

**BELGRADE MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
**5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**  
**2020-2021**

**ENGLISH ESSENTIALS**

This course was designed with student interest in mind. We will be reading novels that challenge the student to use comprehension skills through direct instruction. We will be identifying literary elements throughout the year in hopes of progressing reading skills. This class will also require various types of written assignments: summarizing, persuasive, comparative, explanatory, and more.

**ENGLISH**

In this course, students will build advanced reading and writing skills through the application of vocabulary, grammar, and literature. The literature components will include an emphasis on fiction, non-fiction and poetry. In addition, students will participate in a series of writing workshops.

**Math Essentials**

Students will work toward achieving grade level standards. Students will work on number sense and computation, understand foundational operations and solving word problems.

**MATH**

Students will participate in a Mathematics curriculum designed to meet state and national standards. Using Common Core Standards, our school will use a primary source with supplemental materials added when needed. Curriculum will be designed using differentiation within the classroom to assure every child has the opportunity to excel in Mathematics.

**SCIENCE**

Students will participate in a general science curriculum. They examine chemistry, physical, life, and earth science concepts. Within the curriculum, students develop and use models, plan and carry out investigations, analyze data as well as other science practices to demonstrate understanding of core ideas.

## **SOCIAL STUDIES**

Social Studies focuses on the North American continent. Explorers from many countries and their claims, the division of lands, and governing bodies are explored. The history of the United States of America is studied from conception through the Revolutionary War via cultures, geography, mapping, historical peoples, economics, technology, citizenship, government and society. In depth studies include Native Americans and our neighbors: Canada and Mexico.

## **TECHNOLOGY**

Keyboarding skills are strengthened using Typing Master as well as other keyboarding lessons and programs. Students also receive an introduction to basic Microsoft Office programs such as PowerPoint, Word, Publisher, and Excel. Technology class is also interdisciplinary and supports other curriculum areas. It assists with the integration of technology into course work through assignments and projects.

## **HEALTH ENHANCEMENT**

Health Enhancement is designed to offer students the opportunity to learn basic skills in lifetime sport activities. Our main objective is to teach students the basic rules, strategies and importance of sports that they can participate in throughout their lifetime. While participating in these activities an emphasis will be placed on participation, effort, physical fitness, teamwork and sportsmanship. Students will also participate in a district wide maturation class taught by the District Health Nurse.

## **ELECTIVES (Semester)**

### **AGRICULTURE I**

Ag I will give students a basic understanding of agricultural practices that encompasses a Montana lifestyle. Students will define agriculture, while discovering careers related to agriculture. Students will engage with animal and plant science related to agriculture. Students will be informed of agriculture business while developing a basic understanding of personal finance. The main mission for agriculture technology is to help students develop a better understanding and appreciation for the agricultural world all around us each and every day.

## **AUTOMATION AND ROBOTICS**

Automation and Robotics is a beginner engineering class. In this class, students will concentrate on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) activities.

Students will complete project, problem-based, and design process assignments. This is a challenging and inspirational program where students acquire knowledge and skills through hands on, rigorous, relevant, and real-world experiences.

Students will learn about mechanical systems, machine automation, and computer controlled systems. They will have opportunities to be creative and solve problems with the realization that there isn't just one right answer. Students will use VEX Robotics kits to design, build, and program their projects using the RobotC software. The last day to add Automation and Robotics is the 10<sup>th</sup> day of the semester, and the student must agree to come in every day at lunch to learn the first 10 days of material. Class size is limited to 24 students based on the number of VEX Robotics kits.

## **BEGINNING BAND**

This is an elective course offering beginning instruction for the wind instruments and percussion. You will learn to perform a repertoire of instrumental literature representing various genres, styles, and cultures with expression, technical accuracy, tone quality, and articulation, by oneself and in ensembles. The course also includes music fundamentals, theory, songs, performance, listening, composing, improvising, analyzing, and learning how to read music notation.

### **GOALS**

1. To learn to play your chosen instrument accurately and produce a pleasing sound.
2. To learn how to read music notation.
3. To develop an understanding of music fundamentals and theory.
4. To learn how to perform, write, and create music.
5. To develop the ability to analyze, describe, and listen to music.
6. To develop the ability to match pitch and sing on pitch.
7. To develop an understanding of music as it relates to history and culture.

## **CREATIVE EXPRESSIONS**

This class entwines a vast array of the arts that leave the student feeling confident, creative, active and mindful. Students will be able to explore their creativity in arts, through the use of imagination, artistry, design, writing, and wellness practices. Projects will include recyclables, liquid plaster, oils, word art, bath fizzies, textiles, soap making, interior design and more. Students will learn

marketing and small business skills. This cross-curriculum course focuses on hands-on projects and engaging activities. Construction and art merge as one to form this one of a kind class.

### **CHOIR**

If you love to sing, this is the place for you! Students will come to choir rehearsal two times each week during their study hall time, where we will prepare fun and exciting music for our concerts and learn some basic singing skills. There will be four concerts during the year, one each quarter. The concerts performances are held in the evening.

### **INTRO TO DRAMA**

The purpose of this class is to introduce students to the exciting world of drama. Students will experience drama from A to Z where each letter will have something to do with theatre (from A-Audience to Z-Zone). Along the way, students will encounter set construction, make-up, publicity, etc., and the semester will culminate with a full performance to an invited audience

### **DRUMS, KEYBOARDS AND GUITARS**

Students will be able to get hands-on experience making music while playing drums, keyboards and guitars. During the drumming unit, students will prepare African and Latin drum ensembles using hand drums and other percussion instruments. The keyboard unit will introduce students to the basics of playing piano and reading notation. The last unit, students will learn the basics of playing guitar from tuning to playing melodies and chords on the guitar. The semester will end with a performance to share the new skills they have gained with their parents.

### **Engineering Minds**

In Engineering Minds the class will be broken into two correlating parts. One component will be exploring the intricate systems of the human mind focusing on the nervous system, the five senses, the brain and other topics. The second component students will participate in various activities encompassing STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) that will challenge students to seek answers, explore options, and model outcomes.

## **I-PAD PHOTOGRAPHY**

The photographer Ansel Adams once said, “You don’t take a picture, you make it.” In this course students will gain experience using the iPad camera as well as photography and video apps. Students will explore the photography apps and features of the iPad and learn how to produce fine art photographs and short films on their device. Lessons on the Elements and Principles of Design are presented to guide students through the process, and develop their critical, creative and collaborative reasoning skills and performance. Students will use this knowledge to better create aesthetic black & white and color photographs while also exploring a variety of photo apps.

## **INTRO TO ART**

This arts class will incorporate the Elements of Art while experimenting with a wide range of mediums such as pencil, charcoal, paint, marker, oil pastel, chalk and many more! During this introduction to the elements, students will try new techniques that may apply in later visual arts classes, both at the middle school and high school levels. Glimpses of art history will be found throughout this semester long class. This hands-on class will help students gain an outlet where they can express themselves and allow others to celebrate their wonderful creativity. Join the fun.

## **INTRO TO FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCE (FCS)**

This semester long class for 5th and 6th graders will be an introduction to some of the many topics that make up Family and Consumer Science. We will learn about kitchen and food safety, how to read a recipe and make one food item. We will learn about hand sewing and work on a variety of sewing projects. Housing design and finance are some other categories we will incorporate into our project work. There is a \$10 supply fee for this class.

## **INTRO TO INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY**

Industrial Arts and Design will be an introductory course. This semester class will explore architectural and project design through the use of computer drafting programs as well as shop safety and proper tool handling techniques. Students will learn how to use measuring tools, basic woodworking tools, basic project planning, and simple joinery to create a multitude of projects. This course includes Computer Aided Drafting, hand tools, machinery, and emphasizes safety.

A lab fee of \$15.00 is requested to help with the cost of the projects. Scholarships are available. The last day to add Industrial Arts & Design is the 7th day of the semester, and the student must agree to come in every day at lunch to learn the first 7 days of material.

## **INTRO TO JOURNALISM & YEARBOOK**

Have you ever wanted to interview someone? Find out more about your favorite topics for an assignment? Start and keep a blog about current subjects of interests? Or have a place to express your thoughts in the blogosphere? Learn more about how a newspaper is set up, published, and how to pick what people will read about? Learn about the Yearbook and contribute to it? Well then Introduction to Journalism and Yearbook is for you! Students will learn about print journalism through writing, editing, and publishing a monthly school newspaper. Students will get a chance to express themselves and explore individual interests. Students will learn interview techniques, photographic layout, and design. Students will create and keep a weekly blog while seeing and commenting on other student's posts. Journalism is an interactive class that gets to take field trips to the Bozeman Daily Chronicle and Montana PBS. You will become a news expert!

## **MONEY MATTERS**

This course will be an introduction to economics. Basic concepts about supply and demand discussed and explained. Students will be introduced to decisions about money and banking transactions. Students will have discussions along with knowledge about employment, labor, and wages. In addition, teach students about economic performance and stability through avenues of the stock market. Money counts will help middle school students gain a basic knowledge and understanding for the purpose of money.

## **VIDEO GAME DESIGN**

The Video Game Design class is based off of STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics). Students will learn to use system-based thinking, creative problem solving, art and aesthetics, writing and storytelling. This is a semester long course which will focus on the five elements of design. Students will work independently and with partners to learn and gain a better understanding of technology and how to layout and design video games.

## **SPANISH**

Join us in creating a community of Spanish speakers! Come and enjoy Spanish acquisition while we play games, dance, hear and read stories and get to know each other. You will be exploring the culture of the world's 3<sup>rd</sup> most popular language through video, stories, and crafts. Don't miss out on this wonderfully interactive class!