

**BLUE VALLEY
MIDDLE SCHOOLS**

“EDUCATION BEYOND EXPECTATIONS”



**PROGRAM PLANNING AND
CURRICULUM GUIDE**

2011-2012

BLUE VALLEY MIDDLE SCHOOLS

Aubry Bend Middle School 12501 W 175th Street,
913-624-2300 Overland Park, KS 66062

Blue Valley Middle School 5001 West 163rd Terrace
913/239-5100 Stilwell, KS 66085
Counseling Department 239-5116
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Harmony Middle School..... 10101 West 141st Street
913/239-5200 Overland Park, KS 66221
Counseling Department 239-5216
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Lakewood Middle School 6601 Edgewater Drive
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Leawood Middle School..... 2410 West 123rd Street
913/239-5300 Leawood, KS 66209
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Overland Trail Middle School..... 6201 West 133rd Street
913/239-5400 Overland Park, KS 66209
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Oxford Middle School..... 12500 Switzer
913/239-5500 Overland Park, KS 66213-1804
Counseling Department 239-5516
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Pleasant Ridge Middle School..... 9000 West 165th Street
913/239-5700 Stilwell, KS 66085
Counseling Department 239-5716
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Prairie Star Middle School 14201 Mission Road
913/239-5600 Leawood, KS 66224
Counseling Department 239-5616
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Blue Valley School District Office

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THE BLUE VALLEY MIDDLE SCHOOLS are designed to meet the needs of a special group of students: young adolescents. We look forward to working with parents to help students move successfully through these transitional years.

The middle school level focuses on two primary goals – improving the academic performance and encouraging the personal growth of each student. The comprehensive curriculum and structures ensure excellence around college and career readiness, personal and social responsibility, and technology literacy.

Blue Valley middle schools incorporate the following educational principles that are identified in the context of the early adolescence stage of human development.

- 1) Curriculum is grounded in rigorous, academic standards. The focus will be on what students should know and be able to do.
- 2) The school is a safe and healthy environment that provides purposeful and meaningful relationships among students and staff.
- 3) Parents and the community are involved in supporting student learning and personal growth.
- 4) Instruction is congruent with best educational practices.

Parents are invited to become involved as active partners in their child’s school experiences. The experience will be enriching for parents and children and helpful to the middle school community.

The Blue Valley middle school program is responsive to the unique developmental needs of young adolescents, including physical, intellectual, emotional, ethical and social domains.

BLUE VALLEY VIRTUES

The district has adopted the following virtues as part of their focus on character education.

RESPECT is care and regard for the value, dignity, uniqueness and safety of self and others.

RESPONSIBILITY is the willing fulfillment of obligations to self and others and accountability for one’s conduct.

HONESTY is valuing the truth and acting with integrity and authenticity.

SELF DISCIPLINE is living within agreed upon or self-imposed limits in pursuit of a greater good or a long-term goal.

COMPASSION is empathy for others, combined with the demonstration of kindness and support.

COURAGE is acting on your beliefs even in the face of adversity

PERSEVERANCE is putting forth effort to pursue well-defined goals.

THE MIDDLE SCHOOL EXPERIENCE

The Blue Valley Middle School program is responsive to the unique developmental needs of young adolescents, including physical, intellectual, emotional, ethical, and social domains. Middle school students in Blue Valley are provided an extensive exploratory program for the purpose of expanding their base of experiences. These exploratory classes concentrate on introducing practical lifetime skills as well as broadening student interest and self-knowledge. Exploratory classes include Speech and Drama, Technology Education, Family and Consumer Science, Art, Vocal Music, Non-Performance Music, Band, Strings, Orchestra, and Computer Technology.

Students will have many opportunities to be involved in learning experiences that explore connections among ideas and fields of knowledge. These experiences make learning more meaningful. Students learn to solve problems using skills and knowledge from many disciplines and do not spend large amounts of time learning skills in isolation. Applications of skills in real life situations are extremely important

Support Services

GIFTED

The Gifted class provides Special Education services for students who demonstrate characteristics of giftedness and display a need for challenge and affective activities not normally provided in a regular classroom. Services within the Gifted classroom are set forth by an Individualized Education Program (IEP). Supplementary to the IEP are group activities that enhance: Process Skills, Affective Growth, and Exploration and Extension Opportunities.

LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY

Students who have immigrated from a foreign country and are not proficient in the English language may enroll in Limited English Proficiency (LEP) coursework. The primary purpose of the class is to enable students to achieve proficiency in English. The course is also designed to provide instruction in American culture and to aid students in adjusting to school and life in the community. Depending on the proficiency of the student, additional class time may be implemented into the schedule.

LEARNING CENTER/RESOURCE ROOM

The Learning Center/Resource Room is a component of an inclusive program for students with Individualized Education Programs (IEP). Multidisciplinary teams of education professionals work with each student and his/her parents to determine which services best meet the student's needs. The resource teachers, along with other staff members, meet the needs of individual students through the teaching of learning strategies, individual skill development, group instruction, and consultation with general education teachers, and they can also provide resource room support within the general education classes when necessary as determined by the IEP team.

LIBRARY MEDIA

The library media specialist and classroom teacher collaboratively design lessons that engage students in using print, multi-media and electronic resources to build knowledge, solve problems and share their findings. Through a multi-step problem solving model, students begin learning skills to promote college readiness and skills needed for the 21st century. Students examine multiple resources; analyzing, synthesizing, evaluating and selecting the information that is most accurate and relevant to the completion of their work. Focus is placed on using technology in all phases of the research and presentation process. Technology is utilized to enhance information literacy. Intellectual property rights, copyright, plagiarism and proper citation of resources are addressed as part of each research project. Appreciation and enjoyment of literature remain an important part of the middle school library program and are promoted through book talks and literature-related activities.

GUIDED STUDY

Guided Study is offered as an every other day course for all students. This is a time to provide academic interventions, counseling, enrichment, and personal growth.

READ 180 PROGRAM

Read 180 is an intensive reading intervention program designed to meet the needs and interests of students whose reading achievement is below the proficient level. It directly addresses individual needs through adaptive software, high interest literature, and direct instruction in reading skills. Each book is leveled by Lexile, allowing students to successfully read according to their independent reading abilities.

Science

Science involves students in investigative experiences and inquiry in Life, Physical and Earth-Space Science. Students develop the abilities necessary to do the processes of scientific inquiry. Current issues in science and technology and the history and nature of science are explored. In each grade level students will develop an understanding of:

6th Grade Science

- Properties of matter - states of matter, density, atoms, elements, compounds, temperature
- Structure, history of the earth - soil, rocks, , earth layers, constructive and deconstructive forces, plate tectonics
- Forces and motions - push and pull, position and direction, potential and kinetic energy, Newton's Laws, simple machines, energy transfer
- Weather and climate - properties of the ocean, fresh water, atmosphere, weather systems, earth's cycles

7th Grade Science

- Environmental science - ecosystems, limiting factors, food chains and webs, energy transfer, classification, adaptation, extinction
- Cells and heredity - characteristics of organisms, single and multi-cellular organisms, sexual and asexual reproduction, heredity,
- Living systems - structure and function, structure and function breakdown, behavior and response, homeostasis

8th Grade Science

- Chemistry – organization of the atom, isotopes, bonds, periodic table of elements, chemical reactions
- Physics – Newton's Laws, forms of energy, thermodynamics, forces in nature, waves, electromagnetic waves
- Earth-Space Science – plate tectonics, geologic time, earth, moon, sun relationships, stellar evolution, structure of the universe

Social Studies

The Blue Valley Social Studies program assists students in developing their awareness and respect of self, our nation, and our world as they become well informed citizens who strive to understand the past and improve society. Students use active learning situations centered on inquiry based and critical thinking opportunities to solve problems. The learning environment in a social studies classroom includes gathering, evaluating, organizing and presenting data from a vast and rich variety of current resources, such as textbooks, primary and secondary sources, technology and resources within the community. This program is designed to increase a student's citizenship skills, an awareness of the world around them and ability to apply social studies concepts to problem solving activities.

6th Grade—Ancient World Civilizations

- Students in 6th grade Investigate ancient and medieval civilizations by examining the geography, religion, achievements, political structure, economics, and social structure of Egypt, Africa, India, China, Japan, Greece, Rome, Mayan, Incan, and Aztec, and the Middle Ages.
- Emphasis is placed on the development and characteristics of government and culture while comparing and contrasting these societies to the United States.

7th Grade—America's Identity

- Students in 7th grade study Post-American Revolution through Reconstruction, 1877. In addition, Kansas history will be taught during 4th quarter.
- *We the People* may be used as a supplemental program to support a study in American government.
- Emphasis is placed on examining trends and concepts in American history that have contributed to the development of an American identity grounded in the nation's founding documents.

8th Grade—America's Voice at Home and Abroad

- Students in 8th grade study American history 1877 to the present.
- Emphasis is placed on examining trends and concepts. then applying in study to understand current events.
- Students will examine historical events from multiple perspectives using primary and secondary source to determine accurate depictions of America's past.

Communication Arts / Reading

The communication arts program provides a balance between reading, literature, and writing. Both the communication arts and reading curriculum will be integrated to support student learning and effectively enhance communication and comprehension skills. Texts from a variety of genres will be read. The writing process and six traits will continue throughout middle school.

6th Grade Reading

- Compare and contrast character traits, motives, and viewpoints
- Identify and describe author's purpose and the techniques an author uses
- Identify evidence that supports conclusions in persuasive text
- Understand aspects of theme and support information from text
- Structural analysis of new vocabulary

6th Grade Writing

- Produce clearly written compositions that have one main idea with relevant, supporting details
- Write a cohesive piece with an engaging introduction, well-sequenced body and a satisfying conclusion
- Use specific words, colorful language and descriptive phrases appropriate for purpose and audience
- Use complete sentences with that flow and sound natural

7th Grade Reading

- Compare and contrast, cause and effect relationships, author's purpose, and persuasive techniques
- Explain the relationship between elements of an author's style in a text and his or her purpose for writing the text
- Identify the author's position in a persuasive text and describes techniques the author uses to support that position, e.g., bandwagon, glittering generalities, and other techniques.
- Identify aspects of theme and recognize recurring themes across various texts

7th Grade Writing

- Produce clearly written multi-paragraph compositions that develop one theme
- Write a cohesive paper with an engaging introduction, sequentially developed ideas, and a satisfying conclusion
- Correctly use nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, and descriptive phrases appropriate for various purposes and audiences
- Use complete sentences with natural dialogue and varied sentence structure, e.g. simple, compound, complex

8th Grade Reading

- Compare and contrast cause and effect relationships, author's purpose, and persuasive techniques in one or more appropriate level texts and how these varying aspects relate to one another
- Explain the relationship between an author's use of literary devices in a text,(e.g., foreshadowing, flashback, irony, symbolism, tone and mood) and his or her purpose for writing the text
- Identify the author's position in a persuasive text and describes techniques the author uses to support that position, e.g., bandwagon, glittering generalities, and other techniques.
- Identify aspects of theme and recognize recurring themes across various texts

8th Grade Writing

- Produce clearly written multi-paragraph compositions that develop one theme
- Writes a cohesive paper with an engaging introduction, sequentially developed ideas, appropriate transitions, and a satisfying conclusion
- Use precise words (powerful verbs, specific nouns, vivid adjectives and adverbs) that create images in the reader's mind and that are appropriate for audience, purpose and context
- Use complete sentences with natural dialogue and varied sentence structure, e.g., compound, complex, compound-complex

Mathematics

The Blue Valley Middle Schools use Connected Mathematics Project 2 to teach the Blue Valley Math curriculum. All students should be able to reason and communicate proficiently in mathematics. They should have knowledge of and skill in the use of the vocabulary, forms of representation, materials, tools, techniques, and intellectual methods of the discipline of mathematics, including the ability to define and solve problems with reason, insight, inventiveness, and technical proficiency.

Problem Centered--Important mathematical concepts are embedded in engaging problems. Students develop understanding and skill as they explore the problems, individually, in a group, or with the class.

Practice with Concepts and Related Skills--The in-class development problems and the homework exercises give students practice distributed over time with important concepts, related skills, and algorithms.

Integrated Algebra 6/Integrated Algebra 6 Plus

- Understanding Fraction Operations--Estimation with fractions, Addition and Subtraction of fractions, Multiplication and Division of fractions
- Decimal and Percent--Addition and Subtraction with Decimals, Multiplication and Division with Decimals, Understanding Percent including discount and tax
- Probability--Understanding games of chance, theoretical and experimental probability
- Symmetry and Transformations--line of symmetry, translation, rotation, reflection
- Geometry--understanding 2-dimensional geometric formulas
- Introducing Algebra--Variables, tables, coordinate graphs, analyzing graphs and tables, develop strategies writing equations, formulas and solving equations
- Similarity--enlarging and shrinking shapes, understanding similar polygons, making connections between algebra and geometry, works with ratios in similar figures

Integrated Algebra 7/Integrated Algebra Plus

- Integers--Addition and Subtractions of integers, Multiplication and Division of integers, understanding mathematical properties
- Ratio, Proportion and Percent--Understanding ratios and proportions, comparing ratios, percent and fractions, comparing and scaling rates, and making sense of proportions
- 2 and 3-Dimensional Measurement--continues working 2-D geometry formulas, as well as formulas for surface area and volume
- Number Sense--all operations and scientific notation with very large and small numbers
- Data and Statistics--data analysis using bar, line, box-and-whisker plots, stem-and-leaf plots
- Linear Relationships--writing and evaluating linear expressions, writing and solving linear equations, nth term rules, coordinate graphing

Integrated Algebra 8/Integrated Algebra Plus

- Linear and Inverse Relationships--solve linear equations and inequalities, inverse variation, interprets numeric and graphic patterns
- Making Sense of Symbols--equivalent expressions, combining expressions, functions, polynomials including quadratics, exponential growth and decay, growth patterns and growth rates, patterns with exponents,
- Probability and Expected Value--Binomial outcomes, compound probability
- The Pythagorean Theorem--learning and using the Pythagorean Theorem, square roots,
- Linear systems and Inequalities--solves systems of equations and inequalities

Exploratory/Elective Program

Students in the Blue Valley middle schools take a variety of courses in the fine and practical arts areas. All sixth grade students are enrolled in technology education, computer technology, speech and drama, art and family and consumer science. All sixth grade students choose a music experience of band, strings, or vocal music that meet on an every other day basis with world language. All seventh grade students enroll in semester elective classes making their choices from the following areas: art, computer applications, world language, speech/drama, vocal music, instrumental music (band or strings), non-performance music, foods, clothing, or technology education. Band and strings are year-long classes. Students may choose a year-long vocal music class. Eighth grade students choose four semester elective classes from the courses available. Separate speech and drama classes are offered at the eighth grade level. Band and strings are year-long classes. Students may choose a yearlong vocal music or world language class. Sixth, seventh and eighth grade students receive physical education instruction every other day all year long.

- Physical Education, Music (Vocal or Instrumental), Guided Study, and World Language are required during sixth grade year. The classes will meet every other day. Sixth graders will also enroll in one additional exploratory class that will rotate every seven weeks.
- Seventh graders will receive two exploratory classes daily and physical education and guided study every other day all year.
- Eighth graders will receive two elective classes daily and physical education and guided study every other day.

Grade Level Exploratory Courses

6th Grade - Required

- pre-engineering
- computer technology
- speech and drama
- art
- family and consumer science
- music experience of band, strings, or vocal music
- world language

7th Grade – Optional (Each class is a semester long unless otherwise noted).

- art
- computer technology
- world language
- speech/drama
- vocal music (students may choose a year-long vocal music class)
- instrumental music (band and strings are year-long classes)
- family and consumer science
- pre-engineering

8th Grade - Optional (Students may choose four semester elective classes)

- art
- emerging technologies
- world language (students may choose a year-long World Language class)
- speech/drama
- vocal music (Students may choose a year-long vocal music class)
- instrumental music (band and strings are year-long classes)
- decisions for living (foods)/clothing and design
- pre-engineering

Performing & Visual Arts

Band & Strings

Band & Strings in middle school focuses on a range of instruction including proper playing techniques, scales, rhythm, sight-reading, concert literature preparation, and other principles of music theory, music history, and music performance. Students are expected to purchase the necessary method book for the class. Although a select number and type of instruments may be available for use from the school, students are generally expected to provide their own instrument. Students are expected to participate in scheduled performances throughout the school year.

- **Beginning Band or Strings (6)** are electives taken for a full year on alternate days. Students will have the opportunity to begin study on a brass, woodwind, or percussion instrument (band) or violin, viola, cello, or double bass (strings). In order to achieve proper balance within the group, instrument choice is made during the first two weeks of school.
- **Band or Strings (6)** are electives taken for a full year on alternate days. These 2 classes are designed for any student in grade 6 who has had previous experience playing a band or stringed instrument.
- **Band or Strings (7)** are electives taken for a full year one period per day. Many students in these classes have had at least two consecutive years playing experience, or the equivalent, on their individual instruments.
- **Band or Strings (8)** are electives taken for a full year one period per day. Many students in these classes have had at least three consecutive years playing experience, or the equivalent, on their individual instruments.

Vocal Music

Vocal music in middle school begins in 6th grade by focusing on a range of instruction including individual and group vocal techniques, rhythm, melody, harmony, form, terminology, and enjoyment and appreciation of music. Students electing to continue with vocal music in 7th and 8th grade will explore the changing voice, refine choral skills previously taught, and develop skills in sight reading, theory, harmonic progressions, and rehearsal techniques. Student accountability within the ensemble is expected. Students in all grades are expected to participate in scheduled performances throughout the school year.

- **Vocal Music (6)** is an elective taken for a full year on alternate days.
- **Vocal Music (7)** is an elective class that is either taken for one semester or a full year.
- **Vocal Music (8)** is an elective class that is either taken for one semester or a full year. Students anticipating participation in high school vocal music are encouraged to enroll in this class for the full year.

Speech & Drama

Speech & Drama at the middle school provide an enjoyable approach to self-development, expression, and creativity. Students are encouraged to express ideas and incorporate skills designed to promote self-esteem, poise, presence, and communication.

Speech & Drama (6) is an exploratory class that will provide a wide range of experiences in communication.

- Students explore their feelings both formally and informally in a safe, success-oriented environment meant to foster self-esteem

Speech & Drama (7) is a semester elective class.

- Designed to build on the skills learned in 6th grade
- Enhance and strengthen self-confidence, poise, peer interaction, and listening, social, peer interaction, and oral communication skills

Speech (8) is a semester elective class designed to acquaint students with areas offered in the high school speech curriculum.

- Communication skills are further developed with small group work and individualized instruction to meet the needs of the variety of students

Drama (8) is a semester elective class.

- Develops verbal and non-verbal communication skills through participation in drama, pantomime, listening, and interpretation of materials
- Creativity, concentration, and observation are stressed
- Opportunity to perform before peers

Visual Arts

The Middle School Visual Arts program is designed to engage students in critical thinking and imaginative problem solving. Elements of Art and Principles of Design will be used as the foundation for creating and evaluating artwork. A nurturing and creative environment is provided in which students can develop their own artistic voice.

6th Grade Visual Arts

- Provide students with a transition from the elementary art program to the middle school program
- Introduce the developmental art skills and experiences that increase their understanding and appreciation for art
- Explore two and three-dimensional art, such as drawing, painting, mixing color, 1-point perspective, ceramic hand-building, mixed media, and printmaking
- Look at subject matter, symbols, ideas and their meanings in art making

7th Grade Visual Art (18 weeks)

- Provides a transition from the exploratory art program to the elective classes
- Create meaningful images that focus on two-dimensional and three-dimensional media, such as drawing, painting, printmaking, clay, plaster, and paper to communicate and solve visual problems in more depth
- Evaluate meaning by interpreting subject matter, symbols and ideas in their artwork

A fee is charged.

8th Grade Visual Art (18 weeks)

- An elective course designed to provide the student with appropriate knowledge as needed for the transition into the high school program
- Multiple media, techniques and processes are used to involve the student in advanced application of visual problem solving in two-dimensional and three-dimensional art forms
- Drawing, painting, color mixing, sculpture or ceramics, printmaking, or mixed media are some of the creative medias explored
- Create, understand, and appreciate works of art through the use of the Design Elements and Principles, and are the foundation of the program
- Interpret meaning in works of art through subject matter, symbols, and ideas demonstrating critical thinking and visual literacy

A student fee is charged.

Practical Arts

Students in the Blue Valley middle schools take a variety of courses in the fine and practical arts areas. Middle school exploratory teachers refine and reinforce the skills that have been introduced at the elementary level as well as teach new skills. In addition to the specialized skills and objectives of each individual course, the exploratory/electives program at the middle school provides students with the opportunity to apply math, science, social studies, reading,

and communication arts skills in a real life setting. Each learning experience and every class at the middle school level is equally important. Exploration is a developmental need of early adolescents and provides for the practical application of knowledge and skills. During the early adolescent years youngsters are discovering not only who they are, but also defining who and what they want to be and can become. Specific courses offered through the middle school exploratory program can be seen below. If you have any questions about specific objectives, skills, and knowledge of any exploratory classes, please contact your child's teacher.

Computer Technology

Computer Technology 6

Computer Technology 6 familiarizes the student with basic computer functions and safe internet use. A variety of integrated projects provide students with the opportunity to enhance their use of word processing, spreadsheet and graphics applications. Additional software and multi-media technology is used to create presentations and reinforce problem solving skills.

Computer Technology 7 (18 weeks)

Computer Technology 7 provides students further experience with word processing, spreadsheet and graphics applications as they are integrated into various individual and team projects. Internet safety and keyboarding are reinforced. Desktop publishing, multimedia presentation design and problem-solving skills are developed using a variety of software and web tools. Students are introduced to programming, animation, and digital photography and utilize the latest technology to enhance their academic experience.

Emerging Technologies 8 (18 weeks)

Emerging Technologies 8 focuses on the use of new technologies as tools for learning. This is a dynamic course with content that is updated frequently to reflect new technologies that students will be expected to use in the full range of classes taken during high school. Students employ college readiness skills and technology literacies to solve real-world problems. Students are also introduced to the tools, processes and self-management skills required for online courses.

Family and Consumer Science (FACS)

Family and Consumer Sciences 6

During this exploratory course, students participate in introductory projects related to food preparation and sewing. Students use current research on nutrients, the Food Pyramid, and food labels to make wise personal food choices.

Seventh Grade

Family and Consumer Sciences 7 (18 weeks)

In this semester course, students apply problem solving and creativity as they explore the topics of food, nutrition, clothing and consumerism. Skills will be learned to promote decision-making for a well-balanced and healthy life. Students will utilize current technology and equipment in the foods and sewing labs as they complete individual and group projects and challenges. **Students will provide materials for the clothing/sewing portion of the course. A course fee will cover food supplies.**

Eighth Grade

Decisions for Living – Foods (18 weeks)

In this Family and Consumer Sciences course, students apply problem-solving and creativity to real-life challenges related to healthy food choices and habits, fitness and exercise, food preparation, interpersonal communication, community and environmental responsibility, and money management and consumer issues. Skills in goal setting, decision making, and time management are demonstrated through the completion of various projects using technology and the foods lab. Students explore career interests and gain awareness of related high school and college options. **A fee is charged.**

Clothing and Design (18 weeks)

In this Family and Consumer Sciences course, students explore the use of fabrics and textiles in personal and home decoration projects. Labs develop creativity in use of personal space and image enhancement. Skills in goal setting, decision making and time management are demonstrated through the completion of various projects using current technology. In addition, students develop consumer skills and explore career interests and related high school and college options. Students are responsible for materials required for projects.

Pre-engineering

Pre-Engineering 6

Pre-engineering 6 offers students an introduction to the engineering design process as it related to various fields in technology. Through projects in the computer and wood production labs, students gain an understanding of technology's impact on our lives, construction processes, shop tools and safety, drafting, and power and energy. Students participate in hands-on activities as they collaborate and use the design process to solve challenge problems.

Pre-engineering 7

Pre-engineering 7 offers students an introduction to engineering as it relates to the technology fields of Construction, Drafting, Manufacturing, and Power and Energy. Students apply the engineering design process to solve challenges that encourage innovation, critical thinking and teamwork. Students design, build and test prototype solutions to challenges such as truss bridges, CO₂ dragsters, and home designs. As students work in the wood production and computer labs to solve these challenges, they develop skills in basic drafting, technical math, shop safety and the use of tools and equipment. **A fee is charged.**

Pre-engineering 8

Pre-engineering 8 expands students' understanding of engineering as it relates to the technology fields of Construction, Communications, Drafting, Manufacturing, Transportation, and Power and Energy. Working in the wood production and computer labs, students apply the engineering design process to solve challenges that encourage innovation, critical thinking and teamwork. Students gain skills related to materials and equipment safety, technical math, use of hand and power tools, blueprint reading, and CAD drafting. Students design, build and test prototype solutions to challenges in such areas as robotics, architectural structures, mechanical products, and alternative-fuel vehicles. **A fee is charged.**

World Language

Sixth Grade

Continuing Spanish 6

This full year course for 6th graders is offered on alternate days. The focus of the class is on speaking and listening in simple sentences, basic writing and limited reading. Students learn very basic grammar concepts. This class is taught in Spanish. Continuing Spanish is available in all middle schools.

Continuing French 6

This full year course for 6th graders is offered on alternate days. The focus of the class is on speaking and listening in simple sentences, basic writing and limited reading. Students learn very basic grammar concepts. This class is taught in French. Continuing French is available at Leewood and Prairie Star Middle School.

Seventh Grade

Continuing Spanish 7 (18 weeks)

This semester course for 7th graders is offered daily. The focuses of the class is on increasing vocabulary and expand language use developing skills for reading and writing skills. Students will continue to learn basic grammar concepts. This class is taught in Spanish. Continuing Spanish is available in all middle schools. This course is a prerequisite for Continuing Spanish 8.

Continuing French 7 (18 weeks)

This semester course for 7th graders is offered daily. The focuses of the class is on increasing vocabulary and expand language use developing skills for reading and writing skills. Students will continue to learn basic grammar concepts. This class is taught in French. Continuing French is available at Leawood and Prairie Star Middle School. This course is a prerequisite for Continuing French 8.

Eighth Grade**Continuing Spanish 8 (36 weeks)**

This year-long elective course is designed for students who have completed Continuing Spanish 7 or its equivalent. The focuses of the class is on increasing vocabulary and expand language use developing skills for reading and writing skills. Students will continue to learn basic grammar concepts. This class is taught in Spanish. Continuing Spanish is available in all middle schools. This course is a prerequisite for Continuing Spanish 8.

Continuing French 7 (18 weeks)

This semester course for 7th graders is offered daily. The focuses of the class is on increasing vocabulary and expand language use developing skills for reading and writing skills. Students will continue to learn basic grammar concepts. This class is taught in French. Continuing French is available at Leawood and Prairie Star Middle School. This course is a prerequisite for Continuing French 8.

Physical Education

All Grade Levels

Physical education is required all year, every other day. Physical fitness concepts and activities are stressed. Skill fundamentals of team sports and lifetime sports are also introduced in the basic P.E. curriculum. Each student may need to purchase combination locks to secure items left in P.E. lockers. All clothing items should be marked with the student's name. Students are expected to dress out and participate. They take written tests and may produce portfolio pieces concerning physical activity. Students are expected to maintain or improve their level of fitness yearly. It is important to note the Health Education curriculum is taught with age appropriate content and materials are integrated by classroom teachers, PE teachers, school nurses and school counselors. For specific information about content of the health curriculum please see the school nurse or the building administrator.

2011-2012
Sample Student Schedule

	Sixth Grade	Seventh Grade	Eighth Grade
Period 1	Social Studies	Speech	PE/Guided Study
Period 2	Math Plus	Spanish	Science
Period 3	Art	Math	Social Studies
Period 4	Spanish/Music	PE/Guided Study	Reading
Period 5	Communication Arts	Communication Arts	Math Plus
Period 6	PE/Guided Study	Reading	Communication Arts
Period 7	Science	Social Studies	Spanish
Period 8	Reading	Science	Computer

Notes:

- Lunch schedules will vary by building with serving times generally being scheduled between 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.
- This is a sample schedule only. Individual school schedules may vary in order to accommodate staffing.

Additional information regarding the Blue Valley School District curriculum can be found at:
<http://www.bluevalleyk12.org/EdServices/curriculum/currguides.cfm>

Additional information regarding the Blue Valley School District can be found at:
www.bluevalleyk12.org



“Education Beyond Expectations”

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