



2026 - 2027 Academic Exploration Courses

*Denotes that an application is required for this AE class, in addition to making the selections in PowerSchool. Class sizes are limited and not all students who apply will be accepted. You can access the application on the school website.

Academic Exploration – Quarterly Rotation (6th, 7th, 8th)

Many students will have a Quarterly Rotation as their AE class. Students will get the opportunity for a little more help in a specific subject area, going above and beyond the standard curriculum. Students will engage in project-based learning and use their creativity to expand, enhance, and enrich their knowledge, spending the AE period with a new teacher each quarter as classes rotate through subject areas.

Art Design (7th and 8th)*

Art Design is for students with a passion for art. Assignments will be in a variety of two- and three-dimensional media, including drawing, painting, and printmaking, as well as more challenging materials. ***Students must complete an application with a photo upload.***

Coding (6th)

Coding covers a basic introduction to the principles of programming, including algorithms and logic. Students engage in hands-on programming tasks as they write and test their own code using the approaches real programmers use in the field. (6th grade only - scheduled with STEM, each as a semester class.)

Crafts (7th and 8th)

Crafts will apply art abilities and problem-solving skills to create functional items. Topics covered will include hand sewing, crochet, weaving, paper beads, quilling and altered books. Students should be creative, good with their hands, willing to work with a variety of textural materials, and responsible with shared tools.

Current Events (6th, 7th, 8th)

Current Events gives a focus on world and local issues that affect students' everyday lives, such as economics, government, and conflict. Students will use newspapers, online media, cartoons, and newscasts to support class discussion and simulate problem solving. (Scheduled with Speech & Debate for 6th grade/all year for 7th & 8th grade.)

Exploratory Strings (6th, 7th, 8th)

Exploratory Strings is a course for students who have no previous experience with a string instrument but would like to try orchestra. Students will use school-owned instruments and no musical background is necessary. Students who are interested may contact Mrs. Beth Smith at esmith2@bartlettschools.org.

Facing History and Ourselves (7th and 8th)

Facing History and Ourselves is a social studies course which incorporates history, civics, humanities, and literature. This course is heavy on class discussions and integrates the study of history and literature with ethical decision-making and innovative teaching strategies.

Lifetime Games (6th, 7th, 8th)

Participate in engaging activities for lifelong enjoyment and fitness! Students will be introduced to games that can be played throughout a person's life, regardless of age. The class will promote physical activity in a fun and engaging way, while also encouraging social interaction and teamwork. (Lifetime Games is not intended to be taken concurrently with PE as a MAPS class, but rather for students in other MAPS classes).

Newspaper (6th, 7th, 8th)*

Students will begin to learn the writing styles of modern journalism—news, features, and editorials. Students will also learn page layout and basic photography and will explore the ethical issues involved in journalism. Students are expected to work both independently and as a staff, meet weekly deadlines, and maintain high journalistic standards. The class produces a school newspaper and, as a result, this course requires some work outside of class time. ***Students must complete an application.***

Men's Choir (6th, 7th, 8th)

You will learn vocal techniques, basics of music literacy, and how to navigate singing while going through voice changes. This class is perfect for young men who are already signed up for another MAPS but still want to sing! Changed voices and unchanged voices are all welcome. To join, you will do a range check and pitch matching with Mrs. Paluso. You do not have to have a prepared audition. Contact Mrs. Paluso at lpaluso@bartlettschools.org for more information.

Spanish I Honors (8th)

Spanish I Honors is a high school course and students who complete the class will earn a foreign language credit for high school, along with a solid start in second language acquisition. Students in this class will also be able to participate in the National Spanish Exam. This is a high school credit course during our normal AE time, so students must meet the BCS qualifications. Students may subsequently take Spanish II in high school to complete the foreign language requirement for graduation. Please contact Profe Moore at smoore@bartlettschools.org if you would like additional information.

Speech and Debate (6th)

Speech and Debate focuses on a curriculum that will give students an introduction to a variety of public speaking and formal debate styles, as well as speech writing. (Scheduled with Current Events, each as a semester class.)

STEM (6th, 7th, 8th)

STEM is an integrated, interdisciplinary curriculum involving science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. The STEM curriculum involves students in tackling real-world issues through exploration, inquiry, and problem-solving experiences. (6th grade is scheduled with Coding, each as a semester class. 7th & 8th grade STEM is a year-long class.)

Yearbook (6th, 7th, 8th)*

Yearbook is designed to develop students' skills in yearbook production by providing experiences in selected aspects of our school's yearbook. Students learn basic principles of production and develop skills that include writing, copy, captions, and headlines; digital photography; desktop publishing and using technology tools for media production. Students **MUST** be able to attend some after school activities such as football, volleyball, and basketball games, school dances, etc. ***Students must complete an application.***