

BEAVER AREA MIDDLE SCHOOL

"Where Tradition Dictates a Standard of Excellence"



Registration Bulletin 2017 - 2018 Grades 7 & 8

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BEAVER AREA MIDDLE SCHOOL

**GRADES 7 AND 8
1 GYPSY GLEN ROAD
BEAVER, PA 15009
724-774-0250**

**DR. CARRIE ROWE.....SUPERINTENDENT
MR. JEFF BELTZ..... PRINCIPAL
MR. ROB KING.....COUNSELOR
MRS. JUDY SPADASECRETARY**

SPECIAL NOTE TO PARENTS AND STUDENTS

Please assist your child in preparing his/her program of studies. Teacher assignments, classes and schedules are carefully prepared from these student course requests. A student may withdraw from classes only if it is recommended by their teacher, counselor and parent. Final authority to withdraw from a class rests with the principal. Withdrawals will only be permitted during drop/add periods at the beginning of each semester by contacting the guidance office.

**PROMOTION POLICY
Grades 7 & 8**

A Middle School student must earn a minimum of five (5) full credits each year. Three (3) of the required credits must be earned in Math, Language Arts, and Science. If a student fails to earn a minimum of five (5) full credits in grades seven and eight, an evaluation considering attendance, achievement, and social maturity may be made to determine whether he/she will be promoted to the next grade level. Students will be required to attend summer school at the expense of the family to achieve credit obligations.



SEVENTH GRADE COURSES

REQUIRED COURSES (FULL YEAR TERM)

LANGUAGE ARTS 7

Course #100M

Full year; one credit

All students must complete a summer reading assignment prior to the beginning of school.

In the seventh grade language arts curriculum, the student will study in detail certain grammatical constructions introduced in the elementary grades through literature. The course will emphasize the use of new vocabulary in daily writing. Narrative and descriptive writing will be emphasized as well. Supplemental units may include Greek and Roman mythology, drama, short story, novel studies, and poetry.

Students will be engaged primarily with study skills, critical reading and advanced vocabulary. Students will be guided by the framework of Bloom's Taxonomy to develop critical skills in assessing their own, other students', and authors' works.

READING

Course #104M

One semester; .5 credit

Reading is fundamental to all things, and learning to read text is critical for reaching higher levels of thinking. In this course, you will be investigating text types and structure as well as broadening your experience with classic and contemporary novels. Analysis of word parts will also be a focus as you unlock complex texts and expand your vocabulary.

SOCIAL STUDIES (EXPLORING OUR WORLD)

Course #200M

Full year; one credit

Exploring Our World starts with the physical environment and how it affects civilizations. This course places emphasis on ancient civilizations including their behavior, economics and governments. Through the studying of ancient civilizations, the student will gain insight into the relationships among people, ideas, events, and determine the relevance of the ancient world to the present.

SCIENCE 7

Course #300M

Full year; one credit

The seventh grade science program is the first of a two-part science sequence in middle school. This course introduces basic concepts in physical and earth science and develops basic procedures in scientific investigation. We stress the fundamental principles of mechanics and energy in the study of physics. The earth science portion introduces water sources, rocks and soil, atmosphere and weather.

In addition to the development of scientific principles, vocabulary, laboratory research, and the reading of current science literature is stressed.

SEVENTH GRADE COURSES

REQUIRED COURSES (FULL YEAR TERM) (Continued)

MATH 7 (PRE-ALGEBRA)

Course #404M

Full year; one credit

This course will provide students with a solid preparation for their eighth grade mathematics course. An understanding of operations of rational numbers, including negative integers, and solving linear equations are introduced early in the course to develop students' algebraic number and operation skills. Students will continue their learning as they develop an understanding of proportionality, similarity, and data analysis by using fractions, ratios, proportions, and percents. Students connect their work on proportionality to their work on area and volume by investigating similar objects. Students will also use geometry formulas to determine surface areas and volumes of three-dimensional shapes. Students will study experimental probabilities and use theoretical probabilities and proportions to make predictions of outcomes of an experiment.

ALGEBRA I

Course #405M

Full year; one credit

This course is designed for advanced math students who intend to enroll in the highest level mathematics courses in high school and college. This course offers the study of Algebra I from both a conceptual and abstract viewpoint. Topics that are provided include: the language of Algebra, operations with real numbers, data analysis, equations of the first and second degrees, inequalities, functions (emphasis on linear), polynomials, systems of equations involving two variables, probability/statistics, and an introduction to quadratics.

It is recommended that the successful 7th grade candidate for Algebra I should have achieved the following performance indicators: 1) Receive a Y1 grade of 87% or higher in Math 6; 2) Score Proficient on the Algebra Readiness Test; 3) Receive a recommendation from the student's current math teacher; 4) Score advanced on sixth grade Math PSSA exam.

*Please further note that students choosing Algebra I must complete Chapters 0 and 1 in the Holt Algebra I book before school begins. Students will be tested on Chapters 0 and 1 upon returning.



REQUIRED (7 Mini) COURSES

RELATED ARTS (7th Grade Rotation)

Related Arts in Grade 7 provide an opportunity for all students to explore various interests via seven mini courses. These include: PASS, Crafts, Computer I, Health, Music I, and Physical Education.

P.A.S.S.

Course #776M

0.15 credit

The transition from elementary school to middle school often comes with many questions. These questions arise regarding homework, taking tests, making friends, fitting in, participating in activities, and how to balance your time to fit all of these things in your day. P.A.S.S. will attempt to answer these questions and any others that students may have about transitioning from Elementary to Middle School by providing practical skills that students can use in their daily lives. These skills are provided through discussions, videos, practical exercises, and educational information based on needs of Middle School students. The transition from elementary to middle school can be a smooth one if you have the skills to survive.

Crafts

Course #771M

0.15 credit

The seventh grade crafts program is designed to give students experience in three-dimensional work. Major emphasis is placed on ceramics from hand-building techniques through the final glaze firing, design and execution of a mirror scratch project, and the acquisition of an expanding art vocabulary. Students are encouraged to develop a craftsman-like attitude.

Computer I

Course #774M

0.15 credit

In this course, students use word processing skills to create a variety of documents necessary for the day-to-day operations of a small business. Projects to be completed include a letterhead, flyer, personal business letter, menu feedback form, inventory list, and business card.

Health

Course #775M

0.15 credit

The health program for seventh grade is a seven-week program designed to promote healthy living and emphasize the impact of today's decisions on the quality of lifetime wellness. The focus is on the needs of adolescents and the challenges facing them as they go through this important stage of growth and maturation.

REQUIRED (7 Mini) COURSES

RELATED ARTS (7th Grade Rotation) (continued)

Music I

Course #773M

0.15 credit

World Music Drumming explores multicultural percussion instruments, rhythms and techniques and how they were and are used in Africa and the Caribbean. Students meet the requirements of the National Music Standards through playing, singing, listening, composing and improvising in the style of various drumming traditions. Teamwork, communication and respect form the basis of the class.

Physical Education

Course #913M

0.15 credit (student will have two rotations of PE)

This physical education program is a required course that meets every day for two separate 30-day rotations for a total of 60 physical education days in the year. The coed course will cover cooperative activities that may include team and individual sports and swimming. All students are required to participate in physical education unless the school receives a written medical excuse from a physician. For attire, all students are required to change into physical education clothes and shoes.



EIGHTH GRADE COURSES

REQUIRED COURSES (FULL YEAR TERM)

LANGUAGE ARTS 8

Course #101M

Full year; one credit

All students must complete a summer reading assignment prior to the beginning of school.

The eighth grade Language Arts curriculum emphasizes learning how to read fiction and non-fiction texts and how to write in real-world fashion using applied language patterns. Students will learn to read critically both fiction and non-fiction texts, and will demonstrate comprehension through a variety of evaluative responses. Supplemental units may also include speech and poetry.

Further emphasis will be given to improving study skills, advanced comprehension skills, note taking and research skills, and vocabulary development. Students will apply their language artistry critically assessing their own and other students' works.

AMERICAN STUDIES I (America to the War of 1812)

Course #201M

Full year; one credit

This course starts with an overview of the period of exploration emphasizing the Colonial Period, the Revolutionary War, the Constitution, and the early years of the Republic through Western expansion and Manifest Destiny. Students will be required to write journals and papers, critique video presentations and oral reports, as well as engage in discussions involving critical thinking skills. History will be made relevant through current events and relating our past to present day law, economics, and society.

SCIENCE 8

Course #301M

Full year; one credit

The eighth grade science program is the second of a two-part science sequence in middle school. The course follows a logical, sequential development of some of the major principles in various fields of science. Throughout the year, students are taught critical thinking and problem solving skills as they study physics of light and sound, astronomy and chemistry.

PRE-ALGEBRA

Course #404M

Full year; one credit

This course will provide students with a solid preparation for algebra and geometry by developing fluency with rational numbers and proportional relationships. Integers and algebraic concepts are introduced early in the course to develop students' algebraic thinking skills. Throughout the course, algebraic concepts are connected to arithmetic skills to build on what students know. Geometry concepts are integrated when appropriate to foster connections and to serve as a formal transition into formal algebra and geometry. All 8th graders will use the Algebra I textbook (Chapters 1-7) to better prepare and enrich the learning experience while preparing students to be successful in the full Algebra I course.

EIGHTH GRADE COURSES

REQUIRED COURSES (FULL YEAR TERM) (Continued)

ALGEBRA I

Course #405M

Full year; one credit

This course is designed for advanced math students who intend to enroll in the highest level mathematics courses in high school and college. This course offers the study of Algebra I from both a conceptual and abstract viewpoint. Topics that are provided include: the language of Algebra, operations with real numbers, data analysis, equations of the first and second degrees, inequalities, functions (emphasis on linear), polynomials, systems of equations involving two variables, probability/statistics, and an introduction to quadratics.

It is recommended that the successful 8th grade candidate for Algebra I should have achieved the following performance indicators: 1) Receive a Y1 grade of 87% or higher in Math 7; 2) Score Proficient on the Algebra Readiness Test; 3) Receive a recommendation from the student's current math teacher; 4) Score proficient or advanced on Math 7 PSSA exam.

*Please further note that students choosing Algebra I must complete Chapters 0 and 1 in the Holt Algebra I book before school begins. Students will be tested on Chapters 0 and 1 upon returning.

ALGEBRA II

Course #406M

Full year; one credit

This course offers a study of the core concepts of second year algebra. Emphasis is placed on skills and application as opposed to theory. The course is signed for students who need an algebraic foundation but are not sufficiently prepared for the regular or accelerated programs. Through direct instruction, group activities, investigations, and presentations, this course offers the study of algebraic concepts as well as problem solving techniques. Topics include linear functions, inequalities, systems of equations, matrices, transformations, factoring, quadratic functions, exponential functions, radicals, probability and statistics, perimeter, area, surface area, and volume. The majority of the student's grade will come from tests and quizzes, which will be given on a regular basis. The student is expected to complete homework assignments and study/prepare independently each night. This is a standards-based program and is designed to help prepare students for success on the PSSA and SAT.

It is recommended that the successful 8th grade candidate for Algebra II should have achieved the following performance indicators: 1) Receive a Y1 grade of 80% or higher in Algebra I; 2) Score **Proficient or Advanced** on the Keystone Exam; 3) Pass an Algebra II Qualifier Exam with a score of 80% or higher – the exam will be given prior to the May Keystone Exam. Any student that does not meet the 80% requirement will not be required to take the Keystone Exam and will retake Algebra I the following school year to gain a deeper understanding of the material.



REQUIRED (7 Mini) COURSES

RELATED ARTS (8th Grade Rotation)

Related Arts in grade 8 provide an opportunity for all students to explore various interests via seven mini courses. These include: Art, Computer II, Technology Education II, Music 8, Exploring JROTC, and Physical Education.

Art

Course #881M

0.15 credit

The eighth grade art program is designed to give students experience in two-dimensional work. Major emphasis is placed on the effective use of the design elements and principles, the development of realistic drawing and shading skills, and the expansion of an art vocabulary.

Computer II

Course #884M

0.15 credit

In this course, students will use Microsoft Excel to complete a series of real world activities for a business. From basic to advanced spreadsheet skills, students will format cells, use formulas and functions, sort data, and create and format charts.

Technology Education II

Course #885M

0.15 credit

Students in Technology Education at the eighth grade level are involved in activities in four areas of technology education: manufacturing, construction, communication and transportation. Activities may involve either projects or problem solving.

Music 8

Course #886M

0.15 credit

This partial is designed for the beginning guitar student. Musical concepts will be taught through the guitar. Students will learn to read a chord chart, strum through several chord progressions, and eventually accompany songs.

REQUIRED (7 Mini) COURSES

RELATED ARTS (8th Grade Rotation) (Continued)

Library 8

Course #600ES
0.15 credit

This course focuses on information literacy and digital citizenship. Through various activities, students will learn necessary research, writing, and evaluation skills of various information mediums and types. This course also serves as an introduction to MLA research writing, which is used in all high school English classes.

Physical Education

Course #923M
0.15 credit (student will have two rotations of PE)

This physical education program is a required course that meets every day for two separate 30-day rotations for a total of 60 physical education days in the year. The coed course will cover cooperative activities that may include team and individual sports and swimming. All students are required to participate in physical education unless the school receives a written medical excuse from a physician. For attire, all students are required to change into physical education clothes and shoes.



SEVENTH & EIGHTH GRADE ELECTIVE COURSES

MIDDLE SCHOOL CHORUS

Course #780M

Full year; one credit

Middle School Chorus is open to all students in grades 7 and 8 who are interested in singing. Students will learn the fundamentals of choral singing, including vocal techniques, blend and balance, music theory, ear training and sight singing as well as performance practices and procedures in daily rehearsals. Rehearsals are organized within the guidelines of the National Standards for Music Education. The ensemble will study and perform music in various languages, genres and cultures. Students are required to participate in all Middle School Chorus activities.

MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND

Course #782M

Full year, one credit

Middle School Band is open to all students in grades 7 and 8 who play a woodwind, brass, or percussion instrument. Previous experience in elementary band is highly recommended, but not required. Students without previous experience will be expected to make arrangements for private lessons or additional help outside of class. Middle School Band students will learn skills and concepts that will prepare them for high school. They are required to participate in all performances and activities, and may have the opportunity to participate in festivals including Beaver County Band and PMEA Junior High District Band. Eighth grade students may also elect to participate in High School Marching Band separate from this course.

MIDDLE SCHOOL ORCHESTRA

Course #781M

Full year; one credit

Middle School Orchestra is open to all students in grades 7 and 8 with an interest in playing a stringed instrument. Students may only enroll on violin, viola, cello and bass. Students will learn proper string instrument technique and will perform a wide variety of music styles. Previous experience is highly recommended, but not required; beginning students must have the approval of the orchestra director. The orchestra performs three concerts a year and at various school and community functions.

ROBOTICS

Course #890M

Full year; One credit

This course is designed for students who want to engage in challenging math, advanced technology, and complex problem solving. Robotics will promote computational thinking while teaching algorithms and programming logic. Students will work collaboratively with problem based learning experiences involving the building and programming of VEX IQ robots. (18 maximum students due to equipment limitations).

SEVENTH & EIGHTH GRADE ELECTIVE COURSES (Continued)

K’NEX

Course #789M

Full year; 0.5 credit

The K’NEX Course provides students with the opportunity to showcase their creativity, interpersonal, and communications skills through completion of various group design projects. The K’NEX Course encourages students to use the engineering design process to tackle design challenges with a limited number of resources. Throughout the course students will create projects from everyday resources (newspaper, tape, toilet paper rolls, string, etc.) and/or K’NEX Exploring Machines kit pieces. The course requires students to think outside of the box when tackling design challenges while also learning the importance of brainstorming, planning, and teamwork.

MATHCOUNTS

Course #788M

Full year; one credit

MATHCOUNTS provides the extra incentive and the perfect atmosphere for students to push themselves to achieve more in mathematics. It consists of fun and creative problems that promote critical-thinking and problem-solving skills. MATHCOUNTS inspires excellence, confidence and curiosity in US Middle School students through fun and challenging math programs. MATHCOUNTS provides today’s students with the foundation for success in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics careers. During the second semester of MATHCOUNTS, students tackle engineering design challenges using everyday objects and/or K’NEX Exploring Machines kit pieces.

Math 24

Course #509M

Semester; 0.5 credit

Math 24 is a one semester elective that is designed to prepare a team of students to participate in our county competition in the middle of March. Students will meet every day for the first semester. Students learn to solve various types of Math 24 problems and be trained to compete at their given grade level. Math 24 is a unique mathematics teaching tool that has proved to successfully engage students in the solving of Math problems where the answer is always 24. Math 24 alleviates a classic brand of math anxiety to get the right answer, and instead, puts the emphasis on the process and patterns behind the math. This elective is designed to mathematically educate, be competitive, and be fun!

MULTI MEDIA

Course #883M

Semester; 0.5 credit

The Multi Media class will focus on building skills in using computers, iPads, iPods and other modern communication and production tools. These skills will be put into use in the class in a variety of ways, but will primarily include the production of the daily morning announcements, among other tasks. Students will use technology to produce other media as well, as this course will often crossover and coordinate with Bobcat Growl.

SEVENTH & EIGHTH GRADE ELECTIVE COURSES (Continued)

STAP (Computer Science & Technology)

Course #787M

Semester; 0.5 credit

Students will learn about hardware, software, binary systems, networking, basic programming, and 3D modeling with a hands-on focus. This challenging course also includes development of soft skills such as negotiating social and ethical issues in computing, customer service techniques, leadership, and time management. Students will gain experience by working on real technology issues that occur within the school setting. Students wishing to interview for a position in the HS STAP program in 9th grade must take this class in either 7th or 8th grade.

(24 maximum students due to equipment limitations and hands on nature of course)

THE BOBCAT'S GROWL

Course #786M

Semester; 0.5 credit

Students in this course will be writing, formatting, and taking pictures as the staff of the middle school newspaper, "The Bobcat Growl." Writing allows us to express ideas and opinions and is an essential skill. This course will study the writing process and elements of writing. Students will also include other forms of media as they relate to writing with crossover and coordination with the MultiMedia elective.

TECHNOLOGY EXPLORATION

Course #784M

Semester; 0.5 credit

Technology Exploration is a new hands-on project-based course that will introduce students to communication technologies (engineering and architectural drawing) as well as manufacturing, construction, and transportation technologies. Theory and design concepts will be introduced to students, then the processes of designing, building, and testing projects will follow each lesson to give students hands on problem solving and real world application of those theories and design techniques.

EXPLORATORY FACs

Course #785M

Semester; 0.5 credit

This class focuses on life skills and is divided up into three sections. The first section includes communication skills, families, parenting, managing your life and resources, and money management. The next section includes hand sewing and machine sewing. Two sewing projects will be completed. The final section includes nutrition, kitchen safety, and cooking labs. Come learn skills you will use for life!

ART/CRAFTS

Course #783M

Semester; 0.5 credit

This art and craft elective will feature an exploration of both of these subjects. Art will explore the aspects of two-dimensional works and crafts will focus on three-dimensional works. The class will certainly enrich any student with an interest in Arts and Crafts. Students who might want to pursue these subjects in high school will find this an enlightening look at the subject.

SEVENTH & EIGHTH GRADE ELECTIVE COURSES (Continued)

PHOTO/YEARBOOK

Course #504M

Semester; 0.5 credit

Students who take this semester-long elective course in the fall are responsible for the publication of the middle school yearbook. Students will have the opportunity to learn and practice photography, writing, desktop publishing, graphic design, and typing. Students who take the course will be encouraged, although not required, to meet periodically during the spring semester (during lunch or after school) in order to finalize the yearbook for publication in March.

Guitar One

Course #527M

Semester; 0.5 credit

Guitar Two

Course #007

Semester; 0.5 credit

These semester-long courses are designed for the beginning guitar student. Musical concepts will be taught through the guitar. Students will learn to strum through various chord progressions and eventually accompany songs as well as learn to read a melody using traditional notes and tablature.

Design Technology

Course #914

Semester; 0.5 credit

The class will focus on basic engineering concepts and designs, along with the software and technologies related with them. Students will be introduced to 3D printing and Laser Engraving/Cutting with the use of CAD software. This course was designed to be a prerequisite course to allow 8th grade students to skip Engineering Drawing I and move right into the Engineering II class as a freshman.*

*Grade of 90% or higher to be eligible for Engineering II

Academic Games

Course #”Pending Finalization”

Full Year; One Credit

Students will work in the four categories of academic games, Equations, Presidents, Propaganda, and World Events. Students can then compete in local, regional, or state competitions throughout the school year, however, this is not required.

EXPLORING JROTC

Course #515M

Semester; 0.5 credit

EXPLORING JROTC strives to encourage citizenship, develop leadership potential, strengthen self-esteem, prepare middle school students for rigors of high school, improve wellness and physical fitness, provide incentives to live drug free, enhance life skills and encourage life-long learning. All subjects taught in JROTC include the elements of discipline and respect. Major subject areas covered in the Exploring JROTC program are leadership and patriotism, communication skills, citizenship and history, life management skills, wellness habits, and physical fitness.

SEVENTH & EIGHTH GRADE ELECTIVE COURSES (Continued)

LIFE FITNESS

Course #9891

Semester; 0.5 credit

Instead of a study hall or more screen time, let's get moving! This class provides an opportunity to add recreational activity to the work day. Emphasis is placed on participation, effort, and good people skills; such as being a kind teammate and treating all involved with respect.

STUDY HALL

Course #950M - Semester Class; no credit; no grade



FOREIGN LANGUAGE ELECTIVE COURSES

(Student eligibility is based on achievement benchmarks and availability.)

Latin I

Course #601M

Full year; one credit

This course is designed to provide the student with the basic skills necessary to read, write, and to a lesser extent, speak the Latin language. It also aims to deepen understanding of what it means to be a member of Western civilization through the study of one of its core elements: the culture of classical Rome. Emphasis is placed on English words as they are derived from Latin with a view towards expanding the student's mastery of English vocabulary. The overall objective is for the student to learn how the Romans thought, spoke and lived and how they, though long dead, continue to influence us in twentieth-century America. Latin would be helpful for those who wish to improve their understanding of English grammar and vocabulary, those who wish to major in the study of languages or literature, those who plan to pursue careers in pharmacy, medicine, the natural sciences, or law.

Latin II

Course #602

Full year; one credit

Spanish I

Course #602M

Full year; one credit

This course is based on the belief that the purpose for learning Spanish is to communicate with native speakers and to understand their cultures. This course is specially designed to help students achieve that goal by helping them to communicate orally and in writing from day one. Students will enjoy learning centered around 10 themes: Friendship, School, Sports and Leisure, Food, Family, Clothing, Vacations, Home, Health, and Community. With more than 40 million Spanish-speaking people in the United States, companies will need people with the skills to interact, translate, interpret and offer services to them – the place to begin is Spanish I, the time is now.

Spanish II

Course #613M

Full year; one credit

Mandarin Chinese I

Course #651M

Full year; one credit

This course offers students an introduction to Mandarin Chinese. In addition to building meaningful vocabulary, students will learn the basic concepts of sentence structure, pronunciation and writing. The course curriculum will follow the model used by the Confucius Institutes across North America. This course uses a combination of modern multimedia technology and an expert teacher. This course provides personalized learning, rich media content, and learning tools for language basics, ample cultural content, and vast amounts of practice. This course is taught through Interactive Video Conferencing (IVC), meaning the expert teacher is not physically present at the building.

Mandarin Chinese II

Course #653

Full year; one credit

NOTES

