

BADGER RIDGE MIDDLE SCHOOL



COURSE HANDBOOK

SEVENTH GRADE

2018-2019

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Students:

This handbook has been developed to provide information for parents, guardians, and students about the courses and curriculum at Badger Ridge Middle School.

The curriculum features a strong skills development program, experiences of an exploratory nature, and extensive use of inquiry and discovery. It is our aim that every student is put on a path to be “High School Ready.”

The middle school creates a learning environment that provides stability, promotes self-confidence and is sensitive to the needs of each child. Within this environment, we strive to provide an education that allows the student to be exposed to a wide variety of positive educational experiences.

Additionally, school staff is working to provide more personalized experiences for students to access, engage in, and express knowledge, understanding, and application of expected learning.

We hope you will find the handbook to be a practical guide as you examine the required and elective course offerings.

If you do have any questions relating to our curriculum, please call Badger Ridge Middle School at 845-4100.

Sincerely,

Michael Murphy, Principal

SEVENTH GRADE

Required Classes

Language Arts

Math

Science

Social Studies

Physical Education

Exploratory Classes:

- Art
- Family and Consumer Education
- Information and Technology Literacy
- World Language: Spanish, Introduction to Spanish Language Arts, or German

Elective Classes:

Band

Orchestra

Choir

REQUIRED CLASSES

Language Arts

The seventh grade curriculum focuses on the skills of reading, writing, speaking and listening and emphasizes reading comprehension/analysis through short stories, novels and nonfiction text. Literary terms are introduced and reinforced. The writing process focuses on spelling/conventions/grammar rules, vocabulary, sentence and MELCON paragraph structure and letter writing. Expository, narrative, descriptive and persuasive writing styles are practiced using Six Traits Writing. Word processing and research skills are stressed. Fiction and nonfiction sources are emphasized in reading, writing and research. Students have specific time dedicated within the schedule to engage in reading and explicit reading instruction. The approaches to learning are varied: cooperative learning, speaking, listening, high level thinking, and creating.

Math

The Math Department has seven general goals for all students so that they: (1) become mathematical problem solvers, (2) make sense of problems and persevere in solving them, (3) learn to communicate mathematically, (4) learn to reason mathematically, (5) learn to value mathematics, (6) become confident in their ability to do mathematics, and (7) are efficient and accurate at calculations. Students are expected to practice and demonstrate the standards for mathematical practice.

General themes in Math 7 include numeration, algebra, geometry, statistics and probability. Numeration topics include a particular focus on ratios, decimals, percents, proportions, and integers. Topics in algebra include order of operations, rates, functions, one and two step equations, and commutative and distributive properties. Geometry topics include three-dimensional figures, triangle and angle properties, corresponding angles and sides, scaling and similarity. Statistics topics include mean, median, mode and range, and extensive graphing. Probability topics include independent and dependent events, combinations and permutations.

7th grade Math experiences are based upon a student's demonstration of mastery of standards from the previous school year. In some cases, MAP may be used as an additional determining data point.

Throughout the year students are encouraged to explore topics, develop a meaningful understanding of concepts, and hone the skills necessary to develop these more abstract concepts. The basis of the math program at Badger Ridge is the Common Core State Standards.

All 7th grade students will engage in Math 7 with the opportunity to develop additional complex math skills through the exploration of 8th grade standards. Any 7th grade student who demonstrates evidence of mastery in 7th grade and 8th grade curriculum standards will be eligible to engage in Algebra 1 curriculum during 8th grade. Students who demonstrate mastery in Math 8 plus Algebra concepts will be able to experience Geometry during 8th grade.

Science

The seventh grade science course focuses on the processes and structures of life science, covering the cell, genetics, natural selection and adaptations, the human body, simple organisms and plants. Students will continue to expand upon their ability to work with the scientific method, metric measurement and various laboratory equipment. In laboratory experiments, the students are given the unique opportunity to design their own science experiments as well as investigate and learn from group experimental inquiries. Students also learn strategies to assist in researching and reading textbooks and other nonfiction sources throughout the year.

Social Studies

In seventh grade social studies the primary focus is on the Eastern Hemisphere. Students review geography skills while they learn about this region of the world.

The school year is divided into the following units of study: the development of early civilizations and cultural diversity of the continents in Africa, Asia, Europe, and Australia. As they study these continents, the focus is an ongoing emphasis on modern-day cultures and current happenings in the world.

Physical Education

The main emphasis of the middle school physical education program is developing healthy bodies and healthy minds. Cardiovascular fitness and the development of lifelong fitness skills are a main focus at all grade levels. Instructors constantly strive to boost student self-image through positive reinforcement.

Activities include: Soccer, fitness testing, team sports, individual sports, flag football, racquet sports, adventure education, creative dance, and cooperative games.

EXPLORATORY CLASSES

Each seventh grader takes art, a world language, family and consumer education, and information and technology literacy for a nine-week period. A brief description of each class is listed below:

Art

The art course in seventh grade continues to promote an understanding of art through hands on learning experiences. This course encourages the student to be an artist and explore art materials, art mediums and techniques. This class offers a balance of directed instruction, focused on the elements and principles of design along with offering student choice. Students develop a portfolio of their work and continue to grow in artistic vocabulary and their ability to reflect and discuss art.

Family and Consumer Education

In seventh grade **FAMILY AND CONSUMER EDUCATION**, students look more in-depth at the following topics: Nutrition, Human Growth & Development, Personal Financial Literacy, Bullying Prevention and Community Service (Quilt Sewing Project). In addition, students will practice their decision-making skills and learn how to respond proactively to life situations, both as individual and with others.

Tech 2.0

This course provides students with the opportunity to continue expanding their understanding of the following broad topics: programming, website design, network basics, internet safety, visual literacy/multimedia presentations, digital video, and spreadsheets. We also continue exploring robotics, 3d design, and introduce basic woodworking safety and techniques. Additionally, we explore the design process through a STEM project, designing and creating mousetrap catapults that are accurate and can launch long distances. The distance record is 38ft so far!

WORLD LANGUAGES

In seventh grade, students are required to take either German or Spanish as a quarter-long course. If a student chooses to continue studying a world language in eighth grade, he or she must continue with the same language chosen in seventh grade. The eighth grade course is an advanced year long class.

<p><u>Spanish</u> In seventh grade Spanish, students will build upon the Spanish vocabulary learned in sixth grade and continue learning concepts including telling time, body parts, classroom objects, singular and plural nouns and articles. Students will continue learning in more depth about the culture in the Spanish speaking countries. Students will develop Spanish skills through interactive lessons involving reading, writing, speaking and listening.</p> <p><u>Introduction to Spanish Language Arts</u> The goal of Spanish Language Arts is to introduce the study of grammar and literature in Spanish. The prerequisites for this class include that the student speaks Spanish fluently and is comfortable with the language. In this class, students will practice and improve their listening, speaking, reading and writing skills in Spanish.</p>	<p><u>German</u> Seventh grade German students begin developing skills in all four areas of language: speaking, listening, reading, and writing. Topics include numbers, days of the week, classroom vocabulary, family, and simple conversations. Students will also learn about the characteristics and cultures of the German-speaking countries. In addition to targeting the four main areas of communication, lessons incorporate a variety of activities such as educational apps, videos, and interactive games.</p>
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MUSIC

***Music changes may be made only during the first three days of the semester and only with the recommendation of the student's counselor.**

Why take a music class in middle school?

There are many compelling reasons to study music in middle school. Many research studies have linked music instruction to higher achievement in math, reading, and general cognition scores. Music is academic, and the study of music in the ensemble setting combines these academic pursuits with the skills of teamwork, perseverance, and focus.

Music educators around the world argue for the inclusion of music in every child's education, not because they expect all students to become professional musicians, but because they believe that the skills gained in the music classroom are beneficial to all learners no matter what field of study they eventually pursue.

The BRMS music department feels that these academic and social skills are an important part of learning, but offers one additional reason to study music in middle school. Over the years we have met many students who had little experience singing or on an instrument when they entered sixth grade, but discovered a true passion for music once given the opportunity. This is not something that we take lightly. Regardless of whether or not it becomes a

student's career choice, we strongly believe that students should take every opportunity to learn more about a subject which they are, or could become, passionate about.

Band

Band class for seventh grade musicians is a continuation of the sixth grade experience. Performance and personal skills are further developed and reinforced. These musicians may also be involved in Jazz Ensemble, and solo and ensemble festival. Band class meets daily and is designed to be challenging, fast-paced and fun!

Students must have previously taken summer band **or** have prior playing experience to be in seventh grade band.

Orchestra

Seventh grade orchestra meets every day during the school year. Musicians in this ensemble develop intermediate skills in music reading, bowing technique, and left hand accuracy. The music performed by this ensemble will be at a higher level but the year begins with music that is accessible to all seventh graders. Seventh grade orchestra gives three to four evening concerts each year. Students in the seventh grade are eligible to participate in the Wisconsin School Music Association (WSMA) Solo/Ensemble Festival. Students must have at least one year of playing experience to be scheduled for this orchestra class.

Choir

Seventh grade choir is the intermediate choir. Students continue learning about singing and music in a large group. A student is welcome even if singing is new to him/her. Singers learn and review the basic skills of singing while digging deep into the meaning and overall understanding of each piece of music. Students explore and listen to everything from classical to jazz. Introduction of A cappella music is also an important part of this class with the goal of independent singing. In addition to a music education, students will continue to learn the skills of cooperation, dedication, and self-discipline. Concerts, participation in festivals, solo and ensemble and tours are all part of the experience.

A separate class period for a boy's seventh/eighth choir will be held. In addition to the skills stated above, boys will explore how to use their voice while experiencing a voice change. This is an environment where boys will be singing with others with similar voices.

SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

The middle school offers services that meet the needs of all of our students. Special education services address the needs of any student who meets state eligibility criteria for special education. Our special education program follows a cross-categorical service delivery model which includes planning with regular education teachers. This model provides specially designed services for students with learning, speech, behavioral, physical, health, hearing, visual, developmental and/or intellectual disabilities. Each student identified as having special education needs has an Individual Educational Plan (IEP) as determined by an IEP team. Students may receive services on an individual basis, in small groups, and/or in the classroom.

RESOURCE AREAS

We believe strongly in providing additional resources to facilitate the learning of our students. One key resource area is our Library Media Center (LMC) which includes our literacy and technology staff. The LMC is a functional and integral part of our classroom instruction and is used on a regular basis by all students. This resource area is facilitated by a certified Library Media Specialist and an Information Technology coordinator. Additional resource areas are grade level Learning Labs staffed by certified resource staff. Learning Labs are available for small group instruction, collaborative projects, and homework assistance.

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

School Counselors

The counseling program is designed to help develop decision making skills, coping skills, communication skills, and study skills in school Counselors address these issues in classrooms, small groups, individual meetings, and parent conferences.

Counseling groups are offered to all students. Those who express interest may be invited to join a group related to one of the following topics:

- Family Issues: How to live with parents and siblings
- Stress Management: How to relax and reduce stress
- Family Change: Separation, divorce and remarriage issues
- Concerned Persons: Caring about someone's abuse of drugs or alcohol.
- Grief/Loss: How to cope with the death or loss of a family member

Parents/guardians are encouraged to contact the counseling staff at any time with questions or concerns.

Social Worker

The primary function of the school social worker is to promote the emotional, social and mental well being and adjustment of students. The school social worker provides direct and indirect services to students, parents and school staff. Services may include counseling and family intervention, groups, consultation with staff or parents, liaison with community agencies, classroom instruction, and coordination and implementation of district programs. The social worker role includes advocacy for children and families in the school system and community programs.

School Psychologist

The school psychologist at the middle school is an integral team member in helping to determine the educational needs of students who are experiencing difficulty finding success at school. The psychologist conducts formal evaluations of students to determine placement in special education programs and informal evaluations of students to determine learning and/or behavioral difficulties. Other services provided by the school psychologist include teacher consultation, parent consultation, and individual counseling sessions with students, and small groups focused on social/emotional/academic development.

Curriculum and Learning Specialist

It is the philosophy of the Verona Area School District that, given time and resources, every child can learn. The Curriculum and Learning Specialist facilitates the improvement of student and staff learning by providing leadership in the areas of curriculum development and implementation, professional development, instructional coaching, collaborative planning and data analysis.

Reading Support Services

Badger Ridge Middle School is committed to enhancing the reading performance of all students. To address the varying needs of middle school readers, a variety of approaches are used within the regular and resource classrooms. Each student's progress in reading is monitored through formal and informal assessments and observations. Our Literacy staff collaborates, plans and co-teaches with teaching staff, and is an integral part of universal classroom and best practices literacy instruction.

Programs for English Language Learners

We welcome students from all cultures and backgrounds. In addition to learning science, math, social studies, language arts, and other academic content, English language learners (ELLs) must also become proficient in English (speaking, listening, reading, and writing). In order to meet students' needs and follow federal and state laws, Badger Ridge provides the following programs which allow ELL students to learn grade level content and English.

English Language Development

A certified ESL teacher teaches English Language Development as a daily scheduled class. This class supplements the curriculum of the grade level language arts class, but also places an additional emphasis on learning the structure of the English language, as well as various forms of writing, listening and speaking. Additional topics may include content area vocabulary in math, science, and social studies.

English as a Second Language (ESL)

A certified ESL teacher teaches ESL as a daily scheduled class. Topics may include survival vocabulary, basic conversation, as well as listening and pronunciation of the English language. Emphasis is placed on practical everyday English and communication skills.

ESL and Bilingual in-class support

An ESL or bilingual teacher works in collaboration with the classroom teacher in general education classes. The teacher works with ELL students within the classroom, supporting individuals or small groups. Content area classes may include writing, reading, math, science or social studies vocabulary development. Content area classes may include vocabulary development in writing, reading, math, science or social studies.

Accommodations made by the Grade Level and Encore Teachers

Grade level teachers modify the way they teach to make the content more understandable. They use visuals, regalia (objects from real life used in the classroom), pacing (slower, explain difficult vocabulary), provide more individual help, repeat directions, use visual representations, post content and language objectives, etc. These accommodations are designed to ensure that ELL students receive the same content as native speakers.