Berkshire Middle School

Seventh Grade Course Catalog

2026-2027

21707 West Fourteen Mile Road
Beverly Hills, MI 48025

2026-2027 Course Descriptions – Grade 7
REQUIRED COURSES

Social Studies (all year, every day)
The 7th-grade Social Studies curriculum is designed as a contemporary geography course that equips students with a foundational understanding of geography before exploring various global regions. This course covers Canada and the United States, Latin America, Europe and Russia, Africa, Southwest and Central Asia, and Monsoon Asia, providing students with a comprehensive view of each area's geographical characteristics, cultural nuances, and contemporary challenges. Through engaging case studies, students will examine real-world issues such as the sustainability of the Great Lakes freshwater ecosystem, consumption patterns in the United States, land use conflicts in the Amazon Rainforest, the dynamics of cooperation within the European Union, and the impact of women micro-entrepreneurs in Africa. This curriculum broadens students' geographic knowledge and enhances their understanding of complex global issues, fostering a more informed and empathetic worldview.

Language Arts (all year, every day)
The 7th Grade Language Arts program is designed to develop and integrate the skills of reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Utilizing the Houghton Mifflin Harcourt text "Collections," the course offers high-interest literature and informational selections across various genres, coupled with systematic instruction in writing, grammar, usage, and vocabulary. Students will enjoy ample opportunities for choice reading to foster a love for literature. Writing assignments will encompass argumentative essays, narratives, and a research project, allowing students to explore and express their ideas comprehensively. The curriculum is organized into thematic units such as Bold Actions, The Creative World, Perception and Reality, and Guided by a Cause, each designed to challenge and engage students in meaningful learning experiences.

Science (all year, every day)
The 7th Grade Science course offers students a deeper dive into the wonders of scientific exploration, continuing to build upon their foundational knowledge with units focusing on chemical and physical properties and changes, motion and energy transfer, weather patterns, and biological processes. Emphasizing hands-on, inquiry-based learning, students will embody the role of scientists—employing models, analyzing data, and constructing explanations to investigate a variety of phenomena. This course integrates the science and engineering practices and crosscutting concepts of the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), ensuring students not only understand scientific concepts but also develop skills in critical thinking, problem-solving, and effective communication. Through engaging in these scientific practices, students will gain a comprehensive understanding of how science applies to the world around them, preparing them for more advanced studies in the sciences.

Mathematics (all year, every day)
Math 7 is a comprehensive, engaging course that covers all Grade 7 standards. In Math 7, students extend concepts of rates and ratios to work with equivalent ratios and proportional relationships. Students expand their understanding of fractions to include all rational numbers and become comfortable working with and comparing expressions and equations. Throughout it all, students solve compelling mathematical and real world problems.

Math 7/8 is an accelerated course that will cover about half of the Grade 7 standards and all of the Grade 8 standards by carefully compacting and aligning learning goals. Students complete the work of middle school in this course. Students work with linear equations with one and two variables, deepen their understanding of proportional relationships and express linear relationships using equations, tables, and graphs. Students encounter irrational numbers and end the year with study of the Pythagorean Theorem. Students who successfully complete this course in 7th grade will be ready to enroll in Integrated 1 (a high school course) in 8th grade.
Prerequisites: 7th grade math (or equivalent Math 6/7)

Physical Education and Health
(semester, every day or all year, every other day if you have a Music Class)

Health
The Health Class that will be studied in middle school includes physical, mental/emotional, and social well-being – the three sides of the “health” triangle. The program implements a knowledge and skills-based approach to studying health. It helps provide the information and skills young people need to make healthy choices. Students will learn how their well-being can be impacted by their decision-making, refusal skills and abstinence (from high-risk behaviors). Units of study include: Understanding Your Health, Health Skills: The Foundation, Mental and Emotional Health, Relationships: The Teen Years, Medicines and Drugs, Tobacco, Alcohol, Promoting Social Health; Your Body System; Growth and Development-(Reproduction, Communicable Diseases, STI, HIV/AIDS, Human Sexuality, relationships and media influence).

Physical Education

Students will participate in activities that are designed to help them understand and value physical activity and physical fitness and its contribution towards a healthy, active lifestyle. The lessons will also develop skills and game strategies in a variety of team and individual sports/activities. Students will develop skills that emphasize different aspects of fitness in the areas of fitness, net/wall activities, striking and fielding, invasion sports, and aquatics. Activities might include but are not limited to fitness training (cardiovascular endurance, muscular strength, agility, and flexibility), conditioning, frisbee golf, badminton, volleyball, soccer, basketball, floor hockey and swimming.

ELECTIVE COURSES

World Language – French 1A or Spanish 1, (semester)
(Prerequisite: Sixth Grade World Language)

Students will continue their studies of French or Spanish from the sixth grade. A lively and active conversational approach is used in speaking and understanding the language. Reading, writing, grammar, and culture is continued.

French Grades 6-8 = Level One at BPS High Schools (1 HS Credit)

Spanish Grades 6-8 = Level One and Two at BPS High Schools (2 HS Credits)

Course Name	Grade Level	Length	Content	Credit
Intro to French	6th	Every other day all year	French 1 Semester 1 Q1	N/A
French 1A	7th	Semester	French 1 Semester 1 Q2	0.5
French 1B	8th	All year	French 1 Semester 2	0.5
Intro to Spanish	6th	Every other day all year	Spanish 1 Semester 1	N/A
Spanish 1	7th	Semester	Spanish 1 Semester 2	1.0
Spanish 2	8th	All year	Spanish 2 Semester 1 & 2	1.0

World Language Level One

These courses are designed for students who may or may not have studied a language and/or have limited experience. They develop entry-level skills in speaking/expressive communication, listening/receptive skills, reading, and writing, with an emphasis on interpretive abilities. They also foster an early understanding of the culture. Students will be able to understand and to ask simple questions on structured, familiar topics. They can only satisfy a small number of immediate needs. This course is usually limited to the present tense. (It is understood that BPS Spanish students may come with some prior experience.)

- French 1
- Spanish 1

World languages taught at middle school follow the same scope and sequence, use the same textbooks, and administer the same common assessments.

2026-2027 Course Descriptions – Grade 7

Skills For Living (semester)
This semester course is designed to give students practical experiences in food preparation and management as well as other 21st- century life skills. There is an emphasis on kitchen safety, utilizing different types of equipment, and kitchen math and measurement. Lab experiences build upon this knowledge throughout the semester as students explore a wide variety of recipes and cooking techniques. Communication, decision-making, problem-solving, and positive social skills are the building blocks to success in this course.

Skills for Success (semester)
This semester course is designed to give students practical experiences in food preparation and management as well as other 21st-century life skills. There is an emphasis on kitchen safety, utilizing different types of equipment, and kitchen math and measurement. Lab experiences build upon this knowledge throughout the semester as students explore a wide variety of recipes and cooking techniques. Nutrition, financial literacy, and career exploration are infused throughout the semester using a variety of digital programs. Communication, decision-making, problem-solving, and positive social skills are the building blocks to success in this course.

Adventures in Art (semester)
This course will expose students to a variety of two and three dimensional art work. Experiences in this class include: painting, drawing, printmaking, ceramics, sculpture, graphic design, as well as many other forms of art. Students will increase their creative thinking skills, gain confidence and proficiency in working with a variety of mediums.

Art by Design (semester)
This course focuses on digital art: graphic design, digital photography, and computerized art. Students will utilize Adobe Illustrator and Photoshop. Students will work with the elements of art and the principles of design. Some projects may include: typography, vector drawing, cover design, poster design, and digital photography. Students will create projects revolving around design for both new and existing products using traditional art media. Students will be able to take home professionally printed copies of their work created in class.

Exploration in Art (semester)
This course will increase students' skill levels in art. Students in this course will be exposed to and will work with two and three dimensional works of art. Projects may include: sketchbooks, color theory, painting, ceramics, and printmaking. Students may also have experiences working in graphic design using Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator.

Engage (semester)
The design and purpose of this course is to provide a collaborative space for students to inquire, design, and create through inquiry-based learning. Students will explore questions, challenges, topics, or technologies of interest, at their own pace, and in directions of their choosing with the guidance of the teacher. Students will plan and reflect on their creations, processes, successes, and difficulties through multimodal learning. The goal of this program is to prepare students for global learning opportunities by engaging their interest and imagination in science, technology, engineering, arts, and math. Students will develop their cognitive processes of analysis, comparison, inference, evaluation, and synthesis applied to a range of academic domains and problem-solving contexts.

Exploring Engineering (semester)
The Exploring Engineering Technology class is for students interested in designing and building individual projects using the design process as a guide. After learning "shop" safety and how to properly use the design process to come up with a working, to scale design of their project. Students will have the opportunity to build their project in the lab. Two projects commonly produced are a CO_2 race car and a wooden candy machine. Students will have the opportunity to use a variety of materials, hand tools, and power tools, to complete their projects.

Applied Engineering (semester)
The Applied Engineering Technology class is a hands-on experience where several different areas of technology will be explored. The course is designed where there will be more emphasis placed on group projects and designs emphasizing various industry environments. This class will explore major areas such as design simple and complex machines, and research development. A strong emphasis will be placed on problem-solving activities in which both individual and group efforts are developed. Projects may include robotics, 3D design, and more.

Computer Aided Drafting and Design (CADD) (semester)
This course is for students interested in engineering drawing and design. Students will be exposed to a variety of drawing techniques and computer-aided 2-D and 3-D software design programs to learn the fundamentals of communicating engineering ideas. Students will have the opportunity to see their ideas and drawings come to life using a 3-D printer and laser cutter. Students will demonstrate their communication and engineering skills through the development of a series of projects.

Theatre Arts (semester)
Theater Arts, a one-semester elective for 7th and 8th graders, is an activity-based course. The objectives are for students to gain knowledge and experience in performing and to improve communication skills. The emphasis is on participation, individually and in groups. Students will create and perform improvisations and scripted scenes applying the skills and knowledge gained in the course. The students will participate in pantomimes; the use of voice, improvisations, extemporaneous activities, and planned performances.

Music Options

Choir 7 (all year, every other day)
7th Grade Choir builds on foundational music skills to create an outstanding performing group. Students explore classical, musical theater, and popular repertoire while advancing their musicianship, vocal technique, piano notation, and music reading. Participation in the Choral Festival is required at this level. Participation in Solo & Ensemble and MSVMA Honors Choir is encouraged at this level. Field trips, social outings, and team-building activities enhance the experience. All students, regardless of experience, are welcome to join! **Attendance is required at all choir performances.**

Band (all year, every other day)
7th Grade Band helps students build on their music skills, focusing on tone, rhythm, and technical fluency. Students will achieve instrumental technique and artistic growth. Students are expected to participate in four or five out-of-school performances. Participation in band festivals is required at this level. Participation in solo & ensemble is encouraged at this level. **Daily practice is expected and attendance is required at all full band performances.**
Prerequisites: 1–2 years of playing experience.

Orchestra (all year, every other day)
7th Grade Orchestra builds on basic music skills such as tone, rhythm, and technical fluency. The curriculum supports measurable instrumental growth and artistic development. Students will participate in approximately four (4) performance opportunities throughout the year. Field trips, social outings, and team-building activities enhance the experience. **Class requirements include: averaging twenty (20) minutes of practice daily, some written assignments, bi-monthly playing tests, and attendance at all performances.**
Prerequisites: 1–2 years of playing experience.

COURSES RECOMMENDED BY TEACHERS

Reading Lab (semester, every day or all year, every other day)
Literacy is a small group reading intervention that allows students to strengthen their vocabulary, practice fluency, and focus on using comprehension strategies (inferring, making connections, questioning, visualizing, etc.) within texts. Literacy allows students to learn and practice reading strategies through teacher modeling, cooperative learning, and independent practice. In this strategy-based course, students will benefit from this additional practice by using reading strategies for comprehension, decoding, and fluency when reading fiction and non-fiction texts. Students also have an opportunity to strengthen their writing skills through writer's workshop sessions. Students who qualify for this course typically fall below grade level in reading and would benefit from additional reading instruction. There is no additional homework in this class. A certified Reading Specialist, who is a member of the district reading department, will instruct this course.

Math Lab (all year, every day or all year, every other day)
Math Lab is taken alongside Math 6, 7, or 8 as a separate math class designed to support and strengthen students' math skills. This course focuses on pre-teaching and reinforcing key concepts and skills taught in Math 6, 7, or 8, while also addressing foundational prerequisite skills to help students build confidence and competence in math. By providing targeted instruction and practice, Math Lab prepares students not only for success in their current math class but also for future middle school and high school math courses. Assessments may be used to monitor progress and guide individualized support. Math Lab is taken in conjunction with College Prep Math (two math classes per day). **Teacher recommendation is required.**

Language Arts for Emerging Bilinguals A (all year, everyday)
Language Arts for Emerging Bilinguals A is a class for newcomers to the U.S. Students learn English in the four domains: listening, speaking, reading and writing. Students learn interpersonal communication skills and begin developing the academic language needed to be successful in their content area classes. This class is based on English level rather than grade level, and students may be in 6th, 7th, or 8th grade.

Language Arts for Emerging Bilinguals B (all year, everyday)
Language Arts for Emerging Bilinguals B is a language arts class that is aligned with the BPS language arts curriculum, with modifications to meet the needs of English language learners. Students work on the same reading and writing strategies, genres, literary analysis, and themes and skills as their native English-speaking classmates. The goal of this class is to help students develop increased fluency in their reading and to read increasingly difficult texts in English for multiple purposes. This class focuses on the application of multiple reading strategies in a variety of genres, the continued learning of high-frequency vocabulary, note-taking in academic settings and further development of listening and speaking skills. Students develop increased skill in the use of more complex grammatical conventions, such as identification of all parts of speech, singular and plural nouns, verb usage in past, present and future, subject-verb agreement, and compound and complex sentences. Writing skills are developed from the paragraph to the essay level using various organizational patterns. Students increase their proficiency in the use of multimedia as tools for language development. This class is based on English level rather than
grade level, and students may be in 6th, 7th, or 8th grade.

Language Arts for Emerging Bilinguals C (all year, everyday)
Language Arts for Emerging Bilinguals C is aligned with the BPS language arts curriculum, with modifications to meet the needs of English language learners. Students work on the same reading and writing strategies, genres, literary analysis, and themes and skills as their native English-speaking classmates. The goal of this class is to help students develop increased fluency in their reading and to read increasingly difficult texts in English for multiple purposes. This class focuses on the application of multiple reading strategies in a variety of genres, particularly with a focus on their ability to analyze, synthesize, and evaluate information and increase their independent reading. Furthermore, students continue to develop their mastery of academic vocabulary, note-taking in academic settings and more extensive listening and speaking skills. Students develop increased skill in the use of complex grammatical conventions, such as more sophisticated verb usage, comparatives and superlatives, prepositions, dependent and independent clauses, and compound and complex sentences. Writing skills are developed at the five-paragraph essay level using various organizational patterns. Students increase their proficiency in the use of multimedia as tools for language development. This class is based on English level rather than grade level, and students may be in 6th, 7th, or 8th grade.

Language Arts for Emerging Bilinguals (LAEB) Tutorial (all year, everyday)
Language Arts for Emerging Bilinguals (LAEB) Tutorial is an elective offered to English language learners in ESL A, B, or C. In this class, students receive help with their content area classes such as science, social studies, math, and language arts. The staff works in conjunction with the mainstream teachers to provide additional support. Tutorial may also be used for more instruction in the English language or in American culture.