

**BERRYHILL MIDDLE
SCHOOL
COURSE DESCRIPTIONS
2020-2021**



ARTS

Arts and Crafts (7th, 8th) is a basic foundation course for beginning art students. Emphasis is placed on the elements and principles of design in student's artwork. Students will create original works of art from observation, memory, and imagination. Each student will put together a portfolio of his/her own art work which will include drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture, crafts, and other art disciplines.

Drama (7th, 8th) is specifically designed for the student new to theatre. Through a wide assortment of activities and acting exercises, students will become more self-aware, confident and expressive. Basic acting technique and fundamental elements of scene work, monologues and play production will be explored.

Middle School Band (7th, 8th) is a preparatory class for High School Band. The focus is on fundamentals of music including theory, tone production, intonation, etc. Students will learn a variety of music styles and concepts to aid in the progression of the student musician. Students will be expected to attend some activities outside of school time.

COMPUTERS

Computer Technology I (8th) This is a high school credit class. Students will develop skills to solve business applications using word processing, spreadsheets, database, and PowerPoint applications. They will acquire basic computer concepts, desktop publishing fundamentals, and job application/job interview skills. They will also use the online OKCIS program to assist them with their career search and portfolio.

ENGLISH

7th English (7th)

Students focus on close reading strategies to improve comprehension while analyzing literary style and techniques. Students write for different audiences and purposes and learn to go through the entire writing process; prewriting, drafting, editing, revising, and publishing or presenting. Grammar skills will also be reviewed and applied to composition. Furthermore, vocabulary and spelling will be ongoing throughout the year to assist students in becoming effective communicators.

7th PreAP English (7th)

Pre-AP English 7 is an advanced course designed to prepare students for success in the AP program at the high school level. Students will gain a better understanding of literary analysis (including elements such as diction, tone, and syntax). Engage in meaningful group work, and study Greek and Latin word parts to expand vocabulary. Nonfiction works will be supplemented with independent reading of fiction throughout the year. In addition, students will write for different audiences and purposes and learn to go through the entire writing process: prewriting, drafting, editing, revising, and publishing or presenting. This course demands commitment to numerous reading and writing components. Therefore, students should expect homework regularly. Purchasing a planner may be helpful.

8th English (8th)

Eighth Grade Language Arts is designed to involve the student in applying reading, writing, listening, speaking, and viewing skills in an independent manner through meaningful interdisciplinary tasks. Students will continue to develop an appreciation for literature through the study of literary elements in classic and contemporary selections. Emphasis is placed on moving from the literal to the abstract in the students' critical thinking skills and use of language.

8th PreAP English (8th)

Pre-AP English is an advanced course designed to prepare students for success in the AP program at the high school level. In the eighth grade, students will write and read with a more critical eye than they have in past years. The eighth grade year is often a bridge between middle school and high school, and is, therefore, a pivotal year of instruction. Students' use of language in speaking and writing will become more sophisticated as they learn new techniques of rhetoric from reading the work of master writers, and as they use these techniques in their own compositions. Students will also engage in studies of fiction, poetry, nonfiction, and drama.

MATHEMATICS

7th Math (7th)

Seventh grade math introduces the concepts of Algebraic reasoning through graphing and solving linear equations and inequalities in problem solving equations. Students will increase their knowledge of number sense using positive and negative integers and number relationships to solve a variety of problems. Seventh graders will use data analysis, probability, and statistics to interpret data in a variety of contexts.

8th PreAlgebra (8th) or 7th Pre-Algebra (7th, Advanced)

Pre-Algebra continues to build on previous concepts with a deeper emphasis on Algebraic reasoning, graphing, solving linear equations, and inequalities in problem-solving situations. Students will build on previous knowledge of number sense, using numbers and number relationships to solve problems Using geometric properties, students will solve problems in a variety of contexts. This course will be preparation for students going into Algebra I.

8th Algebra I (8th, HS credit)

Algebra is a prerequisite for all other math courses. Course content includes and exceeds the following Major Concepts identified by PASS. Instruction emphasis Relations and Functions including families of functions, transformations, calculation/interpretation of slope, linear equations inequalities, systems of equations, and problems solving. Number sense and Algebraic Operations with expressions/equations, and Data Analysis and Statistics with data representation/predictions, and line of best fit also receive focus.

SCIENCE

7th Science (7th)

Our science curriculum will be General Science, which covers Earth, Life and Physical Sciences. This course includes these areas of focus: Physical Science Understanding Matter/Technology; Matter and Atoms; Matter Properties and Changes; Motion, Forces, and Newton's Law; Using Energy and Heat. Life Science-Reproductions of Organisms; Plant Processes and Reproduction, Animal Behavior and Reproduction, Control and Coordination, Inheritance and Adaptations. Earth Science-Charts, Tables and Graphs; Earth in Space; Weather; Earth's Atmosphere; Oceans.

8th Science (8th)

The goal of this course is to provide the student with a mixture of Earth, Physical, and Life Science concepts. In addition, this course is designed to provide hands-on, experiential learning where real-life connections can be made. By the end of this course, students will be able to demonstrate an understanding of Earth's history, systems/surfaces, natural resources, earthquakes, volcanoes, foundations of chemistry, chemical reactions and equations, laws of motion, waves, light, sound, cell structure and function, and the environment. These objectives correspond to the State of Oklahoma Assessment of Academic Readiness Science Test. In addition, students will utilize critical thinking through cluster stimulus (graphs, data tables, passages) to further challenge students' abilities and provide them with the skills needed for future science courses.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Geography (7th)

Geography includes the study of the human and physical characteristics of the Earth, the study of world regions, the interaction between humans and the physical environment. The use of maps, and technologies to gain geographic knowledge, the study of various cultures and their characteristics, distribution, and the movement of people.

This course will include a survey of Eastern Hemisphere human and physical geography, current events, and the development of social studies skills. Multiple learning styles are taught through individual and group assignments. A variety of assignment strategies are utilized, including testing, quizzes, homework, individual and group activities, and written and oral assignments. Most importantly we will have fun learning and applying geography to our lives.

American History (8th)

Students will describe and analyze the major causes, key events, and important personalities of the American Revolution. The student will examine in greater depth the factors, events, documents, significant individuals, and political ideas that led to the formation of the United States of America. There will be pursued through a chronological study of the early national period, westward expansion, and the Civil War and Reconstruction Eras. Citizenship skills will focus upon the historic development and understanding of constitutional government in the United States. The student will continue to develop and put to use a variety of Social Studies Process and Literacy Skills.

S.T.E.M.

MS S.T.E.M. (7th, 8th) is designed for students with an interest in pursuing a future in one of these Science, Technology, Engineering, or Math. Students will work hands-on in teams to develop problem-solving skills and document their progress. They will be introduced to basic programming, coding, and robotics.

MISC. ELECTIVES

Academic Team (7th, 8th, HS) is designed for students who are great at trivia questions. This class will cover questions over core subjects (math, science, English, social studies) as well as fine arts (music, art, architecture, dance) and include current events, sports, movies, and television. It is a fun, fast-paced class focused on increasing speed and reflexes as well as increasing knowledge. Students are expected to join our competitive Academic Team.

Careers (7th, 8th) (one semester) designed to help middle school students identify and explore their career-related interests. Skills, education requirements, and training for each field of study will be addressed.

Literature of Horror (7th, 8th) (one semester) this is a class in which students will analyze techniques authors and directors use to create desired effects, noting how the genre has changed over time. Minimal homework is anticipated; however, those enrolling in the course should enjoy in-class reading.

F.A.C.S. (8th, high school credit) This is a high school credit class. This comprehensive study is intended to generate basic knowledge and skills in child development, clothing and textiles, consumer education, food and nutrition, housing and home furnishings, and personal relationships. Attention is also focused toward assisting students in career study and participation in the vocational home economics youth organization, Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA).

Leadership (7th, 8th)

This program will train students in various aspects of leadership including team building, communication skills, decision making, problem solving, time management, goal setting, project planning, and group dynamics. Students are required to be involved in school and community service.

Study Skills (7th, 8th)

Study Skills is designed to help students learn the organizational skills required to be more prepared and successful students. This class will allow students an opportunity to work on their daily course work, as well as other skills necessary to academic life, such as learning to use the library, keeping an updated planner, practicing reading and writing, increasing academic vocabulary, and utilizing good study habits.