

Bennington Public Schools
Middle School Curriculum
Guide 2018-2019

Interdisciplinary Teams An interdisciplinary team is a group of teachers, usually from three to five persons who teach the core academic subjects, who share the same students, the same space, and the same schedule. Team teachers strive to integrate the academic program in which their common students are involved. Honoring a middle school philosophy, our Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth Grades will each be divided into teams for the purpose of teaching social studies, math, science, reading and language arts. Teaming allows teachers to work together, integrate curriculum, focus on student strengths/challenges and provide assistance. Networking among teachers, parents/guardians, counselors, administrators, and special education is facilitated through the regularly scheduled team meetings. Teaming also fosters students' sense of belonging and builds on our positive school climate. We are proudly a student-centered school, following a middle school philosophy.

Exploratory Program The exploratory program consists of all courses not a part of the interdisciplinary core structure. It is important middle level students are exposed to a wide variety of educational experiences that will assist them in making important future educational decisions. Exploratory courses are short term (usually 6 weeks or alternate day schedules), project-oriented, hands-on, and promote a high level of student engagement/success. The learning activities are often, but not always, completed within the class period.

Advisor-Advisee Program The Bennington Middle School model is designed to meet the affective needs of the student and to promote positive peer relationships, a positive school climate, covers careers, 21st century skills, social skills, team building, wellness, procedures and behaviors.

Language Arts

Reading/Literature 6 LA02

Holt McDougal Literature is a research-based and digitally interactive English Language Arts program for grades 6–8. This series provides an engaging learning environment designed to help students achieve success with rigorous new state standards and next-generation assessments. Holt McDougal Literature offers carefully crafted features for preparing students well for college and 21st century careers and engages tech-savvy students with enhanced interactive learning tools.

English 6 LA06

Our writing curriculum is based upon the Six + 1 Traits of writing, which are the foundational skills, needed to be proficient writers across the curriculum. We will be doing a writing project for each trait sometime throughout the school year.

Reading/Literature 7 LA03

This course will use a variety of strategies to develop vocabulary such as structural analysis, Greek and Latin roots, affixes, and context clues. Students will read and comprehend fiction and nonfiction demonstrating understanding of main idea, details, cause and effect, compare and contrast, fact and opinion, inference and chronological order. They will also predict, clarify, question, summarize both fiction and nonfiction selections and will self-select and independently read fiction and nonfiction.

English 7 LA07

This is a course designed to develop students' language arts skills. Writing topics will include grammar, spelling, editing, and revision using the Six-Trait Writing Model. Students will also participate speaking and listening in small group and large group settings.

Reading/Literature 8 LA04

This course will use a variety of strategies to develop vocabulary such as structural analysis, Greek and Latin roots, affixes, and context clues. Students will read and comprehend fiction and nonfiction demonstrating understanding of main idea, details, cause and effect, compare and contrast, fact and opinion, inference and chronological order. They will also predict, clarify, question, summarize both fiction and nonfiction selections and will self-select and independently read fiction and nonfiction.

English 8 LA08

This is a course designed to develop students' language arts skills. Writing topics will include grammar, spelling, editing, and revision using the Six-Trait Writing Model. Reading topics will include a Holocaust literature unit. Students will also participate speaking and listening in small group and large group settings.

Mathematics

***Students taking an above grade level math course must earn an “A” or “B” to progress. High School credit is not given for courses taken at the middle school.**

Math 6

The textbook used in sixth grade is Big Ideas Math. This is course one of the middle school series that will also be used in grades seven and eight. The sixth grade math curriculum focuses on: algebra, fractions, decimals, ratios, proportions, and geometry.

Math 7 uses a balance of procedural fluency, conceptual understanding, and real-life applications. The textbook used in seventh grade is Big Ideas Math: Modeling Real Life. Upon completion of this course student may move on to Math 8.

Math 8 topics of study line directly with the Nebraska State Standards. Students will be working with number sense, algebraic processes, geometric skills along with data and probability. These skills will be used in story problems and explorations. Upon completion of this course the student may move onto Algebra 1.

Algebra I MA09

Algebra I is the first year of studying Algebra. It continues and expands the concepts of Pre-Algebra. We will be solving linear equations and inequalities, graphing linear equations and inequalities, working with proportions, solving systems of linear equations and inequalities, and working with polynomials and quadratic equations. The student will develop problem-solving skills. Upon successful completion of this class the student may move on to Geometry.

Geometry MA10

Geometry is used to study shapes and logical processes. It continues and expands the concepts of Algebra I. Students will work with proofs, geometric shapes, find perimeter, area, surface area, and volume for different shapes, and discuss congruence and similarity. It will help the student develop problem-solving skills. Upon successful completion of this course the student may move on to Advanced Algebra.

Science

Integrated Science 6 SC06

Our curriculum will be taken from the Pearson science series, along with additional teacher supplemented learning experiences. The students will learn about the following: Ecology and the Environment , Chemistry, and Earth's Structure.

Integrated Science 7

SC07 7th Science is an integrated curriculum that includes Life Science, Physical Science, and Earth Science. The topics covered will include: scientific method, Cells and Heredity, Diversity of Life, Forces and Energy, and Astronomy and Space. Many different teaching strategies will be used to present the material including experiments, observations, demonstrations, videos, lectures, and projects.

Integrated Science 8 SC08

8th grade science covers: water and the atmosphere, human body, sound and light, and earth's surface. Many different teaching strategies will be used to present the material including experiments, observations, demonstrations, films, and lectures.

Social Studies

Social Studies 6 SS06

Our social studies curriculum is based on the series Journey Across Time by Glencoe. The focus in sixth grade is on world history to 1000 A.D. including: Paleolithic and Neolithic Eras, ancient river valley civilizations, ancient Greece, ancient Rome, and the development and cultural impact of major religions

Social Studies 7 SS07

This class takes a broad look at the world; starting with the Western Hemisphere first semester and then moving to the Eastern Hemisphere second semester. For each region the class will take a general survey of the geography, history, culture, government, and economy of the region. Emphasis is made on current issues within that country and those issues that impact the United States.

Social Studies 8 SS08

This class is a look at the concepts and central ideas in the development of the United States with an intense analysis of how it relates to the present. A chronological approach is taken in this study of American History with an emphasis upon the areas of civics, the form and function of government, economics, geography, historical analysis and historical research. The course will cover the time from Colonial America to the Progressive Era.

Exploratory Classes

Physical Education

Physical Education 6 PE06

The primary purpose of the physical education program is to provide students with the opportunities to gain the knowledge, understanding, and skills to practice healthy physical activities throughout their lives. All students are taught to work together and treat others with respect and good sportsmanship

Physical Education 7 PE07

The primary purpose of the physical education program is to provide students with the opportunities to gain the knowledge, understanding, and skills to begin a life-long commitment to a healthy lifestyle. In addition this course will promote skill development in the areas of teamwork, leadership, respect, and sportsmanship.

Physical Education 8 PE08

The primary purpose of the physical education program is to provide students with the opportunities to gain the knowledge, understanding, and skills to begin a life-long commitment to a healthy lifestyle. In addition this course will promote skill development in the areas of teamwork, leadership, respect, and sportsmanship.

Technology & Living

Technology & Living IA06 /IA07 /IA08 /IA28 /IA38

This class is designed for 6th 7th and 8th grade students. Technology & Living is an exploratory class that exposes students to a variety of subject matters in both Skilled and Technical Sciences and Family and Consumer Science. Students will be grouped in pairs and then will be expected to complete a ten-day mini course on their assigned subject. Each day will involve a combination of reading and hands on activities designed to expose students to information which affects the modern world around them. Students in 6th and 7th grades will rotate on a yearlong A/B schedule with P.E. Eighth grade may take up to 18 weeks of Technology & Living in 6 week blocks.

Computers

Computers 6 BU06

This course will focus on touch method of keyboarding. Emphasis will be placed on the proper techniques of keyboarding, correct body posture, and speed/accuracy development. Students will learn basic word processing skills, how to use a presentation program, and the importance of internet safety.

Computers 7 BU07

This course will reinforce keyboarding skills and basic computer skills. Students will develop a basic understanding of word processing, spreadsheets, how to research topics on the internet, multimedia, and internet safety.

Digital Media Production 8 BU08

Digital Media is a course designed to provide hand-on experience with a variety of design software. Students will learn skills used in the digital world to create, develop, and edit multimedia projects. Media used includes graphic design, animation, and video production software.

Web Design 8 BU18

Students will find empowerment by using skills learned in this course to develop their own web pages. This course introduces students to basic web design. Students will plan and design effective web pages, recognize and understand basic HTML and CSS code, and use a web design program to plan and design a multi-page website.

Grade Game Design 8 BU28

What do Flappy Bird, Temple Run, Assassin's Creed: Identity, and Kerbal Space program have in common? All of these games were made with Unity Game Engine, and you can learn how to make games like these, too! In Intro to Game Design, you'll learn how to drive the engine that powers 45% of all the games released on mobile, console, and computer.

Art

Art 6 FA06

Art through the ages. Students will learn the elements and principles of design through a variety of projects by exploring ideas and materials. The history and influence of art through the ages will be explored and infused in art projects for 6th grade.

Art 7 FA07

Art of today and tomorrow. Students will investigate, design and implement and the elements and principles of design in art through a variety of art projects. Contemporary, modern art, and art of the future, will be the focus of art in 7th grade.

Art 8 FA08

2D Art Painting and Drawing:

Do you like to doodle? Do you like to experiment with color and paint? Then this course is for you! Students will learn the basics of drawing and painting, while learning techniques, art skills and concepts. Art history, art appreciation, problem solving and critical thinking are integrated through the lessons as a framework through the curriculum.

Mixed Media-printing, calligraphy, collage and photography. FA18

Do you like to take selfies and take pictures of your friends? Do you like to work together on projects? Write your name in different ways? Take mixed media! Students will learn the fundamentals of printing, calligraphy, collage and photography, while learning the value of attention to detail and craftsmanship in art. Art history, art appreciation, problem solving and critical thinking are integrated through the lessons as a framework through the curriculum

3D Art, Sculpture and pottery: FA28

Life is messy and art should be too! Do you like to build? Take risks? Get your hands dirty? Then take this course! Students will learn how to use a variety of art tools, such as paper mache' and pottery wheels, to create 3D art projects while investigating the significance of art through contemporary, historical and cultural contexts. Students will develop skills in fostering craftsmanship and attention to detail.

Speech and Drama

Speech/Drama 6 LA16

In this course, students will be developing interpersonal social communication skills by practicing formal introductions and using strategies to connect with others through face-to-face conversation. Students will develop public speaking skills through delivering presentations about themselves and other informative topics. In addition, students will explore dramatic presentation through developing characters and duet acting.

Speech/Drama 7 LA17

In this course, students will be developing interpersonal social communication skills by practicing parliamentary procedures in conducting and participating in formal meetings. Students will develop public speaking skills by creating a product and "selling" the product using persuasion techniques. In addition, students will explore dramatic presentation through performing reader's theater for entertainment.

Speech/Drama 8:

Play Production (2 hexter class): LA18

Yes, it is still fun to pretend! During this trimester, students will be engaged in learning basic acting theory, planning, producing, and performing a short play. Public performance required outside of school time.

Video Production/Group Dynamics (2 hexter class): LA28

Yes, one picture is worth a thousand words! In this course, students learn the fundamentals of videography, interviewing techniques, and editing processes. In addition, students will be engaged in a variety of video productions such as interview projects and commercials. Each person will be responsible for his/her own culminating video project.

Creative Writing (2 hexter class): LA38

Tired of writing essays and reports? Here is chance to write the stories and poems that are burning inside your imaginations! In this course, students will produce creative writing products such as short stories, poems, and plays. Students will be required to submit at least one piece of writing to an outside contest/publication.

World Language

Spanish FL06 / FL07 / FL08 / F118

Grade 6 will review the introductory chapter of the Spanish textbook. Grade 7 will learn vocabulary relating to birthday and family vocabulary. Included in these classes will be a variety of readings based on the unit vocabulary, listening activities, speaking practice individually and in pairs, and a variety of writing opportunities. Spanish 8 A and B will be focused on preparing students to take Spanish 1 at the high school level.

French FL28 / F138

French 8 A and B will acquaint the students with the basics of the French language. Included will be topical vocabulary with an oral emphasis throughout. The students will be introduced to basic elements of conversation with emphasis on pronunciation as well as proper responses to different situations. The focus of French 8 will be to prepare students to take French I at the high school level.

Health

Health 6 PE02

Health 6 introduces students to health utilizing various dimensions of wellness. This class focuses on the challenges and changes of becoming an adolescent. Students are encouraged to practice self-discipline, responsibility, good judgment and the ability to get along with others. Topics discussed include healthy relationships, decision making, changes of early adolescence, personal care, healthy communication skills, mental and emotional health, and drug and alcohol education. Classroom learning experiences actively involve students in group work, activities, discussions, reading, writing assignments, parent/guardian communication, videos in addition to online resources and activities.

Health 7 PE03

Health 7 focuses on aspects of human growth and development. Topics include: making healthy choices, the life cycle which encompasses (changes during puberty, reproductive systems, infant and child development, personal health), relationship skills, violence and abuse, and communicable diseases and non-communicable diseases. Classroom learning experiences actively involve students in group work, activities, discussions, reading, writing assignments, parent/guardian communication, videos in addition to online resources and activities.

Health 8 PE04

Health 8 will explore many aspects of health. A variety of topics will be included, but not limited to: nutrition, physical fitness, goal setting, eating disorders/body image, prevention and control of diseases, violence prevention, relationships/dating, drugs and alcohol, and environmental health. Classroom learning experiences actively involve students in group work, activities, discussions, reading, writing assignments, parent/guardian communication, videos in addition to online resources and activities.

Music

Music 6 World Music and Drumming MU06

Students will explore the music and techniques of world music drumming by learning to play various percussion instruments in a group and individual setting. Topics will include reading melodic and rhythmic notation, rote memorization, and cultural awareness.

Music 7: Exploring Music MU07

In seventh grade, students develop further understanding of the elements of music through listening, playing, improvising, and composing. Units will include: Basic Ukulele, Music Technology and Composition, and Advanced World Music Drumming.

8th Grade Choir (can be semester or year long) MU08

8th grade choir is a non-auditioned ensemble for all students interested in vocal music. Students will learn healthy vocal technique and vocal pedagogy. Students will use music theory and build sight reading skills to improve music literacy. The choir will sing a wide range of choral music and learn how to use critical thinking skills to evaluate and interpret musical scores. This ensemble will have public performances in the evenings.

Band

Band 6 MU56

Grade 6 Students in 6th grade are eligible for this class. Beginners are welcome. Please get the instructor's approval if you are beginning or have taken time off. This class focuses on building the skills needed to move from beginning to intermediate musicianship. Instrumental technique, rehearsal routine, music theory and group dynamics are the main topics of study. Equipment care is also covered. Students may elect to participate in private or group lessons outside of the school day. This class meets every day. The majority of class time is spent playing instruments.

Band 7 MU57

Grade 7 Students in 7th grade are eligible for this class. Beginners are welcome. Please get the instructor's approval if you are beginning or have taken time off. This class focuses on building the skills needed to move from beginning to intermediate musicianship. Instrumental technique, rehearsal routine, music theory and group dynamics are the main topics of study. Equipment care is also covered. Students may elect to participate in private or group lessons outside of the school day. This class meets every day. The majority of class time is spent playing instruments.

Band 8 MU58

Grades 8 Students in 8th grade are eligible for this class. If new to band, please get the instructor's approval before registering, beginners are welcome. This class is where students gain the final skills that allow for them to be successful in the high school band. Students should be expecting to continue their participation through high school in order to get the most good out of this class. Lessons can be taken after school. The 8th grade band will participate in as many as two contests during the Spring semester. Topics of study include music theory, instrumental technique, equipment care, marching technique and rehearsal routine. Students may be asked to switch instruments in order to balance the instrumentation. This class meets every day

Guidance Department

The primary concern of the counselor is to aid the students who have questions concerning their academic, personal, or social life. This is accomplished through private conferences and group discussion. The counselor discusses questions with students concerning future courses and possible vocations and careers.

The goal of the guidance program is to develop within the students an understanding and acceptance of themselves so that they can make intelligent vocational, educational and social choices. Students are assisted in formulating goals, which are unique to their personal talents, capacities and interests. Guidance can help the students believe in themselves, to respect themselves and others, and to recognize that achievement can be a personally satisfying experience when goals are clarified.

Counseling is the heart of the guidance service. It is defined as the process of an experienced and qualified individual helping a second person to understand oneself. They will be given opportunities to make appropriate adjustments and

decisions in the light of these insights, to accept personal responsibilities for choices, and to follow those courses of action which will help them grow.

The following services are provided: making self-evaluations, planning high school programs, preparing for post-secondary education and training, studying vocational and career options, counseling students individually and in groups, administering individual and group tests, conferring with parents regarding student progress and concerns, making referrals to various agencies, scheduling classes and assisting with curriculum planning, and conducting follow-up studies with various groups.

Library & Media Department

The mission of the Bennington Library Media Program is for all students, teachers, and administrators to develop the skills and judgment to become efficient, ethical, and effective lifelong learners.

Students will learn the skills and abilities needed to become a proficient consumer and producer of information using a variety of sources and formats.

Teachers will develop a working instructional partnership with your school librarian across the curriculum.

Administrators will form an instructional partnership that benefits the entire learning community.

We Believe that the Library Media Center:

- fosters library patronage as a lifelong practice.
- provides guidance to readers in selecting appropriate reading materials.
- is a vital resource that supports the educational program of the school through the collaboration of professional personnel.
-

provides an atmosphere in which students can learn to be skillful and discriminating users of all available media.

-

provides high-quality, accurate, and up-to-date resources to students and staff.

Special Education Program

The Resource Program offers services to students who qualify as having a handicapping condition under Rule 51 (ex: SLD – Specific Learning Disability, OHI – Other Health Impairments, BD – Behavior Disorders). The process to qualify begins with the classroom teacher, the teacher makes a referral to the Problem Solving Team (PST). Every effort is made to offer each student the best education possible in the least restrictive environment. For further information about qualifying for Special Education services, please contact the building principal or the Student Services Director at the district office. If a student qualifies for special education then a team, including parents, develops an Individual Educational Plan.

Grading

Grading Scale:

A = 4.0 = 100 – 93 = superior achievement

B = 3.0 = 92 – 86 = above average

C = 2.0 = 85 – 77 = average

D = 1.0 = 76 – 70 = below average

F = 0.0 = 69 – 0 = failing

P = passing

NP = not passing