

BOYERTOWN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAM OF ACADEMIC STUDIES

2023-24

**A Course Information Guide for
Grades 6 – 8**



East
2020 Big Road
Gilbertsville, PA 19525
(610) 754-9550

West
380 S. Madison Street
Boyertown, PA 19512
(610) 369-7471

“To cultivate an exceptional, innovative learning community that enables all students to succeed in a changing world.”

LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPALS

Dear Students and Parents/Guardians:

This Middle School Program of Academic Studies has been designed to help students and their parents/guardians plan an academic program that stimulates curiosity and motivates students to explore new areas of learning. During their middle school years, students and parents/guardians have their first opportunity to select courses based on students' needs, interests, and abilities. Course descriptions for grades 6 through 8 are included in this publication.

It is important for all students to be fully prepared to demonstrate proficiency on the state PSSA tests in English/Language Arts (ELA), Math, and Science as well as the Keystone Exams. Our middle schools offer several remedial opportunities for students who would benefit from additional preparation in these areas.

We encourage students and parents/guardians to carefully review the Program of Academic Studies and the recommendations made by teachers on the course selection card. Teachers, counselors, and administrators are available to assist in this process.

Stephanie Landis
Principal
West

Randy Buck
Principal
East

Assurance of Non-Discrimination

Students and parents are assured that the Boyertown Area School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, ethnic heritage, sex, or handicap in its educational programs or activities offered in the schools.

Any complaints alleging such discrimination should be directed to the responsible persons with the following procedures:

1. Complaints alleging discrimination on the basis of race, religion, ethnic heritage, or handicap (Title VI and/or Section 504) should be presented in writing to the building principal.
2. Complaints alleging sex discrimination (Title IX) should be presented in writing to the Chief Human Resource Officer, Boyertown Area School District, 911 Montgomery Avenue, Boyertown, PA 19512 (610-367-6031).
3. Students with limited English language skills are not excluded from any program offerings (OCR Guidelines SS-4-L). Students needing assistance should contact the building principal, so that help or interpretations may be provided.
4. Appeals of the response of the first-level hearing officer may be taken to the Office of the Superintendent.

SIX-DAY CYCLE

In middle school, students are scheduled for classes within a six-day cycle. Rather than scheduling certain classes for Monday and Thursday each week, a 2 periods/cycle class may be scheduled for “Days 1 and 3” or “Days 2 and 5”, and a 3 periods/cycle class may be scheduled for “Days 1, 3, and 5”.

COUNSELING SERVICES

Counseling services are aimed at helping each student to have the most successful school experience possible. Students are encouraged to expand their knowledge by building upon previous experiences, developing a deeper understanding of their strengths and needs, and gaining an understanding of themselves and their relationship to the changing world in which they live.

Counselors work with students in large and small groups as well as individually. With parental permission, students who wish to work with others on finding solutions to concerns that prevent them from doing their best in school may have group counseling opportunities.

Students may arrange for a conference with their school counselor by signing up in the counseling office. If the need for an appointment is urgent, students are asked to alert the administrative assistant who will see that a counselor contacts the student as soon as possible. Parents/guardians who wish to speak to a counselor or schedule an appointment should call the counseling office.

PROMOTION GUIDELINES-GRADES 6 – 8

Students in sixth, seventh, and eighth grade must pass math, English/Language Arts (ELA), science, and social studies in order to be promoted to the next grade.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

The special education program is designed to meet the special needs of students identified as eligible and/or exceptional. Specially designed instruction may be provided in special education programs operated within district schools or other programs outside the district.

In order to meet the criteria for special education consideration, a multidisciplinary team convenes to complete an Evaluation Report and to provide recommendations to an Individualized Education Program (IEP) Team. The Multidisciplinary Evaluation Team will determine the student’s eligibility and if the student is determined to need specially designed instruction, the IEP team will provide the exceptional student the most appropriate educational program and placement.

The Learning Support program is designed to meet the academic and social/emotional needs of exceptional students. Improving basic reading, English, math, science, and social studies is emphasized. Instructional modifications and adaptations are designed to meet the individual’s educational needs. The IEP may include a behavior management program to develop, increase, and/or maintain skills that will enhance an individual’s opportunity for learning.

GIFTED ENRICHMENT

Opportunities for academically gifted students to further develop the potential of their talents will be offered. To be eligible, the student must have met the requirements established by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the Boyertown Area School District.

BOYERTOWN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE OFFERINGS 2023-24

<u>LANGUAGE ARTS</u>	<u>PERIODS/CYCLE</u>	<u>ART</u>	<u>PERIODS/YEAR</u>
English/Language Arts 6	12	Art 6	60
English/Language Arts 7	12	Art 7	60
English/Language Arts 8	6 or 12	Art 8	60
 <u>SOCIAL STUDIES</u>		 <u>BUSINESS</u>	
World Cultures and Geography 6 (1 sem. only)	12	Business 6	30
Western Civilization (Beg. to 1500)	7	Business 7	30
Early American Studies 8	6	Business 8	30
 <u>MATH</u>		 <u>CAREER EDUCATION</u>	
Math 6	12	REACH for the Future 6	30
Math 7	12	REACH for the Future 7	30
Advanced Math 7	12	REACH for the Future 8	30
Algebra I 7	12		
Math 8	12	 <u>HEALTH/PHYS. ED</u>	
Math 8/Pre-Algebra	12	Physical Education 6	90
Algebra I 8	12	Physical Education 7	90
Geometry 8	12	Physical Education 8	90
 <u>SCIENCE</u>		Health 6	30
Science 6 (1 sem. only)	12	Health 7	30
Science 7	6	Health 8	30
Science 8	6		
		 <u>MUSIC</u>	
		General Music 6	60
		General Music 7	60
		General Music 8	60
		Band – 6 th , 7 th , 8 th	90
		Orchestra – 6 th , 7 th , 8 th	90
		Chorus 6	60
		Chorus 7	60
		Chorus 8	60
		 <u>TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION</u>	
		Technology Education 6	60
		Technology Education 7	60
		Technology Education 8	60

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

ART

ART 6 - 6th Grade

(60 Periods/Year)

Sixth grade Art students will begin to learn visual concepts of art and explore a wide array of media. Students will learn the background context of art and transform ideas from these historical, cultural, and societal inspirations to create their own works. They will begin to build perceptual skills through various techniques and media. Students will engage and explore connections between their view of themselves and the world around them.

ART 7 - 7th Grade

(60 Periods/Year)

Seventh grade Art students will continue with various media and techniques to increase perceptual skills. These skills will allow the students to demonstrate an understanding in the presentation of visual concepts of art, historical, cultural, and societal inspirations, and contemporary applications. Students will be encouraged to explore and discover self-expression and reflection through their work.

ART 8 - 8th Grade

(60 Periods/Year)

Eighth grade Art students will refine various media and techniques to further develop perceptual skills. These skills will prepare students for progression into high school art creation and the ever-changing 21st century world. Students will express and interpret meaning in their own artwork and the artworks of others. Students will develop an awareness that art is applicable to all aspects of their personal and professional lives.

BUSINESS

BUSINESS 6 - 6th Grade

(30 Periods/Year)

Sixth grade students in this class will be introduced to the importance of file management and the organizational skills necessary to manage personal and school related files. The essential aspects of multimedia presentations will be discussed and will be incorporated in a final multimedia presentation. Google Suite will be introduced and discussed for the purpose of solving problems, completing tasks, and managing information.

BUSINESS 7 - 7th Grade

(30 Periods/Year)

Seventh grade students in this class will be introduced to coding and how computer programming can make problem solving easier and more efficient. Business ownership will be introduced with a focus on entrepreneurship and how it integrates creativity, motivation, and business principles. Students in seventh grade will also continue learning about Google Suite and which application best fits a specific problem or task.

BUSINESS 8 - 8th Grade

(30 Periods/Year)

Eighth grade students in this class will learn about personal finance and how borrowing money has both costs and benefits. They will continue their education with coding and work on their problem-solving strategies. Students will create a multipage report where they will need to use multiple Google Suite Applications in order to solve problems, show data, and organize information.

CAREER EDUCATION

REACH FOR THE FUTURE 6: BEING CAREER/COLLEGE READY

(30

Periods/Year)

The BASD school counselors, in conjunction with classroom teachers, will implement a comprehensive curriculum for all students to promote academic, social/emotional, and career awareness through classroom lessons. In this course students will learn how to adjust successfully to middle school.

REACH FOR THE FUTURE 7: BEING CAREER/COLLEGE READY

(30

Periods/Year)

The BASD school counselors, in conjunction with classroom teachers, will implement a comprehensive curriculum for all students to promote academic, social/emotional, and career awareness through classroom lessons. In this course students will learn various life skills that will promote health and personal development.

REACH FOR THE FUTURE 8: BEING CAREER/COLLEGE READY

(30

Periods/Year)

The BASD school counselors, in conjunction with classroom teachers, will implement a comprehensive curriculum for all students to promote academic, social/emotional, and career awareness through classroom lessons. The focus will be on motivating learners to challenge themselves. In this course students will learn about and prepare for successful transition into high school and life after school.

HEALTH/PHYSICAL EDUCATION

PHYSICAL EDUCATION – 6th, 7th, and 8th Grade

(90 Periods/Year)

This course introduces students to a variety of activities which will help maintain a physical fitness level needed for daily life. Participation and performance levels are evaluated according to one's own ability in mastering a skill or activity. The major goal is to strive to reach a fitness and performance level to make daily life healthy and enjoyable.

HEALTH – 6th, 7th, and 8th Grade

(30 Periods/Year)

This course provides students with information relative to their physical and mental well-being. Skill-based lessons focusing on current health issues and related topics will provide students with the information they need to pursue a healthy lifestyle.

LANGUAGE ARTS

ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS 6 - 6th Grade

(12 Periods/Cycle)

Sixth Grade Language Arts Students will develop College and Career Readiness skills in reading, writing, language, speaking, viewing, listening & media literacy. During the course of sixth grade, Language Arts students will become self-directed learners who can comprehend and evaluate complex information. Students will grow to be discerning readers, listeners and viewers who use relevant evidence to support their thinking in writing, speaking and reading. Students will collaboratively discuss, design, interpret and present information.

ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS 7 - 7th Grade

(12 Periods/Cycle)

The seventh grade English/Language Arts curriculum reflects the requirements of the PA Common Core standards. The program is designed to familiarize the seventh grade with all aspects of the language arts, specifically the development of critical strategies in reading and writing. The instructional approach entails a heavy emphasis on fundamentals in literature, mechanics, and composition coupled with word attack skills, vocabulary development, and specific comprehension skills through teacher and student selected texts.

ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS 8 - 8th Grade

(6 or 12 Periods/Cycle)

The eighth grade English curriculum develops and solidifies basic skills in the writing process and the understanding and analysis of literature. Through the writing process, editing skills, punctuation, and usage are taught. Literature study incorporates a variety of fiction and non-fiction, poetic and dramatic selections, noting not only their form but their worth in relation to various life experiences.

MATHEMATICS

MATH 6 - 6th Grade

(12 Periods/Cycle)

Instruction in Math 6 is focused on five critical areas: (1) connecting ratio and rate to whole number multiplication and division and using concepts of ratio and rate to solve problems; (2) completing understanding of division of fractions and extending the notion of number to the system of rational numbers, which includes negative numbers; (3) writing, interpreting, and using expressions and equations; (4) developing understanding of statistical thinking; and (5) developing geometric reasoning. Concept development is enhanced by many activities that help students make the connection between arithmetic and algebra. Problem-solving is carefully taught and is often presented in real-world situations. An emphasis is placed on rigorous multi-step word problems that require students to communicate their understanding in writing. Students identified for Algebra I in 7th grade will participate in mandatory enrichment activities in the spring of 6th grade.

ALGEBRA I - 7th Grade

(12 Periods/Cycle)

This course covers Algebra I content in line with the Keystone Algebra I Standards. Students who take this course must have advanced math skills and be prepared to learn a variety of topics

with fast-paced, rigorous instruction. This course focuses on linear functions in many forms, exponential functions and polynomials. In addition, 7th grade PSSA-aligned State Standards are taught throughout the year.

This is a rigorous course that prepares students for honors courses in math throughout their high school career. Students must have teacher recommendation to enter this course. There will be additional requirements that include grades, work habits and scores on standardized math tests. Students take the Algebra I Keystone Graduation Exams in May. This course will prepare students to take the Geometry course in their eighth grade year.

ADVANCED MATH 7 - 7th Grade

(12 Periods/Cycle)

This advanced course contains all the concepts taught in Math 7 as well as several concepts from Math 8/Pre-Algebra. The course prepares students for Algebra 1. Primary instruction will still focus on Grade 7 math standards including: (1) proportional relationships; (2) operations with rational numbers and working with expressions and linear equations; (3) two- and three-dimensional geometry; and (4) drawing inferences about populations based on samples as well as probability and statistics.

Problem-solving is carefully taught and is often presented in real world situations. Students who take this course must have advanced math skills and be prepared to learn a variety of topics with rigorous instruction. Students must have a teacher recommendation based on grades, work habits, and standardized math test scores to enter this course.

MATH 7 - 7th Grade

(12 Periods/Cycle)

This course prepares students for 8th grade math or 8th grade math/Pre-Algebra. Concept development is enhanced by many activities that help students make the connection between arithmetic and algebra. Problem-solving is carefully taught and is often presented in real-world situations.

Instruction will focus on Grade 7 math standards including: (1) proportional relationships; (2) operations with rational numbers and working with expressions and linear equations; (3) two- and three-dimensional geometry; and (4) drawing inferences about populations based on samples as well as probability and statistics.

GEOMETRY - 8th Grade

(12 Periods/Cycle)

This is a rigorous course that prepares students for honors courses in math throughout their high school career. Students must have successfully completed Algebra I and have a teacher recommendation. Students will begin the year by completing a few remaining Algebra topics as preparation for taking the Algebra I Keystone Graduation Exams in December. Advanced Geometry students will study the properties and applications of points, lines, planes and angles, reasoning, proofs and logic, congruent triangles, similarity, right triangles, circles, areas and volumes, transformations and conic sections. This course will prepare students to take the Honors Algebra II course in their ninth grade year.

ALGEBRA I - 8th Grade

(12 Periods/Cycle)

In this course, students move through solving equations including systems of equations, graphing, functions, inequalities, exponents, quadratics, and working with polynomials. At this level it is expected that students will formalize and expand on Algebraic concepts established in

previous coursework. Students will deepen and extend their understanding of linear and exponential relationships by contrasting them with each other and by applying linear models to data that exhibit a linear trend. Students will engage in methods for analyzing, and using functions. Students will fluently move between multiple representations of functions including but not limited to linear, exponential and quadratics. Students should have successfully completed the Advanced Math 7 course the previous year. Students take the Algebra I Keystone Graduation Exams in May. This course will prepare students to take the Academic Geometry & Trig course in their ninth grade year.

MATH 8 / PRE-ALGEBRA I - 8th Grade

(12 Periods/Cycle)

These students are expected to have a working knowledge of fractions, decimals, and integers. They will move quickly through solving equations and inequalities. Students will progress into graphing (including systems of equations), functions, exponents, and working with polynomials. Students should have successfully completed Math 7. This course will prepare students to take the Algebra I course in their ninth grade year. Students in this class will be scheduled to take the Algebra I Keystone Graduation Exam in spring of their ninth grade year.

MATH 8 – 8th Grade

(12 Periods/Cycle)

The curriculum is designed to develop logical reasoning, mathematical communication skills and begin to lay a solid foundation of algebra skills. They will move through solving equations and inequalities. Students will progress into graphing (including systems of equations), functions, and exponents. This course will prepare students to take the Algebra I or Foundations of Algebra course in their ninth grade year. Students in this class will be scheduled to take the Algebra I Keystone Graduation Exam in high school after successful completion of Algebra I or the Algebra I B course.

MUSIC

MUSIC 6 – 6th Grade

(60 Periods/Year)

Students in 6th Grade Music will explore The Elements of Music and Music History. Students will create, sing, describe, analyze and critique music. Where applicable, students will use iPads to enrich their musical experience.

MUSIC 7 – 7th Grade

(60 Periods/Year)

Students in 7th Grade Music will explore units including: Science of Sound, Elements of Music, Animation, Dance and Musical Theatre. Students will create, sing, describe, analyze and critique music. Where applicable, students will use iPads to enrich their musical experience.

MUSIC 8 – 8th Grade

(60 Periods/Year)

Students in 8th Grade Music will explore units including: Program Music, World Music and Music in Video Games, Commercials and Film. Students will create, sing, describe, analyze and critique music. Where applicable, students will use iPads to enrich their musical experience.

BAND – 6th, 7th, & 8th Grades**(90 Periods/Year)**

The band is comprised of students who play woodwind, brass, and percussion instruments. The band performs as a Concert Band. Students are also strongly encouraged to join the Marching Unit. Concert Band performs the most current and exciting band literature in two or more concerts per year. Marching activities include performances at school events, community functions, and one or more parades which require after school rehearsals during the fall season. Students are also provided with one small group lesson per cycle. Requirements for admission into the band include former instrumental experience or a satisfactory audition. Students that do not currently play an instrument may join, however they should contact the band director before registering.

STRING ORCHESTRA – 6th, 7th, & 8th Grades**(90 Periods/Year)**

The orchestra is comprised of students who play stringed instruments. Students perform for the winter and spring concert plus community appearances throughout the year. Participation requires some after school time commitment. Requirements for admission into the string orchestra include former instrumental experience or a satisfactory audition. Woodwind, brass, and percussion instruments may be added to the orchestra after school hours as needed. Students that do not currently play an instrument, but wish to learn one, should contact the orchestra director before registering.

CHORUS 6 – 6th Grade**(60 Periods/Year)**

The 6th Grade Chorus is comprised of students interested in participating in a choral performance group. The Chorus will learn two-part music and perform in a winter and spring concert. Students are also provided with periodic group lesson. Students will be graded based on progress toward individual course goals as well as lesson and concert attendance.

CHORUS 7 – 7th Grade**(60 Periods/Year)**

The 7th Grade Chorus is comprised of students interested in participating in a choral performance group. The Chorus will learn two and three-part music and perform in a winter and spring concert. Students are also provided with one group lesson per cycle. Students will be graded based on progress toward individual course goals as well as lesson and concert attendance.

CHORUS 8 - 8th Grade**(60 Periods/Year)**

The 8th Grade Chorus is comprised of students interested in participating in a choral performance group. The Chorus will learn three-part music and perform in a winter and spring concert. Students are also provided with one group lesson per cycle. Students will be graded based on progress toward individual course goals as well as lesson and concert attendance.

SCIENCE**SCIENCE 6 - 6th Grade****(12 Periods/Cycle)**

The sixth grade science program focuses around the theme of students taking action and being good science citizens. In this semester-long course, students will use the scientific method to

create projects with dependent and independent variables, compare and contrast the positives and negatives of renewable and nonrenewable resources, observe the relationships among different types of life and their surrounding environments with a special focus on human impact to our biosphere, and finally students will learn about the different bodies of water and the necessity of water which is the reason for the existence of all life on Earth.

SCIENCE 7 - 7th Grade

(6 Periods/Cycle)

The seventh grade science program is a comprehensive spiraled curriculum that teaches life science and physical science and earth science concepts to children in such a way that they learn through their own experimentation. The areas of study in life science are the cell, genetics and classification. In the physical science unit students will investigate elements, compounds, chemical formulas, physical changes and chemical changes. The earth science unit will incorporate the composition and movement of water.

SCIENCE 8 - 8th Grade

(6 Periods/Cycle)

The eighth grade science program is a rigorous, spiraled curriculum that focuses on eligible content from physical, earth and space sciences. Students will study concepts within six units, variables, energy, forces and motion, astronomy, geology and meteorology. Students will explore different spiraled concepts such as the presence of patterns, cycles, energy, changes in nature along with the behavior of matter. Throughout the course, the overall theme will be the interrelationships between the various science areas.

SOCIAL STUDIES

WORLD CULTURES AND GEOGRAPHY 6 – 6th Grade

(12 Periods/Cycle)

This semester-long course begins with examining world geography and map basics. In subsequent studies, emphasis will be placed on exploring the Western Hemisphere through the five themes of geography: location, place, human-environment interactions, movement, and regions. Students will analyze and draw conclusions to compare and contrast the characteristics of the Western Hemisphere.

WESTERN CIVILIZATION (BEGINNINGS TO 1500) – 7th Grade (6 Periods/Cycle)

This course studies the history of man from the earliest civilizations to the Age of Discovery, including the development of economics, society, religion, government, education, technology, the arts and the influence geography has played in this development. Comparisons are made regarding the similarities of man's behavior throughout history, with emphasis on accomplishments. By studying the lives of people from other times and places, students develop a better understanding of themselves.

EARLY AMERICAN STUDIES (1500 TO 1877) – 8th Grade (6 Periods/Cycle)

Starting with the growth of colonies in America as a result of European exploration, the course will examine the political, social and economic developments in those colonies resulting from European policies to the formation of the United States of America through Civil War

Reconstruction. Included will be a study of the U. S. Constitution and the history of our republic until 1877. Special emphasis will be placed on Pennsylvania's growth and development.

TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION

TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION - 6th Grade

(60 Periods/Year)

Sixth Grade Technology Education is an activity based course which introduces basic problem solving and engineering principles. Through the instruction and activities involving the use of knowledge, tools, and skills, students will become aware of how different technological systems interrelate, how they influence our lives every day, and how they combine to make our technological society.

TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION - 7th Grade

(60 Periods/Year)

Seventh Grade Technology Education is an activity based course which further explores the engineering design process and STEM concepts. Students will draw, design and build solutions to a variety of engineering problems.

TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION - 8th Grade

(60 Periods/Year)

Eighth Grade Technology Education is an activity based course which explores more advanced principles of the engineering design process and STEM concepts. Students will use tools, materials, and equipment in a safe working environment to complete activities and class work. This course will enable students to creatively apply their ideas to solve problems presented in interesting classroom activities.