

2015-2016
MOUNTAIN BROOK JUNIOR HIGH
205 OVERBROOK ROAD
MOUNTAIN BROOK, ALABAMA 35213
OFFICE: 871-3516 GUIDANCE OFFICE: 877-8346

All students in 7th grade will be enrolled in the following courses: English, social studies, math, science, PE, and electives. Since course selection is based on your pre-registration, please read the course descriptions carefully and make a firm commitment to the courses you mark on the course selection form. A student may request a schedule change through **June 5th**. Students may pick up a schedule change request form in the counseling office. A parent signature is required and a \$25 processing fee is charged for all changes after **May 1st**. Changes will be considered if the change is of an academic nature or if a school error exists. Other changes will only be made with the approval of the principal. All courses, including alternates, listed on the course selection sheet will be scheduled in priority order. Upon completion of a schedule update, the student will receive an accurate schedule at summer registration.

Course selection sheets are due back to the homeroom teacher by February 19th.

DESCRIPTION OF COURSES

ENGLISH

ENGLISH 7

This course provides for the study of writing, grammar, vocabulary, and literature. Students study a variety of literary genres such as short stories, novels, plays, myths, poetry, and many examples of nonfiction. The reading serves as a springboard to learn and apply effective reading strategies, new vocabulary, and literary terms. The texts also lead to critical thinking and literary analysis that are explored through writing, including the styles of narration, description, argument, and analysis/explanation. Selected novels are used to enhance the curriculum beyond the textbook provided, and students also read novels of their choosing. The theme throughout the year is "Identity," with much of the literature relating to this theme.

ENGLISH 7 ADVANCED

This is an advanced course for students entering the Junior High. The following minimum requirements are considered for placement: first semester English 6 average, portfolio submissions, standardized test scores, and teacher recommendation. This course is designed at a higher level of academic rigor and integrates more complex text. The curriculum provides for the study of grammar and vocabulary, as well as deeper literary analysis and formal essay writing. Students focus on writing, including styles of narration, description, argument, and analysis/explanation, with an emphasis on formal, academic writing. The theme throughout the year is "Identity," with much of the literature relating to this theme. *Recommendation made by school.*

MATH

PRE-ALGEBRA 7

This is the first year of a two-year course in pre-algebra. The curriculum addresses the 7th grade math standards. Concepts will include, but are not limited to, rational number operations, one and two step equations, geometric relationships among two and three dimensional objects, measurement, and data analysis and probability. This course also deepens conceptual understanding through the Standards of Mathematical Practice. Students completing this course will take the second year of pre-algebra as 8th graders.

PRE-ALGEBRA 7 ADVANCED

This is a two-period course for students who desire the opportunity to take Advanced Algebra I in the 8th grade. Students will be taught the 7th and 8th grade math standards throughout the course. Concepts will include, but are not limited to, rational number operations, laws of exponents, multi-step equations, algebraic expressions, slope-intercept form, linear functions, Pythagorean Theorem, measurement, irregular and composite plane figures, data collection and analysis, and experimental and theoretical probability. Students successfully completing this course will be considered for placement into Advanced Algebra I as 8th graders. *Recommendation made by school.*

PRE-ALGEBRA 7 ADVANCED (Math Team)

This is a two-period course for students who desire the opportunity to take Advanced Algebra I in the 8th grade. Students will be taught the 7th and 8th grade math standards throughout the course and will be required to attend outside of school competitions. Concepts will include, but are not limited to, rational number operations, laws of exponents, multi-step equations, algebraic expressions, slope-intercept form, linear functions, Pythagorean Theorem, measurement, irregular and composite plane figures, data collection and analysis, and experimental and theoretical probability. Students successfully completing this course will be considered for placement into Advanced Algebra I as 8th graders. *Recommendation made by school.*

SCIENCE

SCIENCE 7

This course focuses on life science. Students are encouraged to develop an appreciation of the importance of diversity of life, while simultaneously understanding the impact of their roles as individuals in the community of life. Some areas of study include the characteristics of living things, functions of organelles, tissues and organs of various systems in the body, function of chromosomes, and Mendel's laws of genetics. The focus of this course prepares students for biology and other life science courses taken in high school. Students are involved in laboratory experiments for a deeper understanding of the concepts.

SOCIAL STUDIES

GEOGRAPHY/CIVICS

This course includes one semester of geography and one semester of civics/citizenship. During the semester of geography, students increase their knowledge of the physical nature of the world and of the relationships between people and their environments. They also study geography in the context of economics, politics, and culture. The curriculum focuses on the cultural geography of the Eastern Hemisphere. During the semester of civics, students explore the role of citizens in the United States. The curriculum addresses representative democracy, law, personal economics, and civil responsibility.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

According to the Code of Alabama, 16-40-1, *daily physical education is required in Grades K-8. No exceptions and no substitutions.*

P.E. Boys/P.E. Girls

This course provides participation in a variety of team and individual sports with an emphasis on developing sports skills. Fitness and health principles are also incorporated into the curriculum to build a foundation for lifetime fitness. Regulation gym suits are required and students will be assigned P.E. lockers.

P.E. Co-ed

This co-ed course provides participation in a variety of team and individual sports with an emphasis on developing sports skills. Fitness and health principles are also incorporated into the curriculum to build a foundation for lifetime fitness. Regulation gym suits are required and students are assigned P.E. lockers. **This class meets from 7:15 AM to 7:50 AM daily.**

FOREIGN LANGUAGES

FRENCH IMMERSION

This course creates an authentic French-speaking environment in the classroom and provides real-life contexts and everyday situations in which to communicate in French. Upon successful completion of this course, most students take Advanced French I.

LATIN I-A

Latin I-A is the first half of a traditional first year Latin course. This course is followed with Latin I-B in the 8th grade. Students who complete Latin I-A **AND** I-B will have completed one year of a Foreign Language credit. The Latin I-B average will count towards students' high school grade point average (GPA).

SPANISH I-A

Spanish 1-A is the first half of a traditional first year Spanish course. It is designed to deepen the foundation in the four language skills: reading, writing, listening, and speaking, with emphasis on the audio-lingual skills. Basic grammar and vocabulary are taught in the context of cultural and practical knowledge content areas. This course is followed with Spanish I-B in the 8th grade. Students who complete Spanish I-A **AND** I-B will have completed one year of a Foreign Language credit. The Spanish I-B average will count towards students' high school grade point average (GPA).

YEARLY ELECTIVES

ACADEMIC SKILLS 7

This course is designed for students who need support with academically related skills (organization, time management, etc.). For maximum success, parents, students, and academic support teachers communicate more frequently to increase student success with these skills. Recommendation is determined by a student's academic performance and identified needs. Students may be re-evaluated at the end of each grading period and, if recommended by the teacher, may be moved out of the class into another elective. *Recommendation required.*

BAND, BEGINNING

This course is designed for the beginning instrumental music student. Students will learn to produce sounds characteristic of the instrument and demonstrate the components essential to the production of characteristic tones. Students become well versed in the ability to count and sight-read rhythms. Participation in all performances is required.

BAND, CONCERT

This is an intermediate-level band course designed for students with one or more years' experience in band. Students widen their range of dynamics and the range at which they achieve a characteristic sound. Additional scales and rudiments are mastered, facilitating the ability to play in a wide variety of keys. Concert Band performs regularly at concerts, competitive music festivals, and selected pep rallies and athletic events. Participation in all performances is required.

CHOIR JH

This course is designed for students who are eager to explore choral music instruction. Emphasis is placed on the fundamentals of singing. They are exposed to various musical styles and cultures. The MBJH Choir is a performing group. Participation in performances is required.

MATH LAB 7

This course is a math-specific support class designed to increase student success on grade-level standards and is for students enrolled in Pre-Algebra 7. The focus of the course is on re-teaching math concepts through additional research-based strategies and programs. This course is not intended to be used as additional homework time or as a study hall. *Recommendation made by school.*

RESOURCE LAB 7

This course is designed to provide academic and organizational assistance to students as specified in their IEP. Students, parents and special education teachers work as a team to address the academic needs of the student. Time is used to support students by preparing for tests, working on homework, and reinforcing skills that are presented in the core academic subject classrooms. *Recommendation required.*

SEMESTER ELECTIVES

ART FOUNDATIONS

This course is offered to beginning art students in 7th and 8th grade who are interested in advancing their knowledge in the visual arts. In this course, students will be introduced to the basic fundamentals of art by creating original works of art using a variety of media. Students will learn basic art vocabulary, techniques for drawing, painting, printmaking, ceramics, and sculpture, as well as basic concepts for building a strong composition. Art history, aesthetics, criticism and career opportunities are explored. *Art Foundations serves as a prerequisite to Art I.*

PLTW DESIGN and MODELING

Students apply the design process to solve problems and understand the influence of creativity and innovation in their lives. They work in teams to design a playground and furniture, capturing research and ideas in their engineering notebooks. Using Autodesk® design software, students create a virtual image of their designs and produce a portfolio to showcase their innovative solutions.

PLTW AUTOMATION and ROBOTICS

Students trace the history, development, and influence of automation and robotics as they learn about mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation, and computer control systems. Students use the VEX Robotics® platform to design, build, and program real-world objects such as traffic lights, toll booths, and robotic arms.

CHOIR JH

This semester course is designed for students who are eager to explore choral music instruction. Emphasis is placed on the fundamentals of singing. They are exposed to various musical styles and cultures. The MBJH Choir is a performing group. Participation in performances is required.

CREATIVE WRITING JH

This course is designed for 7th-9th graders who enjoy writing and desire the opportunity to write poetry, short stories, advertisements, personal narratives, and reviews. Students will use the writing process to define personal writing styles.

DEBATE JH

This is an exploratory course that exposes students to debate and prepares them for later courses of this nature. Students will develop the introductory skills needed by engaging in classroom debates of different types.

DRAMA INTRO - 7

This course is a semester course designed for students who want to perform on stage. Drama Intro offers a variety of theatre experiences including monologues, improvisation, puppet shows, pantomime, technical theatre, the history of theatre, duo scenes, and a one-act play.

READING

This course is designed for reading experiences that incorporate both fiction and non-fiction reading in addition to honing skills for guided inquiry. Students have opportunities to self-select novels to read and share with their classmates through book talks and other forms of presentations.

NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATION

It is the policy of the Mountain Brook Schools that no person within the district shall be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or subject to discrimination on the basis of race, sex, color, religion, national origin, disability or age in any program, activity, or employment practice. The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies: Dr. Dale Wisely—Director of Student Services (Title VI), Mrs. Sylvia Harper—Personnel Director (Title IX), Dr. Missy Brooks—Director of Instruction (Title II), Mrs. Shannon Mundy—Special Education Director (Section 504) Contact Information: 32 Vine Street, Mountain Brook, AL 35213 (205) 871-4608