



7th – 8th Grade

COURSE INFORMATION GUIDE

2020 – 2021

 Bentonville Schools

@Bville_schools

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Dear Students and Parents:

What an exciting time of year as we begin planning for the next school year in your child's life. The process of course selection is an important part of your student's education. As we complete one half of the school year, this is a great time to have post-secondary discussions with your child. I know you may be thinking it is too early to discuss college and career, but it is precisely the time to explore college and career opportunities. ACT, Inc. released a college readiness report titled, "The Forgotten Middle," that reported the level of academic achievement that students attain by eighth grade has a larger impact on their college and career readiness by the time they graduate from high school than anything that happens academically in high school.

College and Career Readiness is dependent on a number of behaviors and choices in the junior high environment both academic and psychosocial. Students who display academic discipline by developing good study habits, consistently completing work, maintaining orderly conduct and positive relationships with school personnel are more likely to perform well in school. I hope that this time presents an opportunity for you to work closely with your child and the school to talk about your student's interests and the future possibilities available for your child. Bentonville District has a multitude of choices and opportunities for students, and I encourage you to take advantage of the academically rigorous opportunities available as well and the extracurricular activities available.

I know you will find the counselors and academic staff helpful during this time of exploration; please take advantage by asking questions and having conversations with our talented teachers. We are fortunate to have an abundant academic program and outstanding professional staff. We are appreciative of our families who make this school community the top district in the state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Debbie Jones".

Debbie Jones, Ph.D.

djones@bentonvillek12.org / (479) 254-5000

500 Tiger Boulevard Bentonville, AR 72712

bentonvillek12.org

School Contact Information

Fulbright Junior High School

5303 SW Bright Road
Bentonville, AR 72713
Phone: (479) 802-7000
Fax: (479) 271-1110

Bradley Webber, Principal – bwebber@bentonvillek12.org
Ruth Canard, Assistant Principal/Interventionist – rcanard@bentonvillek12.org
Lea Herndon, Assistant Principal – lherndon@bentonvillek12.org
Danielle Renfroe, Assistant Principal – drenfroe@bentonvillek12.org
Jenny Brown, Counselor – jebrown@bentonvillek12.org
Lara Melchiori, Counselor – lmelchiori@bentonvillek12.org
Jarin Olvera, Counselor – jolvera@bentonvillek12.org

Grimsley Junior High School

850 North Vaughn Road
Centerton, AR 72719
Phone: coming in spring of 2020
Staff: coming in spring of 2020

Lincoln Junior High School

1206 NW Leopard Lane
Bentonville, AR 72712
Phone: (479) 254-5250
Fax: (479) 271-1128

Don Hoover, Principal – dhoover@bentonvillek12.org
Kim Fernandez, Assistant Principal – kfernandez@bentonvillek12.org
Tacuma Williams, Assistant Principal – twilliams@bentonvillek12.org
Deborah Jefferson, Counselor – djefferson@bentonvillek12.org
Trista Killingsworth, Counselor – trkillingsworth@bentonvillek12.org

Washington Junior High School

1501 NE Wildcat Way
Bentonville, AR 72712
Phone: (479) 254-5345
Fax: (479) 271-1191

Timothy Sparacino, Principal – tsparacino@bentonvillek12.org
Bryan Hale, Assistant Principal – bhale@bentonvillek12.org
Blake Cook, Assistant Principal – bcook@bentonvillek12.org
Julie Kramer, Counselor – jkramer@bentonvillek12.org
Marla York, Counselor – mayork@bentonvillek12.org

About Our Schools

Established in 1841, Bentonville Schools is the premier public school system in Arkansas serving almost 18,000 students in kindergarten through 12th grade. Twenty-three schools, spanning more than 140 miles across Northwest Arkansas, call the district home. Bentonville Schools is critically acclaimed for its academics, arts and athletics and is committed to excellence through innovative, inspiring learning experiences. For more information, visit <https://www.bentonvillek12.org/>

Fulbright Junior High School - <https://www.bentonvillek12.org/Domain/825>

In the tradition of its namesake, Fulbright Junior High (FJHS) embraces engagement in the education and well-being of its community. We champion excellence in academics, arts, and athletics by encouraging all members of the school to put forth best effort, to learn from one another, to appreciate and respect both similarities and differences of our fellow human beings, and to build a community of support for all. FJHS promotes high standards for students, families, and staff through rigorous classroom experiences that enrich learning across Northwest Arkansas.

Grimsley Junior High School – [school-specific website coming in spring of 2020](#)

Grimsley Junior High is named in honor of the Grimsley family and the late Rex Grimsley, a rancher and businessman in Benton County. The school staff will welcome its first students in August of 2020. This fourth junior high will continue the Bentonville tradition of providing strong academics and student activities for its students and thorough preparation for GJHS students to be successful at Bentonville West High School.

Lincoln Junior High School - <https://www.bentonvillek12.org/Domain/861>

Lincoln Junior High is a vibrant school committed to creating proactive citizen leaders! It is our mission and vision to empower our student body to DREAM, LEAD, ACHIEVE, and SERVE. Our service minded school culture has fostered student voice, passion, and motivation. Our pillars of success lie rooted in Response to Intervention (RTI) and serving students based on their individual needs, enrichment and involvement activities, character development we call PRIDE, and high quality teaching and learning. We see ourselves as a team, committed to nurturing a passion for learning and growing for our students and staff. Our purpose is to be impactors, both inside and outside of school, using our passion and PRIDE.

Washington Junior High School - <https://www.bentonvillek12.org/Domain/1204>

Washington Junior High School (WJHS) is a community of life-long learners who value all members for who they are. We believe members should be treated with equal respect and also be challenged to meet high expectations for academics and behavior. WJHS strives to provide students with a comfortable and safe learning environment. The staff works to communicate and model high standards for ALL students. WJHS offers a rich and challenging curriculum. Students take eight classes with four classes meeting on A days and a different four classes meeting on B days. On Fridays, all eight classes meet for 45 minutes each. There's something for everyone at WJHS!

Course Information Guide for Grades 7 and 8

A. General Information

The information provided in this guide has been prepared to assist each student in developing a long-term program of academic preparation and course selection for the 2020-21 school year.

Master Schedule

The master schedule of student courses is developed following course registration conferences where students choose courses they would like to take in the coming school year. Every effort is made to spread out the courses that are only offered one or two periods so that students have a wide variety of choices. Unfortunately, there are many courses at all levels whose enrollments only justify having one or two sections of the course. Students will need to prioritize the courses they want to take and have alternate selections for those courses that may be closed or present scheduling conflicts.

B. Graduation Requirements and Information

To graduate from a Bentonville high school, a student must earn a minimum of twenty-four (24) credits and have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 1.5000 (GPA is carried out four places). Credits are earned at the rate of one-half (0.5) credit per class per semester. Advisory/Flex/Focus/Seminar classes are non-credit periods. For specific graduation requirements, please see the table below (next page).

Bentonville junior high schools each offer several courses in 8th grade which earn credit toward high school graduation.

- For more information related to high school credit courses in core content areas, please see the course descriptions for 8th grade Algebra 1 (p. 20) and 8th grade Accelerated Physical Science (p. 21).
- For more information related to high school credit courses in elective content areas, please see the course descriptions on page 26 for Spanish 1, page 27 for Leadership and Service Learning and page 28 for Nutrition and Wellness.

Graduation Requirements		
Subject	Bentonville Requirements	Arkansas Smart Core Requirements
English	4 Total Credits	4 Total Credits
Math	4 Total Credits 1 credit Algebra I 1 credit Geometry 2 additional mathematics credits* <i>1 credit of Computer Science and select electives may be substituted for a 4th math credit</i>	4 Total Credits 1 credit Algebra I 1 credit Geometry 1 credit Algebra II 1 credit of math higher than Algebra II*
Science	3 Total Credits 1 credit Physical Science 1 credit Biology 1 additional science credit <i>1 credit of Computer Science and select electives may be substituted for a 3rd science credit</i>	3 Total Credits 1 credit Physical Science 1 credit Biology 1 additional science credit
Social Studies	3 Total Credits 1 credit of World History 1 credit of U.S. History 0.5 credit Civics** 0.5 credit Economics	3 Total Credits 1 credit of World History 1 credit of U.S. History 0.5 credit Civics** 0.5 credit Economics
Physical Education	0.5 Credit	0.5 Credit
Health	0.5 Credit	0.5 Credit
Communications	0.5 Credit***	0.5 Credit***
Fine Arts	0.5 Credit <i>Visual, theatrical, or musical arts</i>	0.5 Credit <i>Visual, theatrical, or musical arts</i>
Professional Career Studies	1 Credit	
Foreign Language	<i>Competitive university admissions may require two or more credits. See also Honor Graduates.</i>	
Electives	7 Credits 2.5 of the 7 elective credits may be Non-Academic Electives****	6 Credits
Total Credits	24 Credits	<i>Smart Core can account for 22 of the 24 credits required in Bentonville Schools.</i>

*AR Act 480 requires students to complete a course w/ personal finance standards (Econ).
AR Act 478 requires all students to pass a citizenship test for graduation.*

*Third and fourth math choices: Algebra II, Quantitative Literacy, Algebra III, Pre-Calculus, AP Calculus AB, AP Calculus BC, AP Statistics, IB Math Studies SL, IB Math SL, and NWACC College Algebra . Comparable college courses may be substituted where applicable.

**AP US Government and Politics may be substituted for 0.5 credits of Civics.

***Courses that satisfy the Communications requirement include: Oral Communication, English I Pre-AP (taken on our campuses), Debate 1, Forensics, and NWACC Public Speaking.

****Nonacademic electives are courses in athletics (the second time a course is repeated), physical education (beyond 0.5 credits), service credit, and the PSAT/ACT/SAT prep course. Academic electives are all other courses.

Note: Arkansas Core is the same as Arkansas Smart Core except the math credits do not have to include Algebra II.

C. Honor Graduates

Students may graduate from Bentonville Schools with Honors or High Honors if they meet the specified criteria for their particular graduating class. Any student transferring from a private school or who has been previously home-schooled is eligible to be recognized as graduating with Honors or High Honors if he/she meets the established criteria listed below. The valedictorian, salutatorian, and top ten graduates are selected from the High Honors graduates.

Honor Graduates - Honors

In addition to meeting graduation requirements for Bentonville Schools and AR Smart Core¹, a student must:

- Have a 3.5000 cumulative GPA at the end of eight (8) semesters along with 8 credits from advanced courses. ADE honors our Accelerated/Pre-AP, AP/IB, Ignite Professional Studies or Career Studies internships, and college courses as advanced. GPA is not rounded up from four places
- Successfully complete 26 credits by the end of eight (8) semesters
- Have earned at least 2 credits of high school level world language or 6 credit hours of college level world language. These credits must be from the same world language.²

¹Students who fully complete the IB Diploma are eligible for Honors and High Honors even if they do not have AR Smart Core requirements. All other honors requirements must be met.

²A student may choose to be a Professional Studies or Career Studies completer rather than have two credits of the same world language. A Professional Studies or Career Studies completer must have a minimum of three related units in a specific pathway area.

Honor Graduates - High Honors

In addition to meeting graduation requirements for Bentonville Schools and AR Smart Core¹, a student must:

- Earn a 3.7500 cumulative GPA at the end of eight (8) semesters along with 12 credits from advanced courses. ADE honors our Accelerated/Pre-AP, AP/IB, Ignite Professional Studies or Career Studies internships, and college courses as advanced. GPA is not rounded up from four places
- Earn a minimum of 2 credits from AP or IB courses
- Successfully complete 26 credits by the end of eight (8) semesters, and
- Earn at least 2 credits of high school level world language or 6 credit hours of college level world language. These credits must be from the same world language.²

¹Students who fully complete the IB Diploma are eligible for Honors and High Honors even if they do not have AR Smart Core requirements. All other honors requirements must be met.

²A student may choose to be a Professional Studies or Career Studies completer rather than have two credits of the same world language. A Professional Studies or Career Studies completer must have a minimum of three related units in a specific pathway area.

Honor Graduates - Valedictorian

The valedictorian is the senior student who meets all of the following criteria:

- Meets the criteria to graduate with High Honors
- Has the highest GPA among the students who have met the criteria to graduate with High Honors

- Has been continuously enrolled at Bentonville Schools for four consecutive semesters, to include the spring semester of the senior year
- Has no home school credit on the high school transcript
- In the event of a tie in GPA, co-Valedictorian will be named in lieu of Salutatorian

Honor Graduates - Salutatorian

The salutatorian is the senior student who meets all of the following criteria:

- Meets the criteria to graduate with High Honors
- Has the second highest GPA among the students who have met the criteria to graduate with High Honors
- Has been continuously enrolled at Bentonville Schools for four consecutive semesters, to include the spring semester of the senior year
- Has no home school credit on the high school transcript
- In the event of a tie in GPA, a co-Salutatorian will be named

Honor Graduates - Top Ten Graduates

The top 10 graduates of the senior class are those who meet all of the following criteria:

- Meet the criteria to graduate with High Honors
- Have the ten highest GPA’s among students who have met the criteria to graduate with High Honors
- Has been continuously enrolled at a Bentonville Schools HS for four consecutive semesters, to include the spring semester of the senior year. For students graduating in December, continuous enrollment for four consecutive semesters would conclude the fall semester of December graduation

D. Arkansas Department of Education “Smart Core” Curriculum
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In order to ensure that every child has access to a rigorous curriculum, the Arkansas Department of Education has defined the “Smart Core” course of study must be completed in order to graduate from an Arkansas public high school. The 22 credits required under Smart Core must be included within the 24 credits required to graduate from a Bentonville high school. The only exception to Smart Core can be accomplished by the parent/guardian signing the Informed Consent Waiver. In the case of a parent signing this waiver, the student will be required to complete the Core course of study embedded within the 24 credits required to graduate from a Bentonville high school. Failure to complete the Smart Core curriculum for graduation may result in negative consequences such as conditional admission to college and ineligibility for scholarship programs. Please see the table of Graduation Requirements on the page 7 and contact your child’s counselor for more information.

E. Student Transfers

Bentonville Schools receive many new students each year. Our counseling staff works with transfer students and their parents to ensure appropriate placement. The following policies will summarize how placement decisions are made. Additional details may be found in the senior high schools' course catalog and in Board of Education policy (both are available online at <https://www.bentonvillek12.org/>).

Transfer Students from Private Schools or International Schools

When a student transfers from a private school (accredited or non-accredited), a committee of appropriate personnel to include a counselor, department chair(s), and administrator will review and determine appropriate placement at a Bentonville Schools junior high school. It will be the responsibility of the parent or guardian of the transferring student to provide school officials with a copy of the most recent official student transcript, a copy of the private school course description book, and graded samples of the student's work for the review of the school committee.

Transfer Students from Other Public Schools

The student's transcript from the sending public school will be the official documentation of courses completed or in process and grades awarded. If a student transfers from a non-accredited public school, a committee of appropriate personnel to include a counselor, department chair(s), and administrator will review the transcript and make decisions regarding appropriate placement. It will be the responsibility of the parent or guardian of the transferring student to provide the school with a copy of the most recent official transcript, a copy of the course information book from the previous school(s), and graded samples of the student's work for the committee to review.

Transfer Students from Home School

When students enter a Bentonville Schools junior high school from a home-school situation, the student's official record of course completion along with grades earned will be reviewed. A committee composed of the counselor, department chair(s), and administrator will review the official home-school records and make decisions regarding appropriate placement.

Course Descriptions 2020-21 - Grade 7

The information provided in this guide has been prepared to assist each student in developing a long-term program of academic preparation and in selecting courses for the 2020-21 school year. Students and their parents should carefully consider the curriculum offerings prior to determining course selection. Counselors and faculty advisors will assist students and parents in pre-enrollment and in planning for the future. Consideration should be given to each of the following: prerequisites, prior successes and failures.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

English 7 #37711R

In this full-year course which meets daily, seventh graders will master the skills needed to write competent narrative, argumentative, descriptive, and expository pieces. They also will demonstrate an understanding of standard English, including usage, mechanics, and sentence structure. Students will employ proper research and strong vocabulary in their writing and reading processes. Students are expected to become independent readers. They will examine literary and nonfiction text through in-depth literary analysis and frequent writing.

Pre-AP English 7 #37711P

This full-year course which meets daily is designed to encourage and challenge the students who increasingly think at more complex and abstract mental levels. In addition to mastering the regular English 7 curriculum, Pre-AP students are required to handle more complex reading and project assignments. Being an independent reader and having advanced writing skills are expected. Paragraphs and essays are evaluated heavily on clarity of detail, unique writing style, and mature sentence structure. The course is designed to encourage critical thinking skills through the study of various pieces of literature and nonfiction, and students will grapple with literary analysis of more lengthy and complex texts.

MATHEMATICS

Math 7 #37731R

Math 7 is a full-year course that meets daily. In Grade 7, instructional time will focus on four critical areas: (1) developing understanding of and applying proportional relationships; (2) developing understanding of operations with rational numbers and working with expressions and linear equations; (3) solving problems involving scale drawings and informal geometric constructions, and working with two- and three-dimensional shapes to solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume; and (4) drawing inferences about populations based on samples.

Pre-AP Math 7 #37731P

Pre-AP Math 7 is a full-year course which meets daily and is designed to prepare students for Pre-AP Algebra I in the 8th grade. This course includes all of the 7th grade math standards and one-half of the 8th grade math standards. The other half of the 8th grade math standards are included in the Pre-AP Algebra I course. Instructional time will focus on these critical areas: (1) developing understanding of and applying proportional relationships; (2) formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations; (3) solving problems involving scale drawings and informal geometric constructions, and working with two- and three-dimensional shapes to solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume; (4) drawing inferences about populations based on samples; and (5) analyzing two-dimensional figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence.

SCIENCE

Science 7 #37721R

Science 7 is a full-year course based on Arkansas Science standards. The course will utilize a variety of hands-on, minds-on activities that will require students to continually build on and revise their knowledge of matter and its interactions, molecules to organisms: structures and processes; ecosystems: interactions, energy, and dynamics; earth's systems; and earth and human activity. Students will apply the engineering design process in different contexts throughout the year. Students will utilize science and engineering practices and make connections with cross-cutting concepts to work and think like a scientist.

Pre-AP Science 7 #37721P

Pre-AP Science 7 is a full-year course based on Arkansas Science standards. While the content is the same as the Science 7 course, the class emphasizes independent expectations enhancing responsibility on the student's part to develop the skills needed for 8th Grade Accelerated Physical Science (a high-school credit earning course) as well as additional Advanced Placement (AP) and advanced level coursework.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Geography #37771R

Geography is a full-year course which meets daily and provides a study of both physical and human geography of the world through a geographic lens. As students study the continents and regions across the globe, they will learn about the historic, cultural, economic, and political development as well as interconnections that occur in both human and physical systems of each area. During this study, students will develop the perspective of a global citizen, understanding that global-scale issues and problems are resolved through extensive collaboration among the world's peoples, nations, and economic organizations. Geographic inquiry helps students understand and appreciate their own place in the world and fosters curiosity about Earth's wide diversity of environments and cultures. Geography requires using spatial and environmental perspectives, asking and answering questions about global interconnections and spatial patterns, and applying geographic skills and tools. Creating maps and other geographic representations promotes the inquiry process and can be useful in making decisions and solving problems. This course helps students understand that thinking geographically requires knowing that the world is a set of complex ecosystems interacting at multiple scales that structure the spatial patterns and processes influencing our daily lives.

Pre-AP Geography #37771P

Students enrolled in Pre-AP Geography (a full-year course) will be expected to approach Social Studies with skills that support increased depth and rigor than what students would encounter in the on-level geography course. Students will work within flexible groupings, experience an accelerated pace in areas of strength, and be provided learning experiences that lead to advanced level products and/or performances.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION / HEALTH AND SAFETY

Physical Education / Health and Safety #377812(Full) / #377811(Semester)

This one-semester or full-year required course exposes students to a wide variety of activities with an emphasis on physical fitness and lifetime skills and learning about basic health behaviors to determine the importance of assuming responsibility for personal health. Topics include personality, human body systems, growth and development, nutrition, fitness, alcohol and tobacco, illegal drugs, communicable and noncommunicable diseases, conflict resolution, and basic first-aid and safety. Students will participate in drills, games, and other activities of the sport or skill being taught. Students are expected to dress out and participate every day. Written work will also be requested. Periodically, students will take part in a physical fitness test. Uniforms are required. See your PE teacher if financial assistance is needed.

Grade 7 Electives

Bentonville Public Schools strives to provide all students with the elective courses of their choice. However, should an elective course not generate sufficient student interest to be efficiently conducted, the course will not be taught. The student's alternate choice would then be substituted.

FINE ARTS

Introduction to Theatre #378700

Introduction to Theatre is a one-semester, fine arts course that introduces students to the elements of theatre. Students will explore acting and the technical elements of theatre: costume, makeup, lighting, set, and sound in a hands-on, student-centered environment. This course fulfills the seventh and eighth grade fine arts requirement.

Forensics Foundations #37870A

Forensics Foundations is a one semester acting and public speaking course that helps develop skills for a future in forensics competition. Through active performance activities and textual analysis, students will develop abilities needed for future academic and career work with a strong focus on soft skills (speaking, listening, empathy, interpersonal, organizational, and textual literacy skills).

Visual Art 7 #377510

Visual Art 7 is a one-semester course designed to introduce students to secondary level concepts in studio art. Students will view artists and works from different points in history. Through lectures, demonstration, and hands-on projects, students will focus on both the concrete and abstract nature of art. The curriculum will be centered on the elements of art and principles of design. There is a \$10 art fee for materials due the first week of class. Students will also be required to provide a sketchbook for the class.

Band 7 #37754+

Prerequisites: Students must have completed two full semesters of band the previous year and have director approval. Transfer students need to meet with the band director on an individual basis.

Band 7 is a full-year course that provides students the opportunity to study in similar instrument groups and large concert band. Students will continue to learn the basics of instrument fundamentals, reading music/rhythmic notation, and independent musical performance. Rehearsals and performances outside of the school day are required. This program may have additional fees associated with participation. Please contact a teacher or building administrator for additional information.

Orchestra #37754+

Prerequisite: Previous orchestra experience

In this full-year course, students who already play a stringed instrument will continue the study of the basics, re-emphasizing technique, note reading, and rhythms. Level 2 music will be utilized. Students will need to have their own instrument or parents should be prepared to rent an instrument. Students will participate in regional competition. Please see the orchestra teacher if you have questions about instrument rentals. This program may have additional fees associated with participation. Please contact a teacher or building administrator for additional information.

Choir #35853+

Open Enrollment Choruses are full-year or semester courses exploring a wide variety of music arranged for the beginning voice. Students will present concerts, which are open to the public. Literature is selected from reading clinics, regional and national conventions, and professional choral recordings. This program may have additional fees associated with participation. Please contact a teacher or building administrator for additional information.

Auditioned Women's Chorus #3585+

Auditioned Women's Chorus is a full-year course exploring a wide variety of music arranged for the female voice. Students will present concerts, which are open to the public. Literature is selected from reading clinics, regional and national conventions, and professional choral recordings. This program may have additional fees associated with participation. Please contact a teacher or building administrator for additional information.

Auditioned Men's Chorus #35853+

Auditioned Men's Chorus is a full-year course exploring a wide variety of music arranged for the male voice. Students will present concerts, which are open to the public. Literature is selected from reading clinics, regional and national conventions, and professional choral recordings. This program may have additional fees associated with participation. Please contact a teacher or building administrator for additional information.

WORLD LANGUAGES

Introduction to Spanish Language and Culture #358410

In Introduction to Spanish Language and Culture, a one-semester course, students will learn benefits to learning a second language and studying various cultures. Students will have the opportunity to explore different Spanish-speaking countries and learn about various cultural practices from the Spanish-speaking world. Students will also learn basic Spanish pronunciation and conversational skills and will have opportunities to practice these skills in class with their peers and teacher. Completion of this course will help to prepare students for more structured exploration and mastery of the Spanish language in Spanish I at the junior high or high school level.

CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Gateway to Technology

Gateway to Technology courses are one-semester courses open to 7th and 8th graders. The semester courses include:

- Design & Modeling #399120
- Automation & Robotics #399110
- Magic of Electrons #399130
- Science of Technology #399140
- Computer Science #377650

Through hands-on projects, students explore how science has affected technology throughout history by applying concepts to STEM activities and projects. Students acquire knowledge and skills in problem solving, teamwork, collaboration and innovation.

Family & Consumer Science Investigation #399080

Family and Consumer Sciences is designed to provide students with basic information and skills needed to function effectively within the family and with a changing, complex society. Upon completion of this course, the student should have developed basic life skills that promote a positive influence on the quality of life and career preparation.

Yearbook (Annual) and Student Media #999130

Students who enroll in this course will be responsible for assisting in the production of the yearbook. Other forms of media will also be explored (websites, social media, video production, etc.) for the purpose of writing, editing, publishing, and/or broadcasting school publications. Students in this course may be expected to work outside of class and/or the regular school day.

EAST #399190

EAST (Education Accelerated by Service and Technology) is a project-based, service-learning program designed to improve leadership and critical success skills. Students will deploy state-of-the-art technologies, be encouraged to think critically to creatively solve problems, and become positive agents of change to improve the school, community, or world. (This course availability is dependent on year-to-year funding by external organizations).

ATHLETICS

Athletics requires students to maintain the current athletic requirements set by the Bentonville School District. Students must have coaches' approval before enrolling. Athletics requires dedication and hard work every day, including practices before and/or after school. Students must be sure that they have the available time that athletics requires. Students who enroll in athletics must remain in that class and participate the entire time the athletic course is scheduled unless the coach or a building administrator removes them for discipline or grades.

The following sports are a part of the athletic program for 7th grade students:

Football #99981K

Volleyball #99982Z

Cross Country #99982Y

Basketball #99981+

Track #99982U

Spirit Squad #99985+

Course Descriptions 2020-21 - Grade 8

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

English 8 #38811R

Students will articulate ideas, analyze literature and nonfiction texts, synthesize information, study vocabulary, and write argumentative, expository and narrative pieces. Students will further develop reading fluency and comprehension with a continued emphasis on reading strategies and literary studies. In this all-inclusive full-year language arts class, the connection between reading and writing will be accentuated as our students move toward “reading like writers and writing like readers.”

Pre-AP English 8 #38811P

In addition to mastering the regular English 8 curriculum, Pre-AP students will begin to grapple with literary analysis of more complex texts. Students are required to handle additional reading and project assignments. Being an independent reader and having advanced writing skills are expected in this full-year course. Paragraphs and essays are evaluated heavily on clarity of detail, unique writing style, and mature sentence structure. The course is designed to encourage critical thinking skills through the study of various pieces of literature and nonfiction.

Reading Lab #388130

Students who are identified as needing additional time and support with literacy standards will be scheduled into this course to provide additional time to work on improving reading comprehension and composition skills while completing the 8th grade English curriculum.

MATHEMATICS

Math 8 #38831R

Math 8 is a full-year course designed to prepare students for Algebra I. In Grade 8, instructional time will focus on three critical areas: (1) formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations, including modeling an association in bivariate data with a linear equation, and solving linear equations and systems of linear equations; (2) grasping the concept of a function and using functions to describe quantitative relationships; (3) analyzing two- and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence, and understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem.

Math Lab #38831L

Math Lab supports the 8th grade math curriculum while also filling foundational gaps in student understanding. Smaller class sizes allow students more teacher contact time and allows teachers to incorporate a variety of teaching strategies. This course is designed for students who were minimally proficient or below proficient on the state-required assessment.

PreAP Algebra I (1.0 High School Credit) #430003

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Pre-AP Math 7

Pre-AP Algebra I is a full-year, intense course designed to prepare students for Pre-AP Geometry in the 9th grade. This course includes one-half of the 8th grade math standards and all of the Algebra I math standards. The first half of the 8th grade math standards were taught in Pre-AP Math 7. In this course, instructional time will focus on these critical areas: (1) solving linear equations in one variable and analyzing and solving systems of linear equations in two variables; (2) defining, evaluating, and comparing functions, and using them to model relationships between quantities; (3) assessing how a model fits data and using graphical representations and knowledge of the context to make judgments about the appropriateness of linear models; (4) creating quadratic and exponential expressions and solving equations, inequalities, and systems of equations involving quadratic expressions; (5) comparing the key characteristics of quadratic functions to those of linear and exponential functions and selecting from among these functions to model phenomena.

Algebra I is a high school credit course. The grade will be calculated into the student's high school GPA and will be included on the student's high school transcript. Students who successfully complete this advanced course are on the path to take accelerated high school coursework in mathematics (such as AP Calculus and/or AP Statistics).

Prerequisite: Due to the advanced nature of this course, it is strongly encouraged that students should have completed the Pre-AP Math 7 course with a grade of "A" or "B" both semesters.

SCIENCE

Science 8 #38821R

Science 8 is a full-year high school preparatory course based on Arkansas Science standards and will help students conceptually understand science in the world around them. The course will utilize a variety of hands-on, minds-on activities that will require students to continually build on and revise their knowledge of motion and stability; forces and interactions; energy; waves and their applications in technologies for information transfer; heredity; inheritance and variation of traits; biological unity and diversity; earth's place in the universe; and earth and human activity. Students will apply the engineering design process in different contexts throughout the year. Students will utilize science and engineering practices and make connections with cross-cutting concepts to work and think like a scientist.

Accelerated Physical Science Integrated (1.0 High School Credit) #423000

8th Grade Accelerated Physical Science is a full-year, intense high school credit course designed to prepare students to take Advanced Placement (AP) science courses in high school and will include algebraic reasoning to help students conceptually understand science in the world around them. The course includes foundational physical science standards from 8th grade science, 9th grade physical science standards, and life science, earth science and physical science standards from other high school level courses. Students will be engaged through hands-on, minds-on activities while they explore matter and its interactions in relation to the periodic table and chemical reactions. Students will apply their understanding of invisible forces and predict their work within a system. Students will demonstrate understanding of energy and transfer within and out of a system by designing, building, and refining a device that converts energy from one form to another. Students will understand waves, their properties and uses in information technology. Finally, students will demonstrate their understanding of human impact on ecosystems by designing, evaluating, and refining a solution that will reduce the impacts of human activities on ecosystems. Students will utilize science and engineering practices and make connections with cross-cutting concepts to work and think like a scientist.

8th Grade Accelerated Physical Science is a high school credit course. The grade will be calculated into the student's high school GPA and will be included on the student's high school transcript. Students who successfully complete this advanced accelerated course are on the path to take advanced high school science courses (such as AP Biology and AP Environmental Science).

Prerequisite: Due to the advanced nature of this course, it is strongly encouraged that students have earned scores of "Ready" or "Exceeding" on the math and science portions of the ACT Aspire exam (administered in the spring of 2019) and earn a "Ready" or "Exceeding" score again on the April 2020 exam.

SOCIAL STUDIES

U. S. History / Arkansas History #38871R/#37872R

Social Studies is a full-year course. One semester is US History 1800-1900 which is focused around American expansion to industrial America. Students will develop a deeper understanding of history, economics, government, civics and geography as they relate to nineteenth century America. Students will be expected to examine primary and secondary sources, express their thoughts and conclusions both verbally and in written form, and make connections to the past. In the other semester, students will begin the study of Arkansas History which concentrates on an in-depth and rigorous study of Arkansas. Students will examine the geographic, governmental, economic, and historical aspects of the state from its origination to modern day. Students will be challenged to analyze the changes that have occurred within Arkansas; in particular their own local regions. While enrolled in this course, students will evaluate primary and secondary sources, seek answers to compelling questions, and develop and apply disciplinary literacy skills.

Pre-AP U. S. History / Arkansas History #38871P/#37872P

This full-year course fulfills the same requirements as Social Studies 8. The course is designed for motivated students who have above average interest and achievement in social studies and writing. More emphasis will be placed on higher-level thinking, writing, analysis, and answering document-based questions. They are intended to provide the skills to prepare students for AP coursework in high school. Students enrolled in Pre-AP US History/ Arkansas History will be expected to approach Social Studies with skills that support increased depth and rigor than what students would encounter in the on-level course. Students will work within flexible groupings, experience an accelerated pace in areas of strength, and be provided learning experiences that lead to advanced level products and or performances. In order to accomplish these challenges, teachers will instruct students utilizing strategies suggested in Pre-AP trainings.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical Education/Health #388811 / 388850-Health & Safety

In this one-semester or full year required course, students will be exposed to a wide variety of activities with an emphasis on physical fitness and lifetime skills. Students will participate in drills, games, and other activities of the sport or skills taught. Students will be expected to dress out and participate every day. Written work may also be required. Physical fitness tests will also be included. Uniforms are required. See your PE teacher if financial assistance for purchasing the uniform is needed.

Grade 8 Electives

FINE ARTS

Introduction to Theatre #378700

Introduction to Theatre is a one-semester, fine arts course that introduces students to the elements of theatre. Students will explore acting and the technical elements of theatre: costume, makeup, lighting, set, and sound in a hands-on, student-centered environment. This course fulfills the seventh and eighth grade fine arts requirement.

Introduction to Forensics #37870F

Prerequisite: Selection by application/recommendation

Students will develop skills in speaking/acting events for competition. These events include solo acting, duet acting, mime, storytelling, improv, words and music, Reader's Theater, interpretation of prose, interpretation of poetry, original oratory, and extemporaneous speaking. Students are required to travel to forensic tournaments. Introduction to Forensics is a full-year course designed to prepare the student for forensics competition.

Band 8 #38854+

Prerequisites: Students must have completed 4 full semesters of band the previous years and have director approval. Students must also earn a "B" or higher on the 7th grade proficiency test the previous year. Transfer students need to meet with the band director on an individual basis.

Varsity Band is a full-year course that provides students with a balanced comprehensive study of music through concert band, which develops skills in the psychomotor, cognitive, and affective domains. Ensemble and solo activities are designed to develop elements of musicianship including, but not limited to: (1) tone productions, (2) technical skills, (3) intonation, (4) music reading skills, (5) listening skills, (6) analyzing music, and (7) studying historically significant styles of literature. Rehearsals and performances outside of the school day are required. This program may have additional fees associated with participation. Please contact a teacher or building administrator for additional information.

Orchestra #38854+

Prerequisite: Previous orchestra experience

In this full-year course, students who already play a stringed instrument will continue the study of the basics, re-emphasizing technique, note reading, and rhythms. Level 2 music will be utilized. Students will need to have their own instrument or parents should be prepared to rent an instrument. Students will participate in regional competition. Please see the orchestra teacher if you have questions about instrument rentals. This program may have additional fees associated with participation. Please contact a teacher or building administrator for additional information.

Art #388515

Art 8 is a one-semester course designed to continue students' growth in the area of studio art. Students will view artists and works from different points in history. Students will be able to create and critique artworks of many styles. With a variety of lectures, demonstration, and hands on projects, students will be exposed to a wide array of art mediums and subject matter. The curriculum will be centered on the elements of art and principles of design. There is a \$10 art fee for materials due the first week of class. Students will also be required to provide a sketchbook for the class.

Advanced Art #388510

Prerequisite: Instructor approval

Advanced Art 8 is a full-year course designed for advanced artists to further pursue their developing style. Students will expand their previous knowledge of art history and technique, while building a portfolio of diverse works created with multiple mediums. There is a \$15 art fee for materials due the first week of class. Students will also be required to provide a sketchbook for the class. This class is by audition or instructor consent only.

Choir #35853+

Open Enrollment Choruses are full-year or semester courses exploring a wide variety of music arranged for the beginning voice. Students will present concerts, which are open to the public. Literature is selected from reading clinics, regional and national conventions, and professional choral recordings. This program may have additional fees associated with participation. Please contact a teacher or building administrator for additional information.

Auditioned Women's Chorus #35853+

Auditioned Women's Chorus is a full-year course exploring a wide variety of music arranged for the female voice. Students will present concerts, which are open to the public. Literature is selected from reading clinics, regional and national conventions, and professional choral recordings. This program may have additional fees associated with participation. Please contact a teacher or building administrator for additional information.

Auditioned Men's Chorus #35853+

Auditioned Men's Chorus is a full-year course exploring a wide variety of music arranged for the male voice. Students will present concerts, which are open to the public. Literature is selected from reading clinics, regional and national conventions, and professional choral recordings. This program may have additional fees associated with participation. Please contact a teacher or building administrator for additional information.

WORLD LANGUAGES

Spanish I (1.0 High School Credit) #440001

Spanish I is a full-year course where students will study topics used in basic communication, beginning vocabulary and grammar tenses that facilitate conversation, skills needed for accurate pronunciation and intonation of the Spanish language, and various Hispanic cultural events to enhance their understanding of a diverse society. Students will be expected to engage in listening, speaking, reading and writing activities as well as creative activities that demonstrate knowledge of their learning.

Spanish I is a high school credit course. The grade will be calculated into the student's high school GPA and will be included on the student's high school transcript. Upon successful completion of 8th grade Spanish I, the student may take Spanish II in the 9th grade.

Introduction to Spanish Language and Culture #358410

In Introduction to Spanish Language and Culture, a one-semester course, students will learn benefits to learning a second language and studying various cultures. Students will have the opportunity to explore different Spanish-speaking countries and learn about various cultural practices from the Spanish-speaking world. Students will also learn basic Spanish pronunciation and conversational skills and will have opportunities to practice these skills in class with their peers and teacher. Completion of this course will help to prepare students for more structured exploration and mastery of the Spanish language in Spanish I at the Jr. High or High School level.

CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Gateway to Technology

Gateway to Technology courses are one-semester courses open to 7th and 8th graders. The semester courses include:

- Design & Modeling #399120
- Automation & Robotics #399110
- Magic of Electrons #399130
- Science of Technology #399140
- Computer Science #388650

Through hands-on projects, students explore how science has affected technology throughout history by applying concepts to STEM activities and projects. Students acquire knowledge and skills in problem solving, teamwork, collaboration and innovation.

Career Development #399280

Career Development is an activity-based career exploration course designed to broaden students' knowledge about careers within the 16 Career Clusters. Instruction will include units relating to self-awareness, 2) career awareness, 3) career planning, education and training, and 4) introduction of employability skills. Experiences shall include opportunities for guest speakers, field trips, job shadows, lectures, and applied activities. Upon completion of the course, students will have developed a tentative 6-year education and training plan. This is a state-mandated course for students entering high school.

EAST #399190

EAST (Education Accelerated by Service and Technology) is a project-based, service-learning program designed to improve leadership and critical success skills. Students will deploy state-of-the-art technologies, be encouraged to think critically to creatively solve problems, and become positive agents of change to improve the school, community, or world. (This course availability is dependent on year-to-year funding by external organizations).

Introduction to Business and Marketing #388930

The purpose of this one-semester Introduction to Business course is to introduce junior high school students to the opportunities available in the various programs of study that are offered through high school courses. Emphasis is placed on the following: understanding the importance of Career and Technical Student Organizations, soft skill development, Business Management, Information Technology, Finance, Hospitality and Tourism, Marketing career clusters and pathways as offered at the high school level.

Exploring Business Applications #399040

This is a one-semester course designed to assist students with the transition into high school business courses. The course is the culmination of skills mastered beginning in keyboarding, while adding database and electronic presentation skills. (Topics of study include word processing, spreadsheets, database, presentations, and cloud computing.)

Leadership and Service Learning (0.5 High School Credit) #493160

Leadership and Service Learning is a one-semester course which emphasizes the importance of leadership skills, volunteerism, and professionalism in the development of personal qualities. It focuses on the benefits of community service, leadership roles, and civic responsibilities. Current technology is used to enhance communication skills and promote professionalism.

Leadership and Service Learning is a high school credit course. The grade will be calculated into the student's high school GPA and will be included on the student's high school transcript.

Exploring Personal Finance #399260

Exploring Personal Finance is designed to introduce students to the knowledge and skills required for managing their personal and family financial resources. Students learn to manage resources through hands-on applications that are relevant to their lives. Projections will require students to use academic skills in language arts, math, social sciences, and science. Emphasis is given to the development of competencies related to values, needs and wants, goals and decision-making, career exploration, understanding paychecks, budgeting, saving, electronic banking, credit, and managing accounts.

Family & Consumer Science Investigation #399080

Family and Consumer Sciences is designed to provide students with basic information and skills needed to function effectively within the family and with a changing, complex society. Upon completion of this course, the student should have developed basic life skills that promote a positive influence on the quality of life and career preparation.

Nutrition and Wellness (0.5 High School Credit) #493200

Nutrition and Wellness is a one-semester course which emphasizes the interaction of nutrition, foods, sports, and exercise for lifelong fitness and well-being of individuals and families. Students will be exposed to a variety of food labs focused on meeting the nutritional needs of individuals at various ages and stages of the life cycle. Approximately 40% of this course will focus on physical activities that promote lifelong fitness.

Nutrition and Wellness is a high school credit course. The grade will be calculated into the student's high school GPA and will be included on the student's high school transcript.

Yearbook (Annual) and Student Media #999130

Students who enroll in this course will be responsible for assisting in the production of the yearbook. Other forms of media will also be explored (websites, social media, video production, etc.) for the purpose of writing, editing, publishing, and/or broadcasting school publications. Students in this course may be expected to work outside of class and/or the regular school day.

ATHLETICS

Athletics requires students to maintain the current athletic requirements set by the Bentonville School District. Students must have coaches' approval before enrolling. Athletics requires dedication and hard work every day including practices before and/or after school. Students must be sure that they have the available time that athletics requires. Students who enroll in athletics must remain in that class and participate the entire length of time the course is scheduled unless the coach or a building administrator removes them for discipline or grades. The following sports are a part of the athletic program for 8th grade students:

Cross Country #99982X - a fall semester course.

Football #99981F - a full year course with a competition schedule of 9-10 games.

Basketball #99981+ - a full year course with a competition schedule of 15-18 games.

Spirit Squad #99985+ (Cheerleading / Dance Teams) - a full year course.

Volleyball #99982V - a full year course with a schedule of 15 to 18 games.

Track #99982T - a spring semester course.