



Bloomfield Hills Middle School

Program Summary: 8th Grade Course Descriptions

Bloomfield Hills Middle School, along with the Bloomfield School District, has adopted the Michigan State Core Curriculum. All benchmarks and Grade Level Content Expectations have been aligned with the State Curriculum, grades 6-8. Detailed descriptions of content objectives can be found at www.mde.gov and will be included in summary form in teacher syllabi.

Language A (8th grade)

Required 8

This course is designed to reinforce and expand student mastery of language arts. Students will write expository and narrative paragraphs and essays based on literary and personal experiences. Grammar, mechanics and vocabulary acquisition will be emphasized. Literary genres will include short stories, novels, poetry, personal narrative, realistic fiction, and historical fiction. Formal writing will focus on the comparative essay, the persuasive essay, literary analysis, historical expository and short story. Informal writing will take place through a writer's workshop format.

American Studies (Humanities)

Required 8

Students will study the political, economic and social development of the United States emphasizing the period from the American Revolution through the Era of Reconstruction. By utilizing critical thinking, reasoning with democratic values and other social studies skills, students will deepen their understanding of the American heritage. Specific units will focus on the development of revolutionary ideas, the development of the new nation, the beginnings of regional differences, the competing visions for the new nation: Jefferson v. Hamilton, westward expansion, issues of reform and equality, forces uniting and dividing the nation, the causes for the Civil War, study of the Civil War, and healing the nation: the Era of Reconstruction.

Algebra I

Required 8

Students who are successful in this course will fulfill the high school graduation requirement and should move on to Geometry as high school freshmen. They will use numerical tables, graphs, symbolic expressions and verbal descriptions to describe and predict the patterns of change in variables, and recognize (in various representational forms) the patterns of change associated with linear, exponential and quadratic functions. In addition, students will use numeric, graphic and symbolic strategies to solve common problems involving linear, exponential and quadratic functions. Selected topics in informal geometry and data analysis are also studied, and graphing calculators will be used. Specific topics include linear and non-linear relationships, Pythagorean Theorem and rational/irrational numbers, exponential relationships, quadratic relationships, symbolic expressions of algebra, linear systems and inequalities.

Honors Algebra I

Required Selected Students - 8

Honors Algebra is designed for the identified advanced 8th grade mathematics student. Students who are successful in this course will fulfill the high school graduation requirement and should move on to Honors Geometry or regular Geometry as high school freshmen. Topics will be explored in a real world integrated setting using both graphing calculators and more traditional symbolic paper and pencil work. Specific areas of instruction will center on linear, exponential and quadratic functions, data analysis and simulation techniques, as well as informal and transformational geometry. Specific topics include an introduction to and mastery of linear and non-linear relationships, Pythagorean Theorem and rational/irrational numbers, exponential relationships, quadratic relationships, solving algebraic equations, linear systems of equations, and linear systems of inequalities.

Science 8

Required 8

Students in this course study concepts in earth science, ecology, chemistry and physics. Specific units of study include plate tectonics, earthquakes and volcanoes, electricity, hydrology of the earth, climate and climatic changes, atomic structure, characteristics of the periodic table of the elements, chemical and physical changes, characteristics of waves, characteristics of light and sound waves, and forces and laws of motion.

Physical Education 8

Required 8

The eighth-grade student will be taught more complex skills, knowledge and strategies related to a variety of team sports which are basketball, cross-country running, flag football, floor hockey, both indoor and outdoor soccer, softball, volleyball, team handball and lacrosse. Primary consideration will be given to cardiovascular development through a variety of fitness activities.

Students will also take part in the President's Challenge Fitness Test that will measure a student's upper body strength, agility, endurance, flexibility and abdominal strength. Students will also participate in a water safety course in which they receive a boating safety license upon completion of the course and passing (70% or better) a written exam.

Academic Extensions - 8**Required 8**

Academic Extension is a rotation consisting of a series of 6½ -week courses.

Engineering Tech

Students will investigate engineering concepts through the use of the design cycle and create solutions that will be built and tested in the tech lab.

Health

Students will investigate elements of substance use and abuse.

Robotics

Students do research on current robotics topics. They then use NXT robots to perform a series of tasks using sensors and program commands.

Cultural Literature

Students read a variety of young adult texts that expose customs and settings of different cultures. They evaluate their own heritage and that of peers to increase their international-mindedness.

Writing Enrichment

Students do a deep analysis of a novel study focusing on literary devices.

Media Literacy

Students study persuasive techniques used by the media and how to identify, analyze and resist media messages.

*Elective Courses***Spanish 8**

Elective 8

The eighth grade Spanish program will continue to blend the elementary communication model with the high school program that students began in 7th grade. Instruction will be one full class period every other day all year. Students will continue to improve and develop Spanish skills in the areas of reading, writing, speaking, listening and cultural awareness. Specific units of study will develop correct usage of the Spanish language and vocabulary development. The high school textbook will be used as a classroom resource and students will receive letter grades on the report card at the end of each marking period.

German 8

Elective 8

The eighth grade German program presents the final third of the middle school program. Upon completion of this course, students will be prepared to enter German 200 in high school, since they will have learned the skills covered in German 100. Instruction will be one full class period every other day all year. Overall objectives are aligned with the standards of foreign language learning: communication, cultures, connections, comparisons, and communities. Lessons are designed specifically to improve students' listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills in the German language. Units of study include: getting around the city, asking for and giving directions, discussing movies, talking about likes and dislikes, using the telephone, extending and responding to an invitation, and celebrating birthdays. All units will focus on the development of basic verb usage and grammar through the use of authentic texts, photos, and artifacts from German speaking countries.

8th Grade Orchestra

Elective 8

This course is for all 8th grade string students. In this class students will work toward top-quality performances. This organization will perform various evening programs and concerts and will attend orchestra festivals. Students may have the opportunity to participate in solo and ensemble festivals. Specific units of study include music theory, sight-reading, ensemble development, instrumental techniques and concert preparation.

8th Grade Band

Elective 8

Designed for those students who have three or more years of experience on a band instrument. Emphasis is placed on exposure to advanced literature, sight-reading, advanced listening skills and refinement of their own musical skills. Development of tone, intonation, technique, rhythm, proper balance and blend in the ensemble, dynamics and interpretation is continued from the 7th grade. Students are encouraged and will have the opportunity to participate in the MSBOA District Solo and Ensemble Festival, MSBOA District Band Festival and other Honors Band opportunities. Performances will be at the highest levels. Specific units of study include: music theory, sight-reading, ensemble development, instrumental techniques and concert preparation. Three to four evening performances will be given throughout the school year. In addition, students have the option to participate in the annual music trip to Chicago usually held in October.

8th Grade Choir

Elective 8

This course is for the student who has a love for singing, wants to expand his/her skills as a confident, individual, independent singer; has a commitment to the choral program and who understands the factors necessary in working with others in the formation/development of successful choral ensembles. Emphasis will be placed on a greater mastery of performance skills through singing various selections of choral literature. Students should be able to take part in and listen to choral performances with appreciation for and have a knowledge of the historical background and cultural influences found in the repertoire.

Musical Drama 8

Elective 8

Musical Drama 8 is offered to all eighth-grade students interested in performance! Vocal training will be emphasized by introducing a variety of acting styles, as well as solo and choral singing skills. A large portion of this class will focus on dance. Students will learn the history of musical theatre and the key composers, playwrights and actors made famous on the Broadway stage. Students may perform in music concerts as a show choir. The highlight of the musical theatre class is putting all the lessons to use by producing a Broadway musical. No previous drama or choir experience is needed! EXTRA REHEARSALS OUTSIDE OF THE SCHOOL DAY WILL BE REQUIRED! Specific units of study include choreography, audition techniques, audition process, technical aspects of production, blocking, costumes and performance.

Theatre and Performance 8

Elective 8

Eighth Grade Drama students will create and perform original works. Students will have the opportunity to enter the National Young Playwright's Festival. Major units of study include: playwriting, acting, technical theater production design, and a performance of children's theater play. Students will perform for audiences outside of the classroom.

Ceramics and Sculpture

Elective 8

Ceramics and Sculpture is a three-dimensional art class that may include projects involving ceramics, sculpture, metal work, jewelry, fibers and puppetry as well as the study of artists who work in these art forms.

Ceramics and Sculpture will foster the observation skills, self-expression, creativity, self-discipline and personal responsibility of the students as they explore three dimensional art projects. In accordance with the National Standards for Art Education, students will build upon their sixth or seventh grade art experiences to meet six educational goals.

1. Understand three-dimensional media and its application, techniques and processes.
2. Use knowledge of structures and functions.
3. Choose and evaluate a range of subject matter, symbols and ideas.
4. Understand the visual arts in relation to history and cultures.
5. Reflect upon and assess the characteristics and merits of their work and the work of others.
6. Make connections between the visual arts and other disciplines.

Drawing and Painting Connections

Elective 8

Drawing and Painting Connections is a two dimensional art class that may include projects in drawing, painting, fibers, print making and digital and traditional graphic design as well as the study of artists who work in these art forms.

Drawing and Painting Connections will foster the observation skills, self-expression, creativity, self discipline and personal responsibility of the students as they explore two dimensional art projects.

In accordance with the National Standards for Art Education, students will also build upon their sixth or seventh grade art experiences to meet the following six educational goals:

1. Understand two dimensional media and its application, techniques and processes.
2. Use knowledge of structures and functions.
3. Choose and evaluate a range of subject matter, symbols and ideas.
4. Understand the visual arts in relation to history and cultures.
5. Reflect upon and assess the characteristics and merit of their work and the work of others.
6. Make connections between the visual arts and other disciplines.

Foods and Nutrition 1

Elective 8

Advanced recipe reading and cooking techniques will be covered. Some techniques included will be yeast breads, foreign food preparation, complete meals and appetizers. The theme will be nutrition for fitness and well being as it relates to food selection and food habits. Students will be introduced to new technology that impacts nutrition, consumerism, budgeting and food preparation equipment. Specific units of study include kitchen safety, recipe reading and food preparation, menu planning, and diet analysis.

Foods and Nutrition 2

Elective 8

This course builds on Foods and Nutrition 1. It involves the creative and decorative aspects of food preparation. Some areas included will be fancy desserts, garnishes, cake decorating and candy making. Specific units include kitchen safety and food preparation, vegetarianism and food choices, meat and beans, fat source analysis and other diet analyses.

Industrial Technology 2 --- CO2 Car Design

Elective 8

Students in this course build on problem solving and technical skills learned in 6th and 7th grades. In 8th grade, students will design, build and race cars powered by CO2 cartridges. This will include designing a custom car, building it in the tech lab and racing it on the elevated racetrack.

Intro to Architecture and Drafting

Elective 8

This class will be a continuation of last years 7th grade class. In 7th grade, students built a quarter section structural model of a house. In 8th grade. Students will be introduced into the technical design of residential architecture. Throughout the class the students will learn about creative floor plans and maximizing specific residential room layouts. Specific units will include technical floor plan drawings, 3 dimensional modeling using architectural software and creating a custom presentation model home of their design.