

Barnette Magnet School



Exploration Course Catalog

2025-2026

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PRIMARY REQUIRED EXPLORATIONS

(GRADES 1-3)

Use this checklist to assist you in planning for registration.

All 1st grade required courses are offered every year and will be scheduled for the students. The 2nd and 3rd grade required classes alternate each year. Each student must complete the two science and two social studies courses each year.

These classes complete the FNSBSD science curriculum objectives for grades 1-3, which are aligned with Alaska State Standards.

PRIMARY SCIENCE (Grades 1-3)

____ **Explore Plants & Animals (1)**

____ **Junior Scientists (1)**

____ **Explore Earth Science (2-3)**

____ **Explore Motion and Machines (2-3)**

PRIMARY SOCIAL STUDIES (Grades 1-3)

____ **My Place, Time & Space (1)**

____ **Our Town, Government & Politics (2-3)**

____ **Me on the Map, World Geography (2-3)**

INTERMEDIATE REQUIRED EXPLORATIONS

(GRADES 4-8)

These classes complete the FNSBSD science curriculum objectives for grades 4-8 which are aligned with Alaska State Standards.

INTERMEDIATE SCIENCE (Grades 4-8)

4TH GRADE

_____ **Beginning Science Methods**

_____ **Shocking Experience**

5TH & 6TH GRADE

_____ **Wave Rave**

_____ **Star Trek**

7TH & 8TH GRADE

_____ **Earthquakes**

_____ **Weather Detectives**

_____ **What Goes Up, Must Come Down!**

INTERMEDIATE HISTORY/SOCIAL STUDIES (Grades 4-8)

_____ **Route 66/US Geography (4th Grade) 2 qtrs**

_____ **Three Worlds Meet (5th Grade) 2 qtrs**

_____ **Ancient Civilizations (6th Grade) 2 qtrs**

_____ **Global Geography (7th Grade) 2 qtrs**

_____ **Early US History & Gov't (8th Grade) 3 qtrs**
(Split into 1 semester of History and 1 quarter of Civics)

Barnette Course Change Rules

Some required classes are offered on alternating years. Plan accordingly. Class availability may change due to scheduling and staffing needs. While we strive to honor students' class preferences, limited exploration classes and essential requirements may lead to reassignment.

At the start of each quarter, a single class change is allowed for academic reasons only. “Change of Class” forms are available in the office. All course changes require signatures from a parent/guardian and the teachers of both the requested and dropped classes. No changes will be made without these signatures.

SYMBOL KEY

- Required class
 - \$ Material fee applies
 - ◆ Rigorous curriculum taught at an accelerated pace—register only if prepared for the challenge
 - √ May require an audition, leveled placement, or participation in events outside school hours
 - ^ Intervention for reading or math

REQUIRED PRIMARY SCIENCE

Primary students must complete two required science courses per year. For grades 2–3, four essential science exploration classes alternate annually. Each course lasts one quarter.

Grade 1

- **EXPLORE PLANTS & ANIMALS (1)**
Students learn how plants and animals grow, survive, and meet their needs. Topics include heredity and adaptation. SC28
- **JUNIOR SCIENTISTS (1)**
Introduces plants in the food web, weather, heat, light, and elements. Students conduct simple investigations and learn about notable scientists like George Washington Carver and Louis Pasteur. SC10

Grades 2–3

- **EARTH SCIENCE (2-3)**

Covers Earth's orbit, tilt, rotation, water cycle, erosion, and soil. Students begin practicing the scientific process and inquiry. SC03

- **MOTION AND MACHINES (2-3)**

Focuses on six types of simple machines. Students design and build machines, apply force, motion, and gravity, and create a class invention. TE25

REQUIRED INTERMEDIATE SCIENCE

Intermediate students must complete 12 science Explorations between grades 4–8. Seven are offered this year, with the remaining five offered next year. These quarter-long courses cover district curriculum objectives and prepare students for the state science exam. Each class emphasizes observation, prediction, hypothesis forming, data collection, and analysis. Middle school courses are appropriately rigorous to prepare for high school.

Grade 4

- **BEG. SCIENCE METHODS/YOU BE THE SCIENTIST**

Learn the scientific method, formulate hypotheses, and design experiments. Gain hands-on experience with scientific tools, including safety goggles. SC04

- **SHOCKING EXPERIENCE**

Build and design circuits using wires, batteries, and switches. Explore static electricity, resistors, and the relationship between electricity and magnetism. SC40

Grades 5–6

- **WAVE RAVE**

Discover light, sound, and seismic waves. Dive into the electromagnetic spectrum and explore the science of waves. SC30

- **STAR TREK**

Explore the solar system, from planets to comets and beyond. Learn about the moon, sun, and galaxy, imagining the possibilities of space exploration. SC29

Grades 7–8

- **WHAT GOES UP**
Investigate Newton's laws of motion and experiment with force, friction, mass, and gravity. SC27
- **EARTHQUAKES**
Study Earth's dynamic crust, including mountain formation, volcanic activity, and seismic events. Use hands-on activities to explore the rock cycle and geological processes. SC17
- **WEATHER DETECTIVES**
Examine weather patterns and global climatology. Collect and analyze weather data while learning prediction techniques. SC19

REQUIRED PRIMARY SOCIAL STUDIES

Primary students must complete five required Social Studies courses between grades 1–3. First-grade students take one required course each year, while second and third graders complete four Explorations, two offered annually on an alternating basis. Each class lasts one quarter and covers FNSBSD Social Studies curriculum objectives aligned with Alaska State Standards in Geography, Government and Citizenship, and History.

Grade 1

- **MY PLACE, TIME, AND SPACE**
Students celebrate diverse families, create personal timelines, and explore how individuals impact their environment, demonstrate citizenship, and contribute to their communities. SC50

Grades 2–3

- **ME ON THE MAP**
Students create personal atlases, learning cardinal directions, scale, and measuring. Topics include continents, hemispheres, oceans, seas, the equator, and the prime meridian. SS32
- **OUR TOWN**
Students build a model town with elected officials, laws, and services like shopkeepers and bankers. They explore the roles of rules, voting, and how individual actions shape the community. SS01

REQUIRED INTERMEDIATE SOCIAL STUDIES

These Explorations cover district curriculum objectives for grades 4–8, aligned with Alaska State Standards in Geography, Government and Citizenship, and History. Completion of these courses fulfills the intermediate Social Studies curriculum.

Grade 4

- **ROUTE 66/US GEOGRAPHY**

Students explore continents, oceans, and U.S. geography, examining physical and cultural factors that define regions. The course includes discussions about the Pacific Rim and the U.S.'s role in this dynamic area. SS33

Grade 5

- **THREE WORLDS MEET**

Students study the historical development of the U.S., focusing on Native American cultures, European exploration, colonization, and immigration. They explore the Constitution, emphasizing citizenship's rights and responsibilities. SS26

Grade 6

- **ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS**

Students examine ancient societies, from Mesopotamia to the Maya, analyzing their geographic, political, and cultural development. Topics include the evolution of civilizations, contributions to humanity, and the origins of major religions and languages. SS29

Grade 7

- **GLOBAL GEOGRAPHY**

This course explores human-environment interactions and global geography through an inquiry-based approach. Students develop geographic skills, analyze world patterns, and complete research projects using primary and secondary sources. SS42

Grade 8

- **EARLY US HISTORY & GOVERNMENT**

Spanning three quarters, this course covers U.S. history from pre-colonization through the Civil War, including westward expansion and reform. Students develop critical research skills and complete a project using primary and secondary sources. Civics is offered as a separate one-quarter course integrated into the curriculum. SS46

PRIMARY LITERACY

- **^ROCKIN' READERS (1–3)**

Engage in storytime, AR skill practice, and reading activities. This class focuses on reading intervention and includes games and projects. LI02

- **READERS THEATER (2–3)**

Read, rewrite, and perform short stories like *Just So Stories* and *Aesop's Fables*. Develop reading, writing, and acting skills through puppet theater or stage productions. LI56

INTERMEDIATE LITERACY & WRITING

- **\$THE DARING CLASS FOR GIRLS (4–5, 6–8) \$15.00 Fee**

Designed for adventurous girls of all types! This literacy class encourages curiosity, bravery, and hands-on learning. LI28

- **\$THE DANGEROUS CLASS FOR BOYS (4–8) \$15.00 Fee**

Build, explore, and create through daily projects tailored for boys. Discover knots, machines, and wonders of the world. LI27

- **STUDENT T/A CLASS (7-8)**

Put yourself in your teacher's shoes! This class will give you the opportunity for you to not only get a behind the scenes look at what it takes to teach but also allows you to get hands-on experience working with younger grades in the building and helping out teachers and students with learning and play.

MATH

- **^√MATH INTERVENTION (2–3, 4–5)**
Designed for students who need extra support in improving math proficiency. This is a targeted intervention class. MA10
- **^√MATH EXPLORATION (6–8)**
A math intervention course offering personalized instruction from teachers and peer tutors. Includes advanced tutoring opportunities for students seeking to earn community service hours. MA10

TECHNOLOGY

- **TECH STUDIO (2–3)**
Develop essential computer skills, including keyboarding, navigating web browsers, and accessing Barnette servers. Learn to use applications such as Google Classroom and explore educational websites to build foundational tech knowledge. TE53
- **\$WE DID A MOVIE 101 (4–5) \$10.00 Fee**
Dive into the basics of filmmaking, including scriptwriting, storyboarding, rehearsing, filming, and editing. Gain experience with tools like iMovie, Garage Band, and iDVD. This class emphasizes collaboration and prepares students for advanced film-related classes. TE47
- **GOOD MORNING BARNETTE (6–8)**
Gain hands-on experience in producing a news program, both in front of and behind the camera. Roles include anchor, director, camera operator, and more. Learn to write interviews, create news reports, and use professional video equipment while emphasizing teamwork and fieldwork. TE43
- **\$BASIC ROBOTICS (4–8) \$10.00 Fee**
Build and program robots using Lego materials and custom software. Learn the fundamentals of robotics in this interactive class. TE15
- **\$ROBOTICS II (5–8) \$15.00 Fee**
Advance your robotics skills by designing and programming more complex projects. (Prerequisite: Basic Robotics) TE17

PRIMARY FINE ARTS

- **\$WATERCOLORS (2-3) \$15.00 Fee**
Students will use watercolor paint, brushes and various materials. Let their imagination soar in all the colors of the rainbow to create works of art. FA27
- **\$ANIMAL ART (2-3) \$10.00 Fee**
Students interested in animals will have the opportunity to research, draw, paint, model, and present animals in their habitats. As a final project students will explore animal classification, habitats, life span, and body features. FA41
- **\$PUPPETRY(2-3) \$10.00 Fee**
Students will design and construct puppets to represent characters in popular, and student written scripts. The class will culminate in a series of puppet show performances! FA40

THEATRE

- **√\$BEHIND THE CURTAIN (5-8) (Full Semester- Q2 & Q3!) \$15.00 Fee**
Behind the Curtain explores the world of musical theater. Learn the ins and outs of putting on a full musical production. Students will perform on stage or work backstage during the performance. Students will learn about acting, singing, voice projection, stage presence, and blocking on stage. This class will be team taught.

MUSIC

- **√BLAZERS ON STAGE (5-8) \$15.00 Fee**
Do you love to sing and dance? Join Barnette's show choir, Blazers on Stage! In this course, students will develop their natural singing voices through pop music and showtunes, then set it all to choreography to produce a stunning musical performance. The music will be different every quarter, so feel free to join more than once! FA54

BAND & ORCHESTRA

All Band and Orchestra classes are full year courses. Please mark all 4 quarters on your Exploration course worksheet. All new players to an instrument should enroll in the 1st quarter for Beginning Band or Beginning Orchestra.

- **\$BEGINNING STRIKE UP THE BAND (4-8) QTR 1 \$15.00 Fee**
Students will learn to play or continue their studies on a traditional concert and instrument from the woodwinds, brass, or percussion family. Ensemble performances will be an integral part of this course. MU11
- **\$STRIKE UP THE BAND (4-8) 3 QTRS \$15.00 Fee**
Students will learn to play or continue their studies on a traditional concert and instrument from the woodwinds, brass, or percussion family. Ensemble performances will be an integral part of this course. MU11
- **\$BEGINNING ORCHESTRA (4-8) QTR 1 \$15.00 Fee**
Students will learn to play or continue their studies on a traditional string orchestra instrument. They may choose violin, viola, cello, or double bass. Ensemble performances will be an integral part of this course. MU15
- **\$ORCHESTRA (4-8) 3 QTRS \$15.00 Fee**
Students will learn to play or continue their studies on a traditional string orchestra instrument. They may choose violin, viola, cello, or double bass. Ensemble performances will be an integral part of this course. MU15

PRIMARY FITNESS

- **\$TAEKWONDO (2-3) \$15.00 Fee**
Midnight Sun Martial Arts Academy instructs students toward the goal of earning their **yellow stripe** as they learn self-defense techniques, health, and physical fitness principles, Korean history and language and non to light contact sparring techniques. The class fee includes the white belt. FH42
- **\$TAEKWONDO 2 YELLOW BELT (2-3) \$15.00 Fee**
Midnight Sun Martial Arts Academy instructs students toward the goal of earning their **yellow belt** as they learn self-defense techniques, health, and physical fitness principles, Korean history and language and non to light contact sparring techniques. The class fee includes the yellow belt. FH43

INTERMEDIATE FITNESS

- **READY, SET, GO! (4-6)**
This class will encourage physical fitness, develop individual skills and team skills, and introduce a variety of activities and sports. Weather permitting; this activity time will alternate between inside and outside activities. Students must bring their outdoor gear! FH40
- **SPORTS ARENA (6-8)**
For the young athlete who enjoys team sports, this course will emphasize basic skills development, which is essential to succeeding in sports. The importance of physical fitness, health, nutrition, good sportsmanship and working as a team will be stressed as students participate in a variety of sports and games. FH19
- **RACQUET & NET GAMES (4-6) & (6-8)**
Students will be taught the proper techniques and rules for badminton, pickleball, tennis, volleyball, ping-pong, cricket, and lacrosse. FH06/08
- **MOVIN' & GROOVIN (4-6)**
Participate in a range of outdoor activities to encourage fitness and fresh air! Students must bring their outdoor gear. FH30

- **YOGA & MINDFULNESS (4-8)**

Students will improve their strength, balance, attention, and coordination through fun yoga games and challenging yoga sequences. They will learn healthy stress and anxiety coping mechanisms and build self-esteem in a non-competitive environment. They will also learn about self-love and the importance of showing kindness to others. FH20

HEALTH & LIFE SKILLS

- **\$HOME ECONOMICS- FOOD FOCUSED FUN (4-8) (6-8)**

\$20.00 Fee

Students will touch on various skills necessary for running a home – which may include home management, design, hygiene, finances, and laundry. The focus of this course is to provide students with basic overview on culinary food principles and preparation that will provide a broad foundation for students interested in a food-related career and/or to enhance their food-related knowledge and skills for the betterment of their health. FA25



CHOOSE

RESPECT

RESPONSIBILITY

& KINDNESS!