

# **BEAR BRANCH JUNIOR HIGH**



## **Course Description Handbook 2024-2025**

**Principal: Dr. Julia Venghaus**

**7th Grade Assistant Principal: Kimberly Williams**

**7th Grade Counselor: Gay Sherley**

**8th Grade Assistant Principal: Joshua Jacobs**

**8th Grade Counselor: Katie Simon**

**Academic Coordinator: Karley Hobbs**

Please note that a PREREQUISITE is a required course that must be COMPLETED before a student will be allowed to register for a course.

Pay careful attention when registering for full year (2 semester) courses. Students will NOT be allowed to drop such courses at mid-semester, even if they are failing. For example, you cannot drop choir, band, swim, etc. because these are full year, 1-credit courses. The majority of all core courses, along with foreign languages, are full year, 1-credit courses.

## **7<sup>th</sup> Grade ACADEMIC COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

### **7<sup>th</sup> Grade ENGLISH**

All seventh-graders are offered a Language Arts program that consists of both reading and writing skills. The program is designed to improve communication skills through the study of composition, grammar, research, vocabulary and literature. The emphasis of the writing program is the mastery of well-elaborated and well-organized content in essay answers, and compositions in a variety of modes including narrative, informative, argumentative and creative. The grammar strand supports the composition strands by focusing on understanding and correctly using sentence construction patterns in a variety of ways to reinforce the writer's message. The multigenre strand emphasizes literary analysis in a variety of genres, authors, and time periods including poetry, short stories, nonfiction, fiction and drama. Students develop higher order thinking skills as they analyze works of literature and as they synthesize their ideas into written and oral presentations.

### **7<sup>th</sup> Grade ADVANCED ENGLISH**

In addition to mastering the content of the grade-level classes at greater depth, sophistication, and faster pace, this challenging class requires the study of additional literary works, independent reading of one or more longer works, as well as an intensive study of vocabulary. To succeed in this accelerated course, students should be self-motivated, independent learners with strong reading skills.

### **7<sup>th</sup> Grade MATHEMATICS**

Seventh grade mathematics classes work with all concept strands of mathematics, with a special emphasis on numeration, operations, and problem solving with fractions, decimals, integers, and percent. The primary focal points at seventh grade are: using proportional relationships in number, geometry, measurement, and probability; applying addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division of decimals, fractions, and integers; using statistical data.

### **7<sup>th</sup> Grade ADVANCED MATHEMATICS**

This course is designed for a student preparing to take Algebra I his/her eighth grade year and four subsequent years of math in high school. Students will be studying Pre-Algebra, which is an 8th grade curriculum. They will be expected to have already mastered the seventh grade objectives and be ready for the subsequent grade level's topics and objectives. The student needs to be committed to the required workload and willing to seek help when needed. If a student did not take Pre-AP in sixth grade, he/she is responsible for learning any material that is a prerequisite for this class. The Pre-Algebra class completes all middle school mathematics topics and prepares students for the rigors Algebra 1. The Pre-Algebra program is for students desiring to take Algebra 1 in 8th grade and four years of mathematics in high school.

### **7<sup>th</sup> Grade TEXAS HISTORY**

This course provides an overview of the history of Texas from early times to the present. In depth study will include an awareness of the geographic influences on the development of Texas, an understanding of the successful struggle for Texas independence, an appreciation of the contributions of ethnic and racial groups in Texas, and an understanding of the economic growth and politics of modern Texas.

### **7<sup>th</sup> Grade ADVANCED TEXAS HISTORY**

This course involves students in higher level thinking skills as they study such concepts of interdependence, exploration, settlement, conquest, expansion, cultures, leadership, and literary developments.

### **7<sup>th</sup> Grade SCIENCE**

The seventh grade science course is an integrated science course that involves topics from life, earth, and physical science, and human systems. The course involves students in laboratory activities focusing on the behaviors of living organisms and natural phenomena as well as making accurate observations, collecting and analyzing data, and manipulating laboratory apparatus and material in a safe and economical way. Laboratory activities also include animal dissections and microscope observations. Special collections, library research, and short and long projects may also be required.

### **7<sup>th</sup> Grade ADVANCED SCIENCE**

This accelerated science course is designed for the student who has a special interest in science. The same general course is followed as in regular science; however, the scope is deeper, allowing students to probe areas of special interest. Extensive laboratory work, including dissection and microscope work, is used throughout the year to facilitate students' understanding of the concepts presented in the course. Higher level thinking skills are taught and students are encouraged to use them in creative problem-solving projects. Incorporated into the curriculum in appropriate places are activities involving collections and extended individual research projects. Students are reminded of the relationship of course work to situations facing them in the present and the future throughout current event reports, media presentations, and class discussions.

## **8<sup>th</sup> Grade ACADEMIC COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

### **8<sup>th</sup> Grade ENGLISH**

All eighth-graders are offered a Language Arts program that consists of both reading and writing skills. The program is designed to improve communication skills through the study of composition, grammar, vocabulary, research and literature. The emphasis of the writing program is to reinforce foundational composition and grammar skills as well as to add more sophisticated forms to the writing. The writing program consists of narrative, informative, argumentative and creative forms. The multigenre strand emphasizes literary analysis, reading comprehension, and vocabulary covering a variety of genres, authors, and time periods including poetry, short stories, nonfiction, fiction and drama. Students develop higher order thinking skills as they analyze literature for structure and content and as they synthesize their ideas into written and oral presentations.

### **8<sup>th</sup> Grade ADVANCED ENGLISH**

In addition to mastering the content of the grade-level classes, this challenging class requires the study of additional literary works, including independent reading of one or more novels, as well as an intensive study of vocabulary. To succeed in this accelerated course, students should be self-motivated, independent learners, and possess strong reading skills.

### **8<sup>th</sup> Grade MATHEMATICS**

Eighth grade on-level math classes are designed to prepare students with foundational skills needed for future success in Algebra I. Topics include: rational number operations; proportionality; percent; writing and solving equations; connecting equations to multiple representations including graphs and tables; transformations involving scale factor; geometric concepts including Pythagorean Theorem, similarity, volume and surface area of three-dimensional figures; and probability and statistical analysis.

### **8th Grade Algebra I (High School Credit)**

#### **Prerequisites:**

**Advanced Math Grade 6 and Advanced Math Grade 7.**

**Demonstrate readiness for Algebra I and mastery of essential skills by achieving the following:**

**Score a minimum of 258 on the Middle School Students in Texas Algebra Ready (MSTAR) by the end of Grade 7.**

**Score Meets or Masters on the State of Texas Assessment of Academic Readiness (STAAR) for Math Grade 7**

Algebra I is a course designed to provide a rigorous and in-depth study of algebra. Students will be expected to have already mastered the 7th and 8th grade math standards and be committed to the required workload and be willing to seek help when needed. Since this course counts towards high school credit, high school expectations and grading policies will be adhered to throughout the year. Students enrolled in an end of course subject area, such as Algebra I, will take the corresponding STAAR end of course (EOC) exam in May. Students must have taken Advanced Math as a 7th grader before taking Algebra I in 8th grade or score proficient on the corresponding credit by exam (CBE). The exam dates of CBE's are posted in the student handbook.

### **8<sup>th</sup> Grade UNITED STATES HISTORY**

This full year course surveys the history of the United States from exploration through Reconstruction, with an emphasis on developing critical thinking skills. This is achieved by analyzing the effects of economic, political, and cultural conditions on the development of the United States in each era of its history. Geography is also studied to determine its effect on settlement patterns and economic development of the various regions. With these broader goals in mind, students will study colonization, the struggle for independence, the creation of the new nation based on the Constitution, the Age of Jefferson, the Age of Jackson, westward expansion, early industrialization, the Civil War, and Reconstruction.

### **8<sup>th</sup> Grade ADVANCED UNITED STATES HISTORY**

This course is designed for students who are highly motivated and interested in a rigorous Social Studies program. Compared to an on level social studies course, this course typically moves at a faster pace, is more academically challenging, requires more independent learning and homework, and overall, has greater academic expectations on assignments. This course covers the topics studied in eighth grade social studies with an emphasis on the social, political, and economic events that shaped the present country. Study is enriched by advanced readings and activities to develop critical thinking. Students are expected to achieve a greater depth of understanding through thoughtful discussion and reading, as well as conducting in-depth research, preparing oral and written presentations, and projects based on individual and group research.

### **8<sup>th</sup> Grade SCIENCE**

This science course is an integrated science course that involves topics from life, earth, and physical science. Laboratory activities are designed to promote an understanding of basic concepts and theories through investigations and experimentation. Students acquire data using their senses and instrumentation. Observations are made of interactions among systems. The investigations performed emphasize accurate observations, collection of data, data analysis and the safe manipulations of laboratory apparatus and materials in the field and in the laboratory. In addition, special collections, library research, and short and long term projects may be required.

### **8<sup>th</sup> Grade ADVANCED SCIENCE**

This course is designed for the student who has special interests in science in general and in earth phenomena in particular. While the same textbook and course sequence is followed as in on-level science, the accelerated student is expected to probe more deeply and broadly into the subject matter using higher level thinking skills and creative problem solving. Laboratory activities, projects, and research will be assigned at a level appropriate to the students' abilities. Students will develop an awareness of the relationship of science coursework to the situation facing the world in the present and the future through current events, reports, media presentations, speakers, and class discussions.

## **7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> GRADE ELECTIVES**

### **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

The Magnolia Independent School District requires physical education. The student may elect to substitute athletic participation for MISD physical education requirements.

#### **P.E.**

**(P.E. is an elective option for 8th grade ONLY!)**

Students will be actively engaged in physical activity through cardiovascular activities, team sports, and lifetime/leisure sports. Students will increase knowledge and motor skills basic to efficient movement, experience rules, knowledge and basic skills in participation in individual, dual and team sports. They will understand the relationship of motivation and development of a high level of personal and physical fitness goals.

Students are required to wear a Magnolia ISD PE shirt. They can be purchased from the PE department. The shirt is \$10.00. Must provide shorts (blue, black or red). Leggings may be worn under shorts. PE is an ACTIVITY class. Students **must** dress out every day. **Tennis** shoes are a requirement daily. Their name should be on the bottom left corner of both t-shirt and shorts. Students may NOT put PE clothing on over their school clothing.

#### **Boys Athletics**

**\*\*Coach approval required**

This full year (2 semesters) program in athletics consists of specific skill training, agility, drills, weight training and cardiovascular endurance and is designed primarily to prepare the student for the specific competitive sport(s) in which the student participates. Participation in football is required to start the year in boy's athletics, teamwork, sportsmanship, self discipline, and development of individual talents are the main objectives of this course. Uniforms are provided, but each student must furnish his/her own shoes. Each student must provide a current physical examination, which must be turned in by the last day of the current school year. Physicals are required for participation in any try-out, practice, or game. All Practices will be held after school for all sports. Competition will take place outside the school day. Tryouts are held for basketball, tennis, track, and golf. Students representing the MISD and the University Interscholastic League in Athletics will also have athletic policies to which they must adhere. Eligibility must be maintained to participate in school sports.

**Eligibility must be maintained to participate in school sports.**

**\*\*New students will have one week to turn in a physical or they will be removed from the class.**

## **Girls Athletics**

## **\*\*Coach Approval Required**

This is a full year (2 semesters) program. The goal of Athletics is to develop student athletes with strength, skills, sportsmanship and leadership so that they may be successful in their academic endeavors. Athletics also promotes positive self-esteem, social skills, and encourages high expectations regarding academics. Participation in volleyball, cross country, basketball, golf, tennis and track (swimming is an all year offered through our off campus program) is required in order to be in Athletics. In order to participate, an athlete must have the following forms signed by a parent or guardian: UIL Physical Form - A new physical on the UIL approved form is required every year for participation in athletics. Physicals MUST be dated after April 1 of the current school year. NO EXCEPTIONS!! Forms are found at [www.rankone.com](http://www.rankone.com). Classes meet during the school day. Tryouts are held for volleyball, cross country, basketball, golf, tennis and track. Students representing the Magnolia Independent School District and University Interscholastic League will also have athletic policies to which they must adhere.

**Eligibility must be maintained to participate in school sports.**

**New students will have one week to turn in a physical or they will be removed from the class.**

## **Cross Country**

## **\*\*Coach approval required**

This (1 semester- Fall semester only) program is a sport in which teams and individuals run a 2 mile race on an open course over natural terrain such as dirt or grass. Your student would be in the 1st period Cross country class that will meet during the regular school day. Practice will be held before school and run into 1st period Cross Country class. The students will learn racing and training techniques, gain strength, speed and endurance through a running and cross country practice program. The students will gain knowledge of the sport of cross-country and demonstrate effective team building behaviors and strategies. Competitions will take place outside the school day. In order to participate, an athlete must have the following forms signed by a parent or guardian: UIL Physical Form - A new physical on the UIL approved form is required every year for participation in athletics. Physicals MUST be dated after April 1 of the current school year. NO EXCEPTIONS!! Forms are found at [www.rankone.com](http://www.rankone.com). Students representing the MISD and the University Interscholastic League in Athletics will also have athletic policies to which they must adhere.

**Eligibility must be maintained to participate in school sports.**

**\*\*New students will have one week to turn in a physical or they will be removed from the class.**

## **TENNIS**

## **\*8th Grade only boys and girls**

This (1 semester- Spring semester only) program consists of specific skill training, agility and some weight training. Teamwork, sportsmanship, self-discipline and development of each individual is one of the objectives in this class. \*\*Each student must have their own tennis shoes and tennis racquet. Your student will be in the 1st period tennis class that will meet during the regular school day and during the season they will stay after school for practice. The season starts in March after Spring Break and lasts 6 weeks. Students can still try-out for the Tennis season even if they are not in the Tennis class. Competition meets will take place outside the school day. In order to participate, an athlete must have the following forms signed by a parent or guardian: UIL Physical Form - A new physical on the UIL approved form is required every year for participation in athletics. Physicals MUST be dated after April 1 of the current school year. NO EXCEPTIONS!! Forms are found at [www.rankone.com](http://www.rankone.com).

**Eligibility must be maintained to participate in school sports.**

**\*\*New students will have one week to turn in a physical or they will be removed from the class.**

## **Color Guard (Level 1)**

This full year (2 semesters) performance art class that brings music to life with dance and equipment. Students in this class will learn choreographed shows to be performed at sporting events, pep rallies, and color guard showcases. Color Guard performers will be able to demonstrate an understanding of introductory dance and equipment spinning. The color guard class is open to ALL current 7th and 8th graders. **This course also meets the PE requirement in 7th grade.**

### **Color Guard (Level 2)**

This full year (2 semesters) performance art class for students that have completed Color Guard Level 1 and have teacher approval. An advanced level of dance and flag skills will be utilized as students learn choreographed shows to be performed at sporting events, pep rallies, and color guard showcases. See or email Ms. Easton for teacher approval at [veaston@magnoliaisd.org](mailto:veaston@magnoliaisd.org).

### **Off-Campus P.E. (Level 1)**

This full year (2 semesters) program is designed for students who are participating and/ or completing a **minimum of 15 hours per week** of highly intensive, professional, supervised training. Students must be enrolled in the course both semesters. The training facility, instructors, and the activities involved in the program must be certified by the superintendent to be of high exceptional quality. Students dismissed may not miss any class other than physical education. Students interested in this course need to contact the counselor. There is a \$100.00 fee for this course. The fee is due at the time of course registration. MISD reserves the right to change the amount of the fee at any time. The parent information and application are available on the school website.

### **Off-Campus P.E. (Level 2)**

This full year (2 semesters) program is designed for students who attend private or commercially sponsored physical activities. The training facility, instructors, and the activities involved in the program must be certified by the superintendent to be of high exceptional quality. Students must participate in a **minimum of five hours per week** and be enrolled in the course both semesters. Students may not be dismissed from any part of the regular school day and will be allowed to take an additional elective in place of their P.E. class. There is a \$100.00 fee for this course. MISD reserves the right to change the amount of the fee at any time. The parent information and application are available on the school website.

### **Off-Campus P.E. Swim**

This full year (2 semesters) program is designed to provide seventh and eighth grade students who have a goal to be on the high school swim team the opportunity to improve skills and conditioning. This course is designed to prepare students for swimming competitions as they move toward high school. There will be swimming competitions offered throughout the year. **This class does have a minimum swimming skill requirement in order to enroll in the program: The student must be able to perform/swim a legal 25 yards of backstroke AND freestyle in an evaluation with a current MAC coach, BEFORE being admitted into the program.** Students entering the class must understand that this is not like a PE class. It is much more physically demanding and will involve some out of water exercises like running and calisthenics. Students should be prepared to suit out and participate daily. Students will not be allowed to stay on their campus and miss this class. **Students that consistently do not dress out, do not fully participate, or are absent will be removed from the class/program.** Students who are in band, theater or other after-school activities will need to provide their own transportation back to their school if needed. Summer programs are also available to help students get ready for the upcoming school year. Bus transportation is provided for students over to the natatorium from the Junior High campuses for the last class period of the day. It is the parent's responsibility to pick their child up after practice at the pool by 3:30pm. This course provides a PE credit for seventh grade students and is an elective for eighth grade students.

#### **BEFORE students are approved/allowed to be in the class...**

- 1. The prospective student MUST pass a swim evaluation with a current MAC coach**
- 2. Fill out, sign and return the Acknowledgment of Rules and Regulations from the Junior High Swim OCPE Handbook**
- 3. Submit an online MISD OCPE application and pay the \$100 fee**
- 4. Purchase a Premium USA Swimming membership**
- 5. Join Magnolia Aquatic Club (with all applicable fees)**

\*Students enrolled in swim are expected to remain in swim for the entire school year. If a student is removed for disciplinary or non-participatory reasons, there are no refunds for any fees previously paid. It should be understood that the coaches working with your student are club coaches with the Magnolia Aquatic Club (MAC) and not necessarily an MISD teacher/coach. The program is run through the Magnolia Aquatic Club (MAC).

Please make sure you are aware that this an "Off-Campus PE Program," requires monthly coaching fees, MAC and USA Swimming annual registration fees, and entry fees for swim meets if attending.

**This is NOT a FREE program for students.**

There is an MISD Off Campus PE application and fee of \$100 required that is due to the school district by the deadline (typically early August) posted on the MISD website. That payment goes directly to Magnolia ISD and is paid by credit card when enrolling. Please visit the District's website for more information. **DO NOT complete the ISD application and pay without prior approval from MAC Head Coach (Coach McCauley) to enroll in the OCPE Swim program.**

**\*\*Tryouts will be held by appointment with a MAC coach and enrollment is limited.**

**\*\*To schedule your tryout, please email Coach McCauley at [mmccauley@magnoliaisd.org](mailto:mmccauley@magnoliaisd.org) or call 281-356-1106.**

## FINE ARTS

### Intro. Art

This one semester course is designed for the creative student who wants to learn a variety of art expressions with the proper use of art media and tools. BBJH Art is a disciplined based art program which focuses on art history, appreciation, evaluation, interpretation, and creation. Art students are introduced to each of the design elements and principles of art as well as to a variety of art periods. Through studio production projects, students are given hands-on, sequentially stepped art experiences to develop ways of expressing themselves through various mediums in the visual arts.

### Advanced Art

**\*\*Open to 7th and 8th Grade**

**Current Art Teacher Approval Required**

This full year (2 semesters) course is designed for the experienced art student who will take their individual prior skills and knowledge to the next level. Note: 8<sup>th</sup> graders previously enrolled in Advanced Art at the 7<sup>th</sup> grade level are encouraged to continue enrollment in Advanced Art in their 8<sup>th</sup> grade year. Curriculum and projects will be differentiated based on the individual art student. BBJH Advanced Art is a disciplined based art program which focuses on art history, appreciation, evaluation, interpretation and creation. Art students are introduced to each of the design elements and principles of art as well as to a variety of art periods. Through studio production projects students are given hands-on art experiences to develop ways of expressing themselves in the visual arts. Advanced Art students will create, develop and maintain a portfolio of their art studies and projects to continue their art development into their future higher educational experiences.

### Portfolio Studio Art Class

**8th Grade Only**

**1 high school credit**

**Prerequisites: 7<sup>th</sup> grade advanced art and teacher approval**

This class is designed to meet high school Art 1 TEKS. At the end of the school year, the student will produce a portfolio of original work that will be reviewed (see portfolio studio art rubric) by their 8<sup>th</sup> grade teacher and a representative faculty member at their zoned high school. By successfully completing all assignments, showing growth throughout the year, and fulfilling the portfolio requirements, the student will earn high school credit for Art 1 and continue on the Art 2 pathway their freshman year.

## CHOIR

Choir is designed for those interested in vocal performance. Vocal production, musical fundamentals and choral literature are emphasized. Students in all choirs will perform at seasonal concerts and various community events. Attendance at performances and extra rehearsals are required and is a major portion of the grade for this course. All students are welcome in choir! Auditions are required for each student's correct choir placement. There is a \$25 fee to take a choir class.

### Varsity Women's Choir

This full year (2 semesters) Fine Arts course gives the advanced female singer (7th or 8th grade) the opportunity to participate in a highly competitive performing ensemble. Singers are required to participate in UIL Solo and Ensemble (7th graders) and Region Choir Auditions (8th graders) and maintain eligibility for UIL group competition in the spring. Students receive training in sight-singing, harmonization, and performance skills. Solo opportunities are offered as well.

### **JV Women's Choir**

This full year (2 semesters) Fine Arts course is designed for the 7th or 8th grade intermediate female singer who desire to strengthen their skills in vocal production, sight-reading skills, and overall musicianship. Students are required to participate in UIL Solo and Ensemble or Region Choir auditions.

### **Beginning Women's Choir**

This full year (2 semesters) Fine Arts course is designed for 7th and 8th grade girls new to singing. In this class students learn about good vocal production and choral music skills. Musical Fundamentals and music reading skills are taught. Participation in UIL Solo and Ensemble and Region Choir are encouraged.

### **Advanced Men's Choir**

This full year (2 semesters) Fine Arts course gives the advanced male singer (7th or 8th grade) the opportunity to participate in a highly competitive performing ensemble. Singers are required to participate in UIL Solo and Ensemble (7th graders) and Region Choir Auditions (8th graders) and maintain eligibility for UIL group competition in the spring. Students receive training in sight-singing, harmonization, and performance skills. Solo opportunities are offered as well.

### **Beginning Men's Choir**

This full year (2 semesters) Fine Arts course is designed specifically for young men's changing voices and offers a welcome environment for developing pitch, sight-singing, and harmonization. Members of the choir are strongly encouraged to participate in UIL Solo and Ensemble contest and Region Choir auditions.

## **BAND**

All students are welcome to join the Bear Branch Band, even if you have never played an instrument! Students will select "Band" when registering for classes, and will play for the directors by the end of the school year to be assigned the band that best suits their current ability level. All band classes are a full year-long (2 semesters). Students that play a school owned instrument (oboe, bassoon, bass clarinet, tenor sax, bari sax, french horn, euphonium, tuba, select step up instruments, and percussion) are required to pay a \$100 instrument maintenance fee.

### **Beginner Band**

This full year (2 semesters) band course is designed for any 7th grader that was not able to take Beginner Band in 6th grade and has no prior knowledge of, or experience, playing an instrument. Instruments are provided by each family with a few exceptions that will be covered at the start of the instrument selection process, school instruments have a \$100 instrument maintenance fee. The Beginner Band will perform on concerts as appropriate for their development level at that time.

### **Concert Band II**

This full year (2 semesters) performing ensemble made up of 7th and 8th grades students that have at least one year experience playing their instrument. This class will focus on ensemble skills and individual performance skills. Students are strongly encouraged to participate in Solo & Ensemble Contest in the spring semester. They will also perform at Pep Rallies, Junior High Football games (unless they are playing football of course), JH night with the High School Band, Winter & Spring Concerts. Concert Band II members are required to attend all rehearsals and performances after school as scheduled. Private lessons are strongly encouraged.

### **Concert Band I**

This full year (2 semesters) performing ensemble made up of 7th and 8th grade students that have at least one year, or more, of experience playing their instrument. This class will focus on ensemble skills and individual performance skills. Students will prepare a solo in preparation for Solo & Ensemble Contest in the spring semester. They will also perform at Pep Rallies, Junior High Football games (unless they are playing football of course), JH night with the High School Band, Winter & Spring Concerts, Pre-UIL, as well as UIL Concert & Sight Reading Evaluation. Concert Band I members are required to attend all rehearsals and performances after school as scheduled. Private lessons are strongly encouraged.

### **Symphonic Band**

This full year (2 semesters) performing ensemble made up of 7th and 8th grade students that have at least one year, or more, of experience playing their instrument. This class will focus on ensemble skills and individual performance skills. Students are highly encouraged to participate in Region Band Auditions, and will also prepare a solo in preparation for Solo & Ensemble Contest in the spring semester. They will also perform at Pep Rallies, Junior High Football games (unless they are playing football of course), JH night with the High School Band, Winter



& Spring Concerts, Pre-UIL, as well as UIL Concert & Sight Reading Evaluation. Symphonic Band members are required to attend all after school section rehearsals, full band rehearsals, and performances as scheduled. Private lessons are strongly encouraged.

### **Wind Ensemble**

This full year (2 semesters) performing ensemble made up of 7th and 8th grade students that have at least one year, or more, of experience playing their instrument. This class will focus on ensemble skills and individual performance skills. Students will participate in Region Band Auditions, and will also prepare a solo in preparation for Solo & Ensemble Contest in the spring semester. They will also perform at Pep Rallies, Junior High Football games (unless they are playing football of course), JH night with the High School Band, Winter & Spring Concerts, Pre-UIL, as well as UIL Concert & Sight Reading Evaluation. Wind Ensemble members are required to attend all after school section rehearsals, full band rehearsals, and performances as scheduled. Private lessons are strongly encouraged.

### **Jazz Band**

This full year (2 semesters) performing ensemble offered to students that are enrolled in one of the following bands (Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, Concert Band I - with director approval). It is designed as a supplemental ensemble to their primary band class, and is a performance based class that includes the introduction of Jazz style, improvisation, and the history of Jazz. There will also be a variety of performance opportunities throughout the year.

## **THEATRE**

### **Intro. to Theatre Arts**

This one semester course serves as a general introduction to theatre arts. Students will learn pantomime skills, script writing, scene work, and theatre appreciation. This class will produce scenes for in-class performance.

### **Theatre Arts**

This is a full year (2 semesters) course. Through a variety of scene work and acting roles, students communicate in a dramatic form, make creative choices, solve problems and build a positive self-image. This is an overview of the theatre genre including theatre etiquette, technical theatre, acting, play-writing and theatre history. This includes working independently, with partners and in group settings and performing in class.

### **Theatre Design**

This one semester course explores the artistic aspects of theatre. Students will study the principles and elements of design and how they apply to the history and study of theatrical costuming, staging, publicity, make-up, sound and lighting. Students will participate in script analysis for design purposes. Practical applications are gained through various different creative hands-on projects. Students may be asked to bring some supplies and/or may be charged a small supply fee.

### **Theatre Production**

**Prerequisite: 8th grade only  
7th grade theatre and teacher approval**

This full year (2 semesters) course is an advanced level performance-based class designed for serious/motivated theatre students. Students will be responsible for ALL aspects of theatrical production including performance, set design, light and sound designs and operation, make-up, costuming, stage managing, and more. Students will perform for the student body as well as the general public and compete in the UIL One Act Play contest. Students will work extensively on character development and improvisational technique. Academic eligibility must be maintained to participate in UIL competition.

## **AGRICULTURE PORTALS**

**\*\*Students who show animals must be enrolled in at least one semester agriculture course.**

### **Introduction to Wildlife Management**

In this one semester course, students will learn primarily about North American wildlife. We will discuss management techniques, identification of many different species, ecology, and hunting and fishing laws and regulations. Along with those topics, we will venture through the Hunter Education Certification. If you choose to obtain this lifetime certification, there is a \$5 fee to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

### **Introduction to Large Animal Science**

Throughout this one semester course, students will be introduced to several species of livestock animals (cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, poultry and horses). Topics of breeds of livestock animals, history of animal use, housing equipment, nutrition, animal health and behavior.

### **Woodworking**

**\*8th grade only**

This one semester course serves as an introductory class designed to teach students basic woodworking skills and knowledge of hand and power tools. Topics of discussion include shop safety, hand tool identification, measurement, drafting and planning and creating projects. This is a very hands-on course and students will spend a lot of time working on projects in the shop.

## **FOREIGN LANGUAGE**

### **Spanish I**

**(High School Credit)**

**\*8<sup>th</sup> Grade only;**

**85 or higher in 7th grade Advanced English**

**90 or higher in 7th grade English**

**AND -**

**Score Masters or Meets on the 7th grade**

**STAAR Reading test.**

This full year (2 semesters) course includes a thorough study of grammar and its application while developing the necessary phonetic skills for oral communication. This class follows the same curriculum as the Spanish I course at Magnolia High School and completes one of the 2 or 3 Foreign Language credits needed for graduation. Upon successful completion of Spanish I, the student will receive high school credit.

**Priority placement for this course will be based on the following criteria:**

**85 and above in Advanced English with STAAR Reading Masters or Meets  
90 and above in English with STAAR Reading Masters**

**\*\*\*Students who sign up commit to enrolling in Advanced Spanish in High School in either AP or IB.**

## **CAREER PORTALS**

### **Digital Innovation**

This one semester course that instructs students in collaboration and innovation using Google's suite of applications such as Docs, Sheets, Slides, and much more. Students will learn effective collaboration on projects such as interactive story adventures, research techniques using Google Tools, technology and current events, search tools, and more. The skills that students learn in Digital Innovations will be used in high school, any post-secondary education, and the real world.

### **College and Career Readiness**

**(1 High School credit)**

**\*\*This semester course is required for all 8<sup>th</sup> graders that are taking at least one semester elective.**

With the passing of House Bill 5 in 2013, students now have more opportunities than ever to become college and career ready by choosing an endorsement to help focus their course of study in high school. The students go through a complete self-awareness process, followed by research of careers available to them, how to create their resumes and how to fill out a job application. They will learn basic skills like budgeting and many employability skills. Our mission is to provide students with a better understanding of the choices available to them so with the parent's help, they will create their Personal Graduation Plan and maximize their education. Whether our students choose to go to college, into the military, or straight to the workforce, it is the focus of College and Career Readiness to help students make good decisions based on goals they begin forming while in the class. High school counselors and guest speakers will also visit the class to help guide students in planning for high school and college and to spark their interest in different career paths.

### **Teen Leadership**

This one semester course students will learn to take responsibility, express themselves, and handle problems and decisions when they arise. Through role play, group activities, speeches, and projects, students will build personal responsibility and leadership skills. Students will learn how to work in and lead a team, manage conflicts, build healthy relationships, and become a better, more productive member of society. Students interested in acquiring practical skills to achieve success in and out of school, learning how to set and reach goals, and learning how to positively impact other people should take the course.

## COMPUTER SCIENCE/TECHNOLOGY PORTALS

### Digital Design

**\*8th Grade Only**

This one semester course is for 8th grade students who want to further understand how to design computer projects with a focus on video game design and animation. Students will design, program, and create functional video games and animations. Students will learn basic Computer Science concepts and programming through both block based and a mixture of text plus drag and drop environments in MIT's Scratch and GameSalad. Students will be creating, evaluating, and publishing games and other projects to further develop computing and computational thinking while developing 21st century skills. **Prior coding experience is highly recommended.**

### Introduction to Coding

This is a one semester course for 7th and 8th grade students who want to learn about basic computer programming. This course aims to develop computational thinking and basic Computer Science concepts while sharpening 21st century skills needed for real world careers. In this course, we will explore the core Computer Science concepts of algorithms, loops, functions, conditionals, variables and debugging. We will be working with MIT's Scratch to create basic programs, digital stories, creating websites using HTML and video games that rely on the concepts of event-driven programming. We will also explore Code.org, and discover how computer science is used in virtually all careers. No programming or coding experience is necessary to take this course.

### Introduction to Robotics

This semester long course is a project based learning opportunity for 7th and 8th graders. They will learn basic scratch coding, physics and engineering principles, and, of course, basic robotics skills. Students engage in multiple projects designed to teach them about the fantastic world of robotics. Any student interested in building, problem solving, or looking to get into S.T.E.M. fields after school should take this course.

### Advanced Robotics

This semester long course is open to 8th graders who have already taken, and excelled at, the Introductory Robotics course. Advanced robotics is designed to prepare students for robotics competitions. Students will have opportunities to travel outside of school for competitions, get exposure to many different types of robots, and advance their skills in all things robotics. This class is by invitation only at the end of a student's 7th grade year.

## General Electives

### Exploring Entrepreneurship

This is a one semester course for 8th grade students that focuses on understanding basic entrepreneurial concepts. Have you ever thought of starting your own business? Do you think you have an entrepreneurial mindset? In this class, you will be immersed in the real world of establishing and building a company. The course uses business practices and the practice of being an entrepreneur. Students will identify, develop and evaluate entrepreneurial opportunities, demonstrate effective communication, and understand the concepts, processes, systems, and strategies needed to successfully manage a business venture.

### Health

**(.5 High School Credit)**

This course is designed to provide basic health facts and ideas for today's needs and concerns. Material covered includes the five major systems of the human body, drugs (alcohol and tobacco included), and human reproduction.

### Student Aide

**\*\*8th grade only**

A student aide works in an office performing duties such as delivering information to teachers and students. A student must be willing to work in any area of the school. Student Aides receive grades, which reflect how well the student has handled assigned responsibilities. Students are subject to approval for this position by the school administration. Student aides must not have discipline, attendance, or tardy issues and must maintain good grades to be considered. Student aides must maintain passing grades, no discipline issues while being a student aide or they may be removed to another elective. Students who sign up but are not selected as student aides will be placed in their alternate elective choice. Spaces are limited, approval does not guarantee you will be assigned to student aide.

## INTERVENTION ELECTIVES

### **Accelerated Instruction**

This course is designed for students who did not meet the minimum passing standard for STAAR Reading and Math and/or struggle in reading and/or math. Students will be placed in a STAAR Prep class by the administration.

**\*\*Personnel changes at BBJH may dictate slight changes in course options.**

**\*\*Students that choose a semester elective that class does not make, will be placed in their alternate elective choice.**