

**BELGRADE MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
**7th GRADE COURSE DESCRIPTION**  
**2020-2021**

**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: narrative, persuasive, descriptive, and informative.

**ENGLISH ESSENTIALS**

This course is designed for students in need of additional instruction in reading and language arts skills. The focus of the course will be on reading comprehension, reading fluency, and vocabulary skills. This course will be required for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students scoring below the proficient level on the Montana State Assessments.

**HEALTH ENHANCEMENT**

The middle school H.E. program is designed to give students a chance 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 learning these sports we emphasize the importance of participation, physical fitness, and sportsmanship. Students are required to dress with proper clothes (i.e., clean tennis shoes, shorts, sweats, shirt, and socks). Students will also participate in a district wide (5-10) maturation class taught by the District Health Nurse.

Our primary focus in health education is to provide students with information so that they can learn and practice ways to make healthy choices. Students will have opportunities to apply, practice, and assess the skills they need to enhance their own health and the health of others. The health education topics will include taking responsibility for your own health, physical activity and fitness, food and nutrition, growth and development, and ways to protect your health.

**HEALTH AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT**

This course is geared toward young adolescents and covers topics including but not limited to: safety, hygiene, communicable and noncommunicable diseases, the immune system, fitness, nutrition, and tobacco. Students will explore how their mental/emotional, social, and physical health influence each other and what factors influence their overall health. Students will discuss positive character traits, healthy decision making skills, and practice communication techniques. They will also learn methods to strengthen peer, friend, and family relationships as well as how to express emotions and manage stress. Main goals of this course are to provide the students with the information and skills required to be safe, productive, and responsible citizens.

## **SCIENCE**

Success in everyday living depends on students developing an interest in and understanding of their world. The emphasis in the seventh grade life science curriculum is the constantly changing field of biology and living things. The general organization of the year proceeds from a survey of our environment to an exploration of living things from the simplest cells and organisms to the most complex.

## **SOCIAL STUDIES**

In seventh grade social studies/global studies, we explore the world. This is a world history/world cultures class where students study the ways in which people all over the world live, work and depend on each other. Initially students explore the general effects of the environment & culture on people and then examine how the earth affects people. The students study history, people, customs, maps, landforms, and climate first and then apply this to many regions of the world including Europe, Latin America, Africa, Asia, and the Middle East. They will also study current events and conflicts in the world.

## **Math Essentials**

Students will work on reaching grade level standards in math. The main focus will be on foundational computation skills and number sense, understanding expressions and equations and solving word problems.

## **MATH CONNECTIONS**

The course focus will be on improving students' skills in computation and numbers sense. In addition, weaknesses and gaps will be identified as a group and addressed. Students in 7<sup>th</sup> grade Math Essentials will also be in a 7<sup>th</sup> grade Mathematics class.

## **MATH**

This course will focus on four areas: (1) Students will develop their understanding of proportional relationships. (2) Students will build on their knowledge of operations with rational numbers and work with expressions and linear equations. (3) Students will solve problems involving scale drawings and solve problems working with two- and three- dimensional shapes involving area, surface area, and volume. (4) Students will understand how to draw inferences about populations based on samples.

## **ACCELERATED 7<sup>TH</sup> MATH**

The first of a two -year program which will allow students to enter high school at the Integrated Math II level. This course will focus on all four areas included in the description of 7th Mathematics in addition to several 8th grade level topics.

## **BAND**

Students will be placed in one of the two bands depending on one or all of the following

- a. Instrumentation and/or numbers in the bands for balance
- b. Audition and placement
- c. Scheduling

By participating in a band ensemble, the goal of the Belgrade Middle School band program is to develop the values of hard work and self-discipline, create and appreciate aesthetic beauty, learn how to learn and problem solve, and exercise group skills to work toward a common goal.

## **CHOIR**

(No previous experience of any kind required- just a desire to sing)

The 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade choirs are open to any student who is interested in learning to use his or her voice in a choir setting and experience the enjoyment of singing with others. Students will develop skills necessary to sing in a high school choir. The choir performs a variety of music including jazz, folk, classical, world, and popular music. There will normally be one required concert per quarter, each with a different literature selection or theme. Students may also participate in a before/after school group as an extracurricular activity. There will be additional solo and small group opportunities offered throughout the year. Students interested or considering choir is welcome to stop by and meet the instructor.

## **SPECIAL EDUCATION**

### **RESOURCE ROOM**

(Prerequisite = referral, evaluation, if students meet criteria, then placement) In the Resource Room, students receive support, help and modifications with regular education classes. The subject areas of English and math can be replaced with a more appropriate program at the individual's level of performance. A structured study hall/study skills class is also available.

## **SEMESTER COURSES**

### **ADVANCED P.E.**

An emphasis will be placed on lifetime skills that can be used to achieve a healthy lifestyle. This class will provide an introduction to weight training and physical conditioning. The objectives of this class will be 1) to show students that becoming fit and well greatly improves the quality of their lives, 2) to show students how they can become fit and well, and 3) to motivate students to make healthy choices and to provide them with tools for change.

## **AERONAUTICS**

The Aeronautics elective is for 7th & 8th grade students and provides an opportunity to learn about the history and science of flight from the Wright Brothers to the International Space Station. Aeronautics students will explore a vast array of aviation and space topics such as wing design, engine design, axes of flight, G forces, flight instruments, radar, in-flight refueling and aerospace physiology to name just a few. Many of the lessons will be enhanced with a flight helmet, G-suit, flight suit, survival vest and other equipment for hands-on learning. The last day to add Aeronautics is the 10th day of the semester, and the student must agree to come in every day at lunch to learn the first 10 days of material.

## **AGRICULTURE II**

This course will introduce students to basic agribusiness practices. Students will explore various careers related to agriculture. In addition, students will learn how to finance, keep records, operate, and market agriculture products. Students will develop communication skills such as listening and speaking. The course will help students to develop goals in finding a career in Agribusiness.

## **ARTIST'S WORKSHOP**

In visual arts, students will be exposed to a wide variety of mediums and techniques such as: clay, tempera and acrylic paint, oil pastels, plaster, drawing materials, sculpture supplies, etc. They will also learn and incorporate the seven elements and the seven principles of design throughout their work during the semester. The assignments encountered during this class will help prepare students for what they may encounter upon entering the high school art program. The significance and importance of art history will be discussed along with the study and appreciation of Native American culture. Artist's Workshop is a progressive program, so the last day to add Artist's Workshop is the 10th school day of the semester, and the student must agree to come in during lunch to learn the missed material from those days

## **ARTIST'S WORKSHOP II**

In Advanced Artist's Workshop, students will embark on an extension of what they have learned during Artist's Workshop. Student's will, again, be exposed to a number of mediums (paint, marker, plaster, clay, etc.) during this course, but will elevate their knowledge of new techniques. Although this class isn't necessary to be able to join the high school art program, it gives students a few more "tools" for their "toolbox" before moving on. Art history and numerous cultures may be integrated into the projects and assignments for this course. Advanced Artist's Workshop is a progressive program, so there will be no entrance allowed after the first 2 weeks of the semester. Any students who enter the class after its beginning, will be required to come to class during lunch time to make up for the missing days.

## **AUTOMATION AND ROBOTICS II**

Automation & Robotics II is an intermediate engineering class. In this class, students will build upon the concepts introduced in Automation and Robotics. Students will focus on project, problem-based, and design process assignments. This is a challenging and rigorous course in which students acquire knowledge and skills through hands on, relevant, and real-world experiences. Students will take a critical look at the influence of automation in our world and their own lives. Students will use VEX Robotics kits to design and build their projects. In this course, students program their projects using the RobotC software and advance their skills to include the use of control structures and other more complex commands.

Automation & Robotics I is a required prerequisite to this course. The class numbers are capped at 24 due to the space and number of VEX kits. Students are able to enter this elective the first two weeks of school only. After this time, it is locked as it would be too difficult to catch up.

## **CODING**

The course focuses on computer science by covering topics such as “programming, physical computing, HTML/CSS, animations, gaming and data. Students engage with computer science as a medium for creativity, communication, problem solving, and fun. The course inspires students as they build their own websites, apps, and games. Students will gain a better understanding of how to use computers to solve problems in their natural world. Students work in partners to complete projects and This class can accommodate 26 students. Students can add or drop this course the 1st week of the semester only, after this time students will be too far behind

## **CURRENT EVENTS**

This course is intended to offer students the opportunity to discuss, understand, and explore local, national, international, social and political issues in a respectful, meaningful, and active way. Students will read articles in various magazines and newspapers. They will also view videos on news programs and evaluate them. Students will be challenged to defend their opinions on many diverse subjects. Topics will vary considerably depending on the current news cycle.

## **DESIGN & MODELING**

Design and Modeling is an introductory STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) class. Students will learn about engineering and our world. In this class, students will concentrate on activity and project based assignments. Students will be introduced to the design process and learn to be critical thinkers. This is a challenging and inspirational program where students acquire knowledge and skills through hands on, rigorous, relevant, and real-world experiences. Students will use 3D modeling software to design and create real world objects. Students will have the opportunity to see how our models can be input into 3D printers. The class numbers are capped at 26. Students are able to add/drop this elective the first week of school only. After this time, it is locked as it would be too difficult to catch up.

## **DRAMA**

Drama is a class where students will experience the world of acting. Skills taught will be physical acting, vocal choices, storytelling, script writing, memorization, and will end with a performance. The student with experience to the student who has never stepped on stage will find this class fun and informative.

## **DRAMA II**

This class is an extension of one of the many drama classes offered at Belgrade Middle School. Students will be taking their drama skills and using it to create scripts, bring other playwright's work to life, perform for a number of different audiences including classrooms and parents, & further their theatrical knowledge. Drama 1 or musical theatre is strongly advised as a prerequisite.

## **FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE**

This class is open to all 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. It is a semester course that is divided into two quarter units. The first unit is textiles and sewing and the second unit is food safety and cooking. In the textile unit, students will learn how to operate a sewing machine. Once they have mastered threading and practice sewing on paper. They will complete four projects; a patchwork pillow, a zipper pencil bag, an apron and a cooking cap. A lab fee of \$15.00 is requested to help with the cost of the four projects. The food unit will cover many aspects of home preparation. Students will learn kitchen safety, food safety, measurements, equivalents, as well as the proper use of several home appliances. Students will participate in several food labs. They will be using their aprons and cooking caps from the sewing unit. If there is time, we will explore Native American Textiles and Foods.

## **GUITARS**

This class is designed for students with or without guitar experience to participate in and learn strategies and techniques in a group setting. This course is set up to supplement music theory, music reading, and technical skills for small ensemble performance. The class will include guitar history, interdisciplinary possibilities, techniques, repertoire, improvisation, music reading, ensemble playing and applying music theory to the guitar. Students will demonstrate proficiency in strumming, melodies, notation and two types of tablature. Students will be introduced to a variety of assessment methods.

## **INDUSTRIAL ART & DESIGN**

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.

## **MEDICAL DETECTIVES**

This course requires computer access and movie consent. In addition to hands on labs, building models, and classroom activities; many of the activities are on the computer. Students will also be watching G/PG documentaries. Medical Detectives is a Project Lead The Way (PLTW) class based in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). Students will practice note taking, time management, problem solving, and organizational skills that will help them be accurate

detectives. Interests in science, problem solving, research, and technology use are recommended for this course. Class periods are capped at 23 due to lab space and computer availability. Class is closed to new students after ten full school days unless a student is new to the district or a special circumstance arises.

### **Unit 1 - Disease Detectives**

In this unit students will study/measure vital signs. They will then use the vital signs as clues to diagnose illnesses, and diseases in patients. Students will research and learn about a specific disease and then share their findings with the class.

### **Unit 2 - Mysteries of the Human Body**

In this unit students will study the nervous system, build models of neurons, and study the brain. They will explore the five senses and the brain through a variety of labs and hands-on activities. Students will dissect a sheep brain to learn about brain anatomy and physiology.

### **Unit 3 - Outbreak!**

Students will explore DNA, solve medical mysteries, and diagnose patients using deductive reasoning skills. Students will also explore STEM careers.

### **MINDS & MONEY**

This course starts out explaining how to get a job. We will fill out a general job application and review general interviewing questions asked during an interview. The course will inform students how to pay rent, utilities, and make car payments. The course will have students budget their income through banking processes such as savings and checking. The class will develop understanding of getting paid hourly, piece rate, commission, or salary. The course will explain how medical and automobile insurance works for various coverages of individuals. In addition, explain how to buy a car and a house. The class is designed to help students prepare for real life money situations.

### **MUSICAL THEATRE**

The musical theatre class will focus on components of a successful musical theatre production. Students will study acting, singing, characterization, dance, along with the history of musical theatre and musicals. Students will end the semester with a performance. Creativity, team work, and effort will be stressed.

### **PANTHERS PLANNING FOR SUCCESS (PPS)**

Panthers Planning for Success used to be called Jobs for Montana Graduates (JMG). This 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade elective provides an opportunity for students to work on their leadership, teamwork, decision making, character development, communication, time management and organizational skills. PPS students develop a career roadmap and a high school graduation plan to help them plan for their future success. As a learning experience, the PPS students plan and supervise the dodgeball tournament in the fall and the carnival in the spring. In addition, PPS students go on field trips to enhance their classroom education and build confidence. The last day to add PPS 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. PPS is limited to 31 students based on the number of chairs that will fit in the classroom.

## **ORCHESTRA**

Orchestra is the study of string instruments (violin, viola, cello, and bass). Students will be learning to play these instruments beginning at their level and progressing. This year long class is offered to all students in grades 6-8, with no prerequisites required. Students will be studying a variety of styles of music including Jazz, Fiddle, Rock, Folk, and Classical. Students will participate in several performances throughout the year. (Year long class)

## **SPANISH**

Join us in creating a community of Spanish speakers! Come and enjoy Spanish acquisition while we play games, dance, hear 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! It is also a great prep class for high school Spanish!

## **THEATER ARTS**

Students in this class will be introduced to numerous skills necessary for an effective presence behind the scenes in theatre including sound effects, set design, operating a light board, publicity, costumes, and stage makeup. Students will demonstrate that new knowledge as they work backstage for one of the performances presented during the semester. This class helps students to cultivate an awareness of the broader world in which they belong.

## **VIDEO GAME PROGRAMMING and DESIGN**

The Video Game Design class is based off of STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics). The semester is broken down into two parts. The first part is game design & The second part is coding. 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 animation programming. Students will not be able to drop or add this class after the first week into the semester.