

BOYERTOWN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAM OF ACADEMIC STUDIES

2026-27

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



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

**Middle School 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.

Amy Dombrowski
Principal
Boyertown Middle School West

Andrew T. Maoury
Principal
Boyertown Middle School 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 parties responsible 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 needs of students identified as eligible and/or exceptional.

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. If the student is determined to need specially designed instruction, the IEP team will provide the exceptional student with the most appropriate educational program and placement.

The special education program is designed to meet the academic and/or social/emotional needs of exceptional students. Specially designed instruction will be provided in special education programs operated within district schools or other programs outside the district. 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 2026-27

| <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 | 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)

Students will explore Google Apps such as Docs, Sheets, Drawings, Sites, & Slides. Multiple projects will be assigned to ensure an understanding of each application. Students will also learn about Digital Citizenship and how to be responsible with technology. Finally, students will learn the basics of Google Sites by creating a Business Portfolio showcasing their projects this year.

BUSINESS 7 - 7th Grade

(30 Periods/Year)

Students will explore Google Apps such as Docs, Sheets, Drawings, Sites, & Slides. Business-related projects will be assigned using this technology, such as creating a brochure and a product advertisement. Basic coding will be introduced.

BUSINESS 8 - 8th Grade**(30 Periods/Year)**

Students will explore Google Apps such as Docs, Sheets, Drawings, Sites, & Slides. Business-related projects will be assigned using this technology, such as creating a multi-page report and a final business project. Students will be introduced to the concept of entrepreneurship. Students will explore basic financial literacy.

CAREER EDUCATION**REACH FOR THE FUTURE 6: BEING CAREER/COLLEGE READY**
Periods/Year)**(30**

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
Periods/Year)**(30**

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
Periods/Year)**(30**

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) Understanding the concept of a ratio. Use ratio language to describe a ratio relationship between two quantities and use ratio & rate reasoning to solve real-world problems. (2) Understanding division of fractions and number systems, including rational numbers. (3) Writing, interpreting, and using expressions and equations. (4) Developing statistical thinking. (5) Modeling & solving for the area of geometric shapes. Determining surface area and volume using nets.

Concept development of these five critical areas is supported by problem-solving in real-world situations. An emphasis is placed on rigorous multi-step word problems that require students to communicate their understanding in writing. Following Math 6, students will be recommended for one of three courses: Math 7, Advanced Math 7, or Algebra 1.

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, students are exposed to 7th grade PSSA-aligned State Standards throughout the year. Students will not receive a high school credit for completion of this course while in middle school, as high school credits must be earned while a student is enrolled in high school. Completion of the course will be reflected on the student's high school transcript without awarding a credit.

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. Should a student have a final grade of 80% or higher, but score a "Basic" on the Keystone Exam, the student will advance to Geometry in 8th grade. Should a student have a final grade below an 80% and score a "Basic" on the Keystone Exam, the student will be required to re-take Algebra I in the 8th grade. Should a student score a "Below Basic" on the Keystone Exam, the student will be required to re-take Algebra I in 8th grade, regardless of their final grade. Should a student score "Proficient or Advanced" on the Keystone Exam, but fail the course, the student will need to remediate over the summer in order to move to Geometry in the 8th grade, otherwise will repeat Algebra I in 8th grade, but will not re-take the Keystone Exam in 8th grade.

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. Students will not receive a high school credit for completion of this course while in middle school, as high school credits

must be earned while a student is enrolled in high school. Completion of the course will be reflected on the student's high school transcript without awarding a credit.

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 or Academic 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 Honors or Academic Geometry & Trig course in their ninth-grade year. Students will not receive a high school credit for completion of this course while in middle school, as high school credits must be earned while a student is enrolled in high school. Completion of the course will be reflected on the student's high school transcript without awarding a credit.

Should a student have a final grade of 80% or higher, but score a "Basic" on the Keystone Exam, the student will advance to Geometry in 9th grade. Should a student have a final grade below an 80% and score a "Basic" on the Keystone Exam, the student will be required to re-take Algebra I in the 9th grade. Should a student score a "Below Basic" on the Keystone Exam, the student will be required to re-take Algebra I in 9th grade, regardless of their final grade. Should a student score "Proficient or Advanced" on the Keystone Exam, but fail the course, the student will need to remediate over the summer in order to move to Geometry in the 9th grade, otherwise will repeat Algebra I in 9th grade, but will not re-take the Keystone Exam in 9th grade.

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, and exponents. 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 Algebra IA 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. Embedded within the course will be a Modern Band unit where students will be able to perform with various instruments such as a guitar, ukulele, bass, keyboards, and/or drums, for example.

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. Embedded within the course will be a Modern Band unit where students will be able to perform with various instruments such as a guitar, ukulele, bass, keyboards, and/or drums, for example.

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. Embedded within the course will be a Modern Band unit where students will be able to perform with various instruments such as a guitar, ukulele, bass, keyboards, and/or drums, for example.

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 on the Pennsylvania STEELS Standards, using five units of study to explore body systems, ecology, Earth's resources, weather, and climate and waves. In this semester-long course, students use science and engineering practices including defining problems, carrying out investigations, and constructing explanations to explore phenomena in each unit. The students describe how observations relate to patterns in nature, systems, and cause-effect relationships.

SCIENCE 7 - 7th Grade**(6 Periods/Cycle)**

The seventh-grade science program is a comprehensive curriculum that uses the Pennsylvania STEELS Standards to investigate both physical and life sciences through six units of study including chemistry of materials, chemical reactions, cell biology, genetics, evolution, and human impacts on nature. Students will carry out investigations and use data collected to construct explanations of natural phenomena, helping them to understand how scientific knowledge develops.

SCIENCE 8 - 8th Grade**(6 Periods/Cycle)**

The eighth-grade science program is a rigorous curriculum that focuses on the Pennsylvania STEELS Standards. Students will collaboratively study concepts within five units including energy, forces and motion, solar system and beyond, geological processes and fields and interactions. Within each topic, students will explore different concepts such as the presence of patterns, cycles, cause and effect relationships as well as the relationships between energy and matter.

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 world 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 world around them.

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.