BURGETTSTOWN AREA MIDDLE SCHOOL

2026-2027
COURSE DESCRIPTION GUIDE

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Burgettstown Area Middle School

Course Description Guide

Grades 6 - 8

BURGETTSTOWN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT

We, at Burgettstown Area School District, aim to create a better everyday life for students by empowering them to develop a curiosity for learning while discovering their interests.

BURGETTSTOWN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT VISION STATEMENT

Within a nurturing and supportive school community, Burgettstown Area School District's students will become confident, future-focused, life-long learners who proudly provide meaningful contributions to society.

SCHOOL PRINCIPALS

Dr. Shaun Cooke, Principal	724-947-8100	scooke@burgettstown.k12.pa.us
Dr. Brooke Hoffman, Assistant Principal bhoffman@burgettstown.k12.pa.us	724-947-8100	

SCHOOL COUNSELORS

Mrs. Beth Roman, Middle School Counselor	724-947-8106	broman@burgettstown.k12.pa.us
Mrs. Holly Riley, High School Counselor	724-947-8107	hriley@burgettstown.k12.pa.us

INTRODUCTION

This booklet is designed as a guide for students enrolled in the middle school program of Burgettstown Middle-High School. Students should prepare for course selection by discussing options with parents/guardians, counselors, and teachers. Students should share the information found in this booklet with their parents. Parents may make arrangements to discuss course selections with the school counselor, principal, or the members of the 6, 7, or 8th grade teaching teams.

GRADING SCALE

GRADE	RANGE	QUALITY POINTS
A	93-100	4.0
A-	90-92	3.7
B+	87-89	3.4
B	83-86	3.0
B-	80-82	2.7
C+	77-79	2.4
C	73-76	2.0
C-	70-72	1.7
D+	67-69	1.4
D	63-66	1.0
D-	60-62	0.7

F	0-59	0.0

NATIONAL CAREER CLUSTERS

The National Career Clusters® Framework is comprised of 14 Career Clusters that contain occupations in the same field of work that require similar skills. Reviewing this framework can help you focus plans towards obtaining the necessary knowledge, competencies, and training for success in a particular career pathway. You can review the framework at Career Clusters - Advance CTE.

When selecting your courses, think about possible career clusters that interest you. Each department in the Course Description Guide has symbols beside them representing the career cluster that best matches the courses. Review the 14 Career Clusters before choosing your courses for next year, so your course selections match your interests and skills.

	**Advanced Manufacturing** - The Advanced Manufacturing Career Cluster blends innovative technologies and practices to enhance design and production. It covers areas such as engineering, research and development, automation and artificial intelligence, equipment maintenance, safety protocols, and quality control. This Cluster aims to increase efficiency, reduce waste, ensure safety, and produce high-quality goods, driving the industry's growth and adapting to modern demands. Subclusters include Engineering, Industrial Machinery, Production & Automation, Robotics, and Safety & Quality Assurance.
	**Agriculture** - The Agriculture Career Cluster concentrates on scientific advancement of agriscience, cultivation, processing, and distribution of agricultural products, employing advanced technologies and sustainable practices to optimize global food systems. This Cluster also supports other plant- and animal-based industries including regenerative agriculture, sustainable logging, and fisheries. This Cluster has meaningful connections with the Energy and Natural Resources Cluster, highlighting a symbiotic relationship that emphasizes stewardship and resilient communities. Subclusters include Agribusiness, Agricultural Technology & Automation, Animal Systems, Food Science & Processing, Plant Systems, and Water Systems.
	**Arts, Entertainment, & Design** - The Arts, Entertainment, & Design Career Cluster combines creative roles in visual and performing arts, film, journalism, fashion, interior design, and creative technologies. This Cluster focuses on creating, producing, and sharing artistic and design work across multiple platforms, aiming to entertain, inform, beautify, and inspire. Subclusters include Design & Digital Arts, Fashion & Interiors, Fine Arts, Lighting & Sound Technology, Media Production & Broadcasting, and Performing Arts.
	**Construction** - The Construction Career Cluster focuses on professions involved in designing, planning, managing, and executing projects in the built environment. It emphasizes sustainable building practices to ensure that structures are both environmentally responsible and resilient. Careers in this cluster are pivotal in creating durable infrastructure that meets present needs without compromising future generations' ability to meet their own, covering a range of roles from architects and engineers to construction managers and skilled tradespeople. Subclusters include Architecture & Civil Engineering:, Construction Planning & Development, Equipment Operation & Maintenance, and Skilled Trades.
	**Digital Technology** - The Digital Technology Career Cluster focuses on developing digital systems for communication and data storage using critical technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI), data analytics, and cybersecurity. This Cluster builds skills necessary for all careers to navigate and lead in the constantly evolving tech landscape and drives innovation across all industries to tackle

	complex challenges and opportunities in communities and economies. Subclusters include Data Science & Artificial Intelligence, Information Technology (IT) Support & Services, Network Systems & Cybersecurity, Software Solutions, Unmanned Vehicle Technology, and Web & Cloud.
	**Education** - The Education Career Cluster spans careers aimed at fostering learning from early childhood to adulthood, including teaching, instructional design, counseling services, community engagement, learner support, and educator training. This Cluster emphasizes quality education standards and lifelong learning, preparing individuals for success through all life stages by nurturing knowledge, skills, and critical thinking and encouraging personal and societal growth in a constantly evolving world. Subclusters include Early Childhood Development, Education Administration & Leadership, Learner Support & Community Engagement, and Teaching, Training & Facilitation.
	**Energy & Natural Resources** - The Energy & Natural Resources Career Cluster spans careers in traditional and renewable fuel production, power generation and energy conversion, utilities, environmental preservation, ecological research, and resource extraction. These industries focus on efficient and responsible resource management, including conservation, transmission, distribution and storage, to minimize environmental impacts and meet global energy needs. Careers in this cluster are dedicated to creating a sustainable future, innovating cleaner energy solutions, and preserving our planet's natural resources for generations to come. Subclusters include Clean & Alternative Energy, Conservation & Land Management, Ecological Research & Development, Environmental Protection, Resource Extraction, and Utilities.
	**Financial Services** - The Financial Services Career Cluster encompasses careers in managing and advising financial transactions, including banking, lending, corporate finance, debt management, accounting, insurance, and real estate. These careers contribute to economic stability and growth by supporting the financial health of individuals and organizations. Subclusters include Accounting, Banking & Credit, Financial Strategy & Investments, Insurance, and Real Estate.
	**Healthcare & Human Services** - The Healthcare & Human Services Career Cluster promotes whole health in individuals and communities through a diverse array of services. This sector includes technical, mental, and therapeutic services and personal care, supported by medical and social sciences. By addressing social determinants of health and leveraging health data and science, this Cluster aims to enhance the overall health and resilience of individuals, families, and communities. Subclusters include Behavioral & Mental Health, Biotechnology Research & Development, Community & Social Services, Health Data & Administration, Personal Care Services, and Physical Health.
	**Hospitality, Events, & Tourism** - The Hospitality, Events, & Tourism Career Cluster encompasses a broad range of services and experiences related to food and beverage, lodging, travel, events, and conferences. This Cluster focuses on delivering quality customer service, memorable experiences, and seamless logistics to cater to the needs and preferences of guests, tourists, and event participants. The Cluster is characterized by its diversity, including everything from luxury hotels and international travel to local dining, cultural events, and business conferences, aiming to enhance the overall experience of visitors and attendees. Subclusters include Accommodations, Conferences & Events, Culinary & Food Services, and Travel & Leisure.
	**Management & Entrepreneurship** - The Management & Entrepreneurship Career Cluster involves skills and occupations that are essential across all industries, focusing on business administration, operations optimization, strategic planning, workforce management, and entrepreneurship. It merges key areas such as data management and analysis, human resources, general operations,

	administrative support, project management, and organizational leadership. This Cluster ensures that businesses across all industries efficiently meet their goals, adapt to market changes, and maintain competitive advantage. By emphasizing entrepreneurship, this Cluster supports the creation of new ventures, driving economic growth and innovation and making it a cornerstone of modern economies. Subclusters include Business Information Management, Entrepreneurship & Small Business, Leadership & Operations, Project Management, and Regulation.
	**Marketing & Sales** - The Marketing & Sales Career Cluster focuses on promoting products, understanding consumer needs, engaging with communities, and driving sales. It integrates digital marketing, data analysis, brand promotion, customer relationship management, strategic communications, human-centered design, and retail strategies to build strong customer connections and support business growth. This Cluster is essential in all industries for creating value, effectively reaching and engaging target audiences, and achieving commercial success in a competitive marketplace. Subclusters include Market Research, Analytics, & Ethics, Marketing & Advertising, Retail & Customer Experience, and Strategic Sales.
	**Public Service & Safety** - The Public Service & Safety Career Cluster encompasses roles in local, state, and federal government; legal and justice systems; security; and military operations, all aimed at promoting civic responsibility and ensuring the well-being, security, functionality, and resilience of communities, states, and countries. Subclusters include Emergency Response, Judicial Systems, Local, State & Federal Services, Military & National Security, and Public Safety.
	**Supply Chain & Transportation** - The Supply Chain & Transportation Career Cluster encompasses the transfer, coordination, and management of goods from production to consumption, ensuring efficient movement across various modes of transportation including air, ground, and water, as well as maintenance of the respective transport modes. This Cluster integrates logistics and distribution networks to facilitate the seamless flow of materials and products, playing a crucial role in global commerce, economic development, and community health. Subclusters include Air & Space Transportation, Ground & Rail Transportation, Maintenance & Repair, Marine Transportation, Planning & Logistics, and Purchasing & Warehousing.

MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSES

LANGUAGE ARTS DEPARTMENT

Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8
ELA 6	ELA 7	ELA 8
Science 6	Science 7	Science 8
Math 6	Math 7 or Advanced Math 7	Math 8 or Algebra 1/Coding &PSSA Math
Social Studies (Ancient Cultures)	Civics & Government	American History 8
6th Grade Rotation Classes*	7th Grade Rotation Classes*	8th Grade Rotation Classes*
***Students will be assigned four 9-week rotations per grade level from the following list.**		
Physical Education Personal Wellness Library / Media InformationTechnology / Personal Finance Family & Consumer Science Sphero / Coding Art General Music Technology & Engineering Design STEAM **Rotation class offerings are subject to change.*		
Middle School Fine Arts Electives		
Instrumental Music and/or Chorus **Students may elect both music classes if they are offered at the same time each day.*		



The Language Arts Department makes a recommendation to every student on the next course the student should take in the English sequence.

Course	Length
English Language Arts (ELA) 6	**Year**
In this comprehensive English Language Arts course, students will develop proficient writing and reading skills essential for their academic growth. The curriculum emphasizes a deep understanding of the English language through targeted grammar instruction, including sentence structure, nouns, verbs, modifiers, capitalization, and punctuation. These foundational skills will be applied to enhance students' writing abilities, enabling them to articulate their thoughts clearly and effectively across various formats. The course features a literature-based curriculum organized into six engaging units and four to five independent projects. Students will examine a variety of texts while focusing on reading strategies, vocabulary development, and essential skills in listening, speaking, decoding, and processing information. This integrated approach ensures that students become not only skilled writers but also confident readers, prepared to navigate and respond to a wide range of literary and informational contexts.	
English Language Arts (ELA) 7	**Year**
In our year-long English Language Arts 7 course, students will engage in a comprehensive study of both writing and reading skills, aimed at fostering proficiency across all areas of the curriculum. The writing component emphasizes the writing process, guiding students through the creation of prompt responses, paragraphs, poetry, stories, and multi-paragraph essays. Students will learn to write with a clear purpose and to a specific audience, producing persuasive, narrative, and informative pieces that align with the Pennsylvania Standards expected by the PSSA. Fundamental grammar concepts, including parts of speech and sentence structure, will be reviewed to enhance overall writing quality. Simultaneously, the course will focus on building essential reading skills, enabling students to effectively engage with academic texts, interpret "real world" documents, and enjoy reading for pleasure. Students will develop independent reading strategies, identify literary elements, and analyze the tools authors use to convey meaning. Additionally, they will expand their vocabulary, improve comprehension skills, and employ effective strategies before, during, and after reading. Through this integrated approach, students will also demonstrate their writing, listening, and speaking abilities, preparing them for success in both academic and real-world contexts.	
English Language Arts (ELA) 8	**Year**
Eighth Grade English Language Arts (ELA) will focus on developing students' analytical and interpretive skills by studying diverse literary works, including short stories, plays, poetry, and novels. Key areas of focus will include reading with purpose, utilizing context clues, exploring cause and effect, making inferences and predictions, drawing conclusions, and analyzing the sequence of events and details. Students will also examine essential literary elements such as setting, plot, point of view, characterization, and conflict.	

Students will demonstrate their understanding through oral responses, interpretive projects, and written paragraphs on a variety of topics related to the texts. Writing instruction will emphasize informational, narrative, and persuasive modes, aligning with the Pennsylvania Common Core Standards. Additionally, students will refine their skills in crafting Text-Dependent Analysis (TDA) responses to enhance their critical thinking and writing abilities further.

SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT



The Social Studies Department makes a recommendation to every student on the next course the student should take in the Social Studies sequence.

Course	Length
Social Studies 6 (Ancient Cultures)	**Year**
This sixth grade Social Studies Course is designed to enrich students' understanding of the following: the First Cultures, the Fertile Crescent, the Nile River Valley, Ancient Greece, and Ancient Rome, and a comprehensive review of basic geography concepts. Additionally, students will be required to complete Current Events.	
Civics and Government 7	**Year**
This course will investigate the essential rights and responsibilities of citizens in systems of government. The class will begin with an emphasis on the conditions that existed in North America before governments were established. Then we'll explore the major events that led to the formation of the United States of America. These will be broken into 4 categories; Europe - Before Columbus Sailed to America, A Period of Benign Neglect, The French and Indian War, and The Events that Led to the Revolution. Students will explore the role of citizens in local, state, and national affairs. The course will also focus on the structure, organization, and operation of the local, state, and national government. In addition, students will compare and contrast the responsibilities and powers of the three branches within local, state, and national governments. *Students will be expected to gain an understanding of the U. S. Constitution and the amendments contained therein.* Participants of this course will gain the knowledge needed to become an active member of a democratic society. Students will be expected to be active in class by participating in group activities, presentations, open discussions, and debates.	
American History 8	**Year**
The eighth-grade American History course is designed to focus from the beginning to 1890. Additional components of the course include elements of Pennsylvania History plus the implementation of geography through political/physical maps.	

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT



The Science Department makes a recommendation to every student on the next course the student should take in the science sequence.

Course	**Length**
Science 6	**Year**
Sixth grade science uses the OpenSciEd curriculum to engage students in hands-on investigations and real-world phenomena across physical and Earth sciences. Students will develop scientific thinking through data collection, collaborative discussion, and model building as they explore how light works, how energy moves, and how Earth's surface changes over time. In Unit 1-Light and Matter, students investigate one-way mirrors, explore how light is transmitted and reflected, and use models to explain how the eyes and brain perceive light. Throughout Unit 2- Thermal Energy, students examine particle motion, temperature, and energy transfer through collisions and conduction, then design a solution to keep a drink cold. Finally, during Unit 4–Plate Tectonics and Rock Cycling, students model plate movement, earthquakes, volcanoes, and erosion to explain how processes above and below Earth's surface cause it to change.	
Science 7	**Year**
This year-long 7th grade science course uses the OpenSciEd curriculum to guide students through engaging, real-world phenomena as they explore key concepts in physical, life, and Earth and space sciences. Students will develop scientific thinking through hands-on investigations, data analysis, collaborative discussion, and model building. The curriculum emphasizes the practices of asking questions, developing and using models, constructing explanations, and engaging in argument from evidence. Open Sci Ed Units: 7.1 Chemical Reactions, Unit 7.3: Metabolic Reactions and Unit 8.4 Earth in Space.	
Science 8	**Year**
Eighth grade science uses the OpenSciEd curriculum to engage students in hands-on investigations and real-world phenomena across physical and life sciences. The course will provide students with a general understanding of Physical and Life Sciences. The main focus will be on forces, sound waves, genetics, natural selection and common ancestry.	

MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT



The Math Department makes a recommendation to every student on the next course the student should take in the math sequence.

Course	**Length**
Math 6	**Year**
Our math series uses problem-based interactive learning to encourage math reasoning and to introduce new strategies for problem-solving. The word and real-life problems create connections to the students' everyday life making it interesting and relevant while reinforcing fluency and comprehension. The activities provide problem-solving and math skills practice. The core of the curriculum will focus on dividing fractions, solving rates and ratios, working with expressions and equations, figuring area and volume, and understanding variability and data distribution.	
Math 7	**Year**
The math curriculum reflects the PA Core Standards and uses the Open Up Resources curriculum. It focuses 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.	
Advanced Math 7	**Year**
The math curriculum reflects the PA Core Standards and uses the Open Up Resources curriculum. This course differs from the non-accelerated 7th-grade course in that it contains content from 8th Grade. The additional content when compared to the non-accelerated course demands a faster pace for instruction and learning. Content is organized into four critical areas: (1) develop an understanding/apply operations with rational numbers and extend their mastery of the properties of operations to develop an understanding of integer exponents; (2) use linear equations and systems of linear equations to represent, analyze, and solve a variety of problems; (3) build on previous work with single data distributions to compare two data distributions; and (4) solve problems involving scale drawings/informal geometric constructions, and working with two- and three- dimensional shapes to solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume.	
Math 8	**Year**
The Math 8 curriculum reflects the PA Core Standards. It focuses on five critical areas: (1) The Number System; (2) Expressions and Equations; (3) Functions; (4) Geometry and (5) Data.	
Algebra 1 **Credit - 1.0**	**Year**
The 8th-grade Algebra I curriculum reflects the PA Core Standards. It focuses on critical areas, including real numbers; linear equations and inequalities; functions; probability and statistics; measures of data	

and spread; systems of linear equations and inequalities; rational exponents and radical expressions; and polynomial operations. Advanced Math 7 is recommended for this course. ***Students who take Algebra 1 and pass will receive 1 high school credit towards graduation.***	
PSSA Math 8	**1 Semester**
In this enrichment course, students will cover essential concepts aligned with the Pennsylvania Core Standards. Through a combination of interactive lessons, problem-solving practice, and assessments, students will develop proficiency in key areas such as geometry, statistics, and data analysis. Emphasis will be placed on problem-solving strategies, mathematical reasoning, and application of mathematical concepts in real-world scenarios. **Prerequisite: Students must be currently enrolled in Algebra 1.**	
Coding 8	**1 Semester**
Students will continue using the Computer Science Foundations (CSF) curriculum. The students will work their way up to Advanced Block programming, and gain a basic understanding of JavaScript. By the end of this course, students will be able to: Use a series of nested controls - including loops & conditionals-to create more complex programs; Be able to use basic comparators & operators in their conditionals; Use functions as mini programs to perform a specific task within their larger program; Use and manipulate all Sphero sensors to meet appropriate purposes in their programs; Explain how variables are used in a program; Explain how Blocks equate to JavaScript code and manipulate specific sections of JS code. **Prerequisite: Students must be currently enrolled in Algebra 1.**	

ROTATION COURSES

HEALTH/PHYSICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT



Course	Length
Physical Education	**9 weeks**
Physical Education is a rotation course that will focus on individual and team activities along with physical fitness.	
Personal Wellness	**9 Weeks**
Personal Wellness is a comprehensive rotation course designed to promote individual and team activities while emphasizing physical fitness and overall well-being. Throughout the course, students will engage in a variety of topics that are crucial for personal development and informed decision-making. Key areas of focus will include drug and alcohol prevention, career exploration, understanding sexual harassment, and developing decision-making and refusal skills related to AIDS and teen pregnancy. In addition to these vital discussions, students will receive certification in First Aid and gain knowledge in personal and community health, as well as the foundational principles of good health. By participating in this course, students will not only enhance their physical fitness but also equip themselves with essential life skills and knowledge that will support their overall wellness and prepare them for future challenges.	

LANGUAGE ARTS DEPARTMENT



Course	Length
Library/Media 6	**9 Weeks**
For 6th graders, this rotation course focuses on 21st Century sources available in the library/media center. The class will cover topics allowing students to develop the necessary 21st-century thinking skills used in real-world applications.	

BUSINESS EDUCATION / INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT



Course	Length
Information Technology/Personal Finance 6	**9 weeks**
Information Technology/Personal Finance 6 is a rotation course consisting of 3 main items: keyboarding mastery, Internet Safety, and Entrepreneurship. Students will complete beginner and intermediate lessons (and most will move on to advanced) and will be tested for accuracy and speed. They will analyze internet safety topics such as: finding a medium balance, cyberbullying, finding balance in a digital world, and digital footprints. They will also complete an Entrepreneurship activity and will then explore and document many facets of their business idea in an Entrepreneurship project. They will also talk about a variety of personal finance topics discussed throughout the course to introduce topics for financial literacy.	
Information Technology/ Personal Finance 7	**9 weeks**
The nine-week rotation course is designed to provide students with time to explore and develop meaningful decisions about their future career choices. Students evaluate career options based on their interests, knowledge, skills, abilities, and educational goals. Students will understand the importance of developing an individualized career plan that will guide them as they transition to high school, post-secondary education, and eventually the workplace. In addition to career exploration, students will complete a budget analysis to determine if their career choice will support their future lifestyle choices. Throughout the course, students will work on project-based assignments using *Smart Futures* and various *Google* applications. Students will also learn various personal finance topics, such as topics relating to income, spending, saving and investing, and credit. Students will meet the Burgettstown seventh-grade technology objectives based on the *Business, Computer, and Information Technology Standards.* At the conclusion of the course, students will have a clear understanding of their career pathway(s) to follow throughout high school by meeting the *Career Education and Work Standards* addressing four areas of knowledge: ● *Career Awareness and Preparation* ● *Career Acquisition* ● *Career Retention and Advancement* ● *Entrepreneurship* ***This course is required of all seventh-grade students.***	
Information Technology/Personal Finance 8	**9 Weeks**
IT/PF 8 is a 9-week course designed to reinforce basic word processing, internet navigation, internet safety, career awareness skills, and personal finance. Students will meet the Burgettstown 8th grade technology objectives based on the Business, Computer, and Information Technology state standards as well as the standards for Career Education and Work. Students will also meet the Career Readiness Indicators for the Future Ready PA Index and ESSA Accountability. Students will	

build upon the technology skills they learned in 7th grade to demonstrate their ability to research, create, and edit documents

The rotation will focus on three main objectives: **Career Education/Readiness**, **Cyberbullying/Digital Media Safety, and Personal Finance**. Their career education begins early in their academic career and concludes with the Career Readiness class during their junior or senior year. For this rotation, students will primarily use Smart Futures to explore various activities useful in developing their career pathway such as conflict resolution, career research, goal setting, learning styles, and today's changing workplace. They will develop extensive reports utilizing their findings. Cyberbullying is becoming one of our nation's fastest-growing concerns in today's schools. Kids are not only being bullied online but also in person. This course will address this serious issue and discuss ways students can protect themselves, prevent, and report cyberbullying. The Personal Finance portion will include items such as: The economics of healthcare, health insurance, and managing credit. ***This course is required of all eighth-grade students***.

FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCE DEPARTMENT



Course	Length
Family & Consumer Science	**9 weeks**
This course is designed to introduce students to the areas of Family and Consumer Science. The following units are included: Childcare/Babysitting, Sewing (basic stitches/hand sewing and pillowcases on sewing machines), Healthy Life Decisions and Interior Design (design a 3-D living space) Students provide their own material and supplies for the pillowcase.	

MATH DEPARTMENT



Course	Length
Sphero/Coding	**9 Weeks**
In the Sphero: Computer Science Foundations course, students will learn about programming basics using block-based languages on the Sphero EDU platform. Foster creativity and problem-solving skills by engaging in collaborative projects, building interactive games, and developing algorithmic thinking.	

FINE ARTS DEPARTMENT



Course	Length
Art	**9 weeks**
This course focuses on art as a discipline and examines the areas of aesthetics, art criticism, and art history. Students will spend the rotation working on projects that will develop individual ideas and talents as an artist. They will explore projects that will increase knowledge about art materials, media, and art production.	
General Music	**9 Weeks**
Students will have an opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of American music with a focus on the rock and roll era. Students will trace the roots of rock and roll and popular music from the early 1900s through the present time. Students will develop a greater sense of musical meaning and interpretation through analyzing and performing a variety of rhythmic and tonal skills associated with the music referenced in class.	

TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION DEPARTMENT



Course	Length
Technology/Engineering Design	**9 Weeks**
Technology/Engineering is an introductory class designed to give the student a basic knowledge of how products are produced in the world. Students will research different inventors and report on the invention and how society was affected by the product. The remainder of the course will be used to produce a project.	
STEAM	**9 Weeks**
In STEAM, students will embark on an exciting journey that combines Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics into engaging, hands-on learning experiences. Throughout the year, students will explore various topics through creative projects and collaborative problem-solving activities that encourage critical thinking and innovation.	

Students will investigate scientific concepts through experiments, design and build engineering projects, and utilize technology to enhance their understanding of real-world applications. The integration of the arts will allow students to express their creativity and develop a deeper appreciation for the interconnectedness of these fields.
By participating in STEAM, students will develop essential skills such as teamwork, communication, and adaptability, preparing them for future academic and career opportunities. This course aims to inspire a passion for learning and discovery while fostering a sense of curiosity about the world around them.

FINE ARTS ELECTIVES



Course	Length
Instrumental Music 6	**Year**
This course establishes the fundamentals of playing musical instruments for beginners and reinforces any beginning-level skills learned in 4th or 5th grade, including basic improvisation. By the end of the year, students begin to play more challenging music and develop their instrumental skills. Previous experience is not required.	
Chorus 6	**Year**
Chorus is an elective course open to all students in the sixth grade, who are interested in participating in singing with a performing group. The sixth-grade chorus is one of three performing groups. Chorus provides a foundation in singing that students will carry with them through middle and high school as they continue in chorus. The course allows singers to coordinate basic musical knowledge and skills while learning proper vocal techniques, ensemble techniques, and music reading skills. The class meets every other day. There are performances each year in addition to social activities, awards, and field trips. The music performed is of various forms and genres. Evening rehearsals and concerts held at specific times throughout the year are mandatory. **Students join all performing ensembles with the understanding that performances (concerts, etc. outside of the school day announced as a part of the course) constitute a part of their grade/evaluation.** Students receive regular grades as in required subjects.	
Instrumental Music 7-8	**Year**
Students continue to learn and to improve upon the fundamentals needed for playing their instrument, through the use of method books and appropriate concert literature. The students participate in several public performances throughout the year, including the graduation ceremony at the end of the school year. This class meets every day, all year.	
Chorus 7-8	**Year**

Chorus is open to all students in the 7th grade, who are interested in participating in a performing choral group. The curriculum offers background preparation for, and a performing opportunity for those students planning to become actively involved in the Senior High School Program. The course will coordinate basic musical knowledge and skills while emphasizing proper vocal, and ensemble techniques, ear training, music reading skills, and the elements of music. There are performances each year in addition to social activities, awards, and field trips. The literature performed is of various forms and genres including sacred, secular, and popular songs. Stress is given to age-appropriate musicianship/aesthetic response including rehearsal and concert etiquette, and responsibilities associated with membership in a performance group. Evening rehearsals and concerts held at specific times throughout the year are mandatory. **Students join all performing ensembles with the understanding that performances (concerts, etc.) outside the school day announced as part of the course constitute a part of their grade/evaluation.** Few schedule conflicts arise between choirs and the sports activity programs.

Chorus 8	**Year**

Chorus is open to all students in the 8th grade, who are interested in participating in a performing choral group. The curriculum offers background preparation for, and a performing opportunity for those students planning to become actively involved in the Senior High School Program. The course will coordinate basic musical knowledge and skills while emphasizing proper vocal, and ensemble techniques, ear training, music