

BLUE VALLEY MIDDLE SCHOOLS

PROGRAM PLANNING
AND
CURRICULUM GUIDE

2016-2017



“EDUCATION BEYOND EXPECTATIONS”

BLUE VALLEY MIDDLE SCHOOLS

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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 its 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.

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

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

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, Pre-Engineering, Family and Consumer Science, Art, Vocal Music, Band, Strings, Orchestra, World Languages 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

GUIDED DISCOVERY

The Guided Discovery class provides special education services for students who have been identified as gifted via the district's gifted education eligibility process. This process identifies students who demonstrate the characteristics of giftedness and a need for specially designed instruction that is not provided in the general education program. Services within gifted education and Guided Discovery are defined by an Individualized Education Program (IEP). Learning experiences are designed for small group activities based on the gifted education curriculum and personalized experiences based on each student's IEP.

ENGLISH FOR SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES (ESOL)

After being tested, students who lack proficiency in the English language may enroll in English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) coursework. The primary purpose of the class is for 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. Currently there are four middle school centers to serve our English language learners (ELLs). ESOL middle school centers, listed with their feeder schools, are: Lakewood Middle (ABMS and PRMS), Oxford Middle (HMS), Prairie Star Middle (BVM), and Overland Trail Middle (LMS). If a student needs ESOL services and the home school does not have a program, transportation to the ESOL Center middle school is provided by the district free of charge.

LEARNING CENTER/RESOURCE ROOM

The Learning Center/Resource Room serves students who have an Individualized Education Program (IEP). Multidisciplinary teams of educational professionals work with students and their parents to determine which services best meet the students' needs. The resource teachers, along with other staff members, provide instruction on learning strategies and individual skill development. Services may include individual or small group instruction and consultation with general education teachers. Special education staff members also provide support within the general education classes when included in students' IEPs.

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 findings. Through a multi-step problem-solving model, students learn skills needed for high school and beyond. 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 integrating technology into all phases of the research process. 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.

READING STRATEGIES

The reading strategies class is designed to meet the needs of students whose reading achievement is below the proficient level. Students identified for this class will be personally contacted by school personnel to discuss enrollment.

Science

Science involves students using the 8 practices of Science and Engineering (Asking Questions and Defining Problems, Developing and Using Models, Planning and Carrying Out Investigations, Analyzing and Interpreting Data, Using Mathematics and Computational Thinking, Constructing Explanations and Designing Solutions, Engaging in Argument from Evidence, Obtaining, Evaluating, and Communicating Information) to learn about Life, Physical and Earth-Space Science. Students develop the abilities necessary to do the processes of both scientific inquiry and engineering design. Current issues in science and the influence of science, engineering, and technology on society and the natural world are explored. In each grade level students will develop an understanding of:

6th Grade Science

- Space Systems – The Solar System, Galaxies, Milky Way, Space Exploration, Lunar Phases, Eclipses, Seasons
- History of Earth – Rock Strata, Fossil Records, Geologic Age, Plate Tectonics, Earthquakes, Volcanoes
- Earth Processes – Energy and Matter, Weathering and Erosion, Rock Cycling
- The Changing Earth – Water, Resources and Resource Distribution
- Weather – Atmospheric and Oceanic Circulation, Salinity, Landforms
- Climate – Global Climate Change

7th Grade Science

- Cells – Structure and Function of Cells
- Multicellular Interactions within Body Systems – Interactions of Body Systems
- Growth, Development, and Reproduction of Organisms – Growth, Development, Reproduction
- Genetics – Inheritance of Traits, Variation of Traits, Artificial Selection
- Natural Selection and Adaptation – Natural Selection, Adaptation, Common Ancestry, Embryological Development, Biodiversity
- Matter and Energy in Organisms – Photosynthesis, Cellular Respiration, Flow of Matter and Energy in Ecosystems
- Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems – Patterns of Interaction

8th Grade Science

- Energy – Definitions of Energy, Potential and Kinetic, Conservation, Transfer
- Structures and Properties of Matter – Atoms, Molecules, Substances, Physical and Chemical Properties, Solids, Liquids, Gases
- Chemical Reactions – Chemical Reactions, Substances, Engineering Design Challenges
- Forces and Interactions – Force and Motions, Types of Interactions, Newton’s Laws
- Waves and Their Applications in Technologies for Information Transfer – Wave Properties, Electromagnetic Radiation, Information Technologies and Instrumentation

Social Studies

The Blue Valley Social Studies curriculum supports students developing the skills they need to be informed decision makers and engaged citizens in the 21st century. Students are taught the fundamentals necessary to engage in historical thinking while simultaneously being introduced to the physical, political, economic, social and cultural geography of our increasingly interdependent and complex world. Students are expected to analyze primary and secondary sources, view events from multiple perspectives, explore how contemporary issues connect to student learning and continue to develop literacy, research, and technology skills. Each course is focused on students investigating and addressing compelling questions in the following areas of study:

6th Grade—Ancient World History

- Explore the history of the Ancient World starting with Early River Civilizations to Early Americas.

7th Grade—Geography/KS History

Geography (1st Semester)

- Explore the discipline of geography, including physical geography, culture, interactions with earth and environment, and the influence of government, economics, and religion on regions.

KS History (2nd Semester)

- Explore the history of the State of Kansas starting with early civilizations and explorers to the present day.

8th Grade— United States History

- Explore the history of the United States of America starting in 1877 to the present day.

English Language Arts/Reading Grades 6-8

The English Language Arts program provides an integrated balance of reading narrative and informational texts, along with writing tasks. Students will become adept at gathering information, evaluating sources and citing material accurately, reporting findings from their research and analysis of sources in a clear and cogent manner. To be college- and career-ready writers, students must take task, purpose, and audience into careful consideration, choosing words, information, structures, and formats deliberately. Through an integrated approach within the English Language Arts and Reading courses, skills and strategies will be developed and applied through the Kansas College and Career Readiness Standards.

Each grade level has unique units developed that incorporate literature, informational text, writing, and language skills that support a particular theme. These units balance the following skills within each ELA strand.

Reading Literature and Informational Texts

- Key Ideas and Details
 - Read closely and make logical inferences
 - Identify central idea or theme, summarize
- Craft and Structure
 - Structure of text
 - Point of view and purpose
- Integration of Knowledge and Ideas
 - Content in diverse formats and media
 - Argument claims, validity and relevance
 - Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity

Writing

- Text Types and Purposes
 - Argument
 - Informative/explanatory
 - Narrative
- Production and Distribution of Writing
 - Task, purpose and audience
 - Use of technology to produce and publish
- Research to Build and Present Knowledge
 - Short and sustained research projects
 - Gather relevant information from multiple and digital sources
 - Draw evidence from literary and informational texts
- Range of Writing
 - Timed writing, extended writing

Speaking and Listening

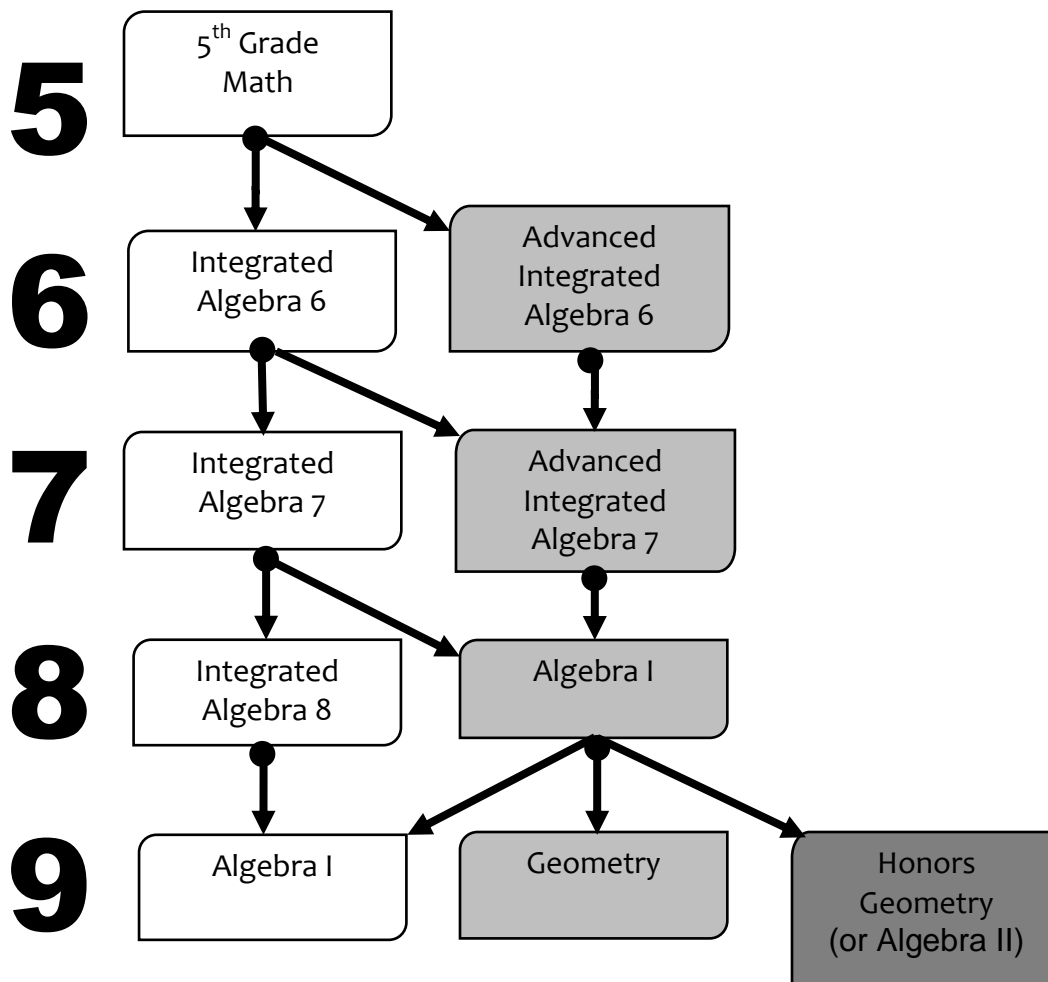
- Comprehension and Collaboration
 - Prepare, participate, collaborate in a range of conversations
 - Integrate and evaluate presented information
- Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas

Language

- Conventions of Standard English
- Knowledge of Language
- Vocabulary Acquisition and Use

Mathematics

MATH PROGRESSIONS



Are you Considering Moving to Advanced Math?

Students may become more developmentally ready for **advanced** math classes as they mature and grow, so a move to an advanced class the following year is possible, but there are considerations:

- There are two distinct curriculums for regular and advanced classes; moving to an advanced class **will create some learning and knowledge gaps**.
- This gap will have to be addressed on the student's time before the beginning of the following school year. **Blue Valley will offer a summer enrichment opportunity following 6th and 7th grade through the summer exploration program.** Costs will be determined by summer school.

Integrated Algebra 6

- Ratios and Proportional Relationships: Understand ratio concepts and use ratio reasoning to solve problems.
- Number System: Apply and extend previous understandings of multiplication and division to divide fractions by fractions. Compute fluently with multi-digit numbers and find common factors and multiples. Apply and extend previous understandings of numbers to the system of rational numbers.
- Expressions and Equations: Apply and extend previous understandings of arithmetic to algebraic expressions. Reason about and solve one-variable equations and inequalities. Represent and analyze quantitative relationships between dependent and independent variables.
- Geometry: Solve real-world mathematical problems involving area, surface area, and volume.
- Statistics and Probability: Develop understanding of statistical variability. Summarize and describe distributions.

Advanced Integrated Algebra 6

- Ratios and Proportional Relationships: Understand ratio concepts and use ratio reasoning to solve problems.
- Number System: Compute fluently with multi-digit numbers and find common factors and multiples. Apply and extend previous understandings of multiplication and division to divide fractions by fractions. Apply and extend previous understandings of operations to add, subtract, multiply, and divide rational numbers (positive and negative).
- Expressions and Equations: Apply and extend previous understandings of arithmetic to algebraic expressions. Reason about and solve one-variable equations and inequalities, including operations with rational numbers. Represent and analyze quantitative relationships between dependent and independent variables. Use inverse operations to analyze relationships.
- Geometry: Solve real-world mathematical problems involving area, surface area, and volume of rectangular prisms to extend the Expressions and Equations domain. Draw polygons on the coordinate plane.
- Statistics and Probability: Develop understanding of statistical variability. Summarize and describe distributions.

Integrated Algebra 7

- Geometry: Draw, construct and describe geometrical figures and describe the relationships between them. Solve real-life and mathematical problems involving angle, measure, area, surface area, and volume of two- and three-dimensional objects composed of polygons, cubes, and prisms.
- Number System: Apply and extend previous understandings of operations with fractions to add, subtract, multiply, and divide rational numbers.
- Ratios and Proportional Relationships: Analyze proportional relationships and use them to solve real-world and mathematical problems.
- Expressions and Equations: Use properties of operations to generate equivalent expressions. Solve real-life and mathematical problems using numerical and algebraic expressions and equations. Emphasis will be placed upon analyzing, graphing, and understanding linear relationships which is the foundation of algebraic concepts.
- Statistics and Probability: Use random sampling to draw inferences about a population. Draw informal comparative inferences about two populations. Investigate chance processes and develop, use, and evaluate probability models.

Advanced Integrated Algebra 7 (pre-requisite successful completion of Advanced Integrated Algebra 6 curriculum)

- Geometry: Draw, construct and describe geometrical figures and describe the relationships between them. Solve real-life and mathematical problems involving angle, measure, area, surface area, and volume by developing formulas. Verify and describe congruence and similarity using physical models or technology. Proof through informal arguments will be stressed. Understand and describe the effect of dilations, translations, rotations, and reflections on two dimensional figures.
- Number System: Prerequisite understanding of operations with rational numbers (positive/negative fractions and decimals) is expected. Brief review and extensions of these concepts will occur.
- Ratios and Proportional Relationships: Analyze proportional relationships and use them to solve real-world and mathematical problems. Emphasis will be placed on computing unit rates and representing proportionality in tables, graphs, equations, diagrams, and verbal descriptions.

- Expressions and Equations: Use properties of operations to generate equivalent expressions by factoring and expanding linear expressions with rational coefficients. Solve real-life and mathematical problems using numerical and algebraic expressions and equations involving constructing simple equations and inequalities. Derive and use the equation $y=mx + b$ on a coordinate plane.
- Statistics and Probability: Use random sampling to draw inferences about a population. Draw informal comparative inferences about two populations by using measures of center and variability. Investigate chance processes and develop, use, and evaluate probability models using organized lists, tables, tree diagrams and simulation.

Integrated Algebra 8

- Number System: Know that there are numbers that are rational, and approximate them by rational numbers.
- Expressions and Equations: Work with radicals and integer exponents. Understand the connections between proportional relationships, lines, and linear equations. Analyze and solve linear equations and pairs of simultaneous linear equations.
- Functions: Define, evaluate and compare functions. Use functions to model relationships between quantities.
- Geometry: Understand congruence and similarity using physical models, transparencies, or geometry software. Understand and apply the Pythagorean Theorem.
- Statistics and Probability: Investigate patterns of association in bivariate data.

Algebra 1- (pre-requisite successful completion of Advanced Integrated Algebra 7 curriculum)

- Number and Quantity
 - The Real Number System: Extend the properties of exponents to rational exponents. Use properties of rational and irrational numbers.
 - Quantities: Reason quantitatively and use units to solve problems.
- Algebra Expressions and Equations (linear, exponential & quadratic)
 - Seeing Structure in Expressions: Interpret the structure of expressions. Write expressions in equivalent forms to solve problems.
 - Polynomials and Rational Expressions: Perform arithmetic operations on polynomials.
 - Equations: Create equations that describe numbers or relationships.
 - Reasoning with Equations and Inequalities: Understand solving equations as a process of reasoning and explain the reasoning. Solve equations and inequalities in one variable. Solve systems of equations and inequalities. Represent and solve equations and inequalities graphically.
- Functions
 - Interpreting Functions: Understand the concept of a function and use function notation. Interpret functions that arise in applications in terms of the context. Analyze functions using different representations.
 - Building Functions: Build a function that models a relationship between two quantities. Build new functions from existing functions.
 - Linear, Quadratic, and Exponential Models: Construct and compare linear, quadratic, and exponential models and solve problems. Interpret expressions for functions in terms of the situation they model.
- Geometry
 - Understand and apply the Pythagorean Theorem and its converse.
- Statistics and Probability
 - Interpreting Categorical and Quantitative Data: Summarize, represent, and interpret data on a single count or measurement variable. Summarize, represent, and interpret data on two categorical (bivariate) and quantitative variables. Interpret linear models.

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 pre-engineering, computer technology, speech and drama, art, and family and consumer science. All sixth grade students also choose a music experience of band, strings, or vocal music that meet on an every-other-day basis alternating with world language. All seventh and eighth grade students enroll in two elective classes each semester from the list below. All middle school students receive physical education instruction every other day all year.

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 (this course is a pre-requisite for 7th grade world language)

7th Grade – Exploratory – Elective Options (each class is a semester long unless otherwise noted)

- art
- computer technology
- world language (this course is a pre-requisite for 8th grade world languages)
- speech and drama
- vocal music (students may choose a yearlong or semester vocal music class)
- instrumental music (band and strings are yearlong classes)
- family and consumer science
- pre-engineering

8th Grade – Exploratory – Elective Options (students may choose four semester elective classes; each class is a semester long unless otherwise noted)

- art
- emerging technologies
- world language (this is a yearlong class)
- speech
- drama
- vocal music (students may choose a yearlong or semester vocal music class)
- instrumental music (band and strings are yearlong classes)
- foods and consumerism
- clothing and consumerism
- 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, 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.

Visual Arts (6)

- 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

Visual Arts (7) (semester class)

- 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.

Visual Arts 8 (semester class)

- 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 fee is charged.

*Students who complete Visual Arts 6, Visual Arts 7 and Visual Arts 8 will not be required to take Design Fundamentals in high school as a pre-requisite for more advanced art classes.

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 students 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

- 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 (semester class)

- 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 (semester class)

- Focuses on the use of new technologies as tools for learning, including free online applications for word processing, spreadsheets, digital photography and graphics.
- 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, including computer programming, 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): Skills for 21st Century Life & Careers

Family and Consumer Sciences 6

- Students participate in introductory projects related to food preparation and sewing.
- Students use current research on nutrients, MyPlate dietary guidelines, and food labels to make wise personal food choices.

Family and Consumer Sciences 7 (semester class)

- 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.

Clothing and Consumerism 8 (semester class)

- Students explore the use of fabrics and textiles in personal and home decoration projects.
- Sewing labs develop creativity in interior and clothing design and image enhancement.
- Skills in goal setting, decision making and time management are demonstrated through the completion of various projects using current technology.
- Students develop consumer skills and explore career interests and related high school and college options.
- Students will provide materials required for projects.

Foods & Consumerism 8 (semester class)*

- 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.

*Students who successfully complete Foods & Consumerism 8 will not be required to take Culinary Essentials in high school as the prerequisite for Culinary Arts I

Pre-engineering

Pre-engineering 6

- Offers students an introduction to the engineering design process as it relates to various engineering fields.
- Students participate in hands-on activities as they collaborate and use the design process to solve challenges such as building air rockets, balsa towers, and gliders.

Pre-engineering 7 (semester class)

- Offers students a project-based learning environment as they are introduced to engineering-related fields such as Construction, Drafting, Manufacturing, and Power and Energy.
- Students apply the engineering design process to solve challenges that encourage innovation, critical thinking and collaboration.
- Students design, build and test solutions to challenges such as truss bridges, CO₂ dragsters, and home designs.
- As students work in the production and computer labs, they see the practical application of science and math and develop skills in basic drafting, and the safe use of tools and equipment.

A fee is charged.

Pre-engineering 8 (semester class)

- Expands students' understanding of engineering, exploring Construction, Drafting, Manufacturing, and Power and Energy.
- Students work in both hands-on and virtual environments to apply the engineering design process and solve challenges that encourage innovation, critical thinking, and collaboration.
- Students gain skills related to safe use of tools and equipment, manual and CAD drafting, and technical reading, math and science.
- Students design, build and test prototype solutions to challenges in such areas as robotics, architectural structures, manufactured products, solid-fuel rockets and alternative-fuel vehicles.

A fee is charged.

World Language

Spanish 6 (yearlong, alternating days)

This class moves students into Novice Mid proficiency level in all skill areas. Students learn to introduce themselves, speak and write about leisure activities, school and family. Students read simplified texts on familiar topics. Students learn very basic grammar concepts. This class is taught mostly in Spanish and builds upon the K-5 Spanish language experiences. Students new to Blue Valley and those from K-5 French elementary programs who switch to Spanish may need additional support and practice to make the transition. Continuing Spanish 6 is available in all middle schools.

French 6 (yearlong, alternating days)

This course is a beginning level class that is open to ALL students. No previous language study is required. French is the official language of 29 countries, spoken on all five continents and is the 6th most widely spoken language in the

world. Students develop novice level proficiency in speaking and listening, reading and writing in French. Course topics include greetings, courtesy phrases, describing self and family, school and daily activities. Students with any prior language experiences will use their knowledge of how one learns a language to support their study of French. French students in the 6th-12th grade program become proficient speakers. They are prepared for the AP French exam and high school student exchange experiences with a skill set that prepares them as global citizens who are career and college ready. French 6 is offered only at Prairie Star Middle School and Leawood Middle School.

Continuing Spanish 7 (one semester, every day, Prerequisite: Continuing Spanish 6)

This class at the Novice Mid proficiency level is for students for students with basic Spanish language skills, vocabulary and grammar. Students learn to ask questions, invite others, describe family members and describe weekend plans. Students read for main ideas and details in modified and authentic Spanish passages. Students also study basic grammar and vocabulary and learn about Hispanic cultural practices, products and perspectives associated with the topics of the course. Performance tasks are essential components of unit assessments. In order to promote proficiency, this class is taught in Spanish. Continuing Spanish 7 is available in all middle schools.

Continuing French 7 (one semester, every day, Prerequisite: Continuing French 6)

This class at the Novice Mid proficiency level is for students for students with basic French language skills, vocabulary and grammar. Students learn to ask questions, invite others, describe family members and describe weekend plans. Students read for main ideas and details in modified and authentic French passages. Students also study basic grammar and vocabulary and learn about Francophone practices, products and perspectives associated with the topics of the course. Performance tasks are essential components of unit assessments. In order to promote proficiency, this class is taught in French. Continuing French 7 is available at Leawood Middle and Prairie Star Middle schools.

Continuing Spanish 8 (yearlong, every day, Prerequisite: Continuing Spanish 7)

This class at the Novice High proficiency level is for students with basic Spanish language skills, vocabulary and grammar. Students learn to speak and write about travel, healthy lifestyles, and daily personal routines. Students read for main ideas and details and guess meaning from context in authentic Spanish passages. Students study grammar and vocabulary and learn about Hispanic culture and customs. Performance tasks are essential components of unit assessments. This class is taught in Spanish. Students who successfully complete this course are eligible for high school credit and are placed in high school Spanish 2.5 as ninth graders.

Continuing French 8 (yearlong, every day, Prerequisite: Continuing French 7)

This class at the Novice High proficiency level is for students with basic French language skills, vocabulary and grammar. Students learn to speak and write about shopping, life at home, healthy lifestyles, travel and going to the movies. Students read for main ideas and details and guess meaning from context in authentic French passages. Students study grammar and vocabulary and learn about Francophone culture and customs related to the topics of the course. Performance tasks are essential components of unit assessments. This class is taught in French. Students who successfully complete this course are eligible for high school credit and are placed in high school French 2.5 as ninth graders.

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, P.E. teachers, school nurses and school counselors. For specific information about content of the health curriculum, please see the school nurse or the building administrator

Virtual Education

***Students who have completed the 8th grade year**

Students who have completed the 8th grade year are eligible to enroll in Virtual courses offered during the summer semester. Only students who have completed the 8th grade year and will be attending high school during the next upcoming semester are eligible to enroll in a Virtual course.

Blue Valley Virtual Education provides students with the opportunities to design their own personalized learning. The online classrooms contain a variety of technologies including: discussion forums, assignments, quizzes and virtual textbooks. Each web-based course is designed to align with the Blue Valley District curriculum and the Kansas state standards. Additional information about the Virtual Education program can be found on the district website at <http://www.bluevalleyk12.org/virtualed>.

2015-2016 Sample Student Schedule

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

Notes:

- Lunch schedules will vary by building with serving times generally 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.
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Blue Valley Middle Schools will provide a program and climate that achieve the following.

1. Help each student to consolidate and refine the basic skills acquired in childhood, to develop further competency in these basic skills and to apply them to new interests and activities.
2. Provide each student with a sense of community.
3. Increase each student's self-awareness and self-concept.
4. Give each student a measure of control over life in school.
5. Make the peer group a constructive force in the educational process.
6. Make learning a satisfying experience academically, socially, and emotionally.

Additional information regarding the Blue Valley School District curriculum can be found at:

www.bluevalleyk12.org/cur

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Blue Valley School District

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Blue Valley is an equal opportunity educator and employer.
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