



BAKER MIDDLE SCHOOL

7th & 8th GRADE

COURSE DESCRIPTION SHEET

YEAR LONG ELECTIVES

Symphonic Band and Advanced Orchestra (Grade 8)

This course is a continuation of skills and techniques learned in Concert Band, 7th Grade Orchestra, or equivalent. This course is an advanced ensemble and may require an audition to ensure correct placement. Within the National Core Arts Standards, students in band and orchestra will learn to 1) Perform, 2) Create, 3) Respond, and 4) Connect to music of various genres and styles while advancing their study of a band or orchestra instrument.

Many evening performances are required as part of the core instruction as well as two Saturday performances including MSBOA Band Festival and the Music in the Parks festival at Cedar Point. It is expected that students enrolled in Symphonic Band or 8th Grade Orchestra are committed and dependable young musicians for the entire school year.

Concert Band and Chamber Orchestra (Grade 7)

This course is a continuation of skills and techniques learned in 6th grade band or orchestra or equivalent. Within the National Core Arts Standards, students in band and orchestra will learn to 1) Perform, 2) Create, 3) Respond, and 4) Connect to music of various genres and styles while learning the study of a band or orchestra instrument.

Five to six performances and rehearsals outside of the school day are required as part of the core instruction. It is expected that students enrolled in Concert Band or 7th Grade Orchestra are committed and dependable young musicians for the entire school year.

Vocal Music 7 Choir (Grade 7)

7th Grade Choir welcomes students who have previous choir experience, as well as those 7th graders new to choir. This course is a continuation of skills and techniques learned in 6th grade choir. Within the National Core Arts Standards, students in choir will learn to 1) Perform, 2) Create, 3) Respond, and 4) Connect to music of various genres and styles while learning the study of vocal and choral music.

The choir will present day and evening performances in the schools and community.

Vocal Music 8 Choir (Grade 8)

8th Grade Choir welcomes students who have previous choir experience, as well as those 8th graders new to choir. This course is a continuation of skills and techniques learned in 7th grade choir. Within the National Core Arts Standards, students in choir will learn to 1) Perform, 2) Create, 3) Respond, and 4) Connect to music of various genres and styles while learning the study of vocal and choral music.

The choir will present day and evening performances in the schools and community.

Graphic Design/ Yearbook (Grades 7 and 8)

Yearbook is an elective course that gives students an experience in print media publishing. This course solely works toward the completion and selling of a finished product, our Baker Middle School yearbook. Using an online design program, students compose, construct, and edit elements of design principles including text, layout, graphic art, digital photography, and journalism.

World Language (Grades 8)

- *Spanish 1 (Grades 8)*
- *Chinese 1, French 1, German 1, Japanese 1 (Grade 8)*
- *Spanish 2 (Grade 8)*

World Language courses welcome all serious students interested in a full-year, world language experience. These classes are the equivalent to the world language classes taken in high school. *These classes will count toward high school credit and will be calculated into the student's GPA at the high school.* Basic speaking, reading, listening and writing skills are taught, using a variety of teaching methods. Students will learn basic social and language skills to cope with real-life, authentic situations with an emphasis on oral proficiency. Students must be in very good academic standing to take a high school level course.

SEMESTER OR ½ YEAR ELECTIVES

2D Visual Arts Class (Grades 7 and 8)

In 2D Visual Arts class, students focus on further developing art skills, vocabulary, creativity, and design concepts. Two-dimensional lessons may include painting, collage, drawing, and printmaking. Discussions about artists, and artwork, as well as technique demonstrations continue. Students do not need prior visual art experience, however they do need a desire to participate, persist and enjoy creating and learning.

3D Visual Arts Class (Grades 7 and 8)

This course will explore a variety of mediums that may include papier-mâché, clay, batik, and other mixed media. Possible other mediums may also be introduced. Emphasis will be on basic design elements, function, aesthetics, creativity and craftsmanship. We will explore design vocabulary and explore art history from various perspectives. Current trends in three-dimensional art along with the role of technology in the production of art will also be explored. Students do not need prior visual arts experience, rather they need a desire to participate, persist and enjoy creating and learning.

Ceramics (Grades 7 and 8)

Ceramics class is a hands-on, visual art course that explores the varied methods of hand-building clay techniques. Different types of clay are used to create artwork using pinch, coil and slab construction techniques. The clay process will be explored - its history to the art of glazing. This design-based course is a hands-on, 3D, art-making class that incorporates some art history, creative problem-solving skills and creative exploration.

Jazz Band (Grade 8)

Jazz Band is an advanced ensemble, second semester class, for students enrolled in 8th grade band or orchestra or with director approval. Students will learn about jazz tradition and history through the performance of traditional jazz music and instruments including trombone, trumpet, saxophone, and rhythm section (guitar, bass, drums, piano). Students have required evening performances throughout the year and must participate in the fall semester jazz club.

Life Skills (Grades 7 and 8)

This hands-on Life Skills course for 7th and 8th graders takes a fresh look at preparing and serving creative foods. Students will explore the discipline of sewing by completing a hand and machine sewn project. In addition, students participate in experiences, which help to prepare them for becoming an independent person.

Links (Grades 7 and 8)

The peer-to-peer support program provides many opportunities for general education students, as well as the students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and other special needs. Students learn to relate to people with different needs and develop an increased understanding of individual differences. Students will be matched up with an ASD or a special needs student. You will be asked to act as a peer advocate, mentor, role model and friend to that student. Together, the students will work toward the goal of independence and socialization. *Teacher Recommendation is required

Physical Education 8 (Grade 8)

This course will provide students with an opportunity to improve their cardiovascular endurance, muscular strength and endurance, and flexibility. Students will also participate and learn game strategy with a focus on competitive team sports.

Theatre Arts (Grades 7 and 8)

This course introduces students to public speaking, pantomime, role playing, interviews, listening skills, improvisation, problem-solving activities, and performance in a scene. These communication activities foster and develop self-confidence, self-discipline, teamwork, and the ability to discuss, respond, evaluate, and interact with others. Communication skills developed will be both verbal and non-verbal and applied to movement, voice, attitude, and motivation as students develop and learn the techniques of acting and developing a believable character within a scene. The course includes a public performance involving students in all aspects of the production.

This course is open to all 7th and 8th graders. Students may take this class up to two times during middle school.

Video Technology 1 (Grades 7 and 8)

This class that will focus on creative video production. Students will learn about the power, emotion, and appeal of film. Students will be creating their own video projects that will be presented to the class and to the entire school. Students will also be in charge of the morning announcements, broadcasting Baker Middle School News along with samples of their work to the entire school. Film/Video is the ultimate art, combining music, language, drama, and visual arts all into one product. This course is open to 7th and 8th graders.

Video Technology 2 (Grade 8)

Prerequisite: Video Technology 1

Video Technology 2 is an extension of the Video Technology 1 class. Students will build on what they learned in the previous class, to develop skills and gain an understanding of the techniques of the creation of video as an art.

WEB Leadership (Grade 8)

Prerequisite: Teacher Recommendation and Approval

WEB stands for “Where Everyone Belongs”. This course will provide students the opportunity to grow their leadership skills and capacity. WEB student leaders learn how to organize and execute school-wide initiatives to create a welcoming school culture for ALL students. These school-wide initiatives could include; 6th grade orientation, school character and culture programs, charity opportunities, and student mentoring. **A teacher recommendation is required for this course.**