



Burlington Township Middle School
at
Springside

Curriculum Guide
2017~2018
Grade 7



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 seven. 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. Mr. Steve Delaney 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 NJASK testing 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 7

Language Arts 7

Course No. 0100A - 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. Through integrated classroom activities, students will prepare for the state-mandated 7th grade test. 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 7*

Course No.0500A - YR

Glencoe Math Course 2 focuses on four critical areas: (1) developing an understanding of and applying proportional relationships; (2) operations with rational numbers and working with expressions and linear equations; (3) solving problems involving scale drawing, geometric constructions, and surface area, and volume; and (4) drawing inferences about populations. 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.

* Students who successfully completed Enriched Math 6 will be enrolled in Enriched Math 7 (*Course No. 0510A - YR*), which provides a compacted curriculum requiring students to master the exit skills from Math 7 and also from Math 8.

Science 7

Course No. 0300A - YR

This course will integrate the areas of earth, life and physical science through the incorporation of inquiry based units of study on structures and properties of matter, interactions of matter and chemical reactions. In addition, students will also develop age appropriate abilities to plan and carry out investigations and to develop evidence to support ideas presented through effective argumentation. Students will also learn about body systems, cells and gene mutation, as well as cell plant structures and the geoscience data used to understand the process and events of Earth's history. 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 7

Course No. 0400A - YR

In this course discovery based learning will be utilized for students to study geography, European exploration, Medieval China, the history of Japan, the rise of African Empires, and significance of the Magna Carta, British Common Law and the impact of the church on the migration of a populace. Emphasis will be placed on how technology influenced each of these peoples and developments.

Specialized Programs

Encore

Students are identified for participation in the Encore program for grades 4 through 12 beginning in fourth grade. Acceptance into the Encore Program may occur in any year. Selection is based on the achievement of a minimum score on a district matrix. For more information, please contact Liz Scott at escott@burltwpsch.org

Encore students may choose to enroll in one or two optional semester electives, Encore 7A and Encore 7B, which offer exploration of advanced units of study across the disciplines. Encore 7A is the study in Journalism. Encore 7B includes the creation of a classroom based computer game. Each unit will begin with an opportunity for students to explore target content through the discovery method and will proceed with the students applying their learning through the completion of a project of their choice. Students will use problem solving skills and creative thinking as they make their way through the various units of study offered during the semester.

Academic Assistance

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 7A

Course # 0702A – 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 7A

Course No. 0700A –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 7

Computer Tech 7 - Semester

Course No.0201A

This course is designed to expand the student's computer skills through the use of a variety of different software applications (word processing, spreadsheets, publications, presentational software). These applications are recognized as being key elements for a firm foundation in advanced computer science courses as well as for workplace readiness initiatives. Multimedia software will provide the student an excellent opportunity to develop presentations from design through the presentation stage. Students will learn proper keyboarding techniques and will practice them throughout the semester.

Family Life 7 – One Marking Period

Course No 0810A

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 7 – Three Marking Periods

Course No.0800A

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 “lifelong skills” of physical fitness with an emphasis placed on building emotional and social sportsmanship while challenging the student's related physical skills.

Drawing – One Marking Period

Course No. 0200B

In this course students will learn to observe nature and draw what they see. Students will use a variety of materials to practice their drawing skills. Students will also study artists from the Italian Renaissance.

World Language – Study of French, German and Spanish – One Marking Period Each Course

Course Nos. 0264A, 0265A, 0266A

The World Language course provides a marking period (each) of instruction in French, German and Spanish. Students will develop skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Aspects of the culture of the countries where the target language is spoken will be introduced. The use of authentic materials, audio and videotapes, and technology will enhance student learning.

Full Year Electives-Grade 7

Band

Course No. 0090

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 7

Course No. 0091

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

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 7 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

Anatomy & Physiology 7: Course 0033 - Students will focus on structure and function of vertebrate anatomy and physiology, which includes the study of integumentary system, skeletal system, and sense organs. Students will perform virtual and small dissections. *Prerequisite: Students must have a final grade of A in science and a B or better in math in grade six.*

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.

Cartooning: Course 0013A - This course affords serious art students the opportunity to study the fundamentals of cartooning. Students will learn the techniques used to create cartoons and will design and publish their own story into a book.

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 Construction: Course 0050 - Students will learn to communicate through drafting. They will study basic construction techniques and learn about building structures and materials. An example of one building activity centers on the engineering, design, construction and testing of a wood truss bridge.

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.

Desktop Publishing: Course 0070 - Students will be introduced to desktop publishing concepts using Microsoft Publisher 2000. Projects completed will include résumés, brochures, postcard announcements, certificates, business cards and advertisements.

Enriched Cartooning: Course 0014A - This advanced course affords serious art students who are recommended or approved by the art department the opportunity to study the fundamentals of cartooning. Students will learn the techniques used to create cartoons and will design and publish their own story into a book.

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 Global Studies: Course 0047 - This course affords serious students the opportunity to study current and historical topics through a humanities perspective. Students will read, discuss and respond to these events and their influence on contemporary cultures.

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 Intro to Keyboards 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 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.

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.

Introduction to Technology: Course 0054 - Students will explore the history and development of air transportation. From ancient Greek legends that spoke of Icarus soaring off into the sunset, Chinese fire rockets, the Montgolfier Brothers hot air balloons, the Wright Brothers first powered airplane, and Robert Goddard’s liquid fueled rocket, students discover the principles of flight and aerodynamics. They apply creative design principles as they design, build and test various models such as a wind-powered vehicle, boomerang or helicopter rotor, airplane and water bottle rocket.

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.

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.

Team Sports & Cooperative Games: Course 0045A – (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.**

Web Page Creation: Course 0071 - Students will be introduced to Web page design and creation using Microsoft Front Page 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.

Grade 7 Elective Selection Sheet

All seventh 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 Marking Period Each of Three World Languages (French, German, and Spanish)
- 1 Semester of Computers (Computer Technology)
- 1 Marking Period of Art (Drawing)

In addition, students will take THREE semester electives this year. Year-long courses such as Band, Orchestra-Strings, Chorus, Math Lab, and Literacy Lab count as two semester electives. 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 THREE semester electives from the list on the following page. However, to ensure that as many requests as possible are met, students are encouraged to 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 grade unless special permission is granted by a counselor or case manager.**

Student Name _____ **Grade 7**

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)
_____ 0091 Chorus 7
_____ 0096 Orchestra-Strings (eligibility determined by Strings Department)

Specialized Semester Courses: *FOR ENCORE STUDENTS ONLY.*

- _____ 0037A Encore 7A- Journalism
_____ 0037B Encore 7B- Video Game Creation

Semester Courses: Please rank your top ten choices in order of preference from the list with 1 being your first choice. **Note:** *Some sections of Dance/Aerobics, Intro to Drama and Ceramics will involve working with students with special needs. General education students will be placed by teacher/counselor recommendation and student agreement.*

- | | | | |
|-------------|--------------------------------|-------------|--------------------------------------|
| _____ 0033 | Anatomy & Phys. 7 | _____ 0018A | Enriched Logic |
| _____ 0015A | Art Exploratory | _____ 0032A | Enriched Robotics |
| _____ 0013A | Cartooning | _____ 0026A | Enr. Wildlife &
Fisheries Biology |
| _____ 0046 | Ceramics | _____ 0756A | Intro to Drama |
| _____ 0050 | Comm. & Constr. | _____ 0094 | Intro to Keyboarding
(Piano) |
| _____ 0061 | Creative Writing | _____ 0054 | Intro to Technology |
| _____ 0024A | Dance, Aerobics &
Nutrition | _____ 0042A | Journalism |
| _____ 0070 | Desktop Publishing | _____ 0053 | Simple & Motorized
Machines |
| _____ 0014A | Enriched Cartooning | _____ 0045A | Team Sports & Coop.
Games |
| _____ 0017A | Enriched Ceramics | _____ 0071 | Web Page Creation |
| _____ 0047 | Enriched Global
Studies | | |
| _____ 0041 | Enriched Journalism | | |
| _____ 0095 | Enriched Keyboards
(Piano) | | |

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 _____

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