BRIDGEPORT
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Bridgeport Middle School

# Academic Planning Guide

## 2026-2027

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# Welcome to Bridgeport Middle School!

## Different Classes

In middle school, you will switch classrooms for each subject. One of the first things you will learn is where all of your classes are and how long you have to get there during passing periods. Finding your classes is not hard to do. It just takes a little time to learn and, before you know it, you will be an “expert” in no time at all. The teachers, counselors, and administrators will help you as you learn your way around the building.

## Homework

You may have more homework in middle school than you did in elementary school. It is important to stay organized and make sure you have plenty of time to get the work done.

## Lunch

If you are not getting your food from the cafeteria, be sure to bring your lunch everyday. Be sure to plan ahead if someone will be delivering outside food to the office for your lunch. No outside food delivery services will be accepted.

## Tips for Academic Success

- Use a 3-ring binder notebook and dividers to organize your class information for each subject. Each section should be labeled with the subject and the teacher’s name. This will help keep the information for each class organized and easy to locate.
- Use an academic planner or agenda. Take it to class each day and always write down your assignments and due dates. Check your academic planner or agenda when you get home to make sure all of your assignments have been completed.
- Ask questions! If you don’t understand an assignment in school, you will likely struggle to work on it at home as well. Usually, if you don’t understand, there are probably other students who feel the same way.
- Plan homework time every day. There will be something for you to finish, study, or look over almost every day, so have a set time in your daily schedule for doing homework. During this time, you should:
    - Find a quiet place to work.
    - Gather any supplies you need before you start working.
    - Ask family members not to disturb you. Don’t take calls from friends during this study time.
    - Check your backpack or notebook each night before you go to bed! Make sure you have all your homework assignments and any supplies you might need for the next day.

## Responsibility

As a middle school student, you will need to accept more responsibility in all aspects of your education.

- If you are absent, it will be up to you to ask your teachers for information and assignments you missed while you were gone.
- If you need tutoring, it will be up to you to make arrangements with your teachers to meet with them during TORO time.
- It will be up to you to make sure your assignments are turned in on time.
- Attendance is taken every period (9 times per day). It is your responsibility to get to every class on time. You will have approximately 4 minutes in-between each class, so time management is necessary.

## Student Activities

Middle school offers students the opportunity to participate in a variety of organizations, clubs, and activities. Through these different activities, you have the chance to find new interests, develop talents, and build strong friendships. When you begin choosing activities, it is important to weigh all options and be selective about the choices you make. Achieving a balance between academic demands and extracurricular opportunities will make your middle school years rewarding. Also, remember that participation in school clubs and organizations is a privilege, not a right. Make good behavioral choices, do your work, and attend school every day. Doing so will allow you to participate fully in these activities.

## TORO Time

In addition to the traditional courses that are outlined in this guide, Bridgeport Middle School has a class time built into each day designed to assist students in navigating a successful academic pathway. This class time is embedded in the school day to provide intervention, enrichment, and social emotional instruction. The purpose for this support period is to provide students with time to access necessary resources within the school day.

- With teacher permission, a student can request to attend tutoring, retesting, or other types of intervention during this class period.

Attendance is taken during this support period as with each period of the day.

## General Curriculum - Promotion

Grades 1-8: In grades 1–8, promotion to the next grade level shall be based upon the student's performance on assessment instruments and shall be determined by the student's parent, teacher, an administrator, and
appropriate District personnel in accordance with administrative regulations.

## Schedule Changes

One of the most critical functions performed by a school is the preregistration of students. Based upon pre registration information, courses are scheduled and teachers are employed for the next school year. Schedule changes are made under the conditions listed below:

- A change is needed as a result of summer school
- A change is needed to balance classes within the master schedule
- A change resulting in the revision of an Individual Education Plan (IEP) by an Admission, Review, and Dismissal Committee (ARD)

## Gifted and Talented (GT)

Bridgeport ISD recognizes that students identified as gifted and talented benefit from instruction that develops and challenges their unique academic gifts while also fostering their creativity. Students identified as gifted and talented are served through middle school honors classes in the core-content areas of English and math, along with the option to take LINC (GT specific elective). These courses are taught by teachers trained to differentiate their instruction to meet the academic and social needs of GT students. Ongoing nomination and identification is available for those students who demonstrate the need for GT services. For additional information or a request for screening, please contact your campus counselor or visit the Bridgeport ISD Advanced Academics (GT) website.

## Advanced Academics (Honors Coursework)

Bridgeport ISD recognizes that in order for students to perform at high levels in advanced academic courses in high school, students will need to develop the skills and habits of mind to do so beginning in the 6th, 7th and 8th grades. Honors courses are offered at Bridgeport Middle School in English and math as part of an advanced academic pathway to Advanced Placement (AP) or dual credit/dual enrollment courses in which students can earn college credit while in high school. Students may select honors courses if they meet required course prerequisites. Parents must sign an acknowledgement of understanding before enrolling in all honors courses. Middle school counselors and teachers can provide additional information regarding the academic challenges of honors courses in middle school. Successful advanced academic students typically exhibit the following attributes:

- Self-directed learners
- Task and goal oriented
- Exhibit above-average reading skills
- Exhibit above-average writing skills
- Exhibit problem-solving skills
- Can analyze and synthesize information from a variety of sources
- Manage their time effectively

## English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)

All new students will complete a home language survey when they enroll. For students previously enrolled in a Texas public school, the original home language survey will be requested from the previous district. If the student is classified as an English Learner (EL), they are then enrolled in the

appropriate English class with an ESL certified teacher. Students with beginning level English proficiency will be enrolled in an ESL class. These classes teach students to listen, speak, read, and write for a variety of audiences and purposes and in a variety of forms. The students will develop English word recognition, decoding, and encoding skills. Emphasis is placed on communicating effectively in English.

## Special Education

Special education programs and classes, provided under state and federal guidelines, are offered at the middle school level. Students with disabilities may be eligible for special education services. A referral or evaluation can be made by the parents, school personnel, or outside agency. Parental permission is required for the initial evaluation. The student receiving special education services is dependent upon meeting disability criteria, the need for specially designed instruction as determined by the ARD committee, and parental consent. For additional information, please contact your student's campus.

## Dyslexia

Students identified with dyslexia may participate in the Dyslexia program. Students receive instructional support in phonological awareness, sound-symbol association, syllabication, orthography, morphology, syntax, reading comprehension, and reading fluency. Study skills, thinking skills, and test-taking strategies are also offered.

## Section 504

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 requires that no qualified student who demonstrates a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities shall be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefit of, or be subject to discrimination in any program or activity offered by Bridgeport ISD. "Placement decisions are to be made by a group of persons who are knowledgeable about the child, the meaning of the evaluation data, placement options, least restrictive environment requirements, and comparable services" [34 C.F.R. §104.35(c)(3)]. Students who are served through Section 504 may receive accommodations based on their disability to "level the playing field" with their non-disabled peers as determined by the Section 504 committee.

## Technology

Technology applications and skills are integrated into the curriculum of all subjects through district provided devices. Bridgeport Middle School covers digital citizenship and the Technology Application TEKS through technology integrated into all courses. Parents must sign the acceptable use policy, located in the online student handbook, before their child has access to a school's technology.

## Athletics

This class requires practice outside the normal school day; on those occasions, parents would be responsible for transportation. Athletic contests are scheduled with other schools located inside and outside the district. A student who receives, at the end of any nine weeks grading period, a grade

below 70 in any academic class (other than an identified advanced class) may not participate in extracurricular activities for at least three school weeks. The student regains eligibility when the principal and teachers determine that he or she has: (1) earned a passing grade of 70 or above in all academic classes and (2) completed the three school weeks of ineligibility. The following courses are the Bridgeport ISD middle school advanced courses which are eligible for the NoPass, No-Play Exemption:

Advanced Classes Identified for No-Pass, No-Play Exemption The following classes are exempt from the no-pass, no-play requirement:

- Honors ELA 7
- Honors Math 7
- Honors ELA 8
- Algebra I

## Extracurricular Activities

**University Interscholastic League (UIL)**:
As a member of the University Interscholastic League, Bridgeport Middle School is governed by its regulations. Each coach-sponsor will present a thorough explanation of all rules and regulations to participating students. For further details concerning eligibility, see the “Constitution and Contest Rules” published by the University Interscholastic League.

**UIL Grade Requirements:**
In order to be eligible to participate in an extracurricular activity for the academic period following the initial six-weeks period of a year, a student must not have a recorded grade average lower than 70 on a scale of 0-100 in any course the preceding nine-weeks period. Students who receive a nine-week grade below 70 in any course or who fail to meet standards in their Individual Education Plan (IEP) will not be allowed to participate in any extracurricular activity or event during the following three-week period. In order to regain eligibility, a student must be passing **all** classes at the end of the three (3) week period. If the student does not raise the grade of any class to a passing average, he/she will continue to be ineligible. The suspension from extracurricular activities goes into effect seven days after the last day of the nine-week period during which the grade lower than 70 was earned. Students will be allowed to participate at the end of any nine-week period in which the student earns a grade of 70 or above in all courses or subjects.

## Course Credit for Attendance

State law requires students to be in attendance 90 percent of the days a class is offered in order to gain credit or be considered for promotion. When a student's attendance falls below 90 percent of the days the class is offered, after consideration of absences labeled as due to extraordinary circumstances, the student and parent(s) shall be notified in writing. A campus attendance review committee shall hear all cases when a student's attendance has fallen below the 90 percent threshold and an appeal has been filed in writing. In order to receive credit, the attendance review committee may assign one or more alternative learning activities to make up work missed or credit lost.

| 6th - 9th Grade Recommended Grade Course Sequence | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Course** | **6th grade ELA** | **7th grade ELA** | **8th grade ELA** | **9th grade ELA** |
| **On Level** | ELA 6 | ELA 7 | ELA 8 | English I |
| **Advanced** | Honors ELA 6 | Honors ELA 7 | Honors ELA 8 | Honors English I |
| **Course** | **6th grade Math** | **7th grade Math** | **8th grade Math** | **9th grade Math** |
| **On Level** | Math 6 | Math 7 | Math 8 | Algebra I |
| **Advanced** | Honors Math 6 | Honors Math 7 | Honors Algebra I | Honors Geometry |
| **Course** | **6th grade Social Studies** | **7th grade Social Studies** | **8th grade Social Studies** | **9th grade Social Studies** |
| **On Level** | World Geography | Texas History | U.S. History | World Geography |
| **Advanced** | NA | NA | NA | AP Human Geography |
| **Course** | **6th grade Science** | **7th grade Science** | **8th grade Science** | **9th grade Science** |
| **On Level** | Science 6 | Science 7 | Science 8 | Biology |
| **Advanced** | NA | NA | NA | Honors Biology |

| 6th, 7th and 8th Grade Sample Schedules | | |
|---|---|---|
| **6th GRADE** | **7TH GRADE** | **8TH GRADE** |
| TORO (Advisory) | TORO (Advisory) | TORO (Advisory) |
| ELA 6<br>Or<br>Honors ELA 6 | ELA 7<br>Or<br>Honors ELA 7 | ELA 8<br>or<br>Honors ELA 8 |
| Math 6<br>Or<br>Honors Math 6 | Math 7<br>Or<br>Honors Math 7 | Math 8<br>Or<br>Honors Algebra I |
| World Geography | Texas History | U.S. History |
| Science 6 | Science 7 | Science 8 |
| PE | PE or Athletics | Academic Intervention class<br>(pending academic need)<br>OR<br>8th grade elective<br><br>*(Please note prerequisites listed in course descriptions)* |
| Academic Intervention class<br>*(pending academic need)*<br>OR<br>6th grade elective | Academic Intervention class<br>*(pending academic need)*<br>OR<br>7th grade elective<br>*(Please note prerequisites listed in course descriptions)* | 8th grade elective including PE or Athletics<br>*(Please note prerequisites listed in course descriptions)* |
| 6th grade elective | 7th grade elective<br>*(Please note prerequisites listed in course descriptions)* | 8th grade elective<br>*(Please note prerequisites listed in course descriptions)* |

## Student Worksheet for Three Year Plan

Use this sample three-year plan to make tentative course selections.
Discuss with the school counselor before course selections for next school year.

| Grade 6 |
| --- |
| English Language Arts (ELA) - ELA 6 or Honors ELA 6 |
| Math: Math 6 or Honors Math 6 |
| Science: Science 6 |
| Social Studies: World Geography |
| PE |
| Elective: |
| Elective: |
| **Grade 7** |
| English Language Arts (ELA) - ELA 7 or Honors ELA 7 |
| Math: Math 7 or Honors Math 7 |
| Science: Science 7 |
| Social Studies: Texas History |
| PE or Athletics |
| Elective: |
| Elective: |
| **Grade 8** |
| English Language Arts (ELA) - ELA 8 or Honors ELA 8 |
| Math: Math 8 or Honors Algebra |
| Science: Science 8 |
| Social Studies: U.S. History |
| Elective: (Write in PE or Athletics here if you choose) |
| Elective: |
| Elective: |

# 6th Grade Curriculum Content

## 6th Grade ELA (English Language Arts)

**ELA 6**
The ELA 6 course is designed to meet the educational needs of students through the study of reading, writing, research and inquiry, listening, and speaking. Students will study a variety of texts, both self-selected and assigned, to enrich and develop analysis skills. Writing critically and creatively continues to be developed, as well as the study of the craft of writing for a variety of purposes.

**Honors ELA 6**
This course introduces students to the expectations of high school advanced academics courses by exploring a variety of reading and writing experiences to foster critical thinking. One goal of this course is to foster independent learning and encourage in-depth exploration of the content through the analysis of a variety of texts. Students will write in a variety of modes including responses to literature, argumentative, informational, and narrative compositions. Critical thinking skills will be emphasized to prepare students for high school AP or dual credit English coursework that can earn college credit. Students and parents must sign an acknowledgement of understanding of the program before students are enrolled. You may contact the campus counselor for more information.

## 6th Grade Math

**Math 6**
This course focuses on the following areas of study: number sense and operations, algebra, geometry, spatial sense, measurement, functions, and probability.

**Honors Math 6**
This course focuses on the following areas of study: number sense and operations, algebra, geometry, and spatial sense, measurement, and functions, and probability. Students use mathematical concepts, algorithms, and properties to explore mathematical relationships and to describe increasingly complex situations.

## 6th Grade Science

**Science 6**
In this course students will learn about matter, waves, forces and energy. They will be introduced to atoms and elements, substances and their properties, motion of particles, heat, temperature, state changes, chemical reactions, and more.

## 6th Grade Social Studies

**World Geography**
In this course students will open their eyes to a world outside of Texas and the United States. Units will focus on the history, geography, government, and economy of different regions around the world.

## 6th Grade Physical Education (PE)

**PE**
This course teaches the knowledge and skills for movement that provide the foundation for enjoyment, continued social development through physical activity, and access to a physically-active lifestyle. Their knowledge of safety and the ability to manage their own behavior is reinforced. Instruction is directed toward encouraging the incorporation of physical activity into a daily routine and toward fundamental skill development.

**Pre-Athletics**
Physical Education class that is designed to prepare 6th grade students for the BMS Athletic program. The focus of the Pre-Athletics class will be to provide students with a preview of the UIL sports in which they will be eligible to participate as 7th grade students. This course will also prepare BMS students for behavioral and academic expectations associated with being a BISD student-athlete.

## 6th Grade Electives

**Most sixth grade electives are FULL YEAR electives:**
*It is not guaranteed that all electives listed below will be offered each school year.
*What is a prerequisite?*

- A prerequisite is a specific class you must take before you are able to take another specific class.
- For example, Introduction to Technology must be taken before a student can take Intermediate Technology.

**Beginner Band**
Beginner Band is available for ALL students who would like to participate in Band. In this class, students will learn basic fundamental techniques to play their chosen band instrument and develop beginner level skills for playing in an ensemble. Beginner Band will have multiple opportunities to perform as an ensemble, including the MMM Band "Mass Band" Night, Concerts in the Fall and Spring and a Festival in the Spring semester.

**Introduction to Spanish**
This course is designed to familiarize students with the Spanish language in preparation to earn a high school credit in Spanish I.

**Intro to Art (1 Semester)**
Opportunities to create art designs through painting, drawing, and sculpting. Art appreciation and history are also included.

**Theater Arts**
In this class, students will be introduced to the basic concepts of theater arts. Students will use various creative drama techniques to build confidence and trust, stimulate imagination, movement, and role play.

**Introduction to Technology (1 Semester)**
Learn about current and emerging technologies, create and edit pictures, sounds and videos using various programs and equipment.

**LINC Elective**
This elective course is provided for identified GT students in 6th, 7th, and 8th grade. The course focuses on critical thinking, problem solving, creativity, and collaboration.

**Choir**
This course teaches students how to sing and perform choral music. They also learn about music theory, vocal technique, and sight-reading and perform a variety of songs from different cultures, genres, and historical periods.

# 7th Grade Curriculum Content

## 7th Grade ELA (English Language Arts)

**ELA 7**
The ELA 7 course is designed to meet the educational needs of students through the study of reading, writing, research and inquiry, listening, and speaking. Students will study a variety of texts, both self-selected and assigned, to enrich and develop analysis skills. Writing critically and creatively continues to be developed, as well as the study of the craft of writing for a variety of purposes.

**Honors ELA 7**
This course introduces students to the expectations of high school advanced academics courses by exploring a variety of reading and writing experiences to foster critical thinking. One goal of this course is to foster independent learning and encourage in-depth exploration of the content through the analysis of a variety of texts. Students will write in a variety of modes including responses to literature, argumentative, informational, and narrative compositions. Critical thinking skills will be emphasized to prepare students for high school AP or dual credit English coursework that can earn college credit. Students and parents must sign an acknowledgement of understanding of the program before students are enrolled. You may contact the campus counselor for more information.

## 7th Grade Math

**Math 7**
This course focuses on the following areas of study: numeracy, proportionality, algebraic relationships, probability, and statistics. Students use mathematical concepts, algorithms, and properties to explore mathematical relationships and to describe increasingly complex situations.

**Honors Math 7**
*Prerequisite - Honors Math 6*
This course compacts the curriculum of 7th and 8th grade mathematics to prepare students for Algebra I, the next course in the advanced math pathway.

## 7th Grade Science

**Science 7**
This course is interdisciplinary in nature; however, much of the content focus is on organisms and the environment. Content in this course includes (a) matter and energy, (b) Force, motion, and energy, (c) earth and space studies and (d) organisms and environments. Students will use computers for support to investigate scientific knowledge.

## 7th Grade Social Studies

**Texas History**
This course provides students with an in-depth examination of the history of Texas from early times through the present day. Students will learn how the history of Texas has been impacted by people from a variety of backgrounds and traditions and how they helped shape the past, present, and future of Texas.

## 7th Grade Physical Education

**PE**
This course teaches the knowledge and skills for movement that provide the foundation for enjoyment, continued social development through physical activity, and access to a physically-active lifestyle. Their knowledge of safety and the ability to manage their own behavior is reinforced. Instruction is directed toward encouraging the incorporation of physical activity into a daily routine and toward fundamental skill development.

**Athletics**
Students enrolled in athletics are required to participate in at least one of the following UIL activities. Participation in before and/or after school events will be required. All students participating are required to have a physical examination and all other paperwork
before the first day of school. Participating students must meet all UIL eligibility requirements. Sports available for school participation: Football, volleyball, cross country, basketball, track, and tennis.

- Tryouts may be required to participate in the following sports:
    - Volleyball
    - Basketball
    - Track (event tryouts)
    - Tennis (not practiced during the athletic period)

## 7th Grade Electives

**All seventh grade electives are FULL YEAR electives:**
*It is not guaranteed that all electives listed below will be offered each school year.
*What is a prerequisite?*

- A prerequisite is a specific class you must take before you are able to take another specific class.
- For example, Introduction to Spanish must be taken before Spanish I

**Beginner Band**
Beginner Band is available for ALL students who would like to participate in Band. In this class, students will learn basic fundamental techniques to play their chosen band instrument and develop beginner level skills for playing in an ensemble. Beginner Band will have multiple opportunities to perform as an ensemble, including the MMM Band "Mass Band" Night, Concerts in the Fall and Spring and a Festival in the Spring semester.

**Concert Band**
*Prerequisite - Beginning Band*
In this class, students continue to work on fundamental performance skills and intermediate ensemble skills. These students have many opportunities to perform as an ensemble, including the Spring BMS Pep Rally, the MMM Band "Mass Band" Night, Concerts in the Fall and Spring and a Festival in the Spring semester. Students also have the opportunity to perform individually in the All Region Tryouts.

**Introduction to Spanish**
This course is designed to familiarize students with the Spanish language in preparation to earn a high school credit in Spanish I.

**Spanish I**
*Prerequisite Recommendation – Introduction to Spanish*
This course is an introductory course for beginning Spanish speakers. Basic language concepts important to developing proficiency will be stressed, including production of sounds, stress patterns, and intonation of the language. Students also study basic facts about geography, customs, and culture of the Spanish-speaking countries. This is a high school credit course and students who successfully complete both semesters will earn one foreign language credit toward their high school graduation plan.

**Art 1**
Opportunities to create art designs through painting, drawing, and sculpting. Art appreciation and history are also included.

**Theater Arts**
In this class, students will be introduced to the basic concepts of theater arts.
Students will use various creative drama techniques to build confidence and trust,
stimulate imagination, movement, and role play.

**Introduction to Technology**
Learn about current and emerging technologies, create and edit pictures, sounds and videos using various programs and equipment.

**Yearbook**
This course is an elective, two semester course where students will publish a yearbook for the school. Students will learn skills in planning, photography, word processing, page layout, graphic design, writing, and marketing. Interested students must apply in the spring semester after submitting course requests.

**Outdoor Adventures**
This class focuses on outdoor activities, such as: archery, orienteering, survival skills, first aid / CPR, trip planning, angling, tackle crafts, hiking, backpacking, camping, outdoor cooking and conservation/environmental issues.

**LINC Elective**
This elective course is provided for identified GT students in 6th, 7th, and 8th grade. The course focuses on critical thinking, problem solving, creativity, and collaboration.

**Career Explorations**
The course will create a culture of high expectation and continuous improvement that provides middle school students with a foundation for success in high school, future studies, and careers. Students explore college and career planning within specific career cluster(s). The students research labor market information, learn job-seeking skills, and create documents required for employment. Students use self-knowledge to explore and set realistic goals.

**Helping Our Peers Excel H.O.P.E.**
H.O.P.E. is a peer-tutoring/mentoring program that pairs up 9th through 12th graders with students who have significant cognitive disabilities or other developmental delays in school. Peer tutors will assist these students one class period a day, either in a core class or an elective class. The peer tutor, in addition to helping the student with his/her class work, will also develop a friendship with the student. The H.O.P.E. class will take the place of one elective.

**Choir**
This course teaches students how to sing and perform choral music. They also learn about music theory, vocal technique, and sight-reading and perform a variety of songs from different cultures, genres, and historical periods.

# 8th Grade Curriculum Content

## 8th Grade ELA (English Language Arts)

### ELA 8

The ELA 7 course is designed to meet the educational needs of students through the study of reading, writing, research and inquiry, listening, and speaking. Students will study a variety of texts, both self-selected and assigned, to enrich and develop analysis skills. Writing critically and creatively continues to be developed, as well as the study of the craft of writing for a variety of purposes.

### Honors ELA 8

This course introduces students to the expectations of high school advanced academics courses by exploring a variety of reading and writing experiences to foster critical thinking. One goal of this course is to foster independent learning and encourage in-depth exploration of the content through the analysis of a variety of texts. Students will write in a variety of modes including responses to literature, argumentative, informational, and narrative compositions. Critical thinking skills will be emphasized to prepare students for high school AP or dual credit English coursework that can earn college credit. Students and parents must sign an acknowledgement of understanding of the program before students are enrolled. You may contact the campus counselor for more information.

## 8th Grade Math

### Math 8

This course focuses on proportional reasoning, algebraic expressions, equations, linear relationships, foundations of functions; as well as measurement and data analysis. These concepts are a required prerequisite for Algebra I, the next course in the on-level pathway.

### Honors Algebra I

*Prerequisite - Honors Math 7*

This is an honors course for high school credit. Algebra I students will study linear, quadratic, and exponential functions and their related transformations, equations, and associated solutions. Honors students will extend these Algebra I concepts and skills so that they may be prepared for AP/dual credit math courses in the future. Successful completion of this course results in one year of high school math credit. Students in this course will take the high school EOC Algebra 1 exam.

## 8th Grade Science

### Science 8

This course is interdisciplinary in nature; however, much of the content focus is on earth and space science. Content in this course includes (a) matter and energy, (b) force, motion, and energy, (c) earth and space studies and (d) organisms and environments. Students will use computers to support and investigate scientific knowledge.

## 8th Grade Social Studies

**U.S. History: Beginnings to 1877**
This course provides students with an in-depth examination of American history from Jamestown through Reconstruction. Students will gain insight into the political, economic, religious, and social events that influenced colonial America, the American Revolution, the creation and ratification of the U.S. Constitution, the challenges facing the early Republic, western expansion, sectionalism, and the Civil War and Reconstruction. Students will also examine the origins of the free enterprise system and the rights and responsibilities of U.S. citizens.

## 8th Grade Electives

**All 8th grade electives are FULL YEAR electives:**
*It is not guaranteed that all electives listed below will be offered each school year.
*What is a prerequisite?*

- A prerequisite is a specific class you must take before you are able to take another specific class.
- For example, Introduction to Technology must be taken before a student can take Intermediate Technology.

**Beginner Band**
Beginner Band is available for ALL students who would like to participate in Band. In this class, students will learn basic fundamental techniques to play their chosen band instrument and develop beginner level skills for playing in an ensemble. Beginner Band will have multiple opportunities to perform as an ensemble, including the MMM Band "Mass Band" Night, Concerts in the Fall and Spring and a Festival in the Spring semester.

**Concert Band**
*Prerequisite - Beginning Band*
In this class, students continue to work on fundamental performance skills and intermediate ensemble skills. These students have many opportunities to perform as an ensemble, including the Spring BMS Pep Rally, the MMM Band "Mass Band" Night, Concerts in the Fall and Spring and a Festival in the Spring semester. Students also have the opportunity to perform individually in the All Region Tryouts.

**Symphonic Band (Honors Band)**
*Prerequisite - Concert Band*
In this class, students work on intermediate/advanced performance skills and advanced ensemble skills. These students have many opportunities to perform as an ensemble, including the BMS Pep Rallies, the MMM Band "Mass Band" Night, Concerts in the Fall and Spring and UIL Concert and Sight-Reading Contest. Students also have the opportunity to perform individually in the All-Region Tryouts.

**Introduction to Spanish**
This course is designed to familiarize students with the Spanish language in preparation to earn a high school credit in Spanish I.

**Spanish I**
This course is an introductory course for beginning Spanish speakers. Basic language concepts important to developing proficiency will be stressed, including production of sounds, stress patterns, and intonation of the language. Students also study basic facts about geography, customs, and culture of the Spanish-speaking countries. This is a high school credit course and students who successfully complete both semesters will earn one foreign language credit toward their high school graduation plan.

**Spanish II**
*Prerequisite – Spanish I*
This course is a continuation of Spanish I. Students will continue to develop proficiency in the language, including production of sounds, stress patterns, and intonation of the language. Students also study basic facts about geography, customs, and culture of the Spanish-speaking countries. Students who complete both Spanish I and II in middle school will fulfill their foreign language requirement for their high school graduation plan.

**Art 1**
This course provides opportunities to create art designs through painting, drawing, and sculpting. Art appreciation and history are also included.

**Art 2**
*Prerequisite - Art 1*
This course provides for inventive and imaginative expression through materials and tools. Students learn the basic elements and principles of art through materials, tools, and media. Art appreciation and history are also included.

**Theater Arts**
In this class, students will be introduced to the basic concepts of theater arts.
Students will use various creative drama techniques to build confidence and trust,
stimulate imagination, movement, and role play.

**Choir**
This course teaches students how to sing and perform choral music. They also learn about music theory, vocal technique, and sight-reading and perform a variety of songs from different cultures, genres, and historical periods.

**Introduction to Technology**
Learn about current and emerging technologies, create and edit pictures, sounds and videos using various programs and equipment.

**Yearbook**
This course is an elective, two semester course where students will publish a yearbook for the school. Students will learn skills in planning, photography, word processing, page layout, graphic design, writing, and marketing. Interested students must apply in the spring semester after submitting course requests.

**Outdoor Adventures**
This class focuses on outdoor activities, such as: archery, orienteering, survival skills, first aid / CPR, trip planning, angling, tackle crafts, hiking, backpacking, camping, outdoor cooking and conservation/environmental issues.

**LINC Elective**
This elective course is provided for identified GT students in 6th, 7th, and 8th grade. The course focuses on critical thinking, problem solving, creativity, and collaboration.

**Career Explorations**
The course will create a culture of high expectation and continuous improvement that provides middle school students with a foundation for success in high school, future studies, and careers. Students explore college and career planning within specific career cluster(s). The students research labor market information, learn job-seeking skills, and create documents required for employment. Students use self-knowledge to explore and set realistic goals.

**Helping Our Peers Excel H.O.P.E.**
H.O.P.E. is a peer-tutoring/mentoring program that pairs up students with those who have significant cognitive disabilities or other developmental delays in school. Peer tutors will assist these students one class period a day, either in a core class or an elective class. The peer tutor, in addition to helping the student with his/her class work, will also develop a friendship with the student. The class will take the place of one elective.

**Principles of Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources**
**Grade: 8 HS Credit: 1**
This course allows students to develop knowledge and skills regarding career opportunities, personal development, globalization, industry standards, details, practices, and expectations. To prepare for success, students need to have opportunities to learn, reinforce, experience, apply, and transfer their knowledge and skills in a variety of settings. Bridgeport FFA is an intra-curricular part of the Ag Food and Natural Resources Cluster. Each student is required to maintain a Supervised Agricultural Experience Project (SAEP). These can consist of anything from an animal project and job placement to ag mechanics and science fair projects. Each class will also be working on training several leadership development events (LDE) and career development event (CDE) teams.

**Principles of Transportation Systems**
**Grade: 8 HS Credit: 1**
In Principles of Transportation Systems, students will gain knowledge and skills in the safe application, design, production, and assessment of products, services, and systems. This knowledge includes the history, laws and regulations, and common practices used in the transportation industry.

Students should apply knowledge and skills in the application, design, and production of technology as it relates to the transportation industries. This course allows students to reinforce, apply, and transfer their academic knowledge and skills to a variety of interesting and relevant activities, problems, and settings. Application of the knowledge and skills will be provided through hands-on experiences in the classroom and laboratory. Students are encouraged to become active in the BHS SkillsUSA Chapter.

## Courses for Which Students May Earn High School Credit

Note: Successful completion of the following courses will result in one year of high school credit. The grade earned for this course will be posted on the high school transcript. Please note the courses will be offered provided there is enrollment and teachers available to provide the instruction.

**Spanish I** - *Prerequisite Recommendation – Introduction to Spanish*
*High School Credit: 1*

**Spanish II** - *Prerequisite – Spanish I*
*High School Credit: 1*

**Honors Algebra I**
*Prerequisite - Honors Math 7*
*High School Credit: 1*

**Principles of Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources**
*High School Credit: 1*

**Principles of Transportation Systems**
*High School Credit: 1*

## Planning Your High School Program

The purpose of this guide is to assist students as they plan their academic future. A variety of counseling services are offered at Bridgeport High School. Counselors work with students, parents, and teachers to select appropriate courses for graduation and provide services throughout the year. Catalogs, handbooks, and internet resources are available for students seeking post-secondary educational opportunities. These opportunities include two
and four year colleges and universities, technical schools, and the U.S. Armed Forces. Financial aid resources are also available.

For more information, please contact the high school counselors:
Bridgeport High School: (940)683-4064

### College and Career Ready: Quick Tips

Start Early!

Build academic skills through challenging courses.

Please see your counselor for more information.

- Stay in touch with your school counselor.
- Collaborate with family, teachers, counselors, and mentors for advice and support.
- Review the 4-Year College and Career Readiness Plan in this guide.
- Ask lots of questions.
- Explore your interests through:
    - Interest inventories
    - Endorsement Pathways
    - Job shadowing
    - Conversations with adults about their jobs.

| College & Career Readiness Plan |
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| **9th Grade Checklist**<br>Freshman year, you will want to find out all of the things your school has to offer, become involved in activities, create your goals, and get off to the right start. We are here to help. |

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| **Fall** | **Meet your counselor**<br>Your counselor is ready and willing to help you make sense of your college and career options. As soon as you can, set up a meeting to talk about your plans for high school and the future.<br><br>**Get involved**<br>Extracurricular activities (both school and non-school sponsored) are an important part of high school. Make the effort to get involved with groups, clubs, or teams that interest you. These activities are fun, make you a well-rounded student, and help create your resume of experiences for postsecondary applications. A complete list of clubs and organizations can be found on the school websites.<br><br>**Make the grade**<br>Get off to a good start with your grades because they will impact your grade point average (GPA) and class rank. Although college seems like a long way off right now, grades really do count toward college admissions and scholarships.<br>At this stage in the game, you are laying the foundation for your high school career. Freshman year is a time to establish your academic and extracurricular credentials. You should also begin to explore options for your career or further education. |
| **Winter** | **Explore your interests and possible careers**<br>Discuss your skills and interests with your school counselor and take advantage of numerous Career and Technical Education (CTE) opportunities. |
| **Spring/ Summer** | **Build your credentials**<br>Keep track of academic and extracurricular awards, community service achievements, and anything else you participate in so it will be easier to remember later. It will come in handy when you want to highlight your accomplishments - such as when you are filling out college applications or creating a resume.<br><br>**Start learning about colleges and careers**<br>Look at the college and career information available in your counselor's office, school, and public libraries. Use the internet to check out college and career websites. You may even want to start a list of colleges that might interest you.<br><br>**Make summer count**<br>There are plenty of ways to have fun and build your credentials during the summer such as volunteering, getting a job, or signing up for an enrichment program. |

| Bridgeport ISD Graduation Plan | |
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| The goal of Bridgeport ISD is that all students will graduate on the Distinguished Level of Achievement graduation plan and that all students will be college and career ready. | |
| **Distinguished Level of Achievement Graduation Plan** | |
| **English Language Arts** | **4 Credits**<br>● English I *(1 credit)*<br>● English II *(1 credit)*<br>● English III *(1 credit)*<br>● Advanced English Course *(1 credit)* |
| **Math** | **4 Credits**<br>● Algebra I *(1 credit)*<br>● Geometry *(1 credit)*<br>● Algebra II *(1 credit)*<br>● Advanced Math Course *(1 credit)* |
| **Science** | **4 Credits**<br>● Biology *(1 credit)*<br>● Chemistry *(1 credit)*<br>● Advanced Science Course *(1 credit)*<br>● Advanced Science Course *(1 credit)* |
| **Social Studies** | **4 Credits**<br>● World Geography *(1 credit)*<br>● World History *(1 credit)*<br>● U.S. History: 1877 to Present *(1 credit)*<br>● U.S. Government *(.5 credit)*<br>● Economics *(.5 credit)* |
| **Physical Education (PE)** | **1 Credit** |
| **Languages Other Than English (LOTE)** | **2 Credits in the same language** |
| **Fine Arts** | **1 Credit** |
| **Electives** | **6 Credits** |
| **Total Credits** | **26 Credits** |

# Bridgeport ISD High School Endorsements

Bridgeport ISD offers all five Texas Education Agency approved endorsements for our students.
Students may choose to earn more than one endorsement.
Please read through the information below when planning your student's endorsements.

| Arts and Humanities | Business and Industry | Multidisciplinary | Public Service | STEM |
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| Students can earn this endorsement by doing one of the following:<br><br>**Social Studies:**<br>Earn 5 credits<br><br>**Fine Arts:**<br>Students can earn four credits in the same fine arts area<br>OR<br>Students take two levels of one fine arts area and two levels of a different fine arts area for a total of four fine arts credits. | The Business and Industry endorsement incorporates a large number of career paths.<br><br>**Animal Science**<br>*Certification*:<br>Veterinary Assistant Level 1<br><br>**Applied Agricultural Engineering**<br>*Certification:*<br>TBD<br><br>**Automotive**<br>*Certification:*<br>*Auto Service Excellence (ASE)*<br><br>**Plant Science**<br>*Certification*:<br>TX State Floral Association<br><br>**Marketing and Sales**<br>*Certification:*<br>Google Analytics | Students may earn a Multidisciplinary endorsement by completing the requirements from one of the following options:<br><br>**Four by Four (4x4)**<br>Students take four courses in each of the four content areas:<br>-Four English Credits to include English IV<br>-Four math credits<br>-Four science credits to include Biology and Chemistry.<br>-Four social studies credits.<br><br>**Advanced Courses:**<br>Students earn a total of four credits from Advanced Placement (AP) courses, Dual Credit (DC), or OnRamps in English, math, science, social studies, foreign language, or fine arts.<br><br>**Career and Technical Education (CTE):**<br>Students earn four credits of advanced courses that prepare them to enter the workforce or postsecondary education without remediation from within one endorsement or among endorsement areas not in a specific sequence. | The Public Service endorsement offers courses directly related to the public services field.<br><br>**Education and Training**<br>*Certification*:<br>Educational Aide<br><br>**Family and Community Services**<br>*Certification:*<br>Project Management<br><br>**Exercise Science and Wellness**<br>*Certification*:<br>Personal Trainer<br><br>**Healthcare Therapeutic**<br>*Certification*:<br>Patient Care Tech | The STEM Endorsement offers courses related to science, technology, engineering, and advanced math.<br><br>**Math:**<br>*Students take Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, and two of the following courses for which Algebra II is a prerequisite:*<br>Honors Precalculus<br>Calculus AP/AB<br>College Algebra (DC)<br><br>**Science:**<br>*Students take Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and two of the following courses:*<br>Anatomy and Physiology<br>Aquatics<br>AP Biology |

## Middle School Students Preparing for College and Careers

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| **Friendly Reminders for our Students** | • Set goals for middle school.<br>• Take the most challenging course.<br>• Explore interests in elective courses.<br>• Take an interest inventory.<br>• Ask questions and participate in class.<br>• Ask for help.<br>• Keep a student planner or agenda (paper or electronic).<br>• Do your homework.<br>• Get involved in school and community activities.<br>• Speak with adults, such as your teacher, school counselor or librarian, relatives, or family friends, who you think have interesting jobs. Ask them, “What do you like about your job?” and “What education did you need for your job?” |
| **Friendly Reminders for our Parents** | • Continue saving for your child’s college education. If you have not opened a savings account, learn about the tax advantages of saving and find a link to a clearinghouse of state college savings plans.<br>• Talk to your child about his or her interests and help match those interests with a college major and career.<br>• Help your child develop good study habits, such as studying at the same time and place every day and having the necessary materials to complete assignments. Help your child learn and use organizational skills.<br>• Stay in contact with your child’s teachers and counselor so that they can let you know about any changes in your child’s behavior or schoolwork. |