Berkshire Middle School

2025/2026 Course Selection Guide

Main Office
www.berkshireschools.org

Administration
Mrs. Mandy Randles, Principal 5th-8th
Mr. Shaun Forbes, Assistant Principal 5th-8th

Counselor
Mrs. Cindy Metzung

Office Staff
Ms. Barb Sugarman
Mrs. Michell Durosko

Dear Families and Students,

This course selection guide is designed to provide students, parents, and staff with an overview of the curriculum of Berkshire Middle School. This guide should assist students in selecting courses for next year and in planning their program of study in Middle School. Other pertinent information is contained in this book, including athletic eligibility. It is essential that you carefully read and understand the descriptions of the courses you select. ***Remember that any courses taken for high school credit will be included on the high school transcript and will be calculated into the high school grade point average.***

We urge students to take advantage of the educational opportunities that are available. The Middle School years are significant for planning for the future. Working together, we can make a better future and ensure *Berkshire students will have every opportunity to maximize their potential as an individual and a responsible citizen.* Families, your involvement is crucial in making the scheduling process positive and effective for your child.

College Credit Plus (CCP)

7th and 8th-grade students who meet the eligibility requirements have the opportunity to take college classes for both college credit and high school credit, free of charge. A letter of Intent must be submitted by April 1st of the year before entry to access this opportunity. Information about the CCP program may be found on the district website.

If you have any questions regarding scheduling, please call the guidance office at 440-834-3380 X 1103 or email cindy.metzung@berkshireschools.org

Sincerely,

Mrs. Cindy Metzung
Middle School Counselor

FAQs about Middle School Schedule

- In the first column, what does 1A, 1B, 2A, 2B..etc mean?
  This is a code for Infinite Campus and is only used for coding purposes…you can disregard this column.

- Across the top of the schedule, it has the column heading Term GR1, Term GR2, Term GR3 and Term GR4. What does that mean? ***This means grading periods 1,2,3 and 4.***

- Student ID numbers are used for lunch codes. You can add funds to lunch accounts in Infinite Campus.

- Please make sure your address is correct on top of the schedule.

- The column below Term GR1 is the first quarter rotation.

- There are no times on their schedules but students will rotate their classes on a bell schedule.

- Band or choir is attended daily throughout the entire year.

- Art, PE, Technology, Cultural Studies, Band, and Choir are called Encore Classes (Specials).

- Students will rotate Art, PE, Cultural Studies, and Technology classes quarterly and attend every day during that quarter.

- Core Classes (Math, Social Studies, Science, and English) are around 60 min each and are attended daily.

- Strategies for Success is a “no new instruction” period for students to work or receive interventions.

- Your child will report to their “homeroom teacher” for Strategies.

- Lunch is 30 minutes with a recreation time built in halfway if they would like to go outside or to the gym.

- The homeroom teachers are listed at the bottom of the schedules, however, students will not attend homeroom at the end of the day.

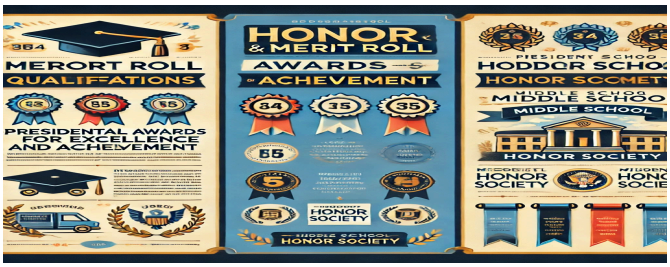
- When students arrive at school in the morning, they will report directly to their first-period class by 8:00 am. Students will be dismissed from their last-period class at 3:10.

Other frequently asked questions…

- Students will bring their supplies to Open House OR on the first day of school. They can store them in the lockers.

- Cell phones need to be silenced in their lockers and are not permitted to be used during the school day.

Open House will be held before the first day of school. The date will be announced and advertised.



HONOR AND MERIT ROLL QUALIFICATIONS

Students with a minimum 3.4 grade point average* and no course grade lower than a 70% in any nine (9) week grading period, qualify for the Honor Roll.

Students with a 3.00 to 3.399 grade point average* and no course grade lower than a 60% in any nine (9) week grading period, qualify for the Merit Roll.

Grade Point Average - To calculate the grade point average earned by a student, divide the quality points (A=4, B=3, C=2, D=1, F=0) by the number of course credits attempted. For more information about G.P.A.s, contact your student's guidance counselor.

PRESIDENTIAL AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE AND ACHIEVEMENT (8th Grade)

Achievement
The President's Award for Educational Achievement is a great honor for our 8th Graders. Students receiving this award must demonstrate high educational achievement throughout grades 5th-8th. Students receiving this award have received a 3.5 or higher throughout these grade levels.

Excellence
The President's Award for Educational Excellence is a great honor for our 8th Graders. Students receiving this award must demonstrate high educational achievement throughout grades 5th-8th. Students receiving this award have received all A's throughout these grade levels.

MIDDLE SCHOOL HONOR SOCIETY REQUIREMENTS (7th and 8th Grade)

1. Membership in the Middle School Honor Society is both an honor and a responsibility. It is an honor bestowed by faculty to eligible Seventh and Eighth graders only.

2. Students selected for membership are expected to demonstrate the qualities of scholarship, service, leadership, character, and citizenship. To be eligible for selection, a student must meet the following criteria:

- ***Scholarship***: Have at least a 3.6 cumulative grade point average after the first semester..
- ***Service***: Honor Society members are required to complete 12 hours of service work each year.
- ***Leadership***: Take the initiative in class and school activities.
- ***Character***: Demonstrate the qualities of reliability, honesty, sincerity, courtesy, concern, and respect.
- ***Citizenship***: Demonstrate civic involvement in and out of school.

MIDDLE SCHOOL ATHLETIC AND EXTRACURRICULAR ELIGIBILITY

The following criteria determine a student's eligibility for participation in athletics and extracurricular activities:

- **Initial Eligibility:** All beginning seventh graders are eligible for the first 9-week grading period.
- **Ongoing Eligibility:** Any seventh or eighth-grade student must pass five classes and meet GPA Requirements.
- **Attendance Requirement:** Students who are absent for the day are not permitted to participate in or attend after-school functions (athletic events, dances, plays, etc.). To participate in or attend extracurricular activities, students must be in school no later than **11:00 a.m.** on the day of the activity. For Saturday events, students must be in school by **11:00 a.m. on Friday**. Any exceptions to this policy must be approved by the Administration. **If a student goes home ill during the day, they will not be permitted to participate in extracurricular activities.**
- **Sports Physical Requirement:** All students participating in a sport must have a sports physical on file before being allowed to practice or compete.
- **Practice Requirement:** Students who do not participate in a scheduled practice the day before a game will not be permitted to participate in that game.

For any further clarifications, please contact the school administration.

Required Courses-Grade 5

Required Core Courses (Full Year)

- English 5
- Science 5
- Social Studies 5
- Math 5

Encore Course Rotation (By Quarter)

Students will rotate through the following encore courses, one per quarter:

- Physical Education
- Art
- Computer Science 5
- Cultural Studies

Full-Year Encore Courses (Everyday all year long)

Students must choose one of the following full-year music courses:

- Middle School Band (Full Year)

OR

- Middle School Choir (Full Year)

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS–GRADE 5

5th GRADE ENGLISH

Fifth-grade English is a literature-based course of study that focuses on reading comprehension and writing skills aligned with the Ohio Learning Standards. The course includes reviewing elements of grammar, syntax, mechanics, and usage as well as exploring literary elements. Students will practice various forms of daily journaling, and writing, including research-based. Students will read both fiction and nonfiction articles, novels, and poetry. Summer reading recommendations will be provided for fun and enjoyable reading at home.

5th GRADE SCIENCE

The fields of life science, earth and space science, and physical science are addressed in the 5th-grade science curriculum. Students will use a variety of methods including hands-on small group activities and experiments to learn about such topics as structures and functions of ecosystems, cycles and patterns in the solar system, forces that affect motion, and light and sound as forms of energy.

5th GRADE MATH

In Math 5, the course will focus on five critical areas: (1) operations and algebraic thinking (2) number and operations in base ten. (3) number and number operations—fractions (4) measurement and data (5) geometry.

5th GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES

This course is an integrated study of the study of the Western Hemisphere, its geographic features, early history, cultural development, and geographic change. Students learn about the early inhabitants of the Americas and the impact of European exploration and colonization. The Geographic focus includes the study of contemporary and regional characteristics, the movement of people, products, and ideas, and cultural diversity. Students develop an understanding of the relationship between markets and available resources.

MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND (Full Year Course)

Middle School Band is a yearlong course. This course will concentrate on developing a characteristic sound, performing a wide variety of repertoire, music reading skills, and relating musical experiences to history, culture, careers, and other content areas. The Middle School Band participates in multiple musical performances throughout the year. Participation in these events is a required component of the course curriculum.

MIDDLE SCHOOL CHOIR (Full Year Course)

Middle School Choir is open to students with a desire to expand their musical knowledge through singing. Students will work to develop a characteristic, mature vocal sound, proper singing posture, correct vocal formation, and diction, as well as basic music theory and note reading. Middle School Choir offers enjoyment and satisfaction of musical performances throughout the community and at school concerts. Participation in these events is a required component of the course curriculum.

ENCORE ROTATION COURSES BY QUARTER

5th PHYSICAL EDUCATION

This course includes learning skills necessary to perform a variety of activities, striving toward an improved level of fitness, and involvement in regular physical activity. Areas to be covered include: total fitness, fundamental motor skills and movement, lifetime sport and leisure skill development, along with team sports. Sportsmanship and an understanding of the differences of each person's abilities in a physical education setting will be stressed. The objective of this class is to improve the overall physical fitness levels of each student.

5th ART

Art will concentrate on introducing students to the basic elements and principles of art. Students will reinforce this knowledge by creating works of art in various art media such as drawing, painting, printmaking...etc. Students will demonstrate that personal experiences and cultural influences generate ideas and themes in art.

5th COMPUTER SCIENCE

Students will learn the fundamentals of coding through a block-based programming language using Code.org's Computer Science Fundamentals. This curriculum teaches students computational thinking, problem-solving, and programming concepts. Students will create their own programs that they can share.

5th GRADE CULTURAL STUDIES

This class will help to promote global awareness and Hispanic-Latin culture through mediums such as art, music, foods, celebrations, and sports. The course will be primarily in English; however, students will encounter and incorporate some Spanish language as well. This course will be a fun, creative, and interesting way to introduce students to Hispanic-Latin culture that will be built upon later in Spanish language courses.

REQUIRED COURSES-GRADE 6

Required Core Courses (Full Year)

- English 6
- Science 6
- World History 6
- Math 6

Rotation of Encore Courses by Quarter

- Physical Education
- Art
- Computer Science 6
- Spanish Celebrations

Full-Year Encore Courses (Everyday all year long)

Students must choose one of the following full-year music courses:

- Middle School Band (Full Year)

  OR

- Middle School Choir (Full Year)

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS-GRADE 6

6th ENGLISH

Sixth-grade English is a literature-based course of study that focuses on reading comprehension and writing skills aligned with the Ohio Learning Standards. The course includes reviewing elements of grammar, syntax, mechanics, and usage as well as exploring literary elements. Students will practice various forms of writing, including research-based. Students will read both fiction and nonfiction articles, novels, and poetry. Summer reading recommendations will be provided for fun and enjoyable reading at home.

6th SCIENCE

The fields of life science, physical science, and earth science are addressed in the sixth-grade science curriculum. Students participate in hands-on learning to learn about cells, minerals, rocks, and soils in terms of matter and their properties (chemical and physical). All matter is made of small particles called atoms. The properties of matter are based on the order and organization of atoms and molecules. Students also explore how energy and energy transformation affect matter.

6th SOCIAL STUDIES

In grade six, students study the Eastern Hemisphere (Africa, Asia, Australia, and Europe), its geographic features, early history, cultural development, and economic changes. Students learn about the development of river civilizations in Africa and Asia, including their governments, cultures, and economic systems. The geographic focus includes the study of contemporary regional characteristics, the movement of people, products, and ideas, and cultural diversity. Students develop their understanding of the relationship between markets, resources, and competition.

6th MATH

In MATH 6, the course will focus on five critical areas: (1) developing an understanding of and applying proportional relationships; using ratio reasoning to solve problems (2) developing an understanding of operations with rational numbers (3) Applying and extending previous understandings of arithmetic to algebraic expressions and reason about and solve one-variable equations and inequalities (4) solving problems involving scale drawings and informal geometric constructions, and working with two- and three-dimensional shapes to solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume; and (5) develop understanding of statistical problem solving and summarize and describe distributions

MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND (Full Year Course)

Middle School Band is a yearlong course. This course will concentrate on developing a characteristic sound, performing a wide variety of repertoire, music reading skills, and relating musical experiences to history, culture, careers and other content areas. The Middle School Band participates in multiple musical performances throughout the year. Participation in these events is a required component of the course curriculum.

MIDDLE SCHOOL CHOIR (Full Year Course)

Middle School Choir is open to students with a desire to expand their musical knowledge through singing. Students will work to develop a characteristic, mature vocal sound, proper singing posture, correct vocal formation and diction, as well as basic music theory and note reading. Middle School Choir offers enjoyment and satisfaction of musical performances throughout the community and at school concerts. Participation in these events is a required component of the course curriculum.

ENCORE ROTATION COURSES BY QUARTER

6th PHYSICAL EDUCATION

This course includes learning skills necessary to perform a variety of activities, striving toward an improved level of fitness, and involvement in regular physical activity. Areas to be covered include: total fitness, fundamental motor skills and movement, lifetime sport and leisure skill development, along with team sports. Sportsmanship and an understanding of the differences of each person's abilities in a physical education setting will be stressed. The objective of this class is to improve the overall physical fitness levels of each student as well as to provide knowledge, skills, tactics, and strategies to perform individual and team activities.

6th ART

Art students will concentrate on introducing students to the basic elements and principles of art. Students will reinforce this knowledge by creating works of art in various art media such as drawing, painting, and printmaking. Students will demonstrate that personal experiences and cultural influences generate ideas and themes in art.

6th COMPUTER SCIENCE

Students will continue building their coding skills using Code.org's Computer Science Fundamentals. Students will create additional games, art, and digital stories that they can share.

6th CELEBRATIONS

To promote global awareness and Hispanic-Latin culture 6th grade students will take this Celebrations course. It will focus on holidays, cultural traditions, and festivals celebrated throughout the year in Spanish-speaking countries. Each month students will explore holidays and festivals celebrated that month in different Spanish-speaking countries around the world. They will read, write, watch videos, research, and complete projects while exploring other cultures. The course will be primarily in English; however, students will encounter and incorporate some Spanish language as well. This course will be a fun, creative, and interesting way to introduce students to Hispanic-Latin culture that will be built upon later in Spanish language courses.

REQUIRED COURSES-GRADE 7

Required Core Courses (Full Year)

- English 7
- Science 7 or Accelerated Science 7
- World Studies 7
- Math 7 or Accelerated Math 7

Students will be assessed and assigned to Science 7 or Accelerated Science 7, Math 7 or Accelerated Math based on a Readiness Exam, multiple data points, and teacher recommendation.

Rotation of Encore Courses By Semester

- Physical Education/Health
- Art
- Digital Design
- Web Design & Artificial Intelligence
- Introduction to Spanish

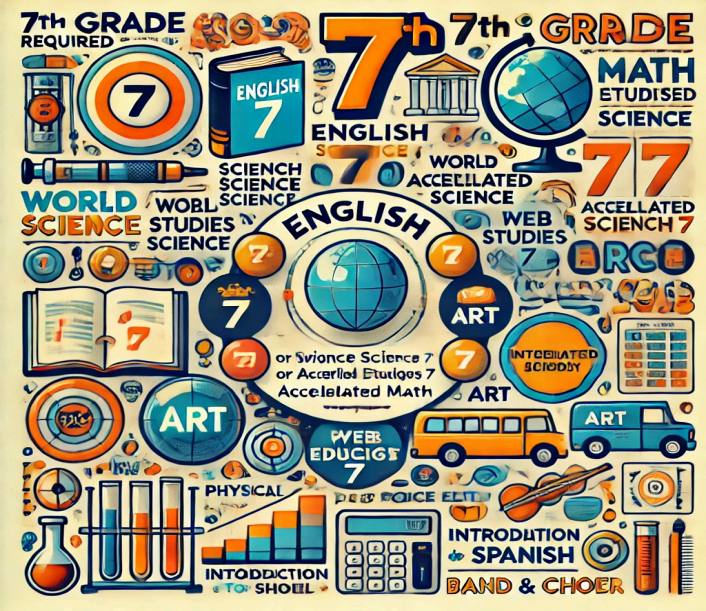
Full-Year Encore Courses

Students may choose one of the following full-year music courses:

- Middle School Band (Full Year)

  OR

- Middle School Choir (Full Year)



COURSE DESCRIPTIONS–GRADE 7

7th ENGLISH

Seventh-grade English is a literature-based course of study that focuses on reading comprehension and writing skills. The course includes reviewing elements of grammar, syntax, mechanics, and usage as well as exploring literary elements. Students will practice various forms of writing, including research-based. Students will read both fiction and nonfiction articles, novels, and poetry.

7th SCIENCE

The fields of life science, physical science, and earth science are addressed in the seventh-grade science curriculum. Students will use a variety of hands-on, small-group activities to learn about such topics as the structure and diversity of organisms, cells, life processes, weather, climate, biomes, waves (including sound and light), and the nature and transformation of energy.

7th ACCELERATED SCIENCE

Prerequisite: Teacher Recommendation, and a score of "Advanced" on the district Science Readiness Exam. Advanced Science is an integrated science course that covers earth, life, and physical science concepts. This course is an accelerated pace covering the 8th-grade state standards. This course will prepare students to take Physical Science in 8th Grade.

7th WORLD STUDIES

This course is an integrated study of world history that begins with ancient Greece and continues through the period of global exploration. All four social studies strands are used to illustrate how historical events are shaped by geographical, social, cultural, economic, and political factors. Students develop their understanding of how ideas and events from the past shaped the world today.

7th MATH

In Math 7, the course will focus on four critical areas: (1) developing an understanding of and applying proportional relationships; (2) developing an understanding of operations with rational numbers and working with expressions and linear equations; (3) solving problems involving scale drawings and informal geometric constructions, and working with two- and three-dimensional shapes to solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume; and (4) drawing inferences about populations based on samples. **A TI-30XIIS calculator is required for this course.**

7th ACCELERATED MATH

Prerequisite: Standardized Test Scores, Teacher Recommendation, and Achievement in 6th Grade Mathematics. This class is designed for students preparing to take Algebra I during their 8th-grade year. Students will be covering most of the content in 7th Grade Mathematics as well as all of the content for 8th Grade Mathematics.

MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND (Full Year Course)

Middle School Band is a yearlong course. This course will concentrate on developing a characteristic sound, performing a wide variety of repertoire, music reading skills, and relating musical experiences to history, culture, careers, and other content areas. The Middle School Band participates in multiple musical performances throughout the year. Participation in these events is a required component of the course curriculum.

MIDDLE SCHOOL CHOIR (Full Year Course)

Middle School Choir is open to students with a desire to expand their musical knowledge through singing. Students will work to develop a characteristic, mature vocal sound, proper singing posture, correct vocal formation, and diction, as well as basic music theory and note reading. Middle School Choir offers enjoyment and satisfaction of musical performances throughout the community and at school concerts. Participation in these events is a required component of the course curriculum.

ENCORE ROTATION COURSES BY SEMESTER

7th PHYSICAL EDUCATION (1 semester) (taken with health)
This course includes learning skills necessary to perform a variety of activities, striving toward an improved level of fitness, and involvement in regular physical activity. Areas to be covered include: total fitness, fundamental motor skills and movement, lifetime sport and leisure skill development, along with team sports. Sportsmanship and an understanding of the differences of each person's abilities in a physical education setting will be stressed. The objective of this class is to improve the overall physical fitness levels of each student as well as to provide knowledge, skills, tactics, and strategies to perform individual and team activities.

7th HEALTH (required) (1semester) (taken with Phys Ed)
This course emphasizes physical, mental-emotional, and social health. Units include Building a Healthy Foundation, Personal Responsibility and Decision Making, Food and Nutrition, Physical Activity and Weight Management, Tobacco, Alcohol and Drugs, and Communicable Diseases.

7th ART (1 semester)

Art class will concentrate on introducing students to the basic elements and principles of art. Students will reinforce this knowledge by creating works of art in various art media such as drawing, painting, and printmaking. Students will demonstrate that personal experiences and cultural influences generate ideas and themes in art.

WEB DESIGN AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (1 semester)
Students will be introduced to computer science as a vehicle for problem-solving, communication, and personal expression using problem-based learning through Code.org's Computer Science Discoveries curriculum. Students will learn the HTML and CSS languages to create web pages and multi-page websites that they can publish and share. Students will also learn how artificial intelligence (AI) works by exploring how computers learn from data to make decisions. Exploration will culminate in designing a machine-learning app.

DIGITAL DESIGN(1 semester)
Students will learn to create digital artifacts using various programs through project-based learning. Projects may include creating posters, slide shows, 3D printing, photography, stop-motion animation, and photo editing. Programs may include Google Drawings, Canva, Google Slides, Tinkercad, and Photoshop. Depending on the project, students can print or make their designs in the classroom or in Makerspace.

7th GRADE INTRODUCTION TO SPANISH (1 semester)
The introductory course in Spanish is to promote familiarity with the vocabulary and culture through group activities, games, oral participation, and written activities. Pertinent geography and grammar will also be studied. Each lesson will conclude with a quiz or project to demonstrate understanding. Study skills will be modeled and should be practiced regularly to be successful. This course is highly recommended if the student plans to take Spanish 1 for high school credit as an 8th grader.

REQUIRED COURSES – GRADE 8

Required Core Courses

- ENG800 – English 8
- SCI800 – Science 8
- MAT800 – Math 8
- SOC800 – American History
- Strategies – Advisory (*Strategies for Success*)

Students meeting assessment and teacher recommendation criteria may be assigned to:

- SCI103 – Physical Science 8 *(High School Credit)*
- MTH105 – Algebra I *(High School Credit)*

Eligibility for Algebra and Physical Science is based on performance in the Algebra Readiness and Science Readiness Tests, prior academic performance, and teacher recommendation. These courses count toward the student's High School GPA.

Required Encore Courses (Semester Courses)

If not enrolled in Band, Choir, or Spanish I, students must take four of the courses below.

☐ Art
☐ Exploring Programming in Python (1 Semester)
☐ Physical Education/Fitness
☐ Intro to Computers (1 Semester)
☐ Introduction to Agriculture

Band, Choir, and Spanish Options

☐ Middle School Band (*Full-year)*
☐ Middle School Choir (*Full-year)*
☐ Spanish I (*Full-year commitment; eligibility required based on assessments and teacher recommendation*)

Note: Algebra I, Physical Science, and Spanish I are High School credit courses. These credits will appear on the student's high school transcript and impact their High School Grade Point Average (GPA).

PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN THIS FORM TO MRS. METZUNG BY MARCH 14, 2024.

Student Name (Print): _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS GRADE – 8

8th ENGLISH

The students will be required to read independently outside of class. Eighth-grade English class features: (1) Reading with emphasis on the sophistication of what students read and the skill with which they read; (2) writing to enhance a student's ability to plan, revise, edit, and publish many types of writing, including arguments, informative/explanatory texts, narratives; (3) speaking and listening skills to develop a range of broadly useful oral communication and interpersonal skills; (4) language conventions and vocabulary, including the essential "rules" of standard written and spoken English and the acquisition of vocabulary. The students may be required to read independently outside of class.

8th SCIENCE

Eighth-grade science is an integrated science course that elaborates on the earth and space, life, and physical science concepts introduced in seventh grade. Students will be able to demonstrate an understanding of natural phenomena that shape the features of Earth and the solar system, explore principles of genetics, and study the force and motion of objects.

PHYSICAL SCIENCE

HS Credit: 1.00 **Prerequisite:** Grades will be reviewed from Accelerated Science 7 and Teacher recommendation is required. Physical Science is an inquiry into the physical principles that govern the world around us. The subject matter will concentrate on physics and chemistry, using mathematical concepts and formulas. Various concepts will be explored in a laboratory setting and through class lectures and demonstrations. Physics topics to be discussed include motion, forces, energy, heat, waves, sound, and light. Chemistry topics include phases of matter, the Periodic Table, chemical bonding, molecular mixing, chemical reactions, and acids and bases. Skills necessary for the collection and interpretation of data will also be stressed.

NOTE: Physical Science is a high school course for high school credit and the final grade will affect the student's high school GPA on their high school transcript.

8th AMERICAN HISTORY

The goal of eighth-grade American History is for students to demonstrate an understanding of our country's past from exploration (1490's) through the Civil War and Reconstruction (1877). Students focus on this expanse of history by examining primary and secondary source documents, maps, charts, film, art, and lecture outline notes. Students will complete assignments (both in class and as homework), projects, quizzes, and tests to prove their level of understanding. ***Note: The eighth-grade trip to Washington D.C. takes place each spring and is highly encouraged as a hands-on experience that supplements this course.**

8th MATH

This course will focus on four critical areas: (1) formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations, including modeling an association in bivariate data with a linear equation, and solving linear equations and systems of linear equations; (2) grasping the concept of a function and using functions to describe quantitative relationships; (3) analyzing two- and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence, and understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem; (4) working with irrational numbers, integer exponents, and scientific notation.

A TI-30XIIS calculator is recommended for this course.

ALGEBRA I

Prerequisite: Accelerated Math 7, Algebra I Readiness Test and Teacher recommendation
HS Credit: 1.00

This course will focus on five critical areas: (1) relationships between quantities and reasoning with equations; (2) linear and exponential relationships; (3) descriptive statistics; (4) expressions and equations; and (5) quadratic functions and modeling. This course is suitable for any student planning to further their education by attending any postsecondary institution (college or university). A graphing calculator is recommended for this course, preferably a TI-84.

***NOTE:* Algebra I is a high school course for high school credit and final grades will affect the student's GPA on their high school transcript.**

SPANISH I (Full Year Course)

***Prerequisite*:** Final grade of "B" in Language Arts 7 & teacher recommendation/approval.
Credit: 1 (High school credit)
Class fee: An additional class fee will be assessed for High School coursework

This is an opportunity to take a full-year high school language course as an 8th grader. Students will learn and attain proficiency in the four skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing of the Spanish language. They will acquire an understanding and appreciation of another culture's way of life. *Materials presented will require a high level of active student participation through dialogues, dramatizations, and the use of audio-visual aids.* Students must be willing to study and complete some homework outside of class to be successful in this course. The program will also introduce aspects of the civilization, geography, and culture of Spain and Latin America.

NOTE: **Spanish I is a high school course for high school credit and final grades will affect the student's GPA on their high school transcript.**

8TH GRADE ENCORE
ROTATION COURSES BY SEMESTER

8th PHYSICAL EDUCATION (1 semester)
This course includes learning skills necessary to perform a variety of activities, striving toward an improved level of fitness, and involvement in regular physical activity. Areas to be covered include total fitness, fundamental motor skills and movement, lifetime sport, and leisure skill development along with team sports. Sportsmanship and an understanding of the differences in each person's abilities in a physical education setting will be stressed.

8th ART (1 semester)
Art class will concentrate on introducing students to the basic elements and principles of art. Students will reinforce this knowledge by creating works of art in various art media such as drawing, painting, and printmaking. Students will demonstrate that personal experiences and cultural influences generate ideas and themes in art. Eighth-grade art students will also be exposed to select artists and their distinctive styles.

8th EXPLORING PROGRAMMING IN PYTHON (1 semester)
Students will create authentic artifacts and engage with computer science as a medium for creativity, communication, problem-solving, and fun. Students will program animations, interactive art, and games through Carnegie Mellon University's Exploring Programming curriculum where students will learn the programming language Python using problem-based learning.

8th INTRO TO COMPUTERS(1 semester)
Students will be introduced to multiple aspects of computing through lessons, videos, and hands-on activities. Topics will include early computing; computer software (navigating the Windows environment); computer hardware (internal and external parts); the Internet and networking; binary numbers and coding in the programming language Python.

INTRO TO AGRICULTURE(1 semester)
Introduction to Agriculture introduces 8th-grade students to the fundamentals of agriculture, food production, and natural resource through hands-on activities and projects. Students will explore topics such as plant and animal science, food systems, and agricultura technology while developing problem-solving and teamwork skills. This course provides a strong foundation for future agricultura education and career pathways.

MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND (Full Year Course)
Middle School Band is a yearlong course. This course will concentrate on developing a characteristic sound, performing a wide variety of repertoire, music reading skills, and relating musical experiences to history, culture, careers and other content areas. The Middle School Band participates in multiple musical performances throughout the year. Participation in these events is a required component of the course curriculum.

MIDDLE SCHOOL CHOIR (Full Year Course)
Middle School Choir is open to students with a desire to expand their musical knowledge through singing. Students will work to develop a characteristic, mature vocal sound, proper singing posture, correct vocal formation, and diction, as well as basic music theory and note reading. Middle School Choir offers enjoyment and satisfaction of musical performances throughout the community and at school concerts. Participation in these events is a required component of the course curriculum.

MIDDLE SCHOOL CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT COUNCIL (5th-8th Grade)
Students will assist in planning events for their classmates, fundraise, and volunteer in the community. Regular meetings will be scheduled during the lunch periods. Activities and events will be planned during these meetings.

MIDDLE SCHOOL HONOR SOCIETY (7th and 8th Graders)
Middle School Honor Society has a minimum of a 3.6 grade point average. Also, they have exhibited service, character, leadership, and citizenship at school and in the community. Joining is by invitation only to eligible seventh and eighth graders in the spring.

THESPIANS/STAGE CREW (5th-8th Grade)
The Thespians are an international student organization of theatrical arts. Membership in this organization is gained through participation in the theater arts program at Berkshire. This can be accomplished through active participation in plays, musicals, stage crew, and even as an audience member of professional and/or other regional theater productions. At Berkshire, there are two yearly productions. There is the "Fall Play", which is usually a straight-stage production or a comedy. In the spring of the year, Berkshire produces a musical. Stage Crew works parallel with the B.H.S. productions. This includes the building of sets, the transformation of the stage, costuming, sound, and lighting. Thespians and Stage Crew are open to students in grades 5-12.

SCIENCE OLYMPIAD (5th-8th Grade)
Science Olympiad is an academic competition for teams of students that compete in 23 different events. The events span scientific disciplines including physics, chemistry, biology, earth science, engineering, inquiry, and space science.

STEM CLUB (5th-8th Grade)
Hands-on learning that is based on the concepts of STEM curriculum and theories. This after-school program will extend the student's exposure to STEM projects and learning.

MATH CLUB (5th-8th)
This is open to all students who would like to compete and enjoy some extra time in the area of math.

CODING FOR GIRLS (5th-8th Grade)
Girls Who Code is a nonprofit organization that aims to support and increase the number of women in computer science by equipping young women with the necessary computing skills to pursue 21st-century opportunities.

SOURCES OF STRENGTH PEER LEADERS (7th and 8th Graders)
This social-emotional curriculum is designed to build social-emotional competencies and skills necessary to become strong and confident people. Club members will be recommended by staff and will meet regularly to spread messages of hope, help, and strength to our school community.

🏀 Berkshire Middle School Athletics 🏅

- **Basketball**
- **Cheerleading**
- **Cross Country**
- **Football**
- **Soccer**
- **Track**
- **Volleyball**
- **Wrestling**

🎉 Go Badgers! 🐾

5th Grade Course Selection

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Berkshire is preparing to schedule classes for the 2025-2026 school year. Please carefully review the course information in the Middle School Course Selection Guide which can be found on the Berkshire Website under “Schools”, “Middle School”, and “Key Links”. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs. Metzung at 440-834-3380 X 1103 or cindy.metzung@berkshireschools.org

Required Core Courses

- **ENG500** – English Language Arts 5
- **SCI500** – Science 5
- **MAT500** – Math 5
- **SOC500** – Social Studies 5
- **Strategies** – 30-Minute Advisory Period (*Strategies for Success*)

Required Encore Courses *(Rotated Quarterly)*

- Art
- Physical Education
- Computer Science 5
- Cultural Studies

Elective Courses *(Choose one; required for 5th & 6th grade students)*

☐ Middle School Band (*Full-year*) **OR**

☐ Middle School Choir (*Full-year*)

PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN THIS FORM TO MRS. METZUNG BY MARCH 11, 2025.

Student Name (Print): _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

6th Grade Course Selection

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Berkshire is preparing to schedule classes for the 2025-2026 school year. Please carefully review the course information in the Middle School Course Selection Guide which can be found on the Berkshire Website under “Schools”, “Middle School”, and “Key Links”. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs. Metzung at 440-834-3380 X 1103 or cindy.metzung@berkshireschools.org

Required Core Courses

- **ENG600** – English Language Arts 6
- **SCI600** – Science 6
- **MAT600** – Math 6
- **SOC600** – Social Studies 6
- **Strategies** – 30-Minute Advisory Period (*Strategies for Success*)

Required Encore Courses *(Rotated Quarterly)*

- Art
- Physical Education
- Computer Science 6
- Spanish Celebrations

Elective Courses *(Choose one; required for 5th & 6th grade students)*

☐ Middle School Band (*Full-year*) **OR**

☐ Middle School Choir (*Full-year*)

PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN THIS FORM TO MRS. METZUNG BY MARCH 11, 2025.

Student Name (Print): _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

7th Grade Course Selection

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Berkshire is preparing to schedule classes for the 2025-2026 school year. Please carefully review the course information in the Middle School Course Selection Guide which can be found on the Berkshire Website under “Schools”, “Middle School”, and “Key Links”. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs. Metzung at 440-834-3380 X 1103 or cindy.metzung@berkshireschools.org

Required Core Courses

- **ENG700** – English 7
- **SCI700** – Science 7
- **MAT700** – Math 7
- **SOC700** – World Studies 7
- **Strategies** – 30-Minute Advisory (*Strategies for Success*)

Students who qualify through assessment and teacher recommendation:

- **SCI705** – Accelerated Science 7
- **MTH705** – Accelerated Math 7

Required Encore Courses *(Choose based on Band/Choir selection)*

You may choose from the following combinations below:

- (4)-1 semester courses (Phys Ed is required as a selection)

  OR

- (1) full-year course + 2-semester courses (Phys Ed is required as a selection)

☐ Art (1 Semester)
☐ Digital Design (1 Semester)
☐ Web Design & Artificial Intelligence (1 Semester)
☐ Intro to Spanish (1 Semester)
☑ **Physical Education/Health (1 Semester *Required*)**

☐ Middle School Band (Full Year) **OR**
☐ Middle School Choir (Full Year)

PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN THIS FORM TO MRS. METZUNG BY April 17, 2025.

Student Name (Print): _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

8th Grade Course Selection

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Berkshire is preparing to schedule classes for the 2025-2026 school year. Please carefully review the course information in the Middle School Course Selection Guide which can be found on the Berkshire Website under “Schools”, “Middle School”, and “Key Links”. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs. Metzung at 440-834-3380 X 1103 or cindy.metzung@berkshireschools.org

Required Core Courses

- **ENG800** – English 8
- **SCI800** – Science 8
- **MAT800** – Math 8
- **SOC800** – American History
- **Strategies** – Advisory (*Strategies for Success*)

Students meeting assessment and teacher recommendation criteria:

- **SCI103** – Physical Science *(High School Credit)*
- **MTH105** – Algebra I *(High School Credit)*

Eligibility for Algebra and Physical Science is based on performance in the Algebra Readiness and Science Readiness Tests, prior academic performance, and teacher recommendation. These courses count toward the student’s High School GPA and credit. These credits will appear on the student’s high school transcript and impact their High School GPA.

Encore Courses

You may choose from the following combinations below:

- (4)-1 semester courses
  OR
- (2) full-year courses
  OR
- (1) full-year course + 2 semester courses

☐ Art (1 Semester)
☐ Physical Education/Fitness (1 Semester)
☐ Exploring Programming in Python (1 Semester)
☐ Intro to Computers (1 Semester)
☐ Introduction to Agriculture (1 Semester)

☐ Middle School Band (*Full-year*)
☐ Middle School Choir (*Full-year*)
☐ Spanish I (*Full-year commitment; eligibility required based on assessments and teacher recommendation*)
***Spanish I** course counts toward the student’s High School GPA and credit. These credits will appear on the student’s high school transcript and impact their High School Grade Point Average (GPA).*

PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN THIS FORM TO MRS. METZUNG BY MARCH 19, 2025.

Student Name (Print): _____
Parent/Guardian Signature: _____