



BRENTWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL

8th Grade Course Catalog (2019-2020)

LANGUAGE ARTS

8th Grade Language Arts (Standard)

Eighth grade Standard Language Arts follows standards to develop greater analytical reading and thinking skills that consistently spiral student learning of grade-level skills. Students write informational, narrative, and argumentative essays, incorporating textual evidence from literary or informational passages. Grammar instruction requires students to embed grammar concepts into writing. Students study two novels per year, in addition to short stories and poetry. Additionally, students independently read a novel of their choosing each quarter.

8th Grade Language Arts (Advanced)

Prerequisites: 90th percentile or above on TCAP and Teacher Recommendation

Eighth grade Advanced Language Arts follows standards to develop greater analytical reading and thinking skills that consistently spiral student learning of grade-level skills. Students write informational, narrative, and argumentative essays, incorporating textual evidence from literary or informational passages. Grammar instruction requires students to embed grammar concepts into writing. Students study two novels per year, in addition to short stories and poetry. Additionally, students independently read a novel of their choosing each quarter. The advanced language arts class extends the instruction and concepts covered within the standard language arts classes. Class instruction focuses on students' analysis, evaluation, and synthesis skills. The class may require additional independent reading and moves at a different pace.

SOCIAL STUDIES

8th Grade American History

Eighth grade students will study the European colonization of North America, along with the geographic features that influenced early settlements and colonies. This course will emphasize the development and maturation of the British colonies, and the political, cultural, and economic influences that led to the American Revolution. The major events and outcomes of the American Revolution will be analyzed, along with the individuals that played influential roles in the development of the new nation. Students will follow the development of the United States and its government, continuing through the early 19th century. The impact of the expansion of the United States will be analyzed, including implications on domestic and foreign policy. Policies that affected the American Indians will also be studied. The events leading up to the Civil War will be examined, along with the individuals and events that were significant during the war. The history, people, government, and geography of Tennessee will be emphasized in order to illustrate the role our state has played in American history. Reconstruction and the development of the American West will conclude this course. Appropriate primary sources and informational texts will be included in order to enhance understanding of the content.

SCIENCE

8th Grade Science

Eighth grade science focuses on exploring the world and understanding how it works. Students will explore scientific inquiry and the interplay between science and technology in our world. A well-balanced exploration of earth, life and physical science subjects covered include: biodiversity and response to the environment, the rock cycle, plate tectonics, force and motion, the electromagnetic and gravitational fields at work in our universe. This program will place an emphasis on writing skills, scientific reasoning, critical thinking and hands-on learning.

MATHEMATICS

8th Grade Math (Algebraic Concepts)

Prerequisites: Successful completion of 7th Grade Math.

Algebraic concepts is the first portion of a high school level math course that uses problem solving situations, physical models and appropriate technology to extend algebraic thinking and engage student reasoning. This course will focus on 8th grade state of Tennessee math standards and begin with a study of the real number system as well as solving multi-step equations. Word problems are deeply embedded within the course, and students use algebraic concepts in order to solve them. In addition to solving equations, students will explore functions, writing equations, graphing linear equations, including systems of equations, geometry and statistics. Students will be expected to persevere in problem solving, reason abstractly and quantitatively, construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others as outlined by the state standards.

Honors Algebra 1

Prerequisites: Successful completion of 7th grade Pre-Algebra with a yearly average of 85% or above; 85% on the Algebra 1 placement test; 7th grade teacher recommendation.

Algebra 1 is an honors level, high school math course that uses problem solving situations, physical models and appropriate technology to extend algebraic thinking and engage student reasoning. Word problems are deeply embedded within the course and students use algebraic concepts in order to solve them. Problem solving and making mathematical connections to real world problems are critical to a student's success in this course. Concepts emphasized in the course: solving linear equations and inequalities, writing equations and graphing linear equations, systems of equations and inequalities, graphing non-linear functions, analyzing transformations of a parent function, factoring, quadratic equations, radical and exponential equations and rational expressions. Students will be expected to persevere in problem solving, reason abstractly and quantitatively, construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others as outlined by state standards. Students enrolled in Algebra I must take the Algebra I TNReady test. This assessment will count up to 25% of the 2nd semester average.

Honors Geometry

Prerequisites: Completion of 7th grade Algebra 1 at a high level, appropriate scores on TNReady assessments, and Algebra 1 final examination.

In Geometry, students will investigate and justify geometric concepts and relationships using both inductive and deductive reasoning. Concepts emphasized: undefined terms, postulates, theorems, measurement, geometric patterns, coordinate geometry, two- and three-dimensional figures, transformational geometry, congruence, similarity, inductive and deductive reasoning, logic and proof. Students enrolled in Honors Geometry must take the Geometry TNReady test. This assessment will count up to 25% of the 2nd semester average.

Academic Classes Note: INDIVIDUAL TEACHER REQUESTS WILL NOT BE GRANTED.

8th GRADE RELATED ARTS OFFERINGS

Basics for 8th Art

This class is for the student who enjoys creative expression and wants to learn more about various media. Students may draw, paint, explore print-making and sculpting. (Semester)

Studio8Art

This class builds skills in drawing, painting, printmaking, and sculpting. Students will learn by doing as they host art shows and participate in several art competitions. This intensive art class is for students who want to better express their creative vision while learning advanced studio techniques. (Year)

Drama

8th Grade Semester Drama is designed to build upon the foundational theatre skills established in 6th and 7th grade which include building confidence through performance, memorization, collaboration, reading comprehension and written expression. Through games and activities, we will study character development, published works, and technical theatre. We will also study various moments throughout theatre history including Commedia dell'arte and Elizabethan Theatre. (Semester)

The Actor's Studio (Advanced Drama)

The Advanced Drama class is a year-long class that is focused on the mastery of character analysis, play analysis, theatre as a cultural influence, and technical theatre. Students will learn proper voice, diction, and movement techniques while learning how to produce a show from beginning to end. The semester will conclude with a performance from a written work. Students will be responsible for performing, directing, producing and running all technical aspects for the production. (Year)

Chorus

Students will learn proper vocal production techniques, music literacy, and methods of expression that will further their individual musicianship. While students are developing their own vocal abilities, they will be practicing the art of unified music-making in creating balance and blend. We will explore choral literature from varied time periods, styles, and cultures. Performance opportunities include mass chorus concerts, honors choir and festivals. (Year)

Band

This class is open to all eighth-grade students with at least two years prior instrumental experience on the instrument chosen to play in band. (Special permission must be granted by the director if a student wishes to join the ensemble with no previous experience on the chosen band instrument.) This class will concentrate on advanced tone production, advanced rhythmic proficiency, individual ensemble intonation and technical accuracy, as well as preparation and performance of intermediate/advanced band literature. This ensemble will perform at least four performances—one in December, two in April. During a year with a band trip planned, this ensemble will also perform at the festival site for adjudication. There will be a minimum of four extra-curricular afternoon rehearsals in preparation for festival performances. (Year)

Orchestra

This class is only open to students with prior experience on an orchestral string instrument. 8th grade students will focus on advanced tone production, intonation, tuning, shifting, vibrato, advanced bowing techniques, and more. This class concentrates on more advanced rhythmic and technical accuracy as well as preparation and performance of Grade 3 string orchestra literature. 8th Grade Orchestra is fundamental preparation for participation in the Brentwood High School Orchestra Program. Students have the opportunity to participate in the Williamson County Honor Orchestra Clinic, MTSBOA Concert Performance Assessment, and are eligible for the MTSBOA Mid-State Orchestra. The 8th Grade Orchestra has at least four large concerts each year and may participate in a variety of other festivals and performances, including a Spring Trip. (Year)

8th Grade Advanced Songwriting and Guitar

In this class, students will explore various methods of composition and arrangement. Students will listen to and analyze music to influence existing creativity, collaborate to create original works, and perform. We will learn the fundamentals of guitar to use as a tool to support songwriting. Students who wish to be a part of this class must be approved by the instructor. (Semester)

Introduction to Video Production (Intro to Video)

Students taking this class will learn about the various careers associated with the movie and television industry. Basic video terminology will be explored, and students will learn how to plan, create, record and edit video projects. Throughout this semester class, students will complete 6-8 video projects. This class is a pre-requisite for students wanting to take Advanced Video Design and Production in the 8th Grade. (Semester)

Advanced Video Design and Production (Adv. Video)

Pre-requisite: Introduction to Video

This class is available to students who took Introduction to Video Production in 7th grade or 8th grade. They will continue their study of video production techniques. The history of movie-making will be studied in conjunction with a website design unit. Students will review camera angles, shots and movements and how to use the cameras to get their desired effect. As the class progresses, students will develop storyboards and are responsible for writing, producing, directing, recording and editing many projects including PSA's, news broadcasts, interviews, silent movies and music videos. This is an accelerated class that focuses heavily on working independently and collaboratively to complete projects at a fast pace. Students taking this class will have many of the skills necessary to continue in the Media program at Brentwood High School. (Semester)

Advanced Media Creations and Web Design (Media)

In this class, students will spend the semester studying the role that media plays in our daily lives. Students will also learn the basics of web design by completing 2 projects: one will focus on using a web editing software; the other will focus on creating a website using HTML and CSS coding. Students will also work collaboratively to complete a unit which incorporates desktop publishing, spreadsheet usage, database queries, and document creation. (Semester)

Video Game Design

In this class, students will learn to think like programmers as they create a wide variety of computer games. They will learn technical skills like programming, graphic design, and animation. They will also learn to test and debug the programs they are creating. Students enrolling in this class need to be detail-oriented, organized, and enjoy challenges designed to stimulate high-level thinking skills. (Semester)

Robotics

This course introduces students to Robotics. Students work in pairs to program Vex IQ robots using RobotC software. This course uses the Engineering Design Process to develop students' critical thinking and problem-solving skills, as well as develop their ability to communicate and work with other students. Throughout the course, students program their robots to complete a variety of tasks, using simple commands and input from the robot's sensors. No Robotics experience is necessary (Semester)

Study & Life Skills/PE

Students enrolled in this course will have study skills for 1 nine weeks and PE for 1 nine weeks. The study skills course focuses on improving and empowering students in many areas. Students will learn organizational techniques, study skills, various life skills, problem-solving, and business and personal finance and budgeting. The text that is provided for this course is The Seven Habits of Highly Successful Teens. The PE class will include participation in games such as volleyball, basketball, kickball, ping pong, team handball, soccer, flag football, spike ball, ultimate frisbee, and Frisbee golf. Students will also take the fitness test. Health and wellness, mental and emotional problems and conflict resolution will also be studied. (Semester)

Life-Long Wellness and Physical Education II (Semester PE)

This semester course will include participation in games such as volleyball, basketball, kickball, ping pong, team handball, soccer, flag football, spike ball, ultimate Frisbee, and Frisbee golf. Fitness testing and re-testing will be completed to evaluate student progress. Health and wellness, mental and emotional problems and conflict resolution will also be studied. The benefit of physical activity and the abuse of alcohol and/or tobacco will also be studied as part of the Health curriculum. Students will use technology to create a presentation about a sports figure. (Semester)

Life-Long Wellness and Physical Education III (Year PE)

This year long class will include participation in games such as volleyball, kickball, ping pong, soccer, flag football, basketball, capture the volleyball, circuit training, ultimate Frisbee, Frisbee golf, and spike ball. Fitness testing and re-testing will be completed to evaluate student progress. In the health portion of the class, students will study drug misuse and abuse, personal care, decision making, and CPR. Students will use technology to create a presentation about a different sport or sports figure. (Year)

Math and/or Reading RTI (Response to Intervention)

RTI is a state mandated, tiered intervention program available to all students that qualify. All students are screened in both Math and Reading three times a year to aid in monitoring student progress through the curriculum. Screening results are used to help students reach their greatest potential in both Math and Reading, by providing needed intervention. Tier I provides interventions to all students within their core classes. Tier II provides 3 days of intervention to students scoring between the 15th and 30th percentiles on the universal screener. Tier III provides 5 days of intervention to students scoring at or below the 15th percentile on the universal screener. At BMS, Tier II and Tier III are provided during the Related Arts block and students are placed in the classes based on their screening results.

SPECIAL CLASS OFFERINGS

These classes are offered to students in place of their Focus or Thrive class.

Jazz Band

This class is open to all students currently enrolled in the 8th grade band. (Special permission must be granted to those students not in the 8th grade band who play piano, rhythm guitar, and bass guitar.) This class will concentrate on the basic articulations and scales necessary in playing jazz. Special attention will also be given in the areas of jazz improvisation. This ensemble will perform at all regular band performances (2) and one “Jazz and Java” Concert in May. There will be a minimum of two extra-curricular afternoon rehearsals in preparation for the “Jazz and Java” Concert. (Year)

WORLD LANGUAGE CLASS OFFERINGS (2018-19)

- Students can choose to take a world language class in place of their Related Arts.
For example: A student can choose to have Spanish 1 and then a Focus class at the end of the day.
- Students can also choose to take a world language class and a Related Arts class.
For example: A student can choose to have Spanish 1 and Band (or another related arts class). These students will NOT have a Focus.

Latin I (Offered at Brentwood High School - Subject to seats available.)

Latin I students are introduced to the principles of Latin grammar, basic vocabulary and English derivatives in order to build reading and writing proficiency. An emphasis is also placed on the study and understanding of Roman mythology, culture and history. Daily participation and study are required.

German I (Offered at Brentwood High School - Subject to seats available.)

Students develop the ability to communicate about themselves and their immediate environment using simple sentences containing basic language structures. This communication is evidenced in all four language skills (listening, speaking, writing and reading) with an emphasis on the ability to communicate orally and in writing. Students explore the similarities and differences between American culture and that of the German-speaking world. This interactive course employs a variety of teaching methods and daily participation and study are required.

French I (Offered at Brentwood High School - Subject to seats available.)

Students develop the ability to communicate about themselves and their immediate environment using simple sentences containing basic language structures. This communication is evidenced in all four language skills (listening, speaking, writing and reading) with an emphasis on the ability to communicate orally and in writing. Students explore the similarities and differences between American culture and that of the French-speaking world. This interactive course employs a variety of teaching methods and daily participation and study are required.

Chinese I Honors (Offered at Brentwood High School - Subject to seats available.)

Students develop the ability to communicate about themselves and their immediate environment using simple sentences containing basic language structures. This communication is evidenced in all four language skills (listening, speaking, writing and reading). Students explore the similarities and differences between American culture and that of the Chinese-speaking world. This interactive course employs a variety of teaching methods and daily participation and study are required. Students will participate in regular performance assessments

Spanish I Honors (Offered at Brentwood Middle School)

By the end of the course students will understand and express himself/herself and participate in simple conversations on a number of familiar topics using short sentences. Students will be able to handle brief social interactions in everyday situations by asking and answering simple questions. Students begin to communicate about self, others, and everyday life in familiar situations. Students recognize the main idea from texts and understand the main topic of what is read or said. Students write and present information on most familiar topics using a series of simple sentences. Students explore the similarities and differences between American culture and the culture of the Spanish-speaking world. Students participate in regular performance assessments and may take ACTFL's Assessment of Performance toward Proficiency in Languages (AAPPL).

Spanish 1 (8B)-Offered at Brentwood Middle School

Students enrolled in this course must have taken Spanish 1 (7A) during their seventh grade year. In Spanish I (8B) students continue to develop the ability to communicate about themselves and their immediate environment through the three modes of communication: interpretive, interpersonal, and presentational. Students demonstrate an increased proficiency in these three communication modes by listening, speaking, reading and writing in the target language. Students continue to explore the similarities and differences between American culture and that of the Spanish-speaking world. This interactive course employs a variety of teaching methods. Daily participation and study are required. One world language high school credit is earned by completing both the Spanish I (7A) and Spanish I (8B) courses and will appear as a pass/fail on the high school transcript.