

Believe in



Brittany Woods Middle School

Course Selection Guide

6th, 7th, 8th Grade

2025 - 2026

*Serve our students, support our community,
and change the world.*



Schedule Planning Guidelines

The School District of University City secondary schools offer a balanced program of required and elective subjects designed to prepare students to satisfy their personal and social needs as well as to meet the economic, civic and social demands of our complex world centered around problematize, humanize and personalize.

Some subjects are required of all students in the middle schools. These are subjects that provide basic understandings, knowledge, skills and attitudes that are the foundation of our social, civic and economic life. These subjects constitute the base of the broad educational program essential for all students.

The elective subjects provide opportunities for the exploration and development of new fields of interest and for the further development of special interests and abilities already discovered in elementary school. The elective program, like the required program, contributes to the general education of students, enriching the educational experience and strengthening self-confidence and poise through satisfying academic achievement.

Sound guidance in planning your program of studies is essential in both the middle and senior high schools. Among the elective subjects, select those that will contribute the most satisfaction to your personal goals.

Brittany Woods Middle School provides special sections of some classes for the purpose of adjusting the program to the ability and interest of students. Students are assigned to these classes on the basis of examination, previous records and staff recommendations. Teachers and counselors are available to help students plan their programs. Parents are encouraged to make an appointment to discuss any questions about program planning.

In planning a program, it is important to consider your non-academic workload when selecting your subjects. Club activities, music lessons, sports and home responsibilities are all important factors to consider when planning your schedule.

HIGH SCHOOL COURSES ON HIGH SCHOOL TRANSCRIPT

Algebra, Honors Geometry, Honors Algebra 2/Trigonometry and World Language 1A & 1B courses taken in middle school will appear on a student's high school transcript and will count towards credits needed for high school graduation, provided the student successfully passes an exit exam. Courses will appear as credit towards high school graduation and the grade will be included in the student's high school cumulative grade point average (GPA) calculation.

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COURSE OFFERINGS

REQUIRED COURSES

The following course categories are required and each make up one period of a student's eight-period schedule:

- Advisory
- English Language Arts
- Mathematics
- Physical Education/Health and Teen Outreach Program (TOP)
- Science
- Social Studies

ELECTIVE COURSES

Students may select elective courses from the following categories. Course offerings vary depending upon grade level.

- Art
- Aviation/Flight & Space
- Band
- Choir
- Computer Science
- Dance
- Drama
- Engineering
- French
- Latin
- Orchestra
- Public Speaking
- Spanish
- Sustainability
- World Cultures

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

REQUIRED COURSES

ADVISORY

Advisory 6, Advisory 7 or Advisory 8

Prerequisite: None

Students will have an advisory teacher who will serve as a support system to ensure that the student is remaining connected to school academically, socially and emotionally. During Advisory students will be tasked with building their social emotional skills, reading and writing stamina, and their Math and ELA comprehension.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

English Language Arts 6

Prerequisite: English Language Arts 5

In units built around the theme “Change,” students will: read work by Langston Hughes, John Steinbeck, and Sandra Cisneros; write narrative, explanatory, and argumentative texts; learn strategies for planning, drafting, revising, and editing their own writing; explore the fundamentals of research, including citations and how to evaluate the credibility of sources. By the end of the year, students will read and comprehend text at the appropriate level of complexity for 6th grade, with scaffolding and support as needed. Students will begin critically reading with complexity to capture their thinking to apply this new knowledge through informational, narrative, and argument writing. This writing will utilize transitions to clarify relationships, establish context, draw on several sources to answer a question, and support claim(s) with clear reasons and relevant evidence.

English Language Arts 7

Prerequisite: English Language Arts 6

In units built around the theme “Choice,” students will: read work by Nelson Mandela, Robert Frost, Sojourner Truth, and Shakespeare; learn close reading strategies to discover the explicit and implicit content of texts; write in argumentative, explanatory, and narrative modes; examine how ideas are conveyed in film and multimedia. By the end of the year, students will read and comprehend text at the appropriate level of text complexity for 7th grade, with scaffolding and support as needed. Students will improve their critical reading with levels of complexity to capture their thinking and use analysis skills to apply this new knowledge through informational, narrative, and argument writing. This writing will use transitions to create cohesion, establish a point of view, draw on several sources to answer focused questions, and support claims with logical reasoning and relevant evidence.

English Language Arts 8

Prerequisite: English Language Arts 7

In units built around the theme “Challenges,” students will: read work by Ray Bradbury and Walt Whitman, an essay about Civil War heroes, narratives about the Holocaust, and Elie Wiesel’s Nobel Prize acceptance speech; learn about the hero archetype and hero’s journey narratives; write narrative, explanatory, argumentative, and other texts; research an issue in current events and then create a multimedia presentation; read scenes from Shakespeare’s *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*, then watch the scenes on film and analyze how the adaptation differs from the source. By the end of the year, students will read and comprehend text at the appropriate level of text complexity for 8th grade, with scaffolding and support as needed. Students will improve their critical reading with levels of increased complexity to capture their thinking and use analytical skills to apply this new knowledge through informational, narrative, and argument writing. This writing will use varied transitions to create cohesion, establish a point of view, draw on several sources to answer focused and self-generated questions, and support claims with logical reasoning and relevant evidence.

MATHEMATICS

Mathematics 6

Prerequisite: Math 5

Students connect ratio and rate to whole number multiplication and division using concepts of ratio and rate to solve problems. Students gain an understanding of division of fractions and extend the notion of number to the system of rational numbers, which includes negative numbers. Students write and interpret mathematical problems using mathematical expressions and equations. Emphasis of sixth grade curriculum includes developing an understanding of statistical thinking.

Mathematics 7

Prerequisite: [District Placement Criteria](#)

Students develop an understanding of and learn how to apply proportional relationships. In this class students gain an understanding of operations with rational numbers and work with expressions and linear equations. Students draw inferences about populations based on samples and solve problems involving scale drawings, informal geometric constructions, and work with two- and three-dimensional shapes to solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume.

Mathematics 8

Prerequisite: [District Placement Criteria](#)

Students formulate and reason with expressions and equations, including modeling as association and bivariate data with a linear equation, and solve linear equations and systems of linear equations. Students grasp the concept of functions and use functions to describe quantitative relationships. In this course, students analyze two- and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence. Students gain an understanding and are able to apply the Pythagorean Theorem.

Algebra

Prerequisite: [District Placement Criteria](#)

Students learn relationships between quantities and reasoning with equations. Students engage in methods for analyzing, solving, and using quadratic functions. Students develop fluency in writing, interpreting, and translating between various forms of linear equations and inequalities and using them to solve problems. Students will learn function notation and develop the concepts of domain and range. They compare and contrast linear and exponential functions. Students explore systems of equations and inequalities. They interpret arithmetic sequences as linear functions and geometric sequences as exponential functions. They create and solve equations, inequalities, and systems of equations involving quadratic expressions. Students consider and create quadratic functions, comparing the key characteristics of quadratic functions to those of linear and exponential functions. Students expand their experience with functions to include more specialized functions—absolute value, step, and piecewise-defined. Students will use statistics to summarize, represent, and interpret data in real-world situations and understand that specific types of graphs are better at displaying different types of data.

Honors Geometry

Prerequisite: Algebra and [District Placement Criteria](#)

Students will explore more complex geometric situations and deepen their explanations of geometric relationships, moving towards formal mathematical arguments. Transformations are emphasized early in this course. Students will establish triangle congruence criteria. They use triangle congruence as a familiar foundation for the development of formal proof. Students prove theorems and solve problems about triangles, quadrilaterals, and other polygons; apply reasoning to complete geometric constructions and explain why they work; identify criteria for similarity of triangles, use similarity to solve problems, and apply similarity in right triangles to understand right triangle trigonometry, with particular attention to special right triangles and the Pythagorean theorem. Students will construct informal explanations of circumference, area, and volume formulas, use a rectangular coordinate system to verify geometric relationships and prove basic theorems about circles. Students will study relationships among segments on chords, secants, and tangents as an application of similarity and use the distance formula to write the equation of a circle when given the radius and the coordinates of its center. Students use the languages of set theory to expand their ability to compute and interpret theoretical and experimental probabilities for compound events, attending to mutually exclusive events, independent events, and conditional probability.

Honors Algebra 2/Trigonometry

Prerequisite: Algebra and [District Placement Criteria](#)

This course is intended for students with above-average mathematical and problem-solving skills and above-average grades in Algebra 1 and Honors Geometry. Students will study the concept of a function as it relates to algebraic, exponential, logarithmic, and trigonometric expressions. First-semester topics will include solutions of linear and quadratic equations, inequalities, and systems, operations with polynomials, rational and irrational expressions, and algebraic functions. Second-semester topics will include exponential, logarithmic, trigonometric functions, and trigonometric identities and equations.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical Education/Health 6 and Teen Outreach Program (TOP) 6, 7, 8

Prerequisite: Physical Education 5, 6, or 7

This course is designed to expose and instruct all students in the following activities: physical fitness testing, aerobic endurance, walking, jogging, soccer, volleyball, basketball, softball, track and field, cross country, recreational games, circuit training, flag football, floor hockey, and speedball. The total program will assist the student in making healthy decisions to develop a responsible, active, and enjoyable lifestyle.

In Health, students will focus on nutrition, exercise, healthy decisions, sports/lifetime activities, and injury prevention. Students will study the structure and function of the ten human body systems. A part of this unit will focus on sex education with parental permission.

Wyman's evidence-based Teen Outreach Program® (TOP®) is a positive youth development program designed to build teens' educational success, life and leadership skills, and healthy behaviors and relationships. Students participate in games and activities focusing on teamwork, communication, emotion management, and empathy. Students will also participate in Community Service Learning (CSL) projects and field trips to help out people in their communities.

SCIENCE

Science 6

Prerequisite: Science 5

Students will investigate the following essential questions: What is an ecosystem, and how do ecologists organize nature in order to understand it and solve problems? How do matter and energy move through ecosystems? What happens to an ecosystem when the environment changes? What are the characteristic properties and behaviors of waves? How does sound interact with various types of matter? What is light? How can we model how light interacts with various types of matter? What is thermal energy? How can thermal energy be transferred as heat? What is temperature? How is it related to thermal energy? How does the mass of a substance affect its temperature and thermal energy? What is the atmosphere? What factors affect the motion of the atmosphere? How do energy from the sun and the force of gravity cause water to cycle through Earth's systems? What is the relationship between atmospheric motion, oceanic circulation, and moisture distribution? What factors contribute to the climate of a region? Why does climate matter?

Science 7

Prerequisite: Science 6

Students will investigate the following essential questions: How can we measure, describe, and compare different types of materials? How can we explain changes in state of matter? How does adding or removing energy affect the pressure and volume of matter? How can the motion of Earth explain seasons and eclipses? What factors interact and influence weather and climate? How do organisms obtain and use matter and energy? How do organisms grow, develop, and reproduce? How can we as citizens use our understanding of Earth's processes and resource distribution to make informed decisions about how we consume Earth's materials?

Science 8

Prerequisite: Science 7

Students will investigate the following essential questions: How does mass affect motion? How do the speed and mass of an object affect kinetic energy? How do organisms grow and develop? What factors affect the growth of organisms? How has technology been used by humans to influence the inheritance of desired traits in organisms? How do advances in science and technology meet human needs? How do people figure out that the Earth and life on Earth have changed over time? How does the movement of tectonic plates impact the surface of Earth? How do organisms interact with other organisms in the physical environment to obtain matter and energy? How does genetic variation among organisms in a species affect survival and reproduction? How does the environment influence genetic traits in populations over multiple generations? How has the way humans use Earth's surface changed over time? What is the relationship between increases in human population, per capita consumption and land use changes on Earth?

SOCIAL STUDIES

Social Studies 6

Prerequisite: Social Studies 5

Social Studies 6 focuses on cultural geography, world history and emphasizes the study of geographic regions of the world. Students study the social, political, economic, and physical aspects of world geography. The study of world geography helps students gain a greater understanding of countries' locations, cultures, developments, relationships, and interdependence. Students will learn about the geography, culture, and history of medieval Europe and the empires and cultures of Africa and Asia. World History introduces students to the world's earliest cultures. It examines the geography and history of the ancient cultures of Egypt, Mesopotamia, India, China, Greece, Rome, Japan, Africa, Arabia, and the Americas.

Social Studies 7

Prerequisite: Social Studies 6

Social Studies 7 focuses on the earth and its cultures through the study of geography, economics, and government. It brings an understanding of how the earth's physical features and the cultural features of its inhabitants are intertwined. A good understanding of the earth and its people living in distinctive physical settings and particular cultures will create a global understanding of today's issues, thus creating a citizen more equipped to function effectively in a diverse world.

Social Studies 8

Prerequisite: Social Studies 7

Social Studies 8 focuses on American History. This is an in-depth course of study covering the development of United States history from pre-Columbian to the Reconstruction Period. The content and activities will connect America's rich heritage to students' lives today and to their futures.

ELECTIVE COURSES

Students have the opportunity to select courses of interest. Sixth grade options include a combination of quarter and year long courses, with a maximum of eight quarter-long courses to be scheduled. This allows sixth grade students to explore courses that transition to semester and year long classes as seventh and eighth graders. Students will be notified by their counselor and assigned an alternate choice if scheduling adjustments are necessary.

SIXTH GRADE

Fine Arts - Quarter Courses

- Art Wheel
- Drama Wheel

Performing Arts – Full Year Courses

- 6th Grade Band (Beginning)
- 6th Grade Choir
- 6th Grade Orchestra (Beginning)
- 6th Grade Orchestra

Practical Arts - Quarter Courses

- Aviation/Flight & Space Wheel
- Computer Science Discoveries I Wheel
- Sustainability Wheel

World Languages - Quarter Courses

- French Wheel
- Latin Wheel
- Spanish Wheel

SEVENTH GRADE

Fine Arts – Semester Courses

- Art 1, 2D (Digital Art and Drawing)
- Art 2, 2D (Digital Art and Drawing)
- Art 1, 3D (Ceramics and Sculpture)
- Art 2, 3D (Ceramics and Sculpture)
- Drama 1

Performing Arts – Full Year Courses

- 7th Grade Band
- 7th Grade Choir
- 7th Grade Orchestra
- Dance 1

Practical Arts – Semester Courses

- Computer Science: Innovators & Makers (PLTW)
- Design & Modeling (PLTW)
- Sustainability 1
- Sustainability 2

Practical Arts – Full Year Course

- Entrepreneurship

World Languages – Full Year Courses

- French 1A*
- Latin 1A*
- Spanish 1A*

* For World Language courses, a passing grade in both 1A and 1B level classes are required in order to enroll in Level II at the high school level. A proficient score on a final exam will be taken to determine transcript credit.

EIGHTH GRADE

Fine Arts – Semester Courses

- Art 1, 2D (Digital Art and Drawing)
- Art 2, 2D (Digital Art and Drawing)
- Art 1, 3D (Ceramics and Sculpture)
- Art 2, 3D (Ceramics and Sculpture)
- Drama 1
- Drama 2
- Public Speaking
- World Cultures

Performing Arts – Full Year Courses

- 8th Grade Band
- 8th Grade Choir
- 8th Grade Orchestra
- Dance 1
- Dance 2

Practical Arts – Semester Courses

- App Creator (PLTW)
- Automation & Robotics (PLTW)
- Sustainability 1
- Sustainability 2

Practical Arts – Full Year Course

- Entrepreneurship

World Languages – Full Year Courses

- French 1B*
- Latin 1B*
- Spanish 1B*

* For World Language courses, a passing grade in both 1A and 1B level classes are required in order to enroll in Level II at the high school level. A proficient score on a final exam will be taken to determine transcript credit.

FINE ARTS

ART

Art Wheel (Quarter, 6th Grade)

Prerequisite: None

Students will explore a variety of art media and techniques while producing 2 and 3-dimensional works of art. Students will learn about historically important artists and art themes and use the elements and principles of art to create and evaluate their work.

Art 1, 2D (Digital Art and Drawing) (Semester, 7th & 8th Grade)

Prerequisite: None

Students will learn to find inspiration, create ideas, and express their thoughts and feelings about a given theme. Students will use a variety of media, especially digital art, photography, drawing, and other 2D media to create illustrations, and graphic design artwork. Students will create, display, and evaluate their artwork based on the Studio Habits of Mind.

Art 2, 2D (Digital Art and Drawing) (Semester, 7th & 8th Grade)

Prerequisite: Passing grade of C or higher in Art 1, 2D (Digital Art and Drawing)

With a strong foundation in ideation and creation, students will develop deeper understandings of the art world and how they can contribute to it with their own portfolio. Students will use a variety of media, especially digital art, photography, drawing, and other 2D media to create illustrations, posters and graphic design artwork. Students will create, display, and evaluate their artwork based on the Studio Habits of Mind.

Art 1, 3D (Ceramics & Sculpture)(Semester, 7th & 8th Grade)

Prerequisite: None

Students will learn to find inspiration, create ideas, and express their thoughts and feelings about a given theme. Students will use a variety of media, especially clay and other 3D media to create sculptures and art pieces. Students will create, display, and evaluate their artwork based on the Studio Habits of Mind.

Art 2, 3D (Ceramics & Sculpture) (Semester, 7th & 8th Grade)

Prerequisite: Passing grade of C or higher in Art 1, 3D (Ceramics & Sculpture)

With a strong foundation in ideation and creation, students will develop deeper understandings of the art world and how they can contribute to it with their own portfolio. Students will use a variety of media, especially clay and other 3D media to create sculptures and art pieces. Students will create, display, and evaluate their artwork based on the Studio Habits of Mind.

DRAMA

Drama Wheel (Quarter, 6th Grade)

Prerequisite: None

Students will explore three areas of the theater arts. First, students will examine the rich traditions and history of theater in world cultures. Students will also investigate the steps to producing a dramatic production and the roles different individuals take to produce a play. Finally, the students will be introduced to techniques of how the body and voice are used in acting. Students are required to participate in class acting projects.

Drama 1 (Semester, 7th and 8th grade)

Prerequisite: None

Students will continue to build tools in their actor's toolbox in this course. Memorization and performing with others will be the target of this class. Students will learn more in depth about performance with the history of Shakespeare, improvisation, script writing and analysis, storytelling and lastly production. In this hands-on performance based class, students will be taking to the stage in their final presentation of a One-Act play demonstrating their knowledge of the semester. Performance is required in this course.

Drama 2 (Semester, 8th grade)

Prerequisite: Drama 1, Passing grade of C or higher in Drama 1

Students in Drama 2 will continue to build tools in their actor's toolbox in this heavy performance arts class. Drama 2 is considered a production class where students during the semester will be demonstrating their knowledge of acting on the stage by performing in play productions. Students will also be participating in units such as Children's Theatre where they will travel to the elementary schools and put on a children's theme production. Students will also expand their writing skills by writing their own scripts and stepping in the director's role by directing their own one act play. Performance and auditioning for school productions are required in this course.

PERFORMING ARTS

DANCE

Dance 1 (Year, 7th and 8th grade)

Prerequisite: None

Designed as an introduction to dance, basic vocabulary and principles will be established. Routines in ballet, tap, modern and jazz are learned for dancers to develop their musicality, and to advance their performance skills and dance techniques. Combinations will be kept simple, with the emphasis on poise, rhythm and self-discipline. Principles related to body alignment, muscle control, timing and spatial awareness will be investigated as well. Student projects will include one dance critique, and one performance. Participation is mandatory.

Dance 2 (Year, 8th grade)

Prerequisite: Passing grade in Dance 1 and/or teacher recommendation

The class progresses as an extension from Dance I. Dance II begins with the demarcation of various dance styles: ballet, modern, jazz, tap, and hip-hop. Turns, hops, jumps, and leaps are introduced at this level. Students will take a more mature and disciplined approach toward their dance techniques, possessing cogent performance skills with a strong understanding of poise, rhythm and self-discipline. Principles related to proper body placement, musicality, muscle control, and spatial awareness will be expanded. Student projects will include two dance critiques, and two performances. Participation is mandatory.

MUSIC

BAND

Beginning Band 6 (Year)

Prerequisite: None

Emphasis in Band 6 will be placed on the fundamentals of embouchure, posture, proper maintenance and care of instruments, and tone. Individual playing skills, effective at-home practice, music reading, and ensemble performance techniques will be introduced throughout the year. Students will “try out” on instruments during their 5th grade year to determine the best fit between instrument and student. Instrumentation and placement of instruments may need to be controlled by the director in order to have an acceptable balance of sound. Attendance is required at all rehearsals and performances.

Beginning Band 7 (Year)

Prerequisite: None

This class is designed for students in 7th grade who are interested in band, but were unable to take band in 6th grade. Emphasis in Beginning Band 7 will focus on the same fundamentals and techniques developed in Band 6, but at a more accelerated pace. Students will learn fundamental playing techniques as a full group, then move to smaller, like-instrument groups for the remainder of the semester. Students will take a series of tests throughout the course to determine their ability to transition to Intermediate Band Year 7. All band students are required to rent their own instrument either through a company or the school.

Intermediate Band 7 (Year)

Prerequisite: Band 6 or Beginning Band 7

Emphasis in Intermediate Band 7 will be placed on developing fundamental embouchure, posture, and tone in order to increase range, dexterity, and endurance. Intermediate technical skills will be introduced. Solo and ensemble tone quality, musical styles, listening skills, and ensemble techniques are explored more fully, and increasingly challenging literature will be introduced. Attendance at all performances and rehearsals is required.

All band students are required to rent their own instrument either through a company or the school.

Band 8 (Year)

Prerequisite: Intermediate Band 7

Emphasis in Band Year 8 will be placed on developing advanced technical skills, tone production, solo and ensemble technique, and endurance. More diverse musical styles will be explored in this class. More advanced music theory concepts and increased individual, section, and ensemble expression will be introduced through the playing of challenging concert band repertoire. Increased performance opportunities are available and encouraged. Attendance at all rehearsals and performances is required. All band students are required to rent their own instrument either through a company or the school.

CHOIR

Beginning Choir 6 (Year)

Prerequisite: None

Choir 6 is open to all sixth grade students who wish to improve their ability to sing. Various styles of music will be studied with an emphasis on music reading and part singing. Student skills in vocal production, general musicianship, and concert etiquette will be developed. This choir will perform in concerts throughout the year. Choir 6 continues the development of musical knowledge and skills and encourages growth towards personal and ensemble potential. Attendance is required at all performances.

Choir 7 (Year)

Prerequisite: Choir 6

Choir 7 provides an opportunity for students to develop musically within a choral ensemble. Various styles of music will be studied with an emphasis on sight singing, vocal production, concert etiquette, and performance technique. An understanding of musical elements and terminology is reinforced. This choir will perform in various concerts throughout the year. Attendance is required at all performances.

Choir 8 (Year)

Prerequisite: Choir 6 or Choir 7

Choir 8 provides an opportunity for students to develop musically within a choral ensemble. Various styles of music will be studied with an emphasis on sight singing, vocal production, concert etiquette, and performance technique. An understanding of musical elements and terminology is reinforced. This choir will perform in various concerts throughout the year. Attendance is required at all performances.

ORCHESTRA

Beginning 6th Grade Orchestra (Year)

Prerequisite: None

6th grade Beginning Orchestra is open to all incoming 6th grade students. In this course, students will learn about one of the four string instruments; violin, viola, cello, or string bass. Students will learn the technique of holding and playing the instrument, reading music, discovering music history, and writing music theory. All orchestra students are required to perform in several school-sponsored concerts throughout the year. All orchestra students are required to rent their own instrument either through the school or through a company. There is no prior music experience necessary to enroll in this course.

6th Grade Orchestra (Year)

Prerequisite: Student participation in the University City Strings Program since 4th grade, previous participation in a Strings program and/or audition.

Orchestra is offered to entering 6th Orchestra students as a continuation for students with previous orchestral experience. The concepts learned in this course are extensions of 4th and 5th grade strings classes. These concepts include time and key signatures, complex rhythms, quick note

reading, sight reading, and a variety of musical literature, history, and listening activities. Students are required to practice at home weekly and to attend concerts outside of school hours.

Orchestra 7 (Year)

Prerequisite: 6th Grade Orchestra or 6th Grade Beginner Orchestra

Orchestra is offered to 7th grade Orchestra students as a continuation for students with previous orchestral experience. Students will continue to improve their overall musicianship and talent with their instrument through playing solo, small ensemble, and large ensemble music. Students have the opportunity to explore and develop the artist and musician they want to become. We will explore the diverse string orchestra tradition around the world and other genres. All orchestra students are required to perform in several school-sponsored concerts throughout the year. All orchestra students are required to rent their own instrument either through a company or the school.

Orchestra 8 (Year)

Prerequisite: Orchestra 7 or 6th Grade Beginner Orchestra

Orchestra is offered to 8th Orchestra students as a continuation for students with previous orchestral experience. Students will continue to improve their overall musicianship and talent and prepare for high school orchestra. Students have the opportunity to explore and continue developing the artist and musician they want to become. We will explore the diverse string orchestra tradition around the world and other genres. All orchestra students are required to perform in several school-sponsored concerts throughout the year. All orchestra students are required to rent their own instrument either through a company or the school.

PRACTICAL ARTS

BUSINESS

Entrepreneurship/NFTE (Year, 7th and 8th grade)

Prerequisite: None

Through the creation of their own company, students will focus on product development, sales concepts, customer service, budgeting/financial management, and negotiation practices. The real-world business experiences discussed will increase student's critical thinking, problem-solving and decision making skills.

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Computer Science Discoveries I Wheel (Quarter, 6th Grade)

Prerequisite: None

Students will discover the languages powering the web, build their own websites in HTML and CSS using Web Lab and practice valuable programming skills such as debugging and commenting. Students will program animations, interactive art and games in Game Lab. Students will use Code.Org Discoveries Curriculum Units 1 & 2.

Computer Science for Innovators and Makers (Project Lead The Way, Semester, 7th Grade)

Prerequisite: None

This course will allow students to discover computer science concepts and skills by creating personally relevant, tangible, and shareable projects. Throughout the course, students will learn about programming for the physical world by blending hardware design and software development. They will design and develop a physical computing device, interactive art installation, or wearable, and plan and develop code for microcontrollers that bring their physical designs to life. Physical computing projects will promote student awareness of interactive systems, including Internet of Things (IoT) devices, and broaden their understanding of abstract computer science concepts through meaningful and authentic applications. Students will also be introduced to the world of Robotics. We will learn how to code and debug Robots in order for the Robots to be interactive with the students. The students will also be introduced to Minecraft for Education to continue to build on collaboration, creative thinking, problem-solving and the use of strategy.

App Creators (Project Lead The Way, Semester, 8th Grade)

Prerequisite: None

This course will expose students to computer science by computationally analyzing and developing solutions to authentic problems through mobile app development, and will convey the positive impact of the application of computer science to other disciplines and to society.

ENGINEERING

Aviation Wheel (Quarter, 6th Grade)

Prerequisite: None

Students will be introduced to design and engineering processes and the technical knowledge and skills necessary for project construction. Students will also have the opportunity to examine and dismantle existing technology such as cell phones to further understand the design process. Code.org unit 6 will be integrated within this course.

Design and Modeling (Project Lead The Way, Semester, 7th Grade)

Prerequisite: None

Students will begin to recognize the value of an engineering notebook to document and capture their ideas. Students are introduced to and use the design process to solve problems and understand the influence that creative and innovative design has on our lives. Students will use industry standard 3D modeling software to create a virtual image of their designs and produce a portfolio to showcase their creative solutions.

Automation and Robotics (Project Lead The Way, Semester, 8th Grade)

Prerequisite: None

Students will trace the history, development, and influence of automation and robotics. They will learn about mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation, and computer control systems. Students use a robust robotics platform to design, build, and program a solution to solve an existing problem.

PUBLIC SPEAKING

Public Speaking (Semester, 8th grade)

Prerequisite: None

Students will learn the fundamentals of communication and public speaking. In this course, students will learn about verbal and nonverbal communication, the communication cycle and the importance of audience consideration prior to developing speeches. Students will construct speeches centered around the 4 basic themes of to instruct, inform, to demonstrate and lastly persuade. Performance is required in the form of speaking to an audience.

SUSTAINABILITY

Sustainability Wheel (Quarter, 6th Grade)

Prerequisite: None

The word “sustain” means to strengthen or support. In this course, sixth graders will look at ways they can work toward not only a sustainable environment, but also the social and economic factors that allow or prevent living things from thriving. In particular, we will examine what sixth grade humans need in order to have balanced and meaningful lives. This fun, hands-on class will follow student interests and we will be in the garden when possible. Be ready to go outside (rain or shine) and get your hands in the dirt!

Sustainability 1 (Semester, 7th and 8th grade)

Prerequisite: None

What kind of a future do you want for yourself? For your community? For your planet? Sustainability One combines hands-on learning, work outside, and discussion. Students will leave this class with a working understanding of sustainable economics, the power of ownership, and techniques for sound decision making about their resources. They should be ready to question authority and “the way things have always been.” This is a physical class and depending on the season, kids will plant, tend and harvest our food gardens. Expect to use tools, solve real world problems and work with others. We are also dedicated to taking breaks and celebrating our wins. Work Hard. Play Hard. Think Hard.

Sustainability 2 (Semester, 7th and 8th grade)

Prerequisite: Sustainability I

This course builds on the sustainable economics, social empowerment, and environmental focus of Sustainability One. We’ll look at how traditional ways of thinking have created devastating world problems and the steps we can take RIGHT NOW to create change. Much of this course is student-led, independent study. There is a special focus on entrepreneurship and students will leave with experience in leadership, event organization, business communication, and sustainable project development. This is a physical class and students serve as lead garden planners, using heavier duty tools and equipment. Interested participants will be trained as beekeepers and will receive a family membership to Eastern Missouri Beekeeping Association. Work Hard. Play Hard. Think Hard.

WORLD CULTURES

World Cultures (Semester, 8th grade)

Prerequisite: None

Expand your boundaries! Explore the world through student-directed, hands-on learning and out-of-class experiences. For each quarter you will complete a Project Based Learning event in which you will research information and write a paper. Then you will get to present what you learned and what you have created. During each part of the semester you will be exploring one of the four topics offered, for a total of two topics to share at the Culminating Event. The four topics that may be covered are: Adventures in Sports and Gaming, Festivals and Celebrations, Global Cuisine, and Artistic Creations.

WORLD LANGUAGES

Students who take languages starting in middle school see improvements in their ability to read and write in their home language and are much more comfortable with their continued language studying beyond middle school. The world language programs at Brittany Woods offer students the opportunity to begin learning French, Latin, and Spanish. Although the 6th grade language courses are not a prerequisite for 7th grade courses, students are encouraged to explore all three languages in their sixth grade year before selecting a language of focus in their 7th grade year. This allows them to sample the different concepts, learn about the cultures, and experience the learning styles of the modern and classical languages.

Students who take the 7th and 8th grade courses in the same language have a chance to earn high school credit and can be eligible for the Missouri Pathways Award.

FRENCH

French Wheel (Quarter, 6th Grade)

Prerequisite: None

This course will give students an introduction to key concepts in French from grammar and vocabulary to culture and geography. Designed for middle-school students, the course will encourage students to use French for communication and self-expression and make acquiring a second language a natural, personal, enjoyable and rewarding experience. Although this course is not a prerequisite for the 7th grade course, students who are interested in language study should consider taking all three languages in 6th grade. This allows them to sample the different concepts and choose the language they want to commit to for 7th grade.

French 1A (Year, 7th grade)

Prerequisite: None

This is the beginning course of a two-year sequence, which introduces basic grammar and vocabulary. Activities will include exercises from the texts, worksheets, and oral activities designed to increase proficiency, dialogue, and enhance the study of language and culture. Successful completion of French 1A is required to take French 1B in 8th grade.

French 1B (Year, 8th grade)

Prerequisite: French 1A

This course is the second course of the two-year sequence. Students will continue with French grammar and vocabulary, as well as building their speaking and writing skills. Activities will include exercises from the text, worksheets, reading of dialogues, oral activities, and the teaming of students to encourage oral proficiency. Students will explore culture through video, discussion, special projects and presentations.

A passing grade in both French 1A and French 1B are required in order to enroll in French II at the high school level. A proficient score on a final exam will be taken to determine transcript credit.

LATIN

Latin Wheel (Quarter, 6th Grade)

Prerequisite: None

Latin Exploratory is an introductory class on the ancient Romans-their language, culture, mythology, and influences. What is it that made Rome one of the most dominant societies humanity has ever seen, and how have the Romans left their impact on our day-to-day lives even today, 2,000 years later? Through the study of Latin and ancient Roman culture, students will begin to learn the language that makes up 50% of our English vocabulary and the culture we can't escape even today. The study of Latin has been shown to improve English reading comprehension and ACT/SAT exam scores. Additionally, students gain invaluable experience in thoughtfully exploring other cultures, while developing analytical and critical thinking. Learn about the original language of Roman mythology in Latin Exploratory! Although this course is not a prerequisite for the 7th grade course, students who are interested in language study should consider taking all three languages in 6th grade. This allows them to sample the different concepts and choose the language they want to commit to for 7th grade.

Latin 1A (Year, 7th grade)

Prerequisite: None

Students complete the first part of a two-year sequence. Begin learning to read, write, and speak in Latin, a language which has influenced the vocabulary and grammar of many of our modern languages, including English. Alongside the study of Latin, students will learn about ancient Roman culture and the ancient world, exploring subjects that include Roman mythology, architecture, family life, geography, education, and more! Successful completion of Latin 1A is required to take Latin 1B in 8th grade.

Latin 1B (Year, 8th grade)

Prerequisite: Latin 1A

Students complete the second and final part of a two -year sequence, completing the full Latin I curriculum. Continue learning to read, write, and speak in Latin. Students delve deeper into the Latin language and begin to read slightly more complex Latin stories as their understanding of the language evolves. Alongside the study of Latin, students will learn about ancient Roman culture and the ancient world, exploring subjects that include Roman poetry, Homer's Iliad, the Olympians, Roman forms of government.

A passing grade in both Latin 1A and Latin 1B are required in order to enroll in Latin II at the high school level. A proficient score on a final exam will be taken to determine transcript credit.

SPANISH

Spanish Wheel (Quarter, 6th Grade)

Prerequisite: None

Spanish Exploratory will give the student an introduction to key concepts from grammar and vocabulary to culture and geography. Designed for middle-school students, the course will encourage students to use Spanish for communication and self-expression and make acquiring a

second language a natural, personal, enjoyable and rewarding experience. Although this course is not a prerequisite for the 7th grade course, students who are interested in language study should consider taking all three languages in 6th grade. This allows them to sample the different concepts and choose the language they want to commit to for 7th grade.

Spanish 1A (Year, 7th grade)

Prerequisite: None

This first year course focuses on the teaching of basic sentence structure and vocabulary and developing listening, speaking, writing and reading skills. Students will participate in special projects, activities, songs, games, sampling of Hispanic foods and classroom presentations made by visiting native speakers. Successful completion of Spanish 1A is required to take Spanish 1B in 8th grade.

Spanish 1B (Year, 8th grade)

Prerequisite: Spanish 1A

This is a second year Spanish course, which continues the studies and activities introduced in 7th Grade Spanish. There is increased emphasis on the spoken language and exercises using structure and vocabulary.

A passing grade in both Spanish 1A and Spanish 1B are required in order to enroll in Spanish II at the high school level. A proficient score on a final exam will be taken to determine transcript credit.

Course Progressions for World Languages

6th Grade - Take all three languages to help make an informed decision for following year

9th Grade - Take level II of same language in high school

7th Grade - Take 1A for your selected language

10th Grade - Take level III of same language

8th Grade - Take 1B for the same language (*Apply for Pathways Award)

11th Grade - Take level IV of same language

12th Grade - Take level V of same language (*Apply for Seal of Biliteracy)

How to Apply for the Pathways Award in 8th Grade

This award gives recognition to students who are on the path towards being proficient in two languages and is part of the University City Seal of Biliteracy Award (granted to qualifying graduating seniors).

Students may apply for the Pathways Award in the Fall of 8th grade while enrolled in a 1B language course. Throughout 8th grade, students will work to maintain a “B” or higher in their ELA class and language class. In the Spring of 8th grade, a Cultural Competency Project must be completed with a score of Proficient.

OTHER COURSES OFFERINGS 6-8

English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)

Prerequisite: Missouri English Learner Identification and Placement

The ML/EL (Multilingual/English Learner) Specialists provide specialized instruction to build and improve English language and academic skills of ML/ELs. Services may be provided in a variety of settings with ML/EL success in their coursework in mind. ML/ELs are evaluated annually with the WIDA ACCESS assessment to measure their progress in English.

Math Intervention (Year, 6th, 7th & 8th Grade)

Prerequisite: District Placement Criteria

Math Intervention provides a small group atmosphere with focused math instruction, high levels of engagement and coordinated interactions. Lessons and activities supplement the general education curriculum.

Reading Development (Year, 6th, 7th & 8th Grade)

Prerequisite: District Placement Criteria

Reading Development is designed to meet the needs of striving readers in need of developing foundational reading skills. The class has a maximum of fifteen (15) students. Reading assessment scores are used to place students into the course and identify areas of need and the program Language Live is used to provide instruction and support.

Special Education

Prerequisite: District Placement Criteria

Special School District staff provide Special Education services for any student who currently has an Individualized Education Plan (IEP). Academic and/or behavioral services may be implemented in a variety of settings based upon the student's individual needs. Settings may include consultative monitoring, class-within-a-class or special education classes. Students who receive Special Education services may follow a modified schedule in order to maintain their individualized program. Scheduling is based upon each student's IEP.

Talented & Gifted Development (TAGD)

Prerequisite: District Placement Criteria

This course is designed for the self-motivated gifted student who is ready for extra challenges. Students are selected based on the Cognitive Abilities Test scores in conjunction with assessments in creativity, critical thinking, and spatial reasoning. Current district benchmarks are also used. The course includes more in-depth research, reading, writing and individual responsibility for progress.

Brittany Woods Middle School

8125 Groby Rd.

University City, MO 63130

(314) 290-4280

ADMINISTRATION AND SUPPORT

Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Sharonica Hardin-Bartley

Principal

Mr. Justin Davis

Assistant Principal 6th

Dr. Yvonne Rooks

Assistant Principal 7th

Ms. Ife Williams

Assistant Principal 8th

Mr. Darrin Young

Special School District Area Coordinator, 6-12

Ms. Bri'Ana Martin

Director of Pk-12 College and Career Readiness

Ms. Susan Hill

School Counselor 6th

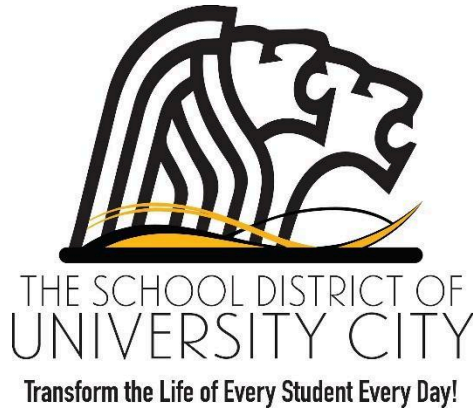
Mrs. Crystal Webb

School Counselor 7th

Ms. Kristin Collins

School Counselor 8th

Ms. Kellie Willis



<https://www.ucityschools.org/brittanywoods>

