

**BETHEL MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**COURSE  
DESCRIPTIONS**

**2020-2021**

# ART

## ART 6 - REQUIRED Nine week course

Students will explore art through different artmaking methods and techniques. Students will learn art concepts and vocabulary terms in this mostly project driven class. This class will guide students to be persistent in making short and long term art projects. Students will also learn how to discover meanings in art and make connections between art and their world.

## ART 7 - REQUIRED Nine week course

This class will guide students to push their art skills developed in Art 6. Students will make art through using a variety of materials and processes while learning to improve their craftsmanship in response to feedback. Students will develop their art vocabulary while participating critically in discussion of artworks. Students will begin to understand how art may play a role in the community and society around them.

## GRAPHIC ART - Year long course 7th grade (Required if not in band/choir)

Course is filled with projects and activities to assist in studying graphic art, fashion design, industrial design and a bit of fine art.

## INTRO to ART I - ELECTIVE Year long course for High School Credit (1) but not used in cumulative HS GPA.

This advanced level course will explore art through creation of original work as well as discussion and research of other artworks. Students will

improve their technical artistic skills by responding to constructive criticism of their teacher and peers. This course also introduces students to art history, philosophy, and analysis that will expand critical thinking of art. Students will be assessed in their knowledge throughout the class as a passing grade earns a high school credit. \*Teacher approval required

## COMPUTER/TECHNOLOGY

Technology 6 - REQUIRED Nine week course

This course focuses on essential computer applications; targeted are the refining of typing skills, fundamental operations and concepts of computers, Google Docs, Slides, Sheets, internet safety, and a variety of web 2.0 tools. This course will help students build a strong knowledge base and better prepare students for uses of computers in their core content classes, personal computing needs, and skills associated with career development.

Information Literacy - Year long course (Required if not in 6th grade Music)

Course is filled with projects and activities that will boost your critical thinking habits, improve your collaborative participation, grow your creativity and develop your communication skills through writing and speaking.

Technology 7 - REQUIRED Nine week course

Course is filled with projects and activities that will boost your skills as 21st century learners. You will dive deeper into word processing, presentation software, and safe procedures online.

Stem 7 - REQUIRED Nine week course

This course is intended to integrate the STEM fields through project-based learning. Students will be engaged by frequent hands-on activities geared towards combining each of the STEM disciplines. Creativity and collaboration will be encouraged as students solve problems.

Design and Modeling 7 - REQUIRED Nine week course

Students apply the design process to solve problems and understand the influence of creativity and innovation in your life. Students work individually and in teams to design furniture, toys, and other products while capturing your research, ideas, and process in engineering notebooks.

Multimedia 8 - ELECTIVE Semester course

Lights, Camera, Action! We live in a world of different forms of media. Learn to be responsible with your use of media and how to create exciting videos. Get in front of the camera and go behind the scenes to experience the world of editing and production. From daily announcements to special segments, you will Bee the face of the HIVE.

Robotics & Engineering 8 - ELECTIVE Year long course

This is a two part course that covers Automation/Robotics in Semester 1. Students will use VEX Robotics kits to understand how to build mechanical systems. Students are then introduced to RobotC programming language. During Semester 2 and the Engineering Principles portion of this course, students will learn SolidWorks CAD Software, and how to use the iterative engineering design process to innovate, build and test solutions to real-world problems.

# ENGLISH & LITERATURE

6th, 7th & 8th Grade ELA & Reading    REQUIRED    Year long course

The Middle School English Language Arts program strives to get students to think, read, write, and discuss every day. Students will learn and master techniques for close reading, writing, formal and informal speaking, and analyze text using a variety of selections, both literary and informational. Their text studies will include fiction and nonfiction literature, text structure, characterization, scene, plot, theme/central idea, point of view, purpose, organization, argument, and comparison of forms and genres. Students will build vocabulary through root words which aids in the understanding of vocabulary words both inside and outside of school.

Students will write routinely using standard English conventions to produce clear, coherent narrative, argumentative, and informative/explanatory writing, for a range of tasks, purposes, and audiences. They will concentrate on developing and sharpening their reading, writing, speaking, listening, grammar, mechanics, usage, spelling, capitalization, punctuation, vocabulary, and thinking skills.

Creative Writing - REQUIRED    Nine week course

Focused on teaching students to write creatively using descriptive writing. Students learn to create original writings by understanding and using different types of literary devices such as personification, hyperbole, similes, metaphors, idioms, imagery, and onomatopoeia. Students will also

use the writing process while writing creatively to help their writing. Writing will be presented orally and in written form.

Drama - ELECTIVE Semester long course

Introduces students to the world of theatre. Students will learn the fundamentals of performing, such as sensory awareness and voice inflection. They will also learn about the history of the theatre world. Students will use the performance skills they learn in this class to become more confident public speakers and presenters, which are skills they will use in all subject areas.

English Language Learners (ELL)

This course exists to aid students who are non-native English speakers and/or have the influence of another language that is used at home. In this class, students work on growth in English speaking, listening, reading and writing skills. Students receive pull-out instruction from the ELL teacher and push-in aid in their content-area classes.

## FOREIGN LANGUAGE

Spanish I - ELECTIVE Year long class for High School Credit (1) but not used for cumulative HS GPA.

Course will focus on building 21st century skills for the individual language learner. Students will be assessed on their proficiency and performance using Spanish as is stated in the ACTFL Performance and Proficiency Guidelines. Students will be required to keep a digital portfolio of samples of their individual growth. Culture is combined while teaching the basic skills of listening, writing, and reading. Daily study and participation are essential for progress in this course.

# MATH

Math 6 - REQUIRED Year long course

Students will be expected to master the 6th grade standards according to the Ohio Department of Education. The critical areas of focus include: connecting ratio and rates to solve problems; completing their understanding of multiplication and division of fractions; writing, interpreting and using expressions and equations; develop understanding of statistical problem solving; and build reasoning involving area, surface area and volume. We use a variety of tools including our textbook, an online tool ALEKS, and other materials throughout the year to help students master the various concepts.

Advanced Math 6 - Year long course \*\* Teacher recommendation

Students will be expected to master the 7th grade standards according to the Ohio Department of Education. The critical areas of focus include: developing a deeper understanding and application of proportional relationships; manipulating integers and rational numbers; relating expressions, equations and inequalities; solve problems involving scale drawings and geometric figures and measurements; and draw inferences with statistical problem solving. 6th grade skills will be integrated into lessons throughout the year to help close the gap between 5th and 7th grade standards. We use a variety of tools including our textbook, an online tool ALEKS, and other materials throughout the year to help students master the various concepts. Students will be taking the 7th grade State Test in the spring.

Math 7 - REQUIRED Year long course

A mathematics program for seventh grade which focuses on: 1) Ratios, Percents, and Proportional Reasoning 2) Manipulating Integers and Rational Numbers 3) Relating Expressions, Equations and Inequalities 4) Manipulating Geometric figures and Measures and 5) Calculating Probability and Statistics

Advanced Math 7 - Year long course \*\*Teacher recommendation

Students will be expected to master the 8th grade standards according to the Ohio Department of Education.

The critical areas of focus include: 1)formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations, 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, congruence and understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem, 4) working with irrational numbers, integer exponents, and scientific notation. Students will be taking the 8th grade State Test in the spring.

Math 8 - REQUIRED Year long course

This course covers each of the 8th grade Ohio Learning Standards. Instructional time focuses on four 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, congruence and understanding and applying the



Pythagorean Theorem; 4) working with irrational numbers, integer exponents, and scientific notation. Students completing 8th grade Mathematics are ready to move on to High School Algebra I.

Algebra I - Year long course for High School Credit (1) but not used for cumulative HS GPA. For advanced math students

Algebra I is a critical element in secondary mathematics education. Topics introduced in Algebra I provide the foundation students require for future success in high school mathematics, critical thinking, and problem-solving. The primary goal of Algebra I is to help students transfer their concrete mathematical knowledge to more abstract algebraic generalizations. Algebraic properties are observed by the students and used to develop or build the mathematical system in which topics commonly called Algebra I are studied. Thus, the students are expected to learn the “why” as well as the “how” of algebraic operations. Algebra I topics include recognizing and developing patterns using tables, graphs, and equations. In addition, students will explore operations on algebraic expressions and apply mathematical properties to algebraic equations. Students will solve problems using equations, graphs, and tables to investigate linear relationships. Technology will be used to introduce and expand upon the areas of study listed above. TI-84+ graphing calculator is recommended as this will be frequently used throughout a student’s high school career.

# MUSIC

## Choir 6 - ELECTIVE Year long course

Focuses on introducing choral students to the traditional choral setting. Students will explore singing 2-part music and will learn fundamental music reading skills. They will work on learning how to properly read a music score, as well as building skills in sight reading. Students will participate in 4 mandatory extracurricular concerts throughout the year as part of this course.

## Choir 7 & 8 - ELECTIVE Year long course

Continues to introduce students to the traditional choral setting in the classroom. Students will continue to build foundational music skills by working on score-reading, sight-reading, and singing technique. The choral music will advance to 3 and 4-part music to match the changing voices of middle school students. This choir will perform in 4 mandatory extracurricular concerts throughout the year as part of this course.

## Band 6 - ELECTIVE Year long course

Students will begin their study of instrumental music and standard performance practices on woodwind and brass instruments. Percussion instruments will require private lesson instruction outside of school and director approval. Instruction areas include ensemble rehearsal, performance techniques, musicianship, tone production, sight-reading, and music literacy. Individual study/home practice as well as public performances are required as part of the evaluation process.

## Band 7 & 8 - ELECTIVE Year long course

Continue to build upon the skills and foundation developed in 6th grade band. Students will deepen their knowledge of rhythms, key signatures, scales, and musicianship by applying it within an ensemble setting. The percussion section will be decided through auditions or director approval. Individual study/home practice as well as public performance are required as part of the evaluation process.

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION/HEALTH

### PE 6 - REQUIRED Nine Week Course

A program of stretching, calisthenics and cardio exercises is employed on a daily basis. A variety of activities are implemented which emphasize different muscle movements, game strategy/management and sportsmanship.

### PE 7 - REQUIRED Nine Week Course

A program of stretching, calisthenics and cardio exercises is employed on a daily basis. A variety of activities are implemented which emphasize different muscle movements, game strategy/management and sportsmanship.

HS Physical Ed. - ELECTIVE Semester course for High School credit (.25) but not used for cumulative HS GPA.

Primary emphasis is on weight training and conditioning along with lifetime sports and team sports. Cooperation, sportsmanship, leadership, competition, fair play and understanding basic game rules are learned through these activities.

HS Health - ELECTIVE Semester course for High School credit (.5) but not used for cumulative HS GPA.

Course is aimed at introducing students to certain areas of modern health. Current health problems associated with these areas are discussed: 1) First Aid, Emergency Care and survival 2) Mental Health/Emotional Health 3) Alcohol, tobacco and drug use 4) Reproduction, Human Growth and Development and STD Education 5) Communicable diseases 6) Nutrition

## SCIENCE

Science 6 - REQUIRED Year long course

Students will explore and experience a variety of areas within the field of science including life (cellular to multicellular), physical (matter and motion), and earth and space (rocks, minerals and soil), sciences through the use of reading, research, observation, and discussion. Students will participate in individual and group projects and utilization of the scientific research process and experiments.

Science 7 - REQUIRED Year long course

This course focuses on helping students use scientific inquiry to discover patterns, trends, structures and relationships that may be inferred by simple principles. These principles are related to the properties or interactions within and between systems.

Science 8 - REQUIRED Year long course

Focuses on Earth Science, Physical Science and Life Science. In Earth Science, the focus is on the physical features of Earth and how they formed, including the interior of Earth, the rock record, plate tectonics and landforms. In Life Science, we focus on the continuation of the species. In Physical Science, we will focus on forces and motion within, on and around the Earth and within the universe.

Lab Skills - ELECTIVE Semester long course

An inquiry-based, hands-on class. Students will use scientific processes to design, conduct and evaluate experiments that support our 8th grade science standards. Students will also use the engineering design process to create products to solve problems relevant to our world.

## SOCIAL STUDIES

World Geography 6 - REQUIRED Year long course

This program inspires students to develop global knowledge for active, informed citizenship. World Geography explores the world's places, systems and cultures. This program includes strong ELA/literacy connections and multiple learning options. Lessons promote critical thinking, problem solving, evidence-based reasoning, and communication skills. Lessons immerse students in real-world inquiry that introduces geographical topics, ideas, and figures. It fosters students' curiosity about geographical information, political issues, people, location, and climate.

World History 7 - REQUIRED Year long course

Emphasis on the changes in society from 750 BC to 1600 AD. Historical events and issues of the time from ancient Greece and Roman Empires to the First Global Age. Students will learn how linking of all the major regions of the world led to economic, political, cultural and religious transformations. Students will use maps and other geographic tools to trace development.

American History 8 - REQUIRED Year long course

8th grade American History is the study of the birth of America as a nation. The course begins with the competition of European colonization and continues to reconstruction after the Civil War.

Students will be engaged in critical thinking skills, analytics of Primary Source documents and interactive simulations.

# EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AT THE MIDDLE SCHOOL

We have a number of activities at the middle school and encourage students to get involved and find something they enjoy doing outside of the classroom. Our Clubs/ Activities include:

**MS ACADEMIC TEAM**  
**ROBOTICS COMPETITION TEAM**  
**SCIENCE FAIR**  
**OUTDOOR ADVENTURE CLUB**  
**MS STUDENT COUNCIL**  
**MATH PENTATHLON**  
**POWER OF THE PEN**  
**MUSE MACHINE**  
**MS MUSICAL**

The middle school also offers interscholastic sports at the 7th & 8th grade levels. Sports teams include:

<b>GIRLS</b>	<b>BOYS</b>
<b>Cross Country</b>	<b>Cross Country</b>
<b>Volleyball</b>	<b>Football</b>
<b>Cheerleading</b>	
<b>Basketball</b>	<b>Basketball</b>
<b>Track &amp; Field</b>	<b>Track &amp; Field</b>

## 6th Grade - New Course

Life Skills - Elective - This class will focus on the transition from elementary to middle school. Skills that will be covered are using the agenda effectively, folder/locker organization, reading and following oral and written instructions. In addition, students will work on social and emotional awareness to help students communicate their needs with teachers and other peers.

## 8th Grade - New Courses

Leadership 101 - Elective - The Bethel Leadership course empowers students to make a difference on their school, community, and world. Through small and large group discussions, team building activities and community engagement, students will actively pursue topics such as collaborative leadership, leadership styles, ethics and decision making while exploring the power of risk taking, communication, and facilitation.

Global Music Appreciation - Elective - There is a whole world of music out there, and this course is going to dive into it! Students will take a close look at music from all over the world by looking at how it relates to specific cultures, the instruments native to different countries, and the roles musicians take in various cultures. This class will not have a performance requirement like band or choir, but students will be expected to actively participate in class discussions and activities - some of which will be recreating music from all over the world with available resources.

Publications - Elective - In the environment of a writer's workshop, students will craft and publish various writings, including poems, short stories and scripts. Students will have opportunities to comment on, critique, and analyze other students' work as well as share their own. Published work will involve a variety of mediums, including technology.