

**BURGETTSTOWN AREA MIDDLE
SCHOOL
COURSE SELECTION BOOKLET**



2023-2024

**Burgettstown Area Middle/High School
104 Bavington Road
Burgettstown, PA 15021**

Introduction

This booklet is designed as a guide for students enrolled in the middle school program of Burgettstown Middle-High School. Students should prepare for course selection by discussing options with parents/guardians, counselors and teachers. Students should share the information found in this booklet with their parents. Parents may make arrangements to discuss course selections with the guidance counselor, principal, or the members of the 6, 7, & 8th grade teaching teams.

Please be aware that the classroom teachers make a recommendation to every student and his/her parents on the next course the student should take in the mathematical sequence.

Important Telephone Numbers

Mrs. Beth Roman, Guidance Counselor (grades 6-8)	724-947-8106
Mr. Brian Fadden, Principal	724-947-8100
Mrs. Maria Shaffer, Assistant Principal	724-947-8100
Teacher Messages	724-947-8100

All Faculty members can be contacted through email. The address for teachers is

First initial, last name @burgettstown.k12.pa.us

Example: bfadden@burgettstown.k12.pa.us

Teacher email can also be accessed through the district website

www.burgettstown.k12.pa.us

<u>Grade 6</u>	<u>Grade 7</u>	<u>Grade 8</u>
All students in grade 6 will be scheduled in the following classes:	All students in grade 7 will be scheduled in the following classes:	All Students in grade 8 will be scheduled in the following classes:
English 6	English 7	English 8
Science	Earth and Space Science	Science 8
Reading 6	Reading	Literature 8
Math 6	Math 7 Or Advanced Math 7	Math 8 or Algebra 1
Social Studies	Civics & Government	American History 8
6th Grade Rotation Classes	7th Grade Rotation Classes	8th Grade Rotation Classes
Physical Education	Physical Education	Physical Education
InformationTechnology	Information Technology	Technology Education
FCS 6	The History of Rock and Roll	Info Tech
Art 6	Health	Sphero CSF
Library 6	Manufacturing Tech	Art 8
Electives	Electives	Electives
Instrumental Music	Instrumental Music	Instrumental Music
Chorus 6	Chorus 7/8	Chorus 7/8

Students may elect both music classes if they are offered at the same time each day.

Course Descriptions – Grade 6

English 6

Year

Students are expected to write proficiently in all areas of the curriculum. English helps to further students' understanding of the English language through the study of specific grammar topics such as sentence structure, nouns, verbs, modifiers, capitalization, and punctuation. These skills are then applied to enhance and improve students' writing abilities.

READING 6

Year

Reading is a literature-based curriculum focusing on six units: *Changes*, *Excursions*, *Accomplishments*, *Challenges*, *Discoveries*, and *Taking Action*. Special emphasis is placed on reading strategies, vocabulary development and listening, speaking, decoding, and information skills.

Math 6

Year

Our math series uses problem-based interactive learning to encourage math reasoning and to introduce new strategies for problem solving. The word and real-life problems create connections to the students' everyday life making it interesting and relevant while reinforcing fluency and comprehension. The activities provide problem solving and math skills practice. The core of the curriculum will focus on dividing fractions, solving rates and ratios, working with expressions and equations, figuring area and volume, and understanding variability and data distribution.

Social Studies 6 (Ancient Cultures)

Year

This Sixth grade Social Studies Course is designed to enrich students' understanding of the following: the First Cultures, the Fertile Crescent, the Nile River Valley, Ancient Greece, Ancient Rome and a comprehensive review of basic geography concepts. Additionally, students will be required to complete Current Events.

Science 6

Year

This course focuses on extending the scope and sequence from 5th grade science and following the PA Academic Standards, Anchors, and Eligible Content. We discuss in detail measuring, inferring, hypothesizing, experimenting, observing, and following directions. Throughout the year, students will experience hands-on-activities, integration of science concepts across the curriculum and assessments. The curriculum follows our solar system, exploring the earth, matter, energy, simple machines, and forces and motion.

6th Grade Information Technology**Rotation**

The 6th grade information Technology course is designed to give students continued reinforcement of basic and intermediate computer skills. Students will continue to learn and reinforce the fundamentals of solid keyboarding skills. Students will use their word processing skills to create outlines and reports: use the spell-check and thesaurus: use tabs to indent: insert clip art and create folders to organize documents. After mastering basic word processing skills, students will enhance slide shows by adding speech balloons, photographs, and colorful backgrounds to their slides. Finally, projects using spreadsheets will be completed in order to solve math problems. This course is cumulative and builds upon previous skills learned. Skills are reinforced through subsequent projects which will increase confidence and proficiency. This course will provide instruction in computer literacy as established by the National Educational Technology Standards (NETS).

Physical Education 6**Rotation**

Physical Education is a rotation course that will focus on individual and team activities along with physical fitness

Art 6**Rotation**

This rotation course focuses on art as a discipline and examines the areas of art criticism and art history, by creating an Animation Flipbook. The Animation project will help the students to build drawing skills, organize ideas in a sequential order, and problem solve as they use current technologies to create and explore abstract concepts in a tangible way.

Library 6**Rotation**

For 6th graders, this rotation course focuses on 21st Century sources available in the library. The class will cover topics allowing students to develop the necessary 21st Century thinking skills used in real world applications.

FCS6 Family and Consumer Sciences**Rotation**

This course is designed to introduce students to the areas of Family and Consumer Science. The following units are included: Childcare/Babysitting, Sewing (basic stitches/hand sewing and Interior Design (design a 3-D living space).

Electives

Instrumental Music 6

Year

This course establishes the basic fundamentals of playing musical instruments for beginners, and reinforces any beginning-level skills learned in 4th or 5th grade, including basic improvisation. By the end of the year, students begin to play more challenging music and develop their instrumental skills. Previous experience is not required.

Chorus 6

Year

Chorus 6 is an elective course open to all students in the sixth grade, who are interested in participating in singing with a performing group. The sixth grade chorus is one of three performing groups. Chorus 6 provides a foundation in singing that students will carry with them through middle and high school as they continue in chorus. The course allows singers to coordinate basic musical knowledge and skills while learning proper vocal techniques, ensemble technique, and music reading skills. The class meets every other day. There are performances each year in addition to social activities, awards and field trips. The music performed is of various forms and genres. Evening rehearsals and concerts held at specific times throughout the year are mandatory. **Students join all performing ensembles with the understanding that performances (concerts, etc. outside of the school day announced as a part of the course) constitute a part of their grade/evaluation.** Students receive regular grades as in required subjects.

Course Descriptions – Grade 7

English 7

Year

In English 7 the focus will be on the writing process. Students will write journal entries, paragraphs, poetry, and multi-paragraph essays. They will learn to write to an audience and with a clear purpose in mind. Using the Pennsylvania Standards expected by the PSSA, students will write persuasive, narrative, and informative pieces. Students will review parts of speech, parts of sentences, and other fundamentals with the ultimate goal of improving their writing skills.

Reading 7

Year

Reading 7 is a year-long course focused on building reading skills so that students can read academic texts, use "real world" documents, and enjoy reading for pleasure. The course focuses on independent reading skills, identifying literary elements, and analyzing author tools. Students build vocabulary, develop and demonstrate comprehension skills, use before, during, and after reading strategies, and demonstrate writing, listening, and speaking skills.

Earth & Space Science 7

Year

Earth and Space Science 7 is a full year science course that immerses students into the fundamentals of geosciences and astronomy. This course covers basic principles from the fields of geology, oceanography, meteorology and astronomy. Student learning experiences will be multi-faceted investigations into the physical structures, geological progression, processes and cycles of the Earth and the Universe. Students will be engaged participants in the standard classroom and laboratory learning environments.

Math 7

Year

The math curriculum reflects the PA Core Standards. It focuses on four critical areas: (1) developing understanding of and applying proportional relationships; (2) developing understanding of operations with rational numbers and working with expressions and linear equations; (3) solving problems involving scale drawings and informal geometric constructions, and working with two- and three- dimensional shapes to solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume; and (4) drawing inferences about populations based on samples.

Advanced Math 7

Year

The math curriculum reflects the PA Core Standards. This course differs from the non-accelerated 7th Grade course in that it contains content from 8th Grade. The additional content when compared to the non-accelerated course demands a faster

pace for instruction and learning. Content is organized into four critical areas: (1) develop an understanding/apply operations with rational numbers and extend their mastery of the properties of operations to develop an understanding of integer exponents; (2) use linear equations and systems of linear equations to represent, analyze, and solve a variety of problems; (3) build on previous work with single data distributions to compare two data distributions; and (4) solve problems involving scale drawings/informal geometric constructions, and working with two- and three-dimensional shapes to solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume.

Civics & Government 7

Year

This course will investigate the essential rights and responsibilities of citizens in systems of government. The class will begin with an emphasis on the conditions that existed in North America before governments were established. Then we'll explore the major events that led to the formation of the United States of America. These will be broken into 4 categories; Europe - Before Columbus Sailed to America, A Period of Benign Neglect, The French and Indian War, and The Events that Led to the Revolution. Students will explore the role of citizens in local, state, and national affairs. The course will also focus on the structure, organization and operation of the local, state and national government. In addition, students will compare and contrast the responsibilities and powers of the three branches within local, state and national governments. *Students will be expected to gain an understanding of the U. S. Constitution and the amendments contained therein.* Participants of this course will gain knowledge needed to become an active member of a democratic society. Students will be expected to be active in class by participating in group activities, presentations, open discussions and debates.

Physical Education

Rotation

Physical Education is a rotation course that will focus on individual and team activities along with physical fitness

Information Technology 7

Rotation

The seven-week rotation course is designed to provide students with time to explore and develop meaningful decisions about their future career choices. Students evaluate career options based on their interests, knowledge, skills, abilities, and educational goals. Students will understand the importance of developing an individualized career plan that will guide them as they transition to high school, post-secondary education, and eventually the workplace. In addition to career exploration, students will complete a budget analysis to determine if their career choice will support their future lifestyle

choices. Throughout the course, students will work on project-based assignments using *Smart Futures*, pacareerzone.org, and various *Google* applications. Students will meet the Burgettstown seventh grade technology objectives based on the *Business, Computer and Information Technology Standards*. At the conclusion of the course, students will have a clear understanding of their career pathway(s) to follow throughout high school by meeting the *Career Education and Work Standards* addressing four areas of knowledge:

- *Career Awareness and Preparation*
- *Career Acquisition*
- *Career Retention and Advancement*
- *Entrepreneurship*

Information Technology 7 is required of all seventh-grade students.

The History of Rock and Roll

Rotation

Students will have an opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of American music with a focus on the rock and roll era. Students will trace the roots of rock and roll and popular music from the early 1900's through present time. Students will develop a greater sense of musical meaning and interpretation through analyzing and performing a variety of rhythmic and tonal skills associated with the music referenced in class.

Health 7

Rotation

Health 7 is a rotation course that encompasses a variety of topics including drug and alcohol prevention, career exploration, understanding sexual harassment, and decision-making/refusal skills concerning AIDS and teen pregnancy. There will be certification in First Aid, Personal and community health as well as the basic foundations of good health.

Manufacturing Technology 7

Rotation

Manufacturing Technology is an introductory class designed to give the student a basic knowledge of how products are produced in the world. Students will research different inventors and report on the invention and how society was affected by the product. The remainder of the course will be used to produce a project.

Electives

Instrumental Music 7

Year

Students continue to learn and to improve upon the basic fundamentals needed for playing their instrument, through the use of method books and appropriate concert

literature. The students participate in several public performances throughout the year, including the graduation ceremony at the end of the school year. This class meets every day, all year.

Chorus 7-8

Year

Vocal Music 7-8 is open to all students in the 7-8 grades, who are interested in participating in a performing choral group. The curriculum offers background preparation for, and a performing opportunity for those students planning to become actively involved in the Senior High School Program. The course will coordinate basic musical knowledge and skills while emphasizing proper vocal, and ensemble techniques, ear training, music reading skills and the elements of music. There are performances each year in addition to social activities, awards, and field trips. The literature performed is of various forms and genres including sacred, secular and popular songs. Stress is given to age appropriate musicianship/aesthetic response including rehearsal and concert etiquette, and responsibilities associated with membership in a performance group. Evening rehearsals and concerts held at specific times throughout the year are mandatory. **Students join all performing ensembles with the understanding that performances (concerts, etc.) outside the school day announced as part of the course constitute a part of their grade/evaluation.** Few schedule conflicts arise between choirs and the sport activity programs.

Inventionland 7

Semester

In this course students will have a unique hands-on opportunity to work with an industry partner to research, design and create a brand new product. Through this process students will learn valuable problem solving skills as they are guided through the '9 Step Method' discovering what it takes to turn an idea from a concept into a working product sample that can be presented to a corporation or manufacturer. Students will also visit the Inventionland campus, and present their ideas at a regional maker competition.

Course Descriptions - Grade 8

English 8

Year

Students will enhance writing skills by studying and practicing a variety of genres. Writing in the informational, narrative and persuasive modes, using the PA Common Core Standards is emphasized. Students will also focus on writing Text Dependent Analysis responses. Students will write a research-based paper and deliver many speeches throughout the year. Group work will also be a part of the class.

Literature 8

Year

Eighth grade literature begins the year reviewing the purpose for reading, context clues, cause and effect, making inferences, making predictions, drawing conclusions, sequence of events, predicting, details, and analyzing and making judgments. As the year progresses, students are introduced to such concepts as setting, plot, point of view, characterization and conflict through the reading and interpretation of short stories, plays, poetry, and novels. Students respond orally, through completion of interpretive projects and writing paragraphs on varied topics related to the works read.

Science 8

Year

This course is designed as a full year eighth grade science class. The environmental section will include the study of living interactions, cycles, problems, solutions and resources. The chemistry section will include the study of measurement, matter and the periodic table of elements. The physics section will include the study of motion, forces, pressure and energy.

Math 8

Year

The Math 8 curriculum reflects the PA Core Standards. It focuses on five critical areas: (1) The Number System; (2) Expressions and Equations; (3) Functions; (4) Geometry and (5) Data.

8th Grade Algebra I

Year

The 8th Grade Algebra I curriculum reflects the PA Core Standards. It focuses on critical areas, including real numbers; linear equations and inequalities; functions; probability and statistics; measures of data and spread; systems of linear equations and inequalities; rational exponents and radical expressions; and polynomial operations. Advanced Math 7 is recommended for this course.

American History 8**Year**

The eighth grade American History course is designed to focus from the beginning to 1890. Additional components of the course include elements of Pennsylvania History plus implementation of geography through political/physical maps.

Physical Education**Rotation**

Physical Education is a rotation course that will focus on individual and team activities along with physical fitness.

Technology Education**Rotation**

This course is an introductory course in the areas of drafting, design, construction and manufacturing. Topics include: AutoCAD computer drawings, Delta Dart balsa wood airplanes, West Point bridge design, Digital Photoshop, SketchUp, Inventor, 3D Printing, and Measuring.

Art 8**Rotation**

This course focuses on art as a discipline and examines the areas of aesthetics, art criticism, and art history. Students will spend the rotation working on projects that will develop individual ideas and talents as an artist. They will explore projects that will increase knowledge about art materials, media and art production.

Sphero CSF**Rotation**

Students will use the Computer Science Foundations (CSF) curriculum that is taught alongside Sphero robots. Students will be introduced to Beginner Block programs, and learn basic programming concepts.

Information Technology 8**Rotation**

IT 8 is a 7 week course designed to reinforce basic word processing, internet navigation, internet safety, and career awareness skills. Students will meet the Burgettstown 8th grade technology objectives based on the Business, Computer, and Information Technology state standards as well as the standards for Career Education and Work. Students will also meet the Career Readiness Indicators for the Future Ready PA Index and ESSA Accountability. Students will build upon the technology skills they learned in 7th grade to demonstrate their ability to research, create, and edit documents.

The rotation will focus on two main objectives: **Career Education** and **Cyberbullying/bullying**. The Career Project begins early in their academic career and concludes with the Exit Project class during their junior or senior year. For this rotation, students will primarily use Smart Futures to explore and research careers that match his/her interests and educational goals, as well as many other related career topics. Cyberbullying is becoming one of our nation's fastest growing concerns in today's schools. Kids are not only being bullied online, but also in person. This course will address this serious issue and discuss ways students can protect themselves, prevent, and report cyberbullying. **Information Technology 8 is required of all eighth grade students.**

Topics to be Covered

- * Internet and Researching Skills
- * Advanced Word Processing
- * Career Education using Smart Futures
- * Cyber bullying/bullying

Electives

Instrumental Music 8

Year

Students continue to learn and improve upon the basic fundamentals needed for playing their instruments, through the use of method books and appropriate concert literature. The students participate in several public performances throughout the year, including the graduation ceremony at the end of the school year. This class meets every day, all year.

Chorus 7-8

Year

Vocal Music 7-8 is open to all students in the 7-8 grades, who are interested in participating in a performing choral group. The curriculum offers background preparation for, and a performing opportunity for those students planning to become actively involved in the Senior High School Program. The course will coordinate basic musical knowledge and skills while emphasizing proper vocal, and ensemble techniques, ear training, music reading skills and the elements of music. There are performances each year in addition to social activities, awards, and field trips. The literature performed is of various forms and genres including sacred, secular and

popular songs. Stress is given to age appropriate musicianship/aesthetic response including rehearsal and concert etiquette, and responsibilities associated with membership in a performance group. Evening rehearsals and concerts held at specific times throughout the year are mandatory. **Students join all performing ensembles with the understanding that performances (concerts, etc.) outside the school day announced as part of the course constitute a part of their grade/evaluation.** Few schedule conflicts arise between choirs and the sport activity programs.

Inventionland 8

Semester

In this course students will have a unique hands on opportunity to use engineering and design to create a brand new product! Through this process students will learn valuable problem solving, collaboration and communication skills as they are guided through the '9 Step Method' discovering what it takes to turn an idea from a concept, into a product that will then be presented to *Inventionland* at the end of the semester. **Prerequisite: Students must be currently enrolled in Algebra 1.**

Coding 8

Semester

Students will continue using the Computer Science Foundations (CSF) curriculum. The students will work their way up to Advanced Block programming, and gain a basic understanding of JavaScript.

By the end of this course, students will be able to: Use a series of nested controls - including loops & conditionals-to create more complex programs; Be able to use basic comparators & operators in their conditionals; Use functions as mini programs to perform a specific task within their larger program; Use and manipulate all Sphero sensors to meet appropriate purposes in their programs; Explain how variables are used in a program; Explain how Blocks equate to JavaScript code and manipulate specific sections of JS code. **Prerequisite: Students must be currently enrolled in Algebra 1.**