrichment activities.

**AMERICAN HISTORY 8
HB08**

Grade 8 36 wks. Basic Level

Prerequisite: Admission to Basic Level Classes

This course is a survey of American history from the Reconstruction Era and will conclude with an overview of the Cold War Era. The instructional level of this course is geared to help those students who have difficulty reading and comprehending historical material. Alternative learning materials may be used to compliment the textbook.

**ACADEMIC AMERICAN HISTORY 8
HA08**

Grade 8 36 wks. Average Level

This course will begin with the Reconstruction Era and will conclude with an overview of the Cold War Era. This course is designed to meet the needs of a majority of students.

**HONORS AMERICAN HISTORY 8
HH08**

Grade 8 36 wks. Honors Level

Teacher Recommendation

It is recommended that a student have an "A" average in Academic American History 7 and/or a "B" average in Honors

American History 7, and score advanced on the Reading PSSA. If borderline, the student should consult with his/her History teacher.

This course will begin with the Reconstruction Era and will conclude with an overview of the Cold War Era. This level is designed for those students with an interest in history, a motivational level higher than average, and an above-average reading ability.

**HONORS GIFTED AMERICAN HISTORY 8
HG08**

Grade 8 36 wks. Gifted Level

Prerequisite: Students must be in the Gifted Program. Students must also meet the criteria for Honors History 8.

The course will begin with the Reconstruction Era and conclude with an overview of the Cold War Era. This class will also include selected enrichment activities. This course is designed for highly motivated students with a genuine interest and ability in the general area of Social Studies. Positive active involvement in class discussions will be expected of all class members.

**SURVEY OF WORLD GEOGRAPHY
GB08**

Grade 8 9 wks. All Levels

All 8th grade students will take this course for a nine-week period. Students will increase their geographic literacy by engaging in a variety of activities as they learn about the physical and human characteristics of our world.

WORLD LANGUAGE

World Language study must begin in 8th grade in order to be eligible for the Advanced Placement class as a senior. Students who participate in a world language in 8th grade will also earn a humanities credit on their high school transcript.

Studying languages has been proven to be incredibly beneficial. It can improve general intelligence, decision-making skills, and increase empathy, among others. Knowing a world language will help to improve your cultural awareness, increase your ability to adapt to new situations, and make you a more confident communicator.

Furthermore, being fluent in a second language will increase your ability to find a new job and will increase your chances to negotiate a more desirable salary.

EXPLORATORY WORLD LANGUAGE LW07

Grade 7 9 wks. All Levels

This seventh-grade course is an introduction to the study of French, German, Latin, and Spanish. It explores the major aspects of language learning through reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Students engage in brief conversations and discover different cultures. This semester course prepares students to make an informed choice about future language study.

HONORS FRENCH I LF08

Grade 8 36 wks. Honors Level
1.0 credit

Prerequisite: The student must score a minimum of proficient in reading on the 6th grade PSSA, have an "A" in Exploratory Language and have the recommendation of his/her Exploratory Language teacher. Additionally, the student must maintain a score of proficient or above on the 7th grade Language Arts PSSA in order to be scheduled into level one of a foreign language.

This course develops communication skills in French by using basic phrases and familiarization with pronunciation. Students will participate in simple conversations. Reading and writing of the French language are introduced. Culture of the French-speaking world is illustrated through songs, films, and other audio-visual materials.

HONORS GERMAN I LG08

Grade 8 36 wks. Honors Level
1.0 credit

Prerequisite: The student must score a minimum of proficient in reading on the 6th grade PSSA, have an "A" in Exploratory Language and have the recommendation of his/her Exploratory Language teacher. Additionally, the student must maintain a score of proficient or above on the 7th grade

Language Arts PSSA in order to be scheduled into level one of a foreign language.

This course focuses on the German language through conversation, grammar, and vocabulary, with recognition of the significant contributions of the German people to Western civilization.

HONORS LATIN I LL08

Grade 8 36 wks. Honors Level
1.0 credit

Prerequisite: The student must score a minimum of proficient in reading on the 6th grade PSSA, have an "A" in Exploratory Language and have the recommendation of his/her Exploratory Language teacher. Additionally, the student must maintain a score of proficient or above on the 7th grade Language Arts PSSA in order to be scheduled into level one of a foreign language.

In this course, students will comprehend the Latin language on a novice level through practice in reading, writing, and speaking. They will relate Latin to English vocabulary and compare the structure of both languages. In addition, students will develop an understanding of the history and culture of the Romans, especially during the First Century A.D. in Pompeii.

HONORS SPANISH I LS08

Grade 8 36 wks. Honors Level
1.0 credit

Prerequisite: The student must score a minimum of proficient in reading on the 6th grade PSSA, have an "A" in Exploratory Language and have the recommendation of his/her Exploratory Language teacher. Additionally, the student must maintain a score of proficient or above on the 7th grade Language Arts PSSA in order to be scheduled into level one of a foreign language.

Spanish I presents an introduction to important vocabulary for everyday life and the basics of Spanish grammar and pronunciation. Personalized activities and cultural enlightenment lead students to relate Spanish to their own lives.

ENRICHMENT STUDIES PROGRAM

PROGRAM STATEMENT

PROGRAM STATEMENT: The Enrichment Studies Program (ESP) at Butler Intermediate High School is a regular education program, open to those seventh and eighth grade students who have earned the highest grades during their fifth, sixth, and seventh grade years. **The purpose of the program is to provide enrichment for students who are high-achievers and eager learners.**

ESP operates on a trimester schedule, allowing students to take three courses per year. (ESP students MUST commit to the program the ENTIRE school year).

ADMISSION PROCESS:

1. **Eighth Grade Students:** Students in ESP during seventh grade must meet the criteria for continued enrollment. Students will be ranked in descending order according to their Grade Point Average (GPA), based on grades from all of sixth grade and grades from the first half of seventh grade. The students will be notified of their eligibility once a cut-off is established that maximizes the available enrollment.
 2. **Seventh Grade Students:** Students will be ranked in descending order according to their Grade Point Average (GPA), based on grades from all of fifth grade and grades from the first half of sixth grade. The students will be notified of their eligibility once a cut-off is established that maximizes the available enrollment.
- Students who are not proficient on the PSSA tests are ineligible for admission to ESP regardless of their GPA.

ESP COURSE OFFERINGS:

Please be aware that changes may be made in the courses taught, the trimesters in which they are taught, and the staff who teach in this program at any time.

CalcuBot

Grades 7 & 8 – 1st and 2nd trimesters only

Students will create a “calcu-bot” by giving a graphing calculator wheels and using TI Basic programming to control that robot. Students will program their calcu-bot to perform tasks like measuring, drawing, and following a maze. The calcu-bot will allow the students to combine programming, logic, mathematics, and science to complete a variety of missions.

Civil Rights Movement

Grades 7 & 8 – all three trimesters

Students will examine the key events, people, and politics that defined an era of movement toward racial equality in the United States. The course will begin with the 1954 Supreme Court case of Brown vs. Board of Education and work toward the passage of the 1968 Civil Rights Act.

Creative Coding I

Grades 7 & 8 – 1st and 2nd trimesters only

Students work on Unit 3 of the code.org CS Discoveries Course to learn how to code Games and Animations. Coding involves block and text code using Javascript. Students complete projects to design animations with increasing complexity and end the course by designing an interactive game to share with their classmates. Both Creative Coding courses allow students the opportunity to code the Finch Robot from Birdbrain Technologies using Makecode.

Creative Coding II

Grades 7 & 8 – 3rd trimester only

Students must successfully complete Creative Coding I to take Creative Coding II. Students work on Units 4 and 2 of the code.org CS Discoveries Course to learn APP and Website Design. Students will transition from Javascript to HTML programming languages as they leave block code and use text-based coding practices. Projects will build to the creation of both an APP and a website of the student's choice. Completion of both Creative Coding courses provides an opportunity for superior readiness for the grades 9-12 programming course sequence. Successful completion of both Creative Coding I and Creative Coding II will earn students 0.5 elective credit in high school.

Drama

Grades 7 & 8 – 2nd trimester only *A separate application is required*

Students will learn and practice basic acting skills through improvisation games and dramatic reading. They will learn how to creatively develop a character, deal with stage fright, and speak clearly to a large audience. The culminating project will be the presentation of a play. Attendance and participation in the play is mandatory for this course.

Forensics

Grades 7 & 8 – all three trimesters

In this hands-on science course, students will learn about techniques used in detection of crime. The field of forensic science draws from a number of scientific branches, including physics, chemistry, and biology, with its focus being on the recognition, identification, and evaluation of physical evidence. Students will learn how to interpret data, report concise information, and examine physical evidence. Additionally, students will build on skills including critical thinking, group collaboration, predicting, inferring, and experimenting.

Interior Design

Grades 7 & 8 - 3rd trimester only

Introduce yourself to the world of interior design! See how colors, lines, and spacing impact a room. We will look at design eras and recreate room styles. Hands-on activities will be a large part of this class.

Intro to Adulting 101

“Intro to Adulting 101” is a course designed to help students learn the basic skills needed to thrive in society. Each lesson or activity will fit into one of the following categories: Responsible Student Skills, Character Building Skills, Domestic Skills, Financial Skills, Job Skills, Citizenship Skills, and Communication Skills. The purpose of this course is to begin to lay the groundwork necessary for students to be able to function successfully in society as adults. Students should expect to work through “real life experiences/scenarios” as they are completing the modules and lessons regarding each topic (sample job application, check writing, resume, budgeting checklist, and many more). This course will also incorporate a variety of financial literacy and life scenario board games.

Intro to Fashion

Grades 7 & 8 - 1st & 2nd trimester only

This is a project-based learning course. Students will study the history of fashion and develop fashion projects. We will look at trends, fashion icons, and design styles. There is a possibility that the students will be given the opportunity to work with the stagecraft ESP class; on helping to design and create costumes for the school plays.

It's Your World

Grade 8 – all three trimesters

This course is required for all ESP students in grade 8 during one of the trimesters. Students will improve their geographic literacy through discussions of current world events, practice with map skills, and lessons in cartography. Each student will create a map of the world, suitable for framing at home.

Maker Workshop

Grades 7 & 8 – third trimester only

Students will be introduced to design thinking, a methodology that encourages creativity and the solving of complex problems. They will work cooperatively in the IHS Makerspace to design, create, test, and evaluate various projects. Students will utilize STEM concepts to create with items such as cardboard, newspaper, plastic, and other repurposed materials. Projects may include a cardboard arcade, suspension bridge construction, and innovating solutions for global problems.

Musical Theatre

Grades 7 & 8 - third trimester only

Musical theatre is a true American born art form that might be the most fun genre of music! In this class, students will explore the composers, actors, and performances that have made Broadway music what it is today. Students will discover a million reasons to love performing in the art of the musical. Students will participate in a short musical review, during school, at the end of the trimester.

Myths and Legends

Students in Myths and Legends will explore themed stories from Greek, Roman, and Norse mythology, as well as stories from other world cultures and heritages. As a final project, students will write their own "modern myth" using conventions and characters from the stories presented throughout the rest of the course.

Public Speaking/Mock Trial

Grades 7 & 8 - all 3 trimesters

For the first half of the course, students will learn about verbal and nonverbal communication, build confidence in public speaking, and present regularly in various formats. Presentations will be graded on participation and growth throughout the course. Students will also learn self-reflection techniques to help them improve when practicing speaking on their own. The second half of the course will be dedicated to mock trial, a competitive academic extracurricular activity offered in the district. Students will take on the role of either attorney or witness, learn the basic rules and procedures of a mock trial, and practice active listening and improvisational response. There will be a trial at the end of the trimester in the auditorium.

Stagecraft

Grades 7 & 8 – 1st trimester only

Students will learn all aspects of backstage theatre, including lights, sound, sets, props, publicity, and costumes. Students will develop and produce a design for the After School Drama Club held 1st trimester and/or the ESP Drama production to be held in the 2nd trimester. Through this process, students will learn important technical skills and gain confidence in working behind the scenes of a theatre. Attendance at the 1st trimester production is mandatory for this course. Attendance at the 2nd trimester dramatic production is strongly encouraged for this course.

Tornado Connection

Grades 7 & 8 - all 3 trimesters

Students will develop, research, write, and publish a Butler Intermediate High school newsletter entitled "The Tornado Connection." This newsletter will be posted on the Intermediate High School's website each trimester to inform parents of policies, events, activities, and classes offered to students. Articles for this newsletter are based on facts and on research.

Other areas of journalism may also be explored, such as radio and television broadcasting. *The instructor will select a "Chief Editor" for each trimester based on applications expressing interest in repeating the course.*

TV/Video Production

Grades 7 & 8 - all 3 trimesters

Students will use camcorders and editing software to create, edit, and broadcast commercials for school events or initiatives. The students must be willing to be on camera during their tenure in TV/Video Production. Students will also learn the basic set up and functions of a TV broadcast studio. *Students who enroll in this course must have an Internet card indicating parental permission to use Internet resources in school.*

Yearbook

Grades 7 & 8 – all 3 trimesters

Students will produce the Butler Intermediate High School yearbook. Students in this course do everything involved in creating the yearbook, including sales, distribution, cover design and selection, photography, and page layout.

NOTES AND QUESTIONS
