



Curriculum Guide 2024-2025

Banks Middle School

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students,

Welcome to Banks Middle School, where our mission is to engage, challenge, and prepare every student to realize their potential. We aim to support each and every one of our students in feeling happy and proud to be a BMS Brave! In support of that mission, we are proud to offer a rigorous core academic program aligned to the State Standards, enriched by numerous elective course choices. The courses in this guide represent BMS's continuing commitment to a strong middle level program for all students.

We ask that parents and children review this guide together to make elective selections that best fit current and future interests, talents, and goals. Please note that in the initial stages of the forecasting process, there is no way of predicting which classes will fill to capacity and which classes may have to be cancelled due to insufficient interest. It is, therefore, extremely important that you and your child fill out all of the information requested on the forecasting form for class choices, including all ranked alternate selections, as these may be the classes to which a student is assigned. Additionally, while we strive to place all students in their requested courses, the constraints of staffing and master scheduling sometimes limit the ability to offer sections of all courses listed at times that work in every student's schedule. We are committed to crafting the best possible schedule for each student. If you have any questions about our forecasting process or these offerings, please reach out to our counselor, our assistant principal, or myself.

Thank you for your engagement in this process!

Caitlin Everett
Banks Middle School Principal

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACADEMIC PROGRAM	2
FORECASTING PROCESS	3
Course Descriptions	4
ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS	4
SOCIAL STUDIES	6
MATHEMATICS	8
SCIENCE	11
HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION	12
HOMEROOM (6th grade)	14
TECHNOLOGY (7th and 8th Grades)	14
Electives	15
Full Period Elective List	15
Full Period Electives - Course Descriptions	16
Half Period Electives List	20
Half Period Electives - Course Descriptions	21

ACADEMIC PROGRAM

In this guide, you will find course names and descriptions for each course we offer at Banks Middle School, including core and elective classes. For the 2024-25 School Year, Banks Middle School is changing to a Block Schedule, where students have 8 classes total and each class meets every other day. Periods 1-4 meet on “A” days and periods 5-8 meet on “B” days. See the below table to review the courses each student takes, based on their grade level. With the block schedule, students have the opportunity to take two electives. One of those electives is a “full” elective, meaning it meets for the entire 88 minute period. Some full electives are year long, while others are one semester in length. The other elective will be a “half” elective, which meets for half the period (44 minutes). The other half of that period is spent in a separate class called Middle School Success, which is a combination of study hall time, advisory lessons that include our Social and Emotional Learning standards, as well as some career lessons.

All students will be assigned the following courses in their schedule:

6th Grade	7th & 8th Grade
Language Arts	Language Arts
Science	Science
Math	Math
Social Studies	Social Studies
PE	PE
Homeroom	1 semester Health / 1 semester Technology
*Full period elective	Full period elective
*Half period elective / Middle School Success	Half period elective / Middle School Success

*All 6th graders are required to take one of our several music class offerings (either as their full or half elective). Please see the [Electives](#) section of this guide to review the four different options that meet this requirement (Concert Choir, Beginning Band, Guitar, and Music Exploration).

FORECASTING PROCESS

Students will be given a paper forecasting planning sheet to review at school and then take home on Monday, April 8th. Based on these selections, students will forecast for their desired electives by submitting a google form during school on Thursday, April 11th. Each student will need to choose either one year long or two semester full period electives, as well as two half-period semester electives. Students will also choose ranked alternates for each type of elective. Additionally, incoming 7th and 8th grade students have the option of forecasting for an alternate PE class, called Personal Fitness.

Students may be assigned to a Mathematics course that is above grade level by teacher recommendation and evidence of a high level and rate of learning based on Smarter Balanced assessments, progress monitoring data such as iReady, and student's grades in prior semesters.

Students will complete a forecasting Google Form on April 11th by selecting their preferred electives and ranking their alternate elective choices. It is important for students to think thoughtfully about ranking their alternates, as it is likely that students will take one or more electives from their alternates list.

Course Descriptions

Each course description below provides a general overview of the subject matter taught at each grade level or course.

ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS

Students in English/Language Arts classes will focus on the following standards at their grade level:

- Use conventions and language correctly
- Demonstrate comprehension of key ideas and details of grade-level literary and informational texts
- Analyze and evaluate an author's craft and structure
- Analyze knowledge and ideas from multiple sources
- Conduct effective research and effectively present information
- Write arguments to support claims
- Write informative/explanatory/narrative texts

Our curriculum for Language arts is Mirrors and Windows, published by Carnegie Learning. In addition to this textbook, we have specific novels and additional literary materials (poems, articles, short stories, etc.) for each grade level.

6th GRADE ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS

Students will read as a class 2 novels from different genres as well as supplemental nonfiction and fiction materials such as newspapers, magazines, internet articles, textbooks, speeches, letters, biographies, and diaries. Students will be encouraged to comprehend the material, and to analyze and evaluate their readings. Students will explore/learn about the world of literary elements and devices, and practice close reading and annotations. Students will learn to use evidence from their reading and background knowledge to support opinions. Development of writing skills goes hand-in-hand with reading, science and social studies subjects. Students will focus on narrative, persuasive, and expository writing during the year. Students will gain confidence in knowing the parts of an essay and the process of revising their writing. Students will be participating in small group book clubs where they will read and analyze books of their choosing. The purpose of book clubs is to reinforce reading skills, provide choice, and create opportunities for students to discuss book topics with their peers.

7th GRADE ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS

This class builds upon reading and writing skills introduced in 6th grade. Students will work to develop the 6 traits of writing: Ideas and content, organization, word choice, sentence fluency, conventions, and voice. Students will have writing practice in the genres of narrative, explanatory, and argumentative writing, and will build their writing skills through grammar exercises and activities that develop academic vocabulary. Students will learn skills associated with doing credible research, synthesis of information from multiple sources, and correctly citing sources using MLA format. Students will read two novels in class, along with multiple supplemental informational texts. Through these assignments, students will practice close reading skills, annotating a text, analyzing author's purpose and style, and using evidence from text to support their conclusions. Students will also be expected to read four novels and complete related projects outside of class to aid in the development of their personal reading skills. Students will be participating in small group book clubs where they will read and analyze books of their choosing. The purpose of book clubs is to reinforce reading skills, provide choice, and create opportunities for students to discuss book topics with their peers.

8th GRADE ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS

This class builds upon reading and writing skills introduced in 7th grade in order to prepare students for the demands of the high school curriculum. The curriculum includes the exploration of various literary genres, short stories, poetry, novels and nonfiction. Students will read at least two novels in class and will be expected to read and prepare projects on four books outside of class. The curriculum includes instruction in identifying literary devices and analyzing writing style. Students will continue to review and master the 6 traits of writing introduced in 7th grade (ideas and content, organization, word choice, sentence fluency, convention, and voice) and utilize these traits while writing in a variety of modes. These modes will include narrative, persuasive, imaginative and expository writing. Special emphasis will be placed on research skills and the writing of research papers utilizing MLA format and developing paraphrasing skills to avoid plagiarism. Students write a series of expository essays on a variety of topics, both self chosen and assigned. Students will be participating in small group book clubs where they will read and analyze books of their choosing. The purpose of book clubs is to reinforce reading skills, provide choice, and create opportunities for students to discuss book topics with their peers.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Students in Social Studies classes will focus on the following student standards at their grade level:

- Identify and describe significant events and cultures within geographic regions
- Apply knowledge to analyze information (source documents, data, maps, graphs, charts, models) and develop a relevant conclusion with appropriate evidence
- Engage effectively in collaborative discussions on a variety of topics and issues
- Effectively present information

SOCIAL STUDIES 6

Sixth Grade Social Studies covers a variety of studies of ancient cultures of the Western Hemisphere and early human civilizations. Students will begin their year with a comprehensive study of world geography that gives opportunities to identify physical features of the world, use different types of maps for different purposes, and explain how people have adapted to or changed their environment. Students will also learn about different types of government, both modern and historic, and basic concepts economics and finance.

SOCIAL STUDIES 7

Seventh grade Social Studies curriculum focuses on an overview of history in the Eastern Hemisphere combined with physical, cultural and economic geography of the Eastern Hemisphere. Students are introduced to the contributions of early civilizations such as Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greece and Rome, life during the Middle Ages for various different cultures, and the ideas of the Renaissance and Reformation. A variety of teaching strategies will be utilized including; class discussion, computer technology, videos, current events, student research projects, texts, map work, oral presentations and exams.

SOCIAL STUDIES 8

Eighth grade Social Studies is a survey of United States History from Exploration to the Civil War and Reconstruction. These topics are explored relative to historical relationships; the structure, function and role of government; principles, ideals and documents of the United States government; and the roles, rights, and responsibilities of U.S. citizens. International relations, physical, cultural, and economic geography, social science analysis skills, and economics are also covered in the course. Specific content areas of the course are: Exploration, Colonization and Settlement, Revolution and the New Nation, Expansion and Reform, Civil War and Reconstruction. A variety of teaching strategies are utilized including class discussion, computer technology, videos,

current events, student research projects (written and oral), texts, map work, and exams.

MATHEMATICS

Students will be placed into the appropriate math course based on their individual ability: most students are placed in a course at grade level. Based on the results of statewide assessments, progress monitoring through district assessments, individual rates of learning, and class grades, a student who has shown the ability to succeed at a level higher than their assigned grade level may be placed in a higher level class by teacher recommendation.

MATH 6

Sixth grade uses the Oregon Edition Math EdGems curriculum. This curriculum provides many opportunities to practice computation as well as extend the concepts to be used in our everyday lives.

In sixth grade students will focus on the following concepts:

- Multiply and divide decimals and fractions
- Use the number system to investigate coordinate planes
- Apply the concept of ratios and rates and apply them to percents and measurement
- Use algebraic expressions and equations
- Explore two-dimensional and three-dimensional figures
- Create and interpret sets of data.

MATH 7

The seventh grade mathematics courses use the Oregon Edition Math EdGems curriculum. The main learning targets focus on the following standards:

- Analyze and use proportional relationships.
- Add, subtract, multiply, and divide rational numbers.
- Use properties of operations to generate equivalent expressions.
- Solve real-life and mathematical problems using numerical and algebraic expressions and equations.
- Draw, construct, describe, and compare geometric figures.
- Solve real-life and mathematical problems involving area, surface area, and volume.
- Use random sampling to draw inferences about one or more populations.
- Investigate chance processes and develop, use, and evaluate probability models.

Scientific calculators are required.

MATH 7 ACCELERATED

This course will cover all of the content listed in Math 7 as well as the following 8th grade mathematics topics:

- Recognize irrational numbers and approximate them using rational numbers.
- Understand congruence and similarity.
- Understand and apply the Pythagorean Theorem.

Scientific calculators are required.

*Prerequisite: Recommendation by the sixth grade math teacher. This course moves at a very swift pace and is intended for students who show a strong success rate in previous math classes. Candidates for placement in this class learn new topics very quickly (and without repeated instruction), perform well on state and district mathematics assessments, and show responsibility by completing their assignments in a timely fashion. Students who fall behind in this course will be transferred to Math 7.

MATH 8

The eighth grade mathematics course uses the Oregon Edition Math EdGems curriculum. The main learning targets focus on the following standards:

- Work with radicals and integer exponents.
- Understand the connections between proportional and linear relationships.
- Analyze and solve linear equations and pairs of simultaneous linear equations.
- Define, evaluate, and compare functions; use functions to model relationships.
- Understand congruence and similarity in angles and triangles.
- Understand and apply the Pythagorean Theorem.
- Solve real-life and mathematical problems involving volume.
- Investigate patterns of association in bivariate data.

Scientific calculators are required.

INTEGRATED MATHEMATICS I

Students in Integrated Math I use the Big Ideas Integrated Mathematics I curriculum. This course will cover 8th grade content not covered in Math 7 Accelerated as well as content listed in the Algebra, Geometry, and Statistics strands of the high school State Standards.

- Algebra topics include linear expressions and equations, linear inequalities, absolute value equations, and exponential expressions and functions.
- Geometry topics include the basics of Geometry, parallel and perpendicular lines, reasoning and proofs, transformations, and similar triangles.
- Statistics topics include data analysis and data displays.

Scientific calculators (NOT graphing) are required.

*Prerequisite: recommendation by the seventh grade mathematics teacher, successful completion of accelerated Math 7 Accelerated, and high performance on state and district assessments. Students who fall behind in this course will be transferred to Math 8.

High School credit may be awarded for successful completion of this course upon request.

SCIENCE

Students in grades 6-8 will also complete a scientific inquiry project culminating in our annual Science Fair.

SCIENCE 6

Students are encouraged to expand their knowledge of Science by using hands-on learning, engineering, and experimentation. Our primary focus is on the earth and environmental sciences. Students take an in depth look at the physical processes that drive the earth's geosphere, hydrosphere and atmosphere. 6th grade units include Human Impact on the Environment, Earth's Resources, Geological Processes, Weather and Climate, Ecology, and the Scientific Method. All students are required to complete a science fair project.

SCIENCE 7

Seventh grade students continue to develop and refine their scientific analysis skills through inquiry, engineering, and lab work. Students will be introduced to the science processes, inquiry, and analysis as outlined in the standards. These initial science skills will be practiced and refined throughout the year as students explore the Content outlined in the Next Generation Science Standards. These topics of exploration and study include but are not limited to Chemistry of Materials, Reproduction, The Earth in Space, Cellular Biology, and Biomedical Engineering. A scientific inquiry project and presentation are included in the course.

SCIENCE 8

Eighth grade students continue to develop and refine their scientific analysis skills through inquiry, engineering and lab work. Students will further develop their skills in the science processes, inquiry, and analysis as outlined in the standards. These science skills will be practiced and refined throughout the year as students explore the Content outlined in the Next Generation Science Standards. These topics of exploration and study include but are not limited to Force and Motion, Chemical Reactions, Fields and Interactions, Evolution, Waves, and Earth's Resources. A scientific inquiry project and presentation are included in the course.

HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

HEALTH 7 - Semester Class

This class studies the medical side of health. Using Oregon State Standards for Biology and Health, students will explore vital body systems like cardiovascular, skeletal, muscular and reproductive. Engaging lessons break down complex concepts into easily understandable chunks, fostering a deeper understanding of how these systems function to maintain overall health. Students will appreciate the intricacies of how these systems work together and the importance of avoiding high risk behaviors. In addition, Health 7 delivers instruction on Erin's Law, which is sexual abuse prevention education. All 7th grade students will take one semester of Technology class and one semester of Health 7.

HEALTH 8 - Semester Class

This class offers an opportunity for students to explore, discuss, and research key social issues influencing their age group prior to entering High School. The course will emphasize the development of critical thinking skills and positive decision making in the areas of physical, emotional/mental, and social health. In fulfillment of state curriculum requirements, units covering drug and alcohol prevention, healthy relationships, and H.I.V. /A.I.D.S. will be presented. Students participate in group and individual projects. The format of the class will include discussion, collaborative projects and unit tests. Lastly Health 8 delivers instruction on Erins Law, which is sexual abuse prevention education All 8th grade students will take one semester of Technology and one semester of Health 8.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION (PE)

All students in grades 6-8 are enrolled in a Physical Education class. Sections will include 6th grade and combined 7th & 8th, to learn foundational and cooperative learning skills with their peers. Engagement in PE encourages students to develop an individual level of physical fitness, gain knowledge of physical fitness concepts, understand the significance of lifestyle on one's health and fitness, perform fundamental skills in various activities, and understand rules and strategies of various activities. Students will have the opportunity to apply correct mechanical skills related to movement and exercise. Students will be required to perform some type of aerobic exercise and various stretching and strength exercises during every class period. Students will be tested periodically throughout each semester utilizing standardized physical fitness tests to determine strength development, cardiovascular endurance, and flexibility. Special emphasis will be placed on cooperation, participation, and good sportsmanship/character during any recreational games within class.

PERSONAL FITNESS (Alternative PE class for 7th and 8th graders)

This is a year long fitness course for 7th & 8th grade students, focused on aerobic and anaerobic styles of exercise as it relates to lifelong fitness, during which students will explore physical activities that will help them lead a healthy lifestyle. Students are encouraged to have an open mind and be willing to try new things. Throughout the course, students will primarily explore a variety of aerobic forms of exercise, both high and low intensity, paired with anaerobic exercise. Topics may include, including but not limited to: fitness walking, POUND, yoga, bodyweight or low resistance fitness circuits, core strength, higher impact activities, running, and cooperative games. Students will be tested periodically throughout the course utilizing standardized physical fitness tests to check progress on strength, cardiovascular endurance, and flexibility. In addition, students may have cooperative learning opportunities and projects. Please note, this is not a weight lifting course. Space in this alternate PE course is limited..

HOMEROOM (6th grade)

Homeroom is designed to be a home base for 6th grade students. In homeroom, we actively work on creating a positive school climate by addressing the way students relate to one another, the school, and the community. Advisors will work with students to create and maintain a positive school climate and learn strategies to be safe, respectful, and responsible citizens.

Homeroom at Banks Middle School also includes study skills, organization, time management, planner use, character development lessons, student directed academic support, reteaching, targeted intervention, and enrichment activities. Advisors use a teacher-student team approach to meet the individual needs of each unique middle school student.

TECHNOLOGY (7th and 8th Grades)

This semester-long elective course teaches students about computer science principles including coding, computer science, 2D and 3D digital design, animation, typing, and Google apps. By engaging in rigorous project based learning, students will explore careers and cross discipline applications of modern technology. All 7th and 8th grade students will take one semester of Technology class and one semester of Health.

Electives

Full Period Elective List

Students will take one full period elective at a time. They may take one year long full elective, or two semester long full electives. Students will be able to rank their choices on the forecasting form, so choose your top 4 from this list.

*These are our anticipated elective offerings. Courses may change based on student interest, class sizes, and staffing.

Course Name	6th Grade	7th & 8th Grade	Year Long	Semester
Art A ¹		X		X
Art B ¹		X		X
Beginning Band ²	X	X	X	
Concert Band		X	X	
Concert Choir ² (can be taken all year or one semester)	X	X	X	X
Drama ¹		X	X	
Engineering ¹		X		X
Family & Consumer Science	X	X		X
Introduction to Art	X			X
Introduction to Technology	X			X
Leadership (by application)	Elected officers only	X	X	
Media Studies		X		X
Team Sports ³		X		X
Office Aide (by application)		8th only		X
Yearbook (by application)		X	X	

¹ These are middle school classes that will most likely be offered in the high school building and taught by high school teachers (students will *not* be in classes with high school students).

² Meets 6th grade music requirement.

³ Movement electives will be scheduled on the opposite day from when the student has PE class so they get a movement class every day.

Full Period Electives - Course Descriptions

ART A and ART B (7th-8th grades)

Students will be introduced to the wonderful world of art! They will paint, draw, build and create fun, unique and original artworks in a variety of different mediums including acrylics, watercolors, pen, and colored pencils to create both 2D and 3D art. Projects may include comic book panels, self portraits, zoetrope animation, and recycled cardboard sculptures. Special occasion and seasonal projects will often be included. Art A and B do not need to be taken in order, but they are different classes in that different projects will be explored in each class. Students can take either class, or both, in a single year. These classes will most likely be held in the high school art room with our high school art teacher.

BEGINNING BAND (6th-8th grades)

Students interested in learning to play an instrument should take Beginning Band. The class will learn songs from a variety of genres such as folk, popular, and classical music appropriate to their musical development and skill-set. Students will receive instruction in music theory and band literature. All band students will participate in after-school concerts, assemblies, field trips, large ensemble festivals, and solo/small group festivals throughout the year. Beginning Band is required prior to students taking Concert Band, with a few exceptions.

Available instruments to learn are: flute, oboe, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, F horn, trombone, euphonium, tuba, bass, or percussion (drums). No guitar or piano is offered.

***this class meets the 6th grade music requirement*

CONCERT BAND (7th-8th grades)

Students interested in continuing to play an instrument should take Concert Band. The class will learn songs from a variety of genres such as folk, popular, and classical music appropriate to their musical development and skill-set. Students will receive instruction in music theory and band literature. All band students will participate in after-school concerts, assemblies, large ensemble festivals, and solo/small group festivals throughout the year. **Prerequisite: Students must take Beginning Band for one year prior to Concert Band.**

CONCERT CHOIR (6th-8th grade)

This is a course that can be taken year long or for one semester. This course explores choral music from a wide variety of cultures and time periods through study and performance. The core curriculum emphasizes the basics of vocal technique, sight-reading, music theory, and music history. Students will participate in festivals, field trips, and concerts.

**this class meets the 6th grade music requirement

DRAMA (7th - 8th grades)

The play's the thing! This class is designed to provide a thorough dramatic experience for students. Throughout the year students will explore elements of acting, including: movement, voice, and script work. Students will touch on elements of stage management, costume and set design, and lighting and sound design. Students will learn key vocabulary associated with the theater and practice analyzing and interpreting scripts. They will also receive basic instruction in the history of theater and its many genres. Students will perform monologues and short scenes throughout the year.

ENGINEERING (7TH - 8TH grades)

This course is an academic elective which applies the Engineering Design Process of problem solving to a variety of hands-on design challenges. Students will learn about careers in engineering and have the opportunity to research and write a report on these careers.

FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCE (6th-8th grades)

In Family and Consumer Science, students will explore essential aspects of daily life. Learn the basics of cooking, knit cozy creations, and understand the stages of child development. Discover the art of apparel and interior design, where you'll unleash your creativity to craft stylish outfits and create inviting living spaces. Through hands-on projects and engaging discussions, you'll gain practical skills in cooking, crafting, and nurturing relationships.

INTRODUCTION to ART (6th grade ONLY)

This course provides an introduction to the elements of design through the use of a variety of art media. Students will have a chance to learn and apply techniques that come with different art forms, such as drawing, painting, and design. The main focus of this class will be learning about a variety of different art media, the techniques for using these media, and then creating independent projects with these different media. Some media we may explore are graphite, charcoal, pastels, watercolor, acrylic paint, etc

INTRODUCTION to TECHNOLOGY (6th grade ONLY)

This introductory course focuses on computer skills necessary for middle school success including typing, cloud computing tools commonly used in school, email etiquette and more. Then provides an introduction to careers in technology, coding, digital design tools and engineering.

LEADERSHIP (by election or application)

This course will represent the Associated Student Body (ASB) of Banks Middle School. It will consist of Class Officers from 6th, 7th and 8th grade. Students also can apply for appointed positions or “at large” membership. ASB will plan assemblies, spirit days, fundraisers and many other events. Students will be held to academic, attendance and behavior standards to remain a part of the Leadership program.

MEDIA STUDIES (7th - 8th grades)

Media Studies is designed for students who have grown up in a rapidly changing global multimedia environment and want to become more literate and critical consumers and producers of culture. Students will be studying various local and national media outlets to discover and determine political biases, all while discovering their own political viewpoints and how they compare and contrast to their peers.

YEARBOOK (7th and 8th grade only, by application)

Creating a book of memories for all students to enjoy is a large responsibility. Students will be taking photos, doing interviews, and using software to design the yearbook. This course is open to 7th and 8th grade students by application. Admission to the class will look at academics, behavior, and attendance reports. Enrollment is capped at 10 students. Students will be held to academic, attendance and behavior standards.

TEAM SPORTS (7th - 8th grades)

This is a more competitive elective class that is designed for students who want to take their athletic abilities to a whole new level. Students will focus on strategies and concepts for success in team sports, including higher level skill work, along with different fitness activities related to team sports. Positive sportsmanship will be prioritized throughout the class, along with skills necessary to be good team leaders. Students may be asked to teach a mini lesson on their sport of choice to develop their leadership skills. This will be a challenging and fun class! Students will be held to all physical education academic, attendance and behavior standards. Students will be scheduled to take their PE class on the opposite day of Team Sports.

OFFICE AIDE

8th grade only, application required, limited to 16 students by selection of applicants.

Students selected as an office aide support the functions of the main office by maintaining the office work room, making copies for staff, running errands to classes, answering the phone, and other tasks that become necessary during a given period. Students learn office ethics, office efficiency, and confidentiality. Students must apply

for this opportunity and are selected based on their current grades, attendance, teacher feedback, and behavioral standing. There are limited positions available for this elective.

Half Period Electives List

Students will take one half period elective at a time.

Course Name	6th Grade	7th & 8th Grade
Aerobics ³	X	X
Book Club	X	X
Film Studies		X
Gallery Art		X
Game Strategy and Design		X
Guitar 1 ²	X	X
Introduction to Engineering	X	
Introduction to Spanish		X
Movement and Mindfulness ³	X	X
Music Exploration ²	X	X
National Parks	X	
Personal Finance		X
Yoga ³	X	X

² Meets 6th grade music requirement.

³ Movement electives will be scheduled on the opposite day from when the student has PE class so they get a movement class every day.

Half Period Electives - Course Descriptions

AEROBICS ELECTIVE (6th-8th grade)

This is a fitness based course that will incorporate both low and high impact aerobic activities. The main focus will be on fitness walking, yoga, and Pound. Additional topics and activities may be incorporated throughout the course which may include fitness

circuits, core exercises, running, higher impact activities, and gym games. This class will be scheduled on the opposite day from a student's PE class.

BOOK CLUB (6th-8th grade)

Students will read fun and diverse books, with small groups reading the same book then discussing the story and its themes. Groups will change throughout the course, and students will be able to choose from a teacher-provided reading list as well as submit their own recommendations. Emphasis will be placed on reading books from the Oregon Battle of the Books 2024-2025 list.

FILM STUDIES (7th-8th grade)

The goal of this class is to learn to watch films, both new and old, with a more critical eye. All films viewed are rated PG. Each film will be accompanied by in-class discussions and independent analysis work. We may also incorporate background research or film-related projects into this course.

GALLERY ART (7th-8th grade)

Students will produce weekly themed art on a single sheet of paper. Students will share their own artwork and award the artwork of their classmates in weekly gallery walks. After each gallery walk, students will get to vote on their next theme. Deadlines are very important in this class, but the art we create is worth the hard work!

GAME STRATEGY and DESIGN (7th-8th grade)

Students will explore board games, dice games, cards, etc., and learn about the strategies and math behind winning. Emphasis is placed on chance versus strategy, with multiple games of each type. Students will also design variations of games to change the likelihood of winning, which then leads to changing their playing strategies.

GUITAR 1 (6th-8th grade)

This class is designed to give students a basic understanding of how to play guitar. No experience playing guitar is required to participate. We have a limited number of guitars available for students to check out. Students are encouraged to bring their own guitar to school to use. Basic music theory as it relates to guitar is also a focus area for students. We will cover the most common chords and how they relate to the different keys and scales. Next year, we hope to offer Guitar 2 (and the following year Guitar 1 again), so plan accordingly!)

**this class meets the 6th grade music requirement

INTRODUCTION to ENGINEERING DESIGN (6th grade only)

This course is an academic elective which introduces and applies the Engineering Design Process of problem solving to a variety of hands-on design challenges. Students will learn about careers in engineering and have the opportunity to research and write a report on these careers.

INTRODUCTION TO SPANISH (7th-8th grade)

This class is meant to be an introduction to learning a new language. The four skills in language (listening, speaking, reading and writing) will be used on a daily basis to help students practice and learn basic Spanish vocabulary and grammar. Active classroom participation is essential for success. This class is designed to give students a boost in confidence before taking Spanish 1 in high school, not to replace Spanish 1.

MOVEMENT AND MINDFULNESS (6th-8th grade)

If you feel like you need more movement in your day, this is the class for you! This class focuses on the connection between our minds and bodies and how movement and mindfulness can help us to be successful throughout the rest of our day. A large portion of this class will be dedicated to giving students movement opportunities through things such as fitness walking, stretching, zumba, games, etc. We also will focus every week on mindfulness exercises and be learning skills for regulating our minds and bodies, especially when managing challenges such as stress. NOTE: This class will be scheduled on the opposite day from a student's PE class.

MUSIC EXPLORATION (6th-8th grade)

This class will be an introduction and exploration of a wide variety of musical topics. Students will learn about genres, instrumental technique, vocal technique, music history, basic music theory, music in world cultures, the science of sound, and music production. Individual and group projects may include presentations, compositions (songwriting), and in-class performances. No experience in music required!

**this class meets the 6th grade music requirement

NATIONAL PARKS (6th grade only)

Students will explore and virtually travel to some of the national parks in the United States. While you may have heard of some of the more well-known parks – Crater Lake, Grand Canyon, Yellowstone, Yosemite, Glacier – it may surprise you to know that there are 62 protected areas known as national parks in the U.S. as well as 401 areas that are part of the National Park system but not formal National Parks. We will look at when they were discovered, the history (in some cases geological) of what formed them, how they became a national treasure, and how we can carry on the legacy of protecting them. Each student will have an opportunity to research one national park and present

their national treasure to the class. This class involves studies related to science, social studies, reading, writing, and technology. Come and explore!

PERSONAL FINANCE (7th-8th grade)

This class has been developed using Foundations in Personal Finance (Middle School Edition) by Dave Ramsey and his team of professionals. Students get to explore, research and discuss a variety of real life topics relating to money. This program has been aligned to meet the National Standards for Financial Literacy, including: 1. Saving and Budgeting 2. Credit and Debt 3. Education, Careers and Entrepreneurship 4. Investing, Insurance and Identity Theft 5. Global Economics, Marketing and Consumerism.

YOGA (6th-8th grade)

In this class, we will utilize yoga practices to become more physically, mentally, energetically, and emotionally fit. Yoga students will learn basic yoga poses and flows (asana) as well as stress reduction and mindfulness techniques to gain an increased ability to concentrate. This class will be scheduled on the opposite day from a student's PE class.