

24-25

School Year

BRISTOL SCHOOL DISTRICT #1

MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE DESCRIPTIONS



*Being a Positive &
Lasting Influence for All!*

*20121 83rd Street
Bristol, WI*

Middle School Elective & Exploratory Course Descriptions



	What are Exploratory Courses?	<p>The purpose of exploratory courses is to provide students an opportunity to experiment with ideas and to explore areas of knowledge and new instructional techniques of particular interest or benefit to them.</p>
	What are Encore Courses?	<p>The purpose of encore courses is to provide students a well-rounded educational experience beyond the core curriculum courses.</p>

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Grade-Level Options Overview

Grade	Number of Exploratory Classes per School Year	Grade-Level Exploratory Options	Grade-Level Required Encore Classes*
6	<p>Non-Band Students: Choose four exploratory classes for the school year.</p> <p>Band Students: Choose one exploratory class for the year</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leisure Sports • Band • Caught!! Intro to Forensic Science • World Travel through Virtual Field Trips • Visual Journaling • Problem Solving • Teacher Assistant • Cinematography • Public Speaking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Spanish * Physical Education * Music * Art
7	<p>All Students (including band students): Choose four exploratory classes for the school year.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S.T.E.M. 1 • Personal Fitness • World Travel through Virtual Field Trips • Painting • Novel to Hollywood • Teacher Assistant • Cinematography • Public Speaking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Physical Education <p>*Pick two out of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General music • Art • Band • Spanish • Theater arts
8	<p>All Students (including band students): Choose four exploratory classes for the school year.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal Fitness • S.T.E.M. 2 • Culinary Arts • World Travel through Virtual Field Trips • Sculpture • Readers' Theater • Teacher Assistant • Cinematography • Public Speaking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Physical Education <p>*Pick two out of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General music • Art • Band • Spanish • Theater arts



6TH GRADE EXPLORATORY COURSES

6th Grade Required Exploratory Classes

All 6th grade students will be enrolled in Financial Literacy I and College and Career Prep I.

Financial Literacy I:	<p>Students will experiment with creating and managing a budget, real life budgeting scenarios, and learn how to prioritize and set saving goals. Some of the topics students might explore are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Saving Money• Developing Wise Spending Habits• Short vs. Long Term Goals• Borrowing & Paying Back Money• Income and Expenses• Gross vs. Net Pay• Credit Cards vs. Debit Cards• Credit Scores and Interest Rates• Following a Budget• Planning and Smart Decision Making
College & Career Prep I	<p>Students will explore different skills necessary for success in college and the workforce including: time management, organization, planning, actively studying, and note-taking. Additionally, students will learn about positive life-long habits that will set them up for success beyond middle school. Additionally, students will gain experience in using web applications to communicate effectively.</p>

6th Grade Exploratory Choices

Students in 6th grade will be able to take up to 4 exploratory classes. If a student is taking Band, they will be able to take one exploratory course. Please discuss the different options with your child and indicate your preferences through the form on Skyward.

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 overview for more information regarding performances, other band opportunities, and the band progressions through the middle school years.
Leisure Sports:	Students will learn about and engage in various leisure sports. The goal of the class is to support students in identifying and learning about different leisure activities that can provide relaxation, socialization, and personal growth.
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.

-----Additional 6th grade options continued on next page-----



6TH GRADE

EXPLORATORY COURSES

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.
Cinematography	Students will learn the basics of video and movie production from conception to finished footage with the end goal of students producing finished footage for promotional use by Bristol School District. Due to the nature of the course, space will be limited.
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.
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.
Caught!! Intro to Forensic Science:	Students will learn what forensic science is and the numerous jobs that involve forensic science. We will discuss eye witnesses, collecting evidence, fingerprints, footprints, DNA, composites, bones, handwriting analysis, unknown substances and many other crime scene basics. Students will use their knowledge and skills to solve non-violent crimes towards the end of the trimester.

**** Please note that students in 6th grade also have the option to sign up for Choir. Choir does not take up any of the exploratory spaces.**

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.
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7TH GRADE ENCORE COURSES

7th grade students will automatically be enrolled in physical education AND
MUST select 2 courses from the list below!

General Music:	<p>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.</p>
Spanish:	<p>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.</p>
Theater Arts:	<p>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.</p>
Art:	<p>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.</p>
Band:	<p>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 overview for more information regarding performances, other band opportunities, and the band progressions through the middle school years.</p>



7TH GRADE EXPLORATORY COURSES

7th Grade Required Exploratory Classes

All 7th grade students will be enrolled in Financial Literacy II and Health.

Students will explore their money values, learn the basics of banking, saving, and budgeting, and start thinking ahead to high school and their financial futures. Some of the topics students might explore are:

Financial Literacy II:

- Money in Our Lives
- Investing
- Consumer Skills
- Protecting Yourself
- Budgeting
- Preparing for Success
- Credit
- Life After High School
- Saving

Health:

In this course, students will be introduced to the basic concepts of health and wellness. Students will explore many topics and the factors that will influence their health and wellness, so that we can make health literate decisions regarding living a healthier life.

7th Grade Exploratory Choices

Students in 7th grade will be able to take up to 4 exploratory classes. Please discuss the different options with your child and indicate your preferences through the form on Skyward.

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 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.

-----Additional 7th grade options continued on next page-----



7TH GRADE

EXPLORATORY COURSES

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.
Personal Fitness:	In the 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.
S.T.E.M. I:	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 S.T.E.M. disciplines. Creativity and collaboration will be encouraged as students solve problems with a focus on computer science coding.
Cinematography:	Students will learn the basics of video and movie production from conception to finished footage with the end goal of students producing finished footage for promotional use by Bristol School District. Course may require students to commit time after school.
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.

**** Please note that students in 7th grade also have the option to sign up for Choir. Choir does not take up any of the exploratory spaces.**

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.
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8TH GRADE ENCORE COURSES

8th grade students will have physical education AND
MUST select 2 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 overview 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 of chords, progressions, accidentals, modes, Circle of Fifths, and understanding the “why” of music. The class will also dive into music critics and reviews and song analysis, commercials, and the importance of music.
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 COURSES

8th Grade Required Exploratory Classes

All 8th grade students will be enrolled in College & Career Prep II and Holocaust Studies.

College & Career Prep II:	This class will help students develop the skills they need to be successful in high school and college. This will include an emphasis on growing writing, critical thinking, reading, organization and collaboration skills.
Holocaust Studies:	This course provides an age-appropriate introduction to the Holocaust. Students will explore the historical events, key figures, and lasting impact of the Holocaust. Topics will include: the rise of Nazism, the persecution of Jews and other targeted groups, the experience of survivors, and the importance of remembrance. Emphasis will be placed on encouraging empathy, critical thinking, and a commitment to standing up against prejudice and injustice. By the end of the course, students will have a foundational understanding of this critical period in history and its relevance to contemporary society.

8th Grade Exploratory Choices

Students in 8th grade will be able to take up to 4 exploratory classes. Please discuss the different options with your child and indicate your preferences through the form on Skyward

Personal Fitness:	In the 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.
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.
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.
Cinematography:	Students will learn the basics of video and movie production from conception to finished footage with the end goal of students producing finished footage for promotional use by Bristol School District. Due to the nature of the course, space will be limited.



8TH GRADE EXPLORATORY COURSES

Culinary Arts:	This course supports students with the tools to grow their confidence, abilities, and investment in the kitchen while helping them to investigate their personal connections to foods, cooking, and dining.
S.T.E.M. II:	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 S.T.E.M. disciplines. Creativity and collaboration will be encouraged as students solve problems through computer science coding and robotics projects.
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.
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

**** Please note that students in 8th grade also have the option to sign up for Choir.
Choir does not take up any of the exploratory spaces.**

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.
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5th Grade Band



Course Learning Target

Increase musicianship skills on their instrument while rehearsing a variety of exciting classical, pop, jazz, and traditional styles of music.

Graded Course

Grades will be based on class participation, effort, and overall mastery of skills gained on their instrument.

Performance Opportunities

- Winter Concert at Bristol School
- Spring Concert at Bristol School

Other Opportunities

Free Summer Band Program



6th Grade Band

Course Learning Target

Increase musicianship skills on their instrument while rehearsing a variety of exciting classical, pop, jazz, and traditional styles of music.

Graded Course

Grades will be based on class participation, effort, and overall mastery of skills gained on their instrument.

Performance Opportunities

- Winter Concert at Bristol School
- Spring Concert at Bristol School
- Band-O-Rama at Central High School (includes a combined concert with other band students from the Westosha area)

Other Opportunities

- Free Summer Band Program
- Eligible to participate in Beginner Jazz Program: Meets on Fridays from 2:45-3:45pm beginning in February.
- Some students may be eligible to perform with our Advanced Band at Pep Bands, the Milwaukee Bucks Star Spangled Banner performance, WSMA Solo & Ensemble competition (where they can win medals for their musical achievement), and at the Great America Six Flags performance.



Advanced 7th/8th Grade Band

Course Learning Target

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 mastery of skills on their instrument.

Performance Opportunities

- Winter Concert at Bristol School
- Spring Concert at Bristol School
- Band-O-Rama at Central High School
- Community and School Performances
- Christmas carols at Gurnee Mills Mall
- Pep Band songs during Bristol basketball games
- Occasional performances with High School Band
- Center-court Performance at a Milwaukee Bucks Game
- Compete in festivals such as the Six Flags Great America Theme Park

Other Opportunities

- Free Summer Band Program
- Eligible to participate in Advanced Jazz Ensemble: Meets on Tuesdays from 6:30-7:30pm beginning in October.
- Eligible to participate in the WSMA Solo & Ensemble Competition for small group ensembles.

