

## **REQUIRED FULL YEAR COURSES**

### **Mathematics**

Meeting the Common Core State Standards, our eighth grade math course offerings are as follows:

-*Integrated Math 1*: This is a 9<sup>th</sup> grade equivalent math course that combines Algebra 1, Geometry, and Statistical Concepts together in a collaborative, problem solving, and group-based curriculum.

-*College Preparatory Math 8*: This course focuses on introduction to Algebra, Geometry, and Statistical concepts.

-*Math Lab*: This assigned course is determined by teacher recommendation.

Math Lab is taken in conjunction with College Prep Math (two math classes per day). This class is designed to support and pre-teach concepts and skills that are being taught in the College Prep class.

### **Science**

Students will apply their knowledge from previous years as they study changes in the Earth, energy transformations involved with chemical reactions in living systems, genetics and the impact of environmental conditions on organisms, and force, energy and motion. Students plan investigations, collect and analyze data, and use models to construct explanations in order to help explain the world around them.

### **Language Arts**

This course integrates the art of reading, writing, listening, and speaking in a number of projects throughout the year. Projects will be conducted in research, literary analysis, and personal narrative writing. Sentence structure, grammar, usage, and vocabulary will also be covered, along with the study of poetry, historical fiction, realistic fiction, and science fiction literary texts.

### **Social Studies**

Eighth grade social studies focuses on American history, encompassing the era of the U.S. Constitution up to and including the Reconstruction Era following the Civil War. In addition to studying the content as it pertains to economics, civics, and geography, emphasis is on developing the necessary organizational, study and thinking skills required in high school.

## **ELECTIVES – FULL YEAR**

### **World Language Full Year – counts as two electives**

Students will continue their studies of French, Chinese or Spanish from the seventh grade. Emphasis will be on continuing the development of listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills, as well as the understanding of the Chinese, French, or Spanish speaking people and their culture. NOTE: Students in French and Chinese courses will be expected to enter Level Two in high school. Spanish students are expected to enter Level Three in high school.

Chinese/French Grades 6-8 = Level One at BPS High Schools  
Spanish Grades 6-8 = Level One and Two at BPS High Schools

### **Music**

#### **Chorale (full year – counts as two electives)**

This advanced mixed choir is for the voice student whose goal is to be part of an outstanding musical performing group. This performing group is open to all 8<sup>th</sup> graders that have taken choir for at least 2 years. Choir is open to 8<sup>th</sup> grade students who have not participated in 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade. Foundational skills from 6th and 7th grade choir are improved. This full year elective has three school performances a year with the opportunity for more community events. Performances will often have opportunities for solo and small ensemble performances. Each Choir member also has the opportunity to attend a solo and ensemble festival to orient their performance to a more individual and small group setting. The Derby choir consistently receives superior, outstanding, and excellent ratings at our choral competitions every year and is recognized as one of the top choral programs in the State of Michigan. Attendance is required at all performances. \*PLEASE NOTE: *All students are welcome to join choir. If you would like to speak with the director, please contact John Hummel, Director of Choirs; [JHummel@birmingham.k12.mi.us](mailto:JHummel@birmingham.k12.mi.us)*

#### **Symphony Band (full year – counts as two electives)**

Symphony Band is for wind and percussion players whose goal it is to be a part of an outstanding musical performing group. This performing group is open to all 8<sup>th</sup> graders that have taken band for at least 2 years. The focus for this group will be on performance and continuing leadership and teamwork concepts. The band will participate in other special activities during the school year to build camaraderie within the group. Symphony band members will participate in various performances within the state of Michigan, Birmingham and Derby community. The band will perform through MSBOA (Michigan State Band and Orchestra Association) and students will have opportunities for honors bands, solo and ensemble and festival performances. 8<sup>th</sup> grade band is a pre requisite for joining the Seaholm High School Band. The band will participate in other special activities during the school year to build camaraderie within the group and develop

teamwork concepts. Each band member also has the opportunity to perform at MSBOA Solo and Ensemble Festival as a soloist or in a small ensemble. Symphony Band (full year – counts as two electives) students must complete 8<sup>th</sup> grade band in order to elect high school band the following year.

### **Symphony Orchestra (full year – counts as two electives)**

Symphony Orchestra is for string players whose goal it is to be a part of an outstanding musical performing group. This performing group is open to all 8<sup>th</sup> graders that have taken orchestra for at least 2 years. Symphony members will attend an orchestra festival in March, travel to Chicago for an overnight trip in May where they will perform competitively, attend Six Flags Amusement Park and see the sites in and around Chicago. The orchestra will plan several social events throughout the school year to build camaraderie within the group and develop teamwork concepts. Members of this ensemble will have an opportunity to perform with the Seaholm Orchestra in the annual “Masquerade” concert in October. Each orchestra member also has the opportunity to perform at MSBOA Solo and Ensemble Festival as a soloist or in a small chamber ensemble. For more information about the Derby Orchestra Program, please visit <http://www.derbyorchestra.weebly.com>.

## **ELECTIVES – ONE SEMESTER ONLY**

*\*Please understand that if you are signing up for a class that you have already taken in 7<sup>th</sup> grade, the curriculum will not be modified.*

### **ART**

#### **Art by Design (7th and**

#### **8th Grade One Semester)**

Art by Design is a course focusing on digital Graphic Design, Digital Photography and Computerized Art using the Adobe Creative Suites programs. Students in this class will utilize Adobe Illustrator and Adobe Photoshop and will work with Digital SLR cameras. Students will work with the Elements of Design and the Principles of Art. This class will primarily focus on small and large scale two dimensional art. Some projects may include: Typography, Vector Drawing, Cover Design, Poster Design, Digital Photography and Editing, Computerized Layout, and more. The highlights of this class will include: Digital Portfolio Development, Digital Photography and Editing, Logo Design and Development, Advertising, and Magazine/Book/Game/CD Cover Design, Computerized Portraits, and Typography designs. Students will be able to take home professionally printed copies of the work they create in class.

#### **Adventures in Art (7th and 8th Grade One Semester)**

Students will be exposed to a variety of two and three dimensional art work in this class. Experiences in this class will increase creative thinking skills. Some projects may include: Tessellations, the study of Art History, the study of Color Theory focusing on Monochromatic Acrylic Painting, Digital Photography, Large Scale Rubber Carving, and Water Based Printmaking. The highlights of this class will include: Silk Screening, Magazine Bowls, Metals with Etching and Letter Stamping, Dry Point Etching with Oil Based Printmaking, a Graphic Design project using Adobe Creative Suites: Adobe Illustrator and Adobe Photoshop, and more.

#### **Art Exploration (7th and 8th Grade One Semester)**

The course will increase students' skill levels in art with each unit presented. Students in this course will be exposed to, and will work with two and three dimensional works of art. Some projects may include: Sketchbooks, Color Theory and Watercolor Painting, Large Scale Clay vessels, Glazing, Triptych Rubber Carving and Water Based Printmaking, and the refinement of Drawing skills. The highlights of this class will include: Metals with Etching and Letter Stamping, Digital Photography with Computerized Art, and an Andy Warhol style Graphic Design project using Adobe Creative Suites: Adobe Illustrator and Adobe Photoshop, and more.

## **Engineering Technology**

### **Applied Engineering Technology**

This course is for 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade boys or girls who would like to further apply their skills in the exciting field of engineering. Individually, students will design and manufacture a robotic gripper to apply their knowledge of simple machines. In teams students will use a VEX robotic system to be introduced to the world of robotics in an engaging manner. Students will research, design, and manufacture an automated robot to meet a specific challenge.

Autodesk Inventor 3D CAD software is included with the VEX kits. This 3D software can be used by students to produce 3D mechanical designs, and to perform product simulations to test their design ideas before attempting fabrication of the actual model. This is a direct correlation to the real world; STEM is a prominent component of the entire process. No student is left behind, emphases is placed on the students' opportunity to work within their strengths to contribute to the team goal.

### **Computer Aided Design**

This course is for 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade boys and girls interested in engineering drawing and design. Students will be exposed to a variety of drawing techniques and computer aided design programs (2-D, 3-D, pattern development software) to learn the fundamentals of communicating engineering ideas. Students will demonstrate their communication and engineering skills through the development of a Magnetic Levitation Vehicle.

### **Exploring Engineering Technology**

This course is for 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade boys and girls who wish to continue the Engineering Technology experience. Students will enhance their knowledge of the engineering process through a variety of applications, including, but not limited to, computer drawing, CO2 car design

and fabrication and biotechnology. Students' engineering skills will be demonstrated when they race their CO2 cars in a competition against others in the class.

## **Life Skills**

### **Engage**

The design and purpose of this course is to provide a collaborative space for students to inquire, design and create through inquiry-based learning. Students will explore questions, challenges, topics or technologies of interest, at their own pace, and in directions of their choosing with the guidance of the teacher. Students will plan and reflect on their creations, processes, successes and difficulties through multimodal learning. The goal of this program is to prepare students for global learning opportunities by engaging their interest and imagination in science, technology, engineering, arts and math. Students will develop their cognitive processes of analysis, comparison, inference, evaluation, and synthesis applied to a range of academic domains and problem solving contexts.

### **Skills for Success**

This semester course is designed to give students practical experiences in food preparation and management. There is an emphasis on kitchen safety, utilizing different types of equipment, and kitchen math and measurement. Lab experiences build upon this knowledge throughout the semester as students move from preparing simple snacks, to learning about the differences in quick breads and yeast breads, to demonstrating knife cuts and proper usage when preparing and making stir fry; just to name a few! Financial literacy and nutrition topics are infused throughout the semester as well. Financial literacy provides basic understanding of needs versus wants and budgeting through the use of online simulations. Communication, decision making, problem solving, and positive social skills are the building blocks to success in this course.

## **Other**

### **Yearbook**

Eighth grade students have the opportunity to help record the history of Derby Middle School by enrolling in the Yearbook class. Students enrolled in the Yearbook class will create the Derby Yearbook from scratch. Yearbook will allow students to gain skills in areas such as drawn and computerized page design and layout, digital and manual photography, copywriting, headline creation and caption writing. Students will receive the opportunity to work with many technological programs using an online platform, and will learn to use programs such as Adobe Illustrator, Adobe Photoshop, and the Walsworth Yearbook Online Design program. Students will learn to apply the skills learned pertaining to deadlines, creativity and teamwork to their daily routines while creating a lasting school history.

### **Physical Education 8**

8<sup>th</sup> grade students only will participate in activities that are designed to help them understand and value physical fitness and its contribution towards a healthy lifestyle. They will also develop skills and game strategies in Frisbee golf, badminton and more traditional lifetime sports such as volleyball, soccer, basketball and swimming.

### **Directed Studies** *(Teacher/Counselor Recommendation Needed)*

Directed Studies is a course that is designed to provide students with additional support in their core classes that will focus on organization, study skills, assignment completion, and time management that will promote student achievement. \*Note — Directed Studies 6 students meet every other day for the whole school year. Directed Studies 7 and 8 students meet every day for one quarter, or one semester of the school year. *(The goal is to give students the skills/tools necessary to achieve and maintain passing grades at an independent level, so they can go into an available elective at the end of Q1, 2, or 3. The class is intended to be exited after one semester, or two at most.)*

### **Literacy RS 8 (Reading Specialist recommendation only)**

Literacy is a small group reading intervention that provides students with an opportunity to strengthen their vocabulary skills, practice fluency and focus on using comprehension strategies (inferring, making connections, questioning, visualizing, etc.) within narrative and informational texts. Students also have an opportunity to strengthen their writing skills through writer's workshop sessions. Students who qualify for this course are typically less than one year below grade level in reading and would benefit from additional reading instruction. There is no additional homework in this class. A certified Reading Specialist, who is a member of the district reading department, will instruct this course.

*\*Note – Literacy 8 students meet for one semester of the school year.*

**AARI** AARI is a semester-long, intensive intervention that accelerates reading comprehension and critical thinking in informational text. AARI emphasizes small group instruction that meets students where they are and accelerates their reading through instruction built around community, text-based inferencing and critical thinking, question/answer relationships, questioning the author and text structure. There is no additional homework in this class.. This course is taught by a trained AARI instructor. *(Teacher/Counselor Recommendation Needed)*

### **ASD/LRC LINKS**

Students may elect to work with students in the ASD or LRC program during an elective hour. Students will assist in supporting the students during academic and social skills activities and engage with the students during the 55 minute class. If a student is assigned to an Adaptive PE class they are expected to: Engage with the students during the 55 minute class, swim in the pool, participate in gym activities. All students will need a counselor recommendation to take this course. All students will be graded on a rubric system that will be on a Pass/Fail system.

### **Reading Enrichment**

This course is intended for already *strong readers* to enrich their reading skills through class discussions and inquiry-based projects about literature and topics of interest. Each of these inquiry-based projects requires students to read, write, research, and practice their critical thinking skills. Some of the projects that we have previously done include: creating book movie trailers, filming book character interviews, debating topics and books of interest, writing articles for the school newspaper after conducting research on a topic, etc. Students will be challenged to use critical thinking skills to dig deeper into texts in order to gain a greater understanding of what they are currently reading and/or have previously read. This course may require students to read additional novels/texts.

Revised 1/26/24

**Step 1** → **Choose One 8th Grade Language Arts Course**

Choose Language Arts (LA8) or Individualized Language Arts (INDLA678) by recommendation only.

- | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Course Name | Number   | Prerequisite Note                   |
|---|----------|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> INDLA678               | INDLA678 | Teacher recommendation is required. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lang Arts 8            | LA8      |                                     |

**Return to your Science  
Teacher by:  
Friday, February 9, 2024**

**Step 2** → **Choose One 8th Grade Math Course**

Please follow the recommendation of your current math teacher when selecting the math class for next year.

- | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Course Name | Number | Prerequisite Note                   |
|---|--------|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Integrated 1           | ING1   | Advanced Meth level.                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ind Math 678           | INDMA  | Teacher recommendation is required. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Math 8                 | MATH8  |                                     |

**Step 3** → **Choose 8th Grade Elective Courses**

Students must select **4 semester classes** from this list. *Year-long electives count as 2 semester classes.*

- | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Course Name | Number  | Prerequisite Note  |
|---|---------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Artbydesign            | ARTDES  | Graphic Design and Computerized Art  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Applied Eng            | AENGTC  | Robots   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adven In Art           | ADVART  | 2 and 3 Dimensional Art  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cad Design             | ENGCAD  | 3D printer and Maglev  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chin 8 Year            | CHIN8Y  | This is a year-long everyday class and counts as <b>2</b> electives. Should have taken Chinese 7.              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chorale Year           | CHORAY  | This is a year-long everyday class and counts as <b>2</b> electives.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Engage                 | ENAPP   | Engage students' interests and imaginations in science, technology, engineering, arts and math.                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Explore Art            | EXPART  | Explores different types of Art  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Explore Eng            | EENGTC  | C02 Cars   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fren 8 Year            | FREN8Y  | This is a year-long everyday class and counts as <b>2</b> electives. Should have taken French 7.               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Learning St8           | INDST8  | Teacher recommendation is required. This is a year-long everyday class and counts as <b>2</b> electives.       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Literacy 8             | LITRS8  | Teacher recommendation is required.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Math Lab 8             | MTHLAB8 | Teacher recommendation is required. This is a year-long everyday class and counts as <b>2</b> electives.       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Phy Ed 8               | PE8     |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reading Enrichment     | RE78    | Course for strong readers who want to enrich their reading skills through class discussion.                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Skillsuccess           | SFS     | Cooking and career research  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Span 8Year             | SPAN8Y  | This is a year-long everyday class and counts as <b>2</b> electives. Should have taken Spanish 7.              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DirectedStudies        | STRAT78 | Teacher / Counselor recommendation required.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Symphony Orc           | SYORCH  | Should have taken Orchestra in 7th grade. This is a year-long everyday class and counts as <b>2</b> electives. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Symphony Band          | SYBAND  | Should have taken Band in 7th grade. This is a year-long everyday class and counts as <b>2</b> electives.      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yearbook               | YEAR88  | Putting together the school yearbook   |

**Step 4** → **Choose 8th Grade Alternate Elective Courses**

All elective combinations are not possible, so please **carefully select 3 NEW alternates**. **DO NOT** include electives already selected. There is a high probability that one or more of these may be selected.

<input type="checkbox"/> Artbydesign	<input type="checkbox"/> Cad Design	<input type="checkbox"/> Explore Eng	<input type="checkbox"/> Skillsuccess
<input type="checkbox"/> Applied Eng	<input type="checkbox"/> Engage	<input type="checkbox"/> Phy Ed 8	<input type="checkbox"/> Yearbook
<input type="checkbox"/> Adven In Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Explore Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Reading Enrichment	<input type="checkbox"/>

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # and email: \_\_\_\_\_



Dear Dragon family/community,

Upon selecting 8th grade courses for next year on the sheet behind or above this one, please note the following as your signature on the next page is confirmation that you understand and are adhering to these guidelines:

- 1- Be sure to select your **next level/next year's** math and world language courses unless you have spoken to your teacher(s) and parent/guardian(s) about making a different selection.
- 2- Be sure to **choose electives that you are curious about or interested in**. It's a good idea to try different classes in middle school to learn more about what you do/don't like, what you're good at, and maybe not-so-good at. This will help you to better know what courses and/or career path you might want to choose for high school and/or beyond.
- 3- If you had a or multiple of **these classes last year: Skills for Success, Art or Engineering-** you should **not sign up for it/them again next year as a primary request**.
- 4- If you had any support classes (**Literacy, Math Lab, or Directed Studies**), **sign up for these again next year, unless you exited out of it this year with teacher permission**.
- 5- **Please carefully follow ALL other guidelines on the page behind this one!**

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding. 😊 If you disregard any of the above, you might have to be placed in a class that's not preferred by you. 😞

Additionally, please note that **we do not do "schedule change requests"** at the beginning of the school year, nor when new semesters and quarters begin **for these reasons:**

**\*Friends in different classes   \*Wanting a different teacher   \*Wanting a different time of day for a class**

**We do schedule changes** if there has been an error, or if there is a hole in your schedule/ a missing class. **Please notify your school counselor if there is an error or hole in your schedule as soon as you notice it so it can be corrected!**

Last, if you would like to read paragraph descriptions of the courses, please scan the QR code below or visit the Derby home page and click on Student Life, Counseling, then 8th grade. Thank you! With gratitude, Mr. Miller and Ms. Kelly/Derby Counseling



(you are already at the QR code since you're using the online version)