



Burlington Township Middle School
at
Springside

Curriculum Guide
2017~2018
Grade 8



Burlington Township
Middle School at Springside
1600 Burlington Bypass
Burlington, New Jersey 08016-4000

Larry T. Penny, Principal
Regina Haley, Assistant Principal
Laura Sivon, Assistant Principal

Office: 609-699-4021
Fax: 609-699-4022

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Dear Parents/Guardians:

The scheduling process for the 2017-2018 school year will begin soon. The following information is designed as a resource to help you understand the courses that are offered in grade eight. Since all course offerings are subject to availability of resources and staffing, our guide remains a “draft” until our final budget is determined in late spring. Please review and discuss this guide with your child to familiarize him/her with information used to prepare his/her schedule for the upcoming school year.

Our guidance staff is a valuable resource in the course selection process and they will be happy to assist you with any questions you may have. Guidance Counselors are assigned by grade level and will remain with your child until they complete middle school. Mrs. Colleen Fee will be your child’s guidance counselor. Please contact our office secretary, Valerie Schwartz, at 699-4021, Ext 4013 if you have any questions about this guide or the scheduling process.

The success of each of our students is our primary goal. Therefore, we know you will assist us in making the coming year an enjoyable and rewarding experience for your child at Burlington Township Middle School at Springside.

Sincerely,

Larry T. Penny
Principal

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The courses contained herein are tentatively planned for the 2017-2018 school year. **Course offerings are subject to revision pending availability of staff and budgetary resources.**

Changes to Course Selections

During the summer months and through September 5th, schedule changes can be made by submitting a written request signed by a parent/guardian. **Schedule changes will be made under the following circumstances only:***

1. A required course was missing from the student's schedule.
2. An incorrect level of a course was selected.
3. Student is identified as in need of special services and his/her IEP, 504, or I&RS plan calls for schedule change(s) to accommodate individual needs.
4. A requested course was cancelled due to low enrollment.
5. Student has been identified as in need of remediation based on benchmark and other test results.

* After September 5th, a student who wishes to review a schedule with their counselor should seek a pass from their teacher to visit the guidance office.

Academic Courses-Grade 8

Language Arts 8

Course No. 0110A - YR

This is a required subject that integrates the study and practice of reading and writing skills and includes a state-mandated Holocaust unit. Reading, writing, listening, speaking, and viewing will be promoted through class activities and projects. Students will practice the writing process and strategies for improving reading skills. A significant level of understanding of complex skills is supported by instruction throughout this course in an effort to better prepare students for college and career readiness, rigorous common core standards, and aligned state and local assessments.

Math 8* **

Course No. 0600A - YR

Glencoe Math Course 3 focuses on three critical areas: (1) using applying equations in one and two variables; (2) understanding the concepts of a function and using functions to describe quantitative relationships; (3) applying the Pythagorean Theorem and the concepts of similarity and congruence. Curriculum follows the Common Core Standards along with the Standards for Mathematical Practice. The course emphasizes the need for students to make mathematical connections and to use mathematical principles to communicate, analyze, model, reason, and persevere to solve problems.

* **Honors Algebra I** (*Course No. 0601A – YR*) Students who successfully completed Enriched Math 7 with a grade of 85% or better and have a recommendation from current math course teacher will be enrolled in this course. The Honors Courses are designed to give students the opportunity to develop their potential by fostering their individual talents in the areas of critical thinking, problem solving, and communication skills. Students will have the option at the end of the first semester to declare this course for 5 credits which, under current guidelines, will count towards the graduation requirement at BTHS but will not count towards determining high school class rank/GPA. Students attending our high school will still be required to take 5 credits in Math each year. Contact Neal Canavan, Supervisor of Mathematics, at ncanavan@burltwpsch.org for more information.

****Algebra I** (*Course No. 0602A – YR*) Students who successfully completed Grade 7 math with an “A” average and whose benchmark exam average meets a predetermined standard have the option to enroll in this course, which begins the high school math sequence and builds on students’ middle school exposure to mathematics. Available data measures may also be utilized to determine a student’s readiness for the rigor of this course. Students will have the option at the end of the first semester to declare this course for 5 credits which, under current guidelines, will count towards the graduation requirement at BTHS but will not count towards determining high school class rank/GPA. Students attending our high school will still be required to take 5 credits in Math each year. Contact Neal Canavan, Supervisor of Mathematics, at ncanavan@burltwpsch.org for more information.

Science 8

Course No. 0310A - YR

This course will integrate the areas of earth, life and physical science through the incorporation of inquiry based units of study on selection and adaptation, human impact, common ancestry, properties and behaviors of waves, and stability and change on earth. Students will also practice analyzing and interpreting data, developing models, and engaging in argumentation to make sense of relationships between energy and forces. This course will be modeled on the Next Generation Science Standards incorporating science and engineering practices and crosscutting concepts to expose students to the disciplinary core ideas through mastery of nationally identified performance expectations.

Social Studies 8

Course No. 0410A - YR

The 8th grade United States History curriculum is one filled with opportunities for students to engage in constructive analysis of the development and expansion of the nation and the impact of expansion on social customs and political ideals. Topics of study include the birth of our nation, colonial times, westward expansion and the development of industry. Critical study of our early history will include discussion and analysis of the roles of conflict, values, and ideals and the influence of each on our country then and now.

Specialized Programs

Encore

Eighth Grade students who have demonstrated a high level of achievement in academic and related arts classes may be considered to participate in the 8th grade Encore offerings. To be considered, students must have attained at least three marking periods of high honor roll and one marking period of honor roll. Please note that students that are in the Encore program will be given preference in scheduling for these classes. If there are not enough seats for all non-Encore students who request placement in the classes, the decision to register students will be based on administrative review of the students' 7th grade academic performance, including GPA ranking.

Encore students may choose to enroll in one or two optional semester electives, Encore 8A and Encore 8B, which offer exploration of advanced units of study across the disciplines.

Encore 8A: CSI Burlington: Fingerprint analysis, DNA technology, crime labs: Sound interesting? Come join us as we explore the world of forensic science. Using hands-on activities, students will explore the various careers that make up a forensic science team.

Encore 8B: Shark Tank : Did you ever have an idea for your own business? If so this class is for you. Acting as entrepreneurs, students will write investment proposals for their own businesses. The students will present these proposals to local community members.

Academic Achievement

Based on teacher recommendations and/or other available data, students may be scheduled for lab courses to address identified weaknesses. Lab classes are not electives and are in addition to the regular math and language arts classes. Questions about your child's enrollment in a lab class should be directed to building principal, Larry Penny.

Literacy Lab 8

Course # 0707A YR

This program is designed specifically for the student who has been identified as having weaknesses in literacy skill areas. Teacher input and other available data will be used to identify particular deficiencies. The needs of each individual student are met through diagnosis and remediation of specific areas of reading and/or writing. In addition to individualized instruction, students are also involved in small group instruction. In order to develop and improve literacy skills, a variety of activities are provided to assist students.

Mathematics Lab

Course # 0704A – YR

This program is designed specifically for the student who has been identified as having weaknesses in math skills. Teacher input and other available data will be used to identify particular deficiencies. In order to help the student improve their math skills, diagnostic materials, individualized instruction, and small group activities are provided.

Required Related Arts-Grade 8

Computer Studies 8 - Semester

Course No. 0198

This course is designed to expand the student's computer skills towards demonstration of mastery and of advanced features found in word processing, Excel spreadsheets, and multimedia and presentation application software. Students will also be introduced to web page design and development. Students will build a web site using text and graphic editing tools and key elements available with a web page editor. Students will also learn and practice proper keyboarding techniques using the touch type system. The objective is to type 35 words a minute with 90% accuracy by the end of the course.

Family Life 8 – One Marking Period

Course No. 0820A

The curriculum for Family Life addresses body systems including the reproductive system and related diseases. Disease prevention concepts, adolescent concerns and the emotional, social and physical effects of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs are also major segments of the course.

Physical Education 8 – Three Marking Periods

Course No. 0801A

Physical Education is an integrated full year program that meets every other day while rotating one marking period for a Health/Family Life class. Students will dress and change into “gym clothing” to participate in various individual, team and recreational sport activities. Throughout the course, students will complete the “Physical Fitness Challenge” and learn the “life long skills” of physical fitness with an emphasis placed on building emotional and social sportsmanship while challenging the student's physical related skills.

World Language Program - Semester

French *Course No.0275 – SX*

German *Course No. 0277 – SX*

Spanish *Course No. 0276 - SX*

Students will have the opportunity to select French, German or Spanish. This class will meet every other day for one semester and cover approximately one-quarter of a traditional Level I language course. This level will expand on the oral communication and cultural topics introduced in the 7th grade World Language program. Students will develop skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The student will become acquainted with the basic grammatical structure of the language. The use of authentic materials, audio and videotapes, and technology enhance student learning. This course **will not** count toward meeting high school graduation requirements for World Language instruction. *Every effort will be made to offer students their first preference, but this may not always be possible.*

Full Year Electives-Grade 8

French I	<i>Course No. 0285 – YR</i>
German I	<i>Course No. 0287 - YR</i>
Spanish I	<i>Course No. 0286 - YR</i>

Class meets for one period every day and replaces the World Language 8 requirement. This is the equivalent of the first year of high school level language. Emphasis is on the development of listening, speaking, reading, writing, and grammatical skills. **To be eligible for this option, a student must earn a final average of “B” or higher in 7th grade Language Arts and must receive a recommendation from his/her 7th grade Language Arts and World Language Teachers.** Students successfully completing French I, German I or Spanish I in 8th grade **will receive 5 credits** towards the graduation credit requirement at Burlington Township High School. However, this course **will not count** towards determining high school class rank/GPA, and students attending our high school will still be required to take 10 additional credits in World Languages.

Band

Course No. 0090 - YR

Band is an instrumental ensemble available to students who perform at a level that meets the approval of the Band Director. Students’ grades will be determined through a series of skill playing quizzes. Participation in class, lessons and evening concerts are factored into the student’s grade. Those wishing to be a part of the band but who cannot yet play an instrument may have the opportunity to be scheduled for lessons by the Band Director. Once proficient on an instrument, the student will then be scheduled for the band class. ***Prerequisite: Ability to play an instrument and approval of the Band Director.***

Chorus 8

Course No. 0092 - YR

Chorus is designed for the beginner with limited or no experience in choral singing. The student must have an earnest desire and willingness to sing. Students will also study the fundamentals of music with an emphasis on music reading. A wide variety of musical styles will be explored and students will learn the correct performance techniques. **One evening in the winter and one evening in spring are required, and these performances are evaluated as exam grades for this course.**

Orchestra-Strings

Course No. 0096 – YR

String Orchestra is an all string instrument ensemble available to students who perform at a level that meets the approval of the Orchestra director. Student’s grades will be determined through a series of skill playing quizzes. Participation in class, lessons, and evening concerts are factored into the student’s grade. Those wishing to be a part of the string orchestra but who cannot yet play a string instrument may have the opportunity to be scheduled for lessons by the Orchestra Director. Once proficient on an instrument, the student will then be scheduled for the string orchestra class.

PREREQUISITE: Ability to play a string instrument and approval of the Orchestra Director.

Grade 8 Electives (Tentative)

The following electives are tentatively planned for the 2017-2018 school year. **Course offerings are subject to revision pending availability of staff and budgetary resources.**

Students will use the elective selection sheet that follows to select their choices. Students will be asked to make multiple selections, based on eligibility and interest, and every effort will be made to honor as many requests as possible. We make no guarantees that all requests will be granted. The final school schedule will determine which courses run which semester(s).

Courses entitled “Enriched” require academic good standing and/or department/counselor recommendation.

Electives

Art Exploratory: Course 0015A - This is an introductory course that affords students basic hands-on opportunities to explore a variety of artistic media and techniques. In this class you will explore your favorite colors, practice using art materials, and express yourself with a variety of art projects.

Anatomy & Physiology 8: Course 0034A - Students will focus on structure and function of vertebrate anatomy and physiology which includes detailed analysis of the following systems: Circulatory, Respiratory, Digestive, Urinary, Reproductive, and Endocrine. Students will perform virtual and small dissections. **Prerequisite: Students must have a final average of A in science and B or higher in mathematics in grade seven.**

Ceramics: Course 0046 - This course affords serious art students opportunities to practice techniques with select media to complete required ceramics projects such as pinch pots, coil pots, and slab pots.

Communication and Manufacturing: Course 0051 - Drafting is the language of engineering, and students are exposed to the basics of this communication. They apply the design process loop in the creation of a package and three-dimensional greeting card. Students also take on the role of an engineer as they design and prepare technical drawings. Students further explore the manufacturing process as they construct projects using a variety of hand and woodworking tools.

Creative Writing: Course 0061 - This class will offer students the opportunity to creatively express themselves through writing activities. Writing topics will focus on both student selected and teacher directed themes.

Dance, Aerobics and Nutrition: Course 0024A - This course includes opportunities to study and practice various styles of dance, aerobics, and nutrition. Students will participate in activities that promote a healthy life style. Dance styles ranging from international to contemporary will be included. Aerobic activities will vary.

Drawing and Beyond: Course 0041A - In this course students will practice advanced drawing skills and also create works of art inspired by famous artists.

Enriched Ceramics: Course 0017A - This advanced course affords serious art students the opportunities to practice techniques with select media to complete required ceramics projects. Students will take what they have learned in ‘Ceramics’ and apply that knowledge towards more complex assignments.

Enriched Creative Writing: Course 0060 - This course affords serious language arts students the opportunity to study and apply literary techniques and styles to create and publish various pieces in the creative writing genre.

Enriched Drama: Course 0757A - This course provides serious students the opportunity to study and practice dramatic techniques. Students may have the opportunity to perform both in and out of class. **Prerequisite: Previous study of drama or recommendation from teacher.**

Enriched Journalism: Course 0041 - This course affords serious language arts students the opportunity to study and apply literary techniques and styles to create and publish various journalistic pieces.

Enriched Keyboards (Piano): Course 0095 - Students will learn, perform, and record music of many styles. Interested students will explore music on the Internet and compose their own songs. *Prerequisite: Students must successfully pass Keyboard Technology in Music Level I or teacher recommendation for students who study music privately.*

Enriched Logic: Course 0018A - This course affords serious problem-solvers the opportunity to study and solve logic problems and games, mathematical puzzles, along with many other thought-provoking problems in groups and individually. Content may include Sudoku puzzles, logic matrices, and various discrete math tasks.

Enriched Modern Art: Course 0039 - This advanced course affords serious **art students who are recommended by the art department** to learn the traditional rules of making art, then learn how to break them by studying modern artists. You will create both realistic and abstract works of art in this class using a variety of techniques and materials.

Enriched Robotics: Course 0032A - This course affords serious students the opportunity to apply the problem-solving process and design loop to explore how robots function. Students will apply their learning as they work collaboratively to design and create “robots” to complete required tasks.

Enriched Wildlife & Fisheries Biology: Course 0026A – In this course, through hands-on activities, students will learn the biology, anatomy, and behavior of wildlife, such as animals, plants, and fish. Students will also investigate the principles used to manage, protect, and conserve wildlife and the careers related to this field of science.

Intro to Business: Course 0197A - Take a technology-based tour around the various diverse topics within the world of Business. This course will be held exclusively in a computer lab and will be project based and exploratory in format. Students will explore areas of business operations, sports & entertainment marketing tactics, financial outlooks as they relate to career research, levels of management, personal budgeting in early adulthood, and much more. In one interactive unit, students will take on the role of a potential franchisee and will explore the processes, costs, and polices that come along with trying to open and successfully operate their own location of their favorite food-related franchise. Intro to Business will provide outgoing 8th grade students a basis of understanding in the Business world today, giving them an edge as they perhaps look to enroll in our high school Business Department offerings.

Introduction to Drama: Course 0756A - This performance based course is designed to introduce the inexperienced student actor to basic acting techniques, including the roots of modern drama, introduction to warm-ups and relaxation, blocking, vocabulary, and monologue performance.

Introduction to Keyboarding (Piano): Course 0094 - This class is designed to help students learn the basics of the piano keyboard. Students have fun learning to read, play and record their music. No prior musical training is needed.

Journalism: Course 0042A - This course provides an opportunity to learn about the various aspects of news writing and publication. It allows students to understand the effect and impact of mass media and mass communication on the public. Students will also have the opportunity to work on the school newspaper.

Power Technology: Course 0052 - The course focuses upon technology history, energy resources and simple machines. Students will learn designing and assembling circuits and switches and the principles of electricity. Students also learn to use hand tools to cut, assemble, and finish a wood project using a wide variety of tools. Students are challenged to be creative in the construction of both a mousetrap-powered vehicle and a catapult, using concepts learned about simple machines.

Team Sports & Cooperative Games – (Formerly Rec & Team Building) This course will provide students with alternative team and cooperative games that they don't typically see in their physical education classes. Students will be challenged physically through daily activities that incorporate sportsmanship, team work and participation. The students will have a mid-term and final where they will be required to create a game and present the game to the class. Students will be challenged throughout the semester with both individual and team games. **Note: Students who have previously taken Rec & Team may not take this course.**

Simple Motorized Machines: Course 0053 - This course challenges students to use their creativity through “hands-on” experiences to solve problems. Through the building of realistic motorized models with LEGOS, students develop a strong understanding of mechanical principles. This “learning by making” is based upon four educational principles - connect, construct, contemplate, and continue - that ensure a complete learning experience. The simple machines explored are levers, pulleys, wheels and axles, and gears.

Web Page Creation: Course 0071 - Students will be introduced to Web page design and creation using Microsoft FrontPage 2000 software. Students will be able to build and modify web pages by using Front Page's text and graphic tools and will learn to add advanced features to the web page by using various component elements available with the web page application. They will build a specialized web site that includes a form web page for using data collection and a frames' page. This elective computer studies course will give students the opportunity to create a web page for the school web site.

Yearbook: Course 0073 - This semester course offers a mixture of digital design and journalism. Students will be involved in the planning and creating process of the BTMS Yearbook. Students will gain skills in the following areas: page design, publishing techniques, copy writing and editing. Students interested in this course should be self-motivated, responsible and possess excellent computer and editing skills.

Grade 8 Elective Selection Sheet

All eighth grade students take the following REQUIRED related arts courses unless special accommodations are granted:

- PE/Health – 3 days of a six day cycle all year
- 1 Semester of World Language (French or German or Spanish)
- 1 Semester of Computers

In addition, students will take four semester electives this year. Year-long courses such as Band, Chorus, Orchestra-Strings, Math Lab, and Literacy Lab count as two semester electives. Foreign language for high school credit counts as four electives, but students are waived from the required world language semester. A student who requests two year-long electives may be excused from one or more required related arts courses only upon permission of the counselor and administrator. In such cases students will be expected to demonstrate proficiency in the content areas for which they are excused. **Math and Literacy Labs are automatically scheduled for students who have been identified as having skill deficiencies. Students may be removed from required related arts to accommodate these academic assistance courses. Parents should contact Mr. Penny to discuss any concerns.**

Most students will take FOUR electives from the list on the following page. However, to ensure that as many requests as possible are met; you will actually rank UP TO TEN selections. **Use the guidelines on the following page to rank your requests. Students *may not* select a semester elective that was previously taken in 6th or 7th grade unless special permission is granted by a counselor or case manager.**

YEAR LONG COURSES: If you believe you are eligible and interested in one or more of these courses, please state your interest and eligibility below. Rank it NUMBER 1 or 2.
 Example of an Explanation: *I am interested in taking Band. I have played the trumpet for four years.*_____

- _____ 0090 Band (eligibility determined by Instrumental Music Department)
- _____ 0092 Chorus 8
- _____ 0096 Orchestra-Strings (eligibility determined by Strings Department)

Full Year World Language (Must be recommended by World Language Teacher: Please number your choice 1-3 in order of preference

- _____ 0285 (French) Foreign Language for High School Credit (see eligibility criteria)
- _____ 0287 (German) Foreign Language for High School Credit (see eligibility criteria)
- _____ 0286 (Spanish) Foreign Language for High School Credit (see eligibility criteria)

SEMESTER COURSES: Please rank your top ten choices in order of preference from the list with 1 being your first choice. **Students may not take an elective that they completed in Grade 6 or 7.**

Specialized Semester Courses: Must be an Encore or High Honors student to qualify.

- _____ 0038A Encore 8A CSI Burlington
- _____ 0038B Encore 8B Shark Tank 101

- _____ 0015A Art Exploratory 8
- _____ 0034A Anatomy & Phys. 8
- _____ 0046 Ceramics
- _____ 0051 Communication and Manufacturing
- _____ 0061 Creative Writing
- _____ 0041A Drawing and Beyond
- _____ 0024A Dance, Aerobics& Nutrition
- _____ 0017A Enriched Ceramics
- _____ 0060 Enriched Creative Writing
- _____ 0757A Enriched Drama
- _____ 0095 Enriched Keyboards (Piano)
- _____ 0041 Enriched Journalism
- _____ 0026A Enr. Wildlife & Fisheries Biology
- _____ 0018A Enriched Logic
- _____ 0039 Enriched Modern Art
- _____ 0032A Enriched Robotics
- _____ 0756A Intro to Drama
- _____ 0197A Intro to Business
- _____ 0094 Intro to Keyboarding (Piano)
- _____ 0042A Journalism
- _____ 0052 Power Technology
- _____ 0053 Simple & Motorized Machines
- _____ 0045A Team Sports & Coop. Games
- _____ 0071 Web Page Creation
- _____ 0073 Yearbook

Required World Language (Semester) - Rank in order of preference. Write 1 for first choice, 2 for second and 3 for third.

- _____ 0275 World Lang.-French
- _____ 0277 World Lang- German
- _____ 0276 World Lang.-Spanish

NOTE: Every effort will be made to honor as many requests as possible. We make no guarantees that all requests will be granted.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

<p><u>For Office Use Only</u></p> <p>Date Form Received: _____</p>
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