



BRISTOL SCHOOL DISTRICT #1

# MIDDLE SCHOOL

## ELECTIVE & EXPLORATORY

## COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

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# 2023-2024



*Being a Positive &  
Lasting Influence for All!*

*20121 83rd Street,  
Bristol, WI*

# Middle School Elective & Exploratory Course Descriptions

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## 6th Grade Exploratory Course Descriptions

Sixth grade students will take up to 6 exploratory courses. Students taking choir **or** band will be able to take 3 additional courses. Students taking both choir **and** band will only have those as exploratory courses. Please discuss the different options with your child and indicate your preferences through the form on Skyward.

### **Caught!!!! (Intro to Forensic Science):**

Students will be sent through a fictitious Forensics Academy to learn chemistry principles and evidence-gathering skills they need to solve a non-violent crime. We will end our course with a crime scene project where the students will use the skills they have acquired throughout this course.

### **Band:**

This course will increase musicianship skills on their instrument while rehearsing a variety of exciting classical, pop, jazz and traditional styles of music. Please take a look at the [band course overviews](#) for more information regarding performances, other band opportunities, and the band progressions through the middle school years.

### **Choir:**

This course develops choral skills, stage movement, diction and vocal technique while reinforcing and enhancing the fundamental musical skills acquired in elementary Music Classes. The Repertoire is drawn from classical, folk and popular music. Curriculum also introduces some analysis of musical forms and styles and use of appropriate musical terminology.

### **Design and Modeling:**

PLTW Design and modeling module provides students opportunities to apply the design process to creatively solve problems. Students are introduced to the unit problem in the first activity and are asked to make connections to the problem throughout the lessons in the unit. Students learn and utilize methods for communicating design ideas through sketches, solid models, and mathematical models. Students will understand how models can be simulated to represent an authentic situation and generate data for further analysis and observations. Students work in teams to identify design requirements, research the topic, and engage stakeholders.

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## **6th Grade Exploratory Course Descriptions, cont.**

### **Financial Literacy:**

This course will engage students in the following topics around financial literacy: Borrowing & Paying Back Money, Developing Wise Habits; Income and Expenses, Credit Cards; Emergencies; Interest & Fees; Cost of Goods; and Savings

### **Leisure Activities:**

Activities we engage in for reasons as varied as relaxation, competition, or personal growth.

### **Personal Fitness:**

In personal fitness elective, students will choose to focus on one of two types of fitness: Aerobic or Anaerobic. In the aerobic workouts students will be performing running workouts and improving their cardiovascular endurance. In the anaerobic workouts, students will be introduced to the principles of basic weight training and will look to improve their muscular strength and endurance. During the course, students will set goals, and perform supervised workouts with instructor guidance.

### **Problem Solving:**

In this course, students will develop problem solving skills and learn to use algorithms through Rubik's Cube, Chess and Speed Chess. Students will learn the algorithm to successfully solve the Rubik's Cube. Students will learn the rules of how to play chess and speed chess. Students will also learn basic strategies for playing and winning at chess. We will also have discussions on how the concepts learned with the Rubik's Cube and Chess can be applied to real life applications.

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## **6th Grade Exploratory Course Descriptions, cont.**

### **Theater Arts:**

This course will focus on everything students need to know about the theater in order to appreciate a play or even write, star in, produce or direct one themselves one day! This course has many different units including improvisation, creative writing, monologues, scene study, design and theater production/technical theater. The course will focus on the origins or history of theater, and include some field trip opportunities to go and see high school, collegiate and professional theater productions.

### **Visual Journal:**

In this course students will combine the idea of keeping a journal and a sketchbook in the same place. We will explore creative ways to express thoughts, feelings and ideas both visually and verbally with a variety of art mediums. Mediums will include watercolor paints, acrylic paints, collage, resist methods, stencils and more.  
(Purchase of a sketchbook is required)

### **World Travel through Virtual Field Trips:**

Students will engage in virtual field trips to important cultural sites around the world. They will discuss the importance of the sites and discover future places to visit.

## **7th Grade Encore Descriptions**

During the encore period, 7th grade students will have physical education and are able to select 2 additional courses from the list below.

### **General Music:**

This course of study is organized around musical styles both familiar and unfamiliar to the students. Styles are studied by region and culture such as current and historic American (folk, blues, jazz, musical theater, popular, etc.), Carnatic, Native American, Japanese among others.

This course is an extension of the General Music from 6th grade. There will be an emphasis on Rhythm, pitch, harmony, form, tone color, instruments, Music History, Musical Theater, as well as creative means of generating student original selections.

### **Spanish**

This course aims to help students acquire basic communication skills in both oral and written Spanish. Additionally, students will develop an understanding of different countries and cultures of Spanish speaking people.

### **Theater Arts:**

This course will focus on everything students need to know about the theater in order to appreciate a play or even write, star in, produce or direct one themselves one day! This course has many different units including improvisation, creative writing, monologues, scene study, design and theater production/technical theater. The course will focus on the origins or history of theater, and include some field trip opportunities to go and see high school, collegiate and professional theater productions.

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## **7th Grade Encore Descriptions, cont.**

### **Art:**

In this course students will be exposed to a wide variety of art history, materials, and techniques designed to help improve students basic knowledge of art skills; Designing original artwork through Drawing, Painting, and Sculpting. This course is a lot like what you have been part of from Kindergarten

### **Band:**

Increase musicianship skills while performing a variety of exciting music in many different concerts for our school, community and at competition. Please take a look at the [band course overviews](#) for more information regarding performances, other band opportunities, and the band progressions through the middle school years.

## **7th Grade Exploratory Course Descriptions**

Seventh grade students will take up to 5 exploratory courses. Students taking choir will be able to take 2 additional courses. Please discuss the different options with your child and indicate your preferences through the form on Skyward.

### **Leisure Activities:**

Activities we engage in for reasons as varied as relaxation, competition, or personal growth.

### **Novel to Hollywood:**

We will read two books during the trimester and then watch the movie versions. Students will analyze similarities and differences and express their preferences. Students will also practice having meaningful discussions about why certain changes were made from the book to the movie.

### **Painting:**

In this course students will explore the fundamentals of painting. This course will emphasize proper use of materials and techniques through a variety of subjects: still life, portrait, and landscape. Students will learn basic color mixing, elements and principles of design, and color theory. Emphasis will be on watercolor and acrylic paints.

### **World Geography Dream Trip:**

World geography will begin with the basics of geography that will include understanding the five themes of geography and reading a map. World geography will progress to learning about the relationships among people, places, and environments that result in geographical patterns on Earth. Students will use geographic methods to analyze climates, landforms, and natural resources. They will also study the cultural, political, economic, and religious characteristics of the world regions.

### **Public Speaking:**

This course is designed for students new to public speaking and oral communications. Thus, the course is a scaffolded approach, giving students a foundation in oral communications principles and successful experiences with quick speeches in front of the class or in small groups.

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## **7th Grade Exploratory Course Descriptions, cont.**

### **World Travel through Virtual Field Trips:**

Students will engage in virtual field trips to important cultural sites around the world. They will discuss the importance of the sites and discover future places to visit.

### **Current Events**

In this course, students will explore current important events happening in the world and discuss how these events impact them.

### **Choir:**

This course develops choral skills, stage movement, diction and vocal technique while reinforcing and enhancing the fundamental musical skills acquired in elementary Music Classes. The Repertoire is drawn from classical, folk and popular music. Curriculum also introduces some analysis of musical forms and styles and use of appropriate musical terminology.

### **Teacher Assistant:**

Students who opt to be a teacher assistant will work in a primary classroom supporting teachers. This may include reading to students, providing guidance and support during work centers, playing games, and practicing with students. These students may also be asked to help support the classroom teacher with various organizational responsibilities.

### **Creative Writing:**

Students will explore and create different forms of creative writing, such as short stories, poetry, memoir/narrative pieces, creative nonfiction, script writing, and journaling through different genres (fantasy, historical fiction, etc.). Additionally students will evaluate their own writing, and that of our peers, as a member of a safe and supportive community of writers.

## **8th Grade Encore Descriptions**

During the encore period, 8th grade students will have physical education and are able to select 2 additional courses from the list below.

### **Art:**

In this course students will be exposed to a wide variety of art history, materials, and techniques designed to help improve students basic knowledge of art skills; Designing original artwork through Drawing, Painting, and Sculpting. This course is a lot like what you have been part of from Kindergarten

### **Band:**

Increase musicianship skills while performing a variety of exciting music in many different concerts for our school, community and at competition. Please take a look at the [band course overviews](#) for more information regarding performances, other band opportunities, and the band progressions through the middle school years.

### **General Music:**

This course of study is digging much deeper into the History of music, famous composers, and specific historical context. Eras include Ancient Medieval, Renaissance, Baroque, Classical, Early and Late Romantic and Contemporary.

This course also dives deeper into the Music Theory aspect. Chords, progressions, accidentals, modes, Circle of Fifths, understanding the “why” of music.

The class will also dive into Music Critics and Reviews and Song Analysis, Commercials, and the importance of music.

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## **8th Grade Encore Descriptions**

### **Spanish**

This course aims to help students acquire basic communication skills in both oral and written Spanish. Additionally, students will develop an understanding of different countries and cultures of Spanish speaking people.

### **Theater Arts:**

This course will focus on everything students need to know about the theater in order to appreciate a play or even write, star in, produce or direct one themselves one day! This course has many different units including improvisation, creative writing, monologues, scene study, design and theater production/technical theater. The course will focus on the origins or history of theater, and include some field trip opportunities to go and see high school, collegiate and professional theater productions.

## 8th Grade Exploratory Course Descriptions

Eighth grade students will take up to 6 exploratory courses. Students taking choir will be able to take 3 additional courses. Please discuss the different options with your child and indicate your preferences through the form on Skyward.

### **Choir:**

This course continues to develop choral skills, stage movement, diction and vocal technique while reinforcing and enhancing the fundamental musical skills acquired in elementary Music classes. The Repertoire is drawn from classical, folk and popular music. Curriculum also introduces some analysis of musical forms and styles and use of appropriate musical terminology.

### **Leisure Activities:**

Activities we engage in for reasons as varied as relaxation, competition, or personal growth.

### **Personal Fitness:**

In personal fitness elective, students will choose to focus on one of two types of fitness: Aerobic or Anaerobic. In the aerobic workouts students will be performing running workouts and improving their cardiovascular endurance. In the anaerobic workouts, students will be introduced to the principles of basic weight training and will look to improve their muscular strength and endurance. During the course, students will set goals, and perform supervised workouts with instructor guidance.

### **Public Speaking:**

This course is designed for students new to public speaking and oral communications. Thus, the course is a scaffolded approach, giving students a foundation in oral communications principles and successful experiences with quick speeches in front of the class or in small groups.

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## **8th Grade Exploratory Course Descriptions, cont.**

### **World Travel through Virtual Field Trips:**

Students will engage in virtual field trips to important cultural sites around the world. They will discuss the importance of the sites and discover future places to visit.

### **Readers Theater:**

Students in Readers Theater will be developing their fluency skills, reading with expression, enunciation, and using voice to convey meaning. Through practicing their parts and reading them aloud effectively, the audience should be able to visualize what is happening. We will be selecting parts and performing them to the students in our class.

### **Research Skills:**

This course will take you step-by-step through a research project – planning the project, identifying sources and conducting the research, evaluating sources, compiling the information in a meaningful way and, finally, presenting the results.

### **Sculpture:**

In this course students will explore the fundamentals of sculpture. This course will emphasize proper use of materials and techniques through a variety of materials, which will include Paper mache, Plaster and clay. Students will learn how to manipulate these materials and use sculpting tools safely to create interesting sculptural art forms both realistic and abstract

### **STEM:**

This course is intended to integrate the science, technology, engineering, and math fields through project based learning. Students will be engaged by frequent hands-on activities geared towards combining each of the STEM disciplines. Creativity and collaboration will be encouraged as students solve problems through computer science coding and engineering projects.

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## **8th Grade Exploratory Course Descriptions, cont.**

### **World War II and the Holocaust:**

In this course, students will read and analyze primary and secondary sources from World War II and the Holocaust. Students will also read literature written about the Holocaust. Students will gain historical knowledge of the events leading up to the Holocaust and how it occurred in a democratic society. Building well-informed and empathetic global citizens is a main goal of the course.

### **Teacher Assistant:**

Students who opt to be a teacher assistant will work in a primary classroom supporting teachers. This may include reading to students, providing guidance and support during work centers, playing games, and practicing with students. These students may also be asked to help support the classroom teacher with various organizational responsibilities



**Questions? Contact Bristol's Band Director, [Mr. John Murphy](#) and visit [Bristol's Band Web Page](#)!**

	5th Grade Band	6th Grade Band	Advanced 7th Grade Band	Advanced 8th Grade Band	Advanced Jazz Band* (OPTIONAL)
Course Learning Target	Increase musicianship skills on their instrument while rehearsing a variety of exciting classical, pop, jazz and traditional styles of music.		Increase musicianship skills while performing a variety of exciting music in many different concerts for our school, community and at competition.		
Graded Course	Grades will be based on class participation, effort, and overall mastery of skills gained on their instrument.		Grades will be based on class participation, effort and mastery of skills on their instrument.		Not a graded course but practice minutes may count overall course grade.
22-23 Performance Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Winter Concert at Bristol School</li> <li>• Spring Concert at Bristol School</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Winter Concert at Bristol School</li> <li>• Spring Concert at Bristol School</li> <li>• Band-O-Rama at Central High School (includes a combined concert with other band students from the Westosha area)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Winter Concert at Bristol School</li> <li>• Spring Concert at Bristol School</li> <li>• <a href="#">Band-O-Rama at Central High School</a></li> <li>• Community and School Performances</li> <li>• <a href="#">Christmas carols at Gurnee Mills Mall</a></li> <li>• Pep band songs during Bristol basketball games</li> <li>• Occasional performances with High School Band</li> <li>• <a href="#">Center-court Performance at a Milwaukee Bucks Game</a></li> <li>• Compete in festivals such as the Six Flags Great America Theme Park</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Winter Concert at Bristol School</li> <li>• Spring Concert at Bristol School</li> <li>• <a href="#">Band-O-Rama at Central High School</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Participates in the WSMA District Festival Competition</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Fire Station Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser</a></li> </ul>	<p><i>*During the 22-23 school year, our Advanced Jazz Ensemble received a perfect score and all of our members won gold medals for their participation at the WSMA district festival - <a href="#">click here to learn more!</a></i></p>
Other Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Free Summer Band Program</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Free Summer Band Program</li> <li>• Eligible to participate in Beginner Jazz Program: Meets on Fridays from 2:45-3:45 pm beginning in February.</li> <li>• Some students may be eligible to perform with our advanced band at pep bands, the Milwaukee Bucks Star Spangled Banner performance, WSMA solo &amp; ensemble competition (where they can win medals for their musical achievement) and at the Six Flags performance.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Free Summer Band Program</li> <li>• Eligible to participate in Advanced Jazz Ensemble: Meets on Tuesdays from 6:30-7:30 pm beginning in October.</li> <li>• Eligible to participate in the WSMA Solo &amp; Ensemble Competition for small group ensembles.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compete in festivals such as the Six Flags Great America Theme Park</li> <li>• <a href="#">Performances at Bristol's Science and Art Night</a></li> </ul>	