BELGRADE MIDDLE SCHOOL
8TH GRADE COURSE DESCRIPTION
2020-2021

ENGLISH
In eighth grade English, we study various aspects of grammar. We also study mechanics. During the year, students will read novels, several short stories in literature and have independent reading projects. Literary terminology is studied and reading comprehension is targeted. We will also discuss strong writing components and compose a variety of pieces. This will, hopefully, prepare them for a successful freshman year.

READING 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 comprehend- Soon, reading fluency, and vocabulary skills. This course will be required for 7th and 8th 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 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 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 charge of your health, Building safe and healthy relationships, physical health and fitness, Making safe and drug free decisions, and understanding your body.

HEALTH AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT
This course is geared toward young adolescents and covers topics including but not limited to: media literacy, body systems, nutrition, alcohol, and drugs. 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 make responsible decisions and become informed health consumers.

HISTORY

The study of history in 8th grade focuses on the analysis and evaluation of evidence to create a narrative describing early U.S. History and Montana History. The U.S. History portion focuses on the foundations of our country. We will learn about the original 13 Colonies, the French and Indian War, The Revolutionary War and we will analyze our nation's founding documents. In Montana history, students will learn about the geography of the land, the Lewis and Clark expedition, the Fur Trade and the Gold Rush. There will be a focus on changes experienced by Native American groups throughout Montana's history as well. Through our analysis of historical events, students will practice critical thinking, writing skills, note taking and also discussion and debate.

SCIENCE

Physical Science is the study of matter and energy. The course follows Montana State Science Standards that were adapted from the Next Generation Science Standards. The course will involve two main branches of science-Chemistry and Physics. In Physical
Science, the student gains an understanding of how nature works. Students in general science will spend 40% of the time in hands on labs and demonstration activities. They will learn to read, understand and reason data collected.
Topics include the following:
phases of matter, the elements, development and use of the Periodic Table, atomic structure, compounds and mixtures, chemical bonding, simple chemical reactions, and basic concepts in Physics. Concepts include electricity, magnetis and the introduction of the physical forces.

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.

8TH MATH CONNECTIONS

The course will focus on improving students' skills in computation and numbers sense. Weaknesses or gaps will be identified for the group and addressed so the students are prepared for the high school mathematics courses. Students in 8th
Math connections will also be in an 8th grade Mathematics class.

MATHEMATICS

In preparation for high school, students will study number systems, expressions and equations, geometry, functions, statistics and probability. Hands-on activities and teaching strategies for developing strong mathematical reasoning skills will be emphasized.

INTEGRATED MATH
The second of a two-year program which will allow students to enter high school at the Integrated Math II level. The course differs from Integrated Math 1 at the high school in that it contains content from 8th grade. While coherence is retained, in that it logically builds from 7th Accelerated Math, the additional content when compared to the high school course demands a faster pace for instruction and learning.

Integrated Math I is the entry level mathematics course for ninth graders. Students study linear, quadratic and exponential functions. Geometric constructions, congruencies and transformations and introductory statistics concepts are studied as well. The course develops applications of mathematical concepts and challenges students to broaden their understanding with mathematical modeling.

The course is the most rigorous mathematics class at the middle school and makes several assumptions including: students are committed to studying nightly and have a maturity to focus on completing assignments. If a student is not maintaining a B, they will be moved to the 8th grade Mathematics course.

BAND
7/8(year) (Prerequisite = previous band experience
And/or permission from director)
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
This choir experience is all about growing your love for singing music! Students will engage in fun games and activities to learn skills to become better vocalists and sing as a group. We learn a variety of music from current pop tunes to old classics as well as traditional choral pieces. The class is designed to engage the learners with their musical interests while embedding important music concepts. Students will have a minimum of 3 performances each year with the final performance, the Pop Concert, being student driven with song selections and groups. This course is a great way to start singing and gain confidence!

ADVANCED CHOIR
This course is designed for students who have been in the choir program for at least one prior year and have been given director approval. Students enrolled in this class have a desire to learn beyond the basics of singing and will engage in advanced music including 3 parts, acapella, and various activities/performances. Students will have a minimum of 3 performances each year with the final performance, the Pop Concert, being student driven with song selections and groups. This class will deepen musical understanding as well as how to perform within a choir in preparation for High School.

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 and 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 respect-
Full, 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 include 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, and further their theatrical knowledge. Drama I or musical theatre is strongly advised as a prerequisite.

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE

This class is open to all 7th and 8th grade students. It is a semester course that is divided into two quarter units.

The first unit is textiles and sewing. In the textile unit, students will learn how to make simple clothing repairs, how to read a pattern, learn different seam finishes, and learn how to use the sewing machine. Once they have mastered threading and practice sewing on paper, they will complete three main projects: an apron, cooking cap, zipper bag, and if there is time a fourth project.

The food unit will cover many aspects of home food 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.

A lab fee of $15 is requested to help with the cost of the class. Students will need to bring 1 yard of cotton fabric, a composition notebook, and other sewing supplies. The list of supplies will be given to the students on the first day of class. Scholarships are available. The last day to add FCS 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.

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 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.

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 students' 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 end the semester with a performance. Creativity, team work, and effort will be stressed.

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.

PANTHERS PLANNING FOR SUCCESS (PPS)
Panthers Planning for Success used to be called Jobs for Montana Graduates (JMG). This 7th and 8th 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.

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 3rd 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 Programming and Design class is based off of STEM (science,
Technology, engineering, and mathematics).Students will learn to use system-
Based thinking, creative problem solving, art and aesthetic skills while learning
Basic programming techniques. This is a semester long course which will focus on the five elements of game design.Students work independently and with partners to learn and gain a better understanding of how to layout, design & program video games.