



Curriculum Guide

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FORECASTING PROCESS

All students are assigned the following subjects at their grade or performance level:

Language Arts	Social Studies
Mathematics	Science
Health	Computer Technology
Physical Education	

Students will forecast for at least four electives they have interest in. Sixth and seventh graders will be placed in one full-year elective or two one-semester electives, and eighth graders will be placed in two full-year electives or four one-semester electives as seating is available. **This means that we are not always able to accommodate electives by preference.** Study hall is not required, but will be offered as an elective.

Students may be assigned to a Mathematics course that is above grade level by teacher recommendation and evidence of a high level and rate of learning based on Smarter Balanced assessments, progress monitoring data, student's grades in prior semesters, and teacher recommendation.

Students will be provided with a worksheet used to identify which classes are appropriate for them and to indicate elective preferences. Students are to turn in their worksheets according to the identified due date on the worksheet. Students who do not turn in a worksheet will have electives assigned by the Principal.

Course Descriptions

Each course description provides a general overview of the subject matter taught at each grade level or course.

ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS

Students in English/Language Arts classes will focus on the following student standards at their grade level:

- Use conventions and language correctly
- Demonstrate comprehension of key ideas and details of grade-level literary and informational texts
- Analyze and evaluate an author's craft and structure
- Analyze knowledge and ideas from multiple sources
- Conduct effective research and effectively present information
- Write arguments to support claims
- Write informative/explanatory/narrative texts

6th GRADE ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS

The curriculum chosen for 6th grade this year is EngageNY. Students will read 2 or more novels from different genres as well as, supplemental nonfiction materials such as newspapers, magazines, Internet articles, textbooks, speeches, letters, and diaries. Students will be encouraged to comprehend the material, and to analyze and evaluate their readings and apply those skills in social studies and science class. Students will explore/learn about the world of literary elements and devices, practice close reading and annotations. Students will learn to use evidence from their reading and background knowledge to support opinions. Development of writing skills goes hand-in-hand with reading, science and social studies subjects. Students will focus on narrative, persuasive, and expository writing during the year. Students will gain confidence in knowing the parts of an essay and writing well.

7th GRADE ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS

This class builds upon reading and writing skills introduced in 6th grade. Students will work to develop the 6 traits of writing: Ideas and content, organization, word choice, sentence fluency, conventions, and voice. Students will have writing practice in the genres of narrative, explanatory, and argumentative writing, and will build their writing skills through grammar exercises and activities that develop academic vocabulary. Students will learn skills associated with doing credible research, synthesis of information from multiple sources, and correctly citing sources using MLA format. Students will read two novels in class, along with multiple supplemental informational texts. Through these assignments, students will practice close reading skills, annotating a text, analyzing author's purpose and style, and using evidence from text to support their conclusions. Students will also be expected to read four novels and complete related projects outside of class to aide in the development of their personal reading skills.

8th GRADE LANGUAGE ARTS

This class builds upon reading and writing skills introduced in 7th grade in order to prepare students for the demands of the high school curriculum. The curriculum includes the exploration of various literary genres, short stories, poetry, novels and nonfiction. Students will read at least two novels in class and will be expected to read and prepare projects on four books outside of class. The curriculum includes instruction in identifying literary devices and analyzing writing style. Students will continue to review and master the 6 traits of writing introduced in 7th grade (ideas and content, organization, word choice, sentence fluency, convention, and voice) and utilize these traits while writing in a variety of modes. These modes will include narrative, persuasive, imaginative and expository writing. Special

emphasis will be placed on research skills and the writing of research papers utilizing MLA format and developing paraphrasing skills to avoid plagiarism. Students write a series of expository five paragraph essays on a variety of topics, both self chosen and assigned.

READING (LANGUAGE ARTS INTERVENTION)

This course is designed to challenge readers who have not yet found their “reading style” as learners. Students will participate in online, leveled reading instruction aligned to standards necessary to develop success in all reading opportunities. Students will participate in reading a variety of texts and learn strategies to use background information, phonics/phonemic awareness, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension strategies to gain information and interact with text. Students will also be assigned to complete lessons from their individualized curriculum on the iReady platform. This course is **required** for students needing intensive supports to develop reading competency in preparation for high school graduation requirements. Students will work on mastery of critical reading skills needed to be successful in secondary education and to meet graduation requirements.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Students in Social Studies classes will focus on the following student standards at their grade level:

- Identify and describe significant events and cultures within geographic regions
- Apply my knowledge to analyze information (source documents, data, maps, graphs, charts, models) and develop a relevant conclusion with appropriate evidence
- Engage effectively in collaborative discussions on a variety of topics and issues
- Effectively present information

SOCIAL STUDIES 6

Sixth Grade Social Studies covers a variety of studies of ancient cultures including Mesopotamia, Egypt, the Silk Road, China, and Greece. Students will begin their year with a comprehensive study of world geography that give opportunities to identify physical features of the world, use different types of maps for different purposes, and explain how people have adapted to or changed their environment. These studies culminate in the World EXPO research project, in which students study a different country on the topics they studied through the ancient civilization units.

SOCIAL STUDIES 7

Seventh grade Social Studies curriculum focuses an overview of World History combined with physical, cultural and economic geography of the Eastern Hemisphere. Students are introduced to the contributions of ancient Rome, life during the Middle Ages, the lives of Ancient Americans, the ideas of the Renaissance and Reformation, and exploration and colonization of the world. A variety of teaching strategies will be utilized including; class discussion, computer technology, videos, current events, student research projects, texts, map work, oral presentations and exams.

SOCIAL STUDIES 8

Eighth grade Social Studies is a survey of United States History from Exploration to the Civil War and Reconstruction. These topics are explored relative to historical relationships, the structure, function and role of government; principles, ideals and documents of the United States government, and the roles, rights, and responsibilities of U.S. citizens. International relations, physical, cultural, and economic geography, as well as social science analysis skills, and economics are also covered in the course. Specific content areas of the course are: Exploration, Colonization and Settlement, Revolution and the New Nation, Expansion and Reform, Civil War and Reconstruction. A variety of teaching

strategies are utilized including; class discussion, computer technology, videos, current events, student research projects (written and oral), texts, map work, and exams.

MATHEMATICS

Students will be placed into the appropriate math course based on their individual ability: most students are placed in a course at grade level. Based on the results of statewide assessments, progress monitoring through district assessments, individual rates of learning, and class grades, a student who has shown the ability to succeed at a level higher than their assigned grade level may be placed in an higher level class by teacher recommendation.

MATH 6

Sixth grade uses the “Oregon Focus on Mathematics” curriculum. The curriculum provides many opportunities to practice computation as well as extend the concepts to be used in our everyday lives.

In sixth grade students will focus on the following standards:

- Use my understanding of the number system to multiply and divide decimals and fractions
- Use the number system to investigate coordinate planes
- Apply the concept of ratios and rates and apply them to percents and measurement
- Use algebraic expressions and equations
- Use my knowledge of geometry to explore two-dimensional and three-dimensional figures
- Create and interpret sets of data.

MATH 7

The seventh grade mathematics courses use the “Oregon Focus on Mathematics” curriculum. The main learning targets focus on the following standards:

- Analyze proportional relationships and use them to solve real-world and mathematical problems.
- Apply and extend previous understandings of operations with fractions to add, subtract, multiply, and divide rational numbers.
- Use properties of operations to generate equivalent expressions.
- Solve real-life and mathematical problems using numerical and algebraic expressions and equations.
- Draw construct, and describe geometrical figures and describe the relationships between them.
- Solve real-life and mathematical problems involving angle measure, area, surface area, and volume.
- Use random sampling to draw inferences about one or more populations.
- Investigate chance processes and develop, use, and evaluate probability models.

Scientific calculators are required.

MATH 7 ACCELERATED

This course will cover all of the content listed in Math 7 as well as the following 8th grade mathematics topics:

- Know that there are numbers that are not rational and approximate them by rational numbers.
- Understand congruence and similarity.
- Understand and apply the Pythagorean Theorem.

Scientific calculators are required.

*Prerequisite: Recommendation by the sixth grade math teacher. This course moves at a very swift pace and is intended for students who show a strong success rate in previous math classes. Candidates for placement in this class learn new topics very quickly (and without repeated instruction), perform well on the Smarter Balanced mathematics assessment, and show responsibility by completing their assignments in a timely fashion. Students who fall behind in this course will be transferred to Math 7.

MATH 8

The eighth grade mathematics courses use the “Oregon Focus on Mathematics” curriculum. The main learning targets focus on the following standards:

- Know that there are numbers that are not rational and approximate them by rational numbers.
- Work with radicals and integer exponents.
- Understand the connections between proportional relationships, lines, and linear equations.
- Analyze and solve linear equations and pairs of simultaneous linear equations.
- Define, evaluate, and compare functions; use functions to model relationships between quantities.
- Understand congruence and similarity.
- Understand and apply the Pythagorean Theorem.
- Investigate patterns of association in bivariate data.

Scientific calculators are required.

ALGEBRA I

This course will cover 8th grade content not covered in Math 7 Accelerated as well as content listed in the Algebra strand of the high school State Standards. Topics covered in Algebra I include writing, solving, and representing linear, exponential, and quadratic expressions, functions, and inequalities graphically, numerically, symbolically, and verbally. Scientific calculators are required.

*Prerequisite: recommendation by the seventh grade mathematics teacher, highly successful completion of accelerated Math 7 Accelerated, and high performance on the SBAC mathematics assessment. Students who fall behind in this course will be transferred to Math 8.

High School credit may be awarded for successful completion of this course upon request.

GEOMETRY

Students explore and discover geometry, including basic geometric objects (such as points, lines, planes and angles). Polygons, circles, polyhedra, and other 3-dimensional figures are explored. Students will review Algebraic concepts (solving equations, systems of linear equations, quadratic equations, and exponential equations). Students will also have opportunities to learn more advanced probability and statistics. This course emphasizes discovery and problem-solving. A scientific calculator, compass, and protractor are required.

*Prerequisite: teacher recommendation based on both the highly successful completion of Algebra I and high performance on the SBAC mathematics assessment.

High School credit may be awarded for successful completion of this course.

SCIENCE

Students in grades 6-8 will also complete a scientific inquiry project culminating in our annual Science Fair.

SCIENCE 6

Students are encouraged to expand their knowledge of Science by using hands-on learning, engineering, and experimentation. We study Physical, Life, and Earth Sciences.

- Energy
- Cells
- Weather and Climate
- Geological Process
- Human Impact
- Scientific Method and Science Fair

SCIENCE 7

Seventh grade students continue to develop and refine their scientific analysis skills through inquiry, engineering, and lab work. Students will be introduced to the science processes, inquiry, and analysis as outlined in the Common Core State Standards. These initial science skills will be practiced and refined throughout the year as students explore the Content outlined in the Next Generation Science Standards. These topics of exploration and study include, but are not limited to: Chemistry of Materials, Ecology, Reproduction, The Earth in Space, and Biomedical Engineering. A scientific inquiry project and presentation are included in the course.

SCIENCE 8

Eighth grade students continue to develop and refine their scientific analysis skills through inquiry, engineering and lab work. Students will further develop their skills in the science processes, inquiry, and analysis as outlined in the Common Core State Standards. These science skills will be practiced and refined throughout the year as students explore the Content outlined in the Next Generation Science Standards. These topics of exploration and study include, but are not limited to: Force and Motion, Chemical Reactions, Fields and Interactions, Evolution, Waves, and Earth's Resources. A scientific inquiry project and presentation are included in the course.

COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY

Oregon Department of Education has adopted the 2016 ISTE standards for Computer Technology Instruction. The ISTE Standards for Students are designed to empower digital citizenry and learning, collaboration, skills for innovative design, and a student-driven process of exploration, creativity and discovery. A focus on these standards will work to develop the following skills:

- Respect self and other users, and digital property
- Demonstrate the use of academic honesty as it relates to technology
- Use creativity and critical thinking skills to solve problems, using appropriate technology
- Communicate and collaborate effectively in a variety of settings
- Locate, organize, analyze, and cite information from a variety of sources and media
- Effectively understand and operate systems and applications
- Use correct keyboard skills, hand positions, posture and speed

COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY I - 7th grade, Semester Class

This class will focus on proper keyboarding touch-typing skills. General computer use will be covered as well as basic skills in Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Google documents and Google classroom. Students will apply their skills in cross curricular activities relevant to core subjects. Students will learn how to safely navigate the internet and develop digital responsibility skills. Students begin exploration of Career Information System-an application designed to assist students in identifying interests in future careers.

COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY II - 8th grade, Semester Class

This class will focus on improving skills developed in Computer Technology I. More advanced skills and topics will also be introduced and practiced. Students will get a sense of how different applications work together and how they can integrate them into the classroom and other areas of life. Students will learn how to safely navigate the internet. Students continue exploration of Career Information System-an application designed to assist students in identifying interests in future careers.

HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

HEALTH 7 - Semester Class

This class studies the medical side of health. Using State Standards for Biology, students will study multiple body systems in depth. Understanding how complex the human body is will create a greater appreciation for maintaining positive personal health.

HEALTH 8 - Semester Class

This class offers an opportunity for students to explore, discuss, and research key social issues influencing their age group prior to entering High School. The course will stress the development of “critical thinking skills” and “positive decision making” in the areas of physical, emotional, and social health. In fulfillment of state curriculum requirements, units covering drug and alcohol prevention, healthy relationships and H.I.V. /A.I.D.S. will be presented. Students participate in group and individual projects. The format of the class will include discussion, collaborative projects and unit tests.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

All students in grades 6-8 are enrolled in a Physical Education class. This course encourages students to develop an individual level of physical fitness, gain knowledge of physical fitness concepts, understand the significance of lifestyle on one's health and fitness, perform fundamental skills in various activities, understand rules and strategies in various activities. Students will have opportunity to apply correct mechanical skills related to movement, exercise, and performance. Students will be required to perform some type of aerobic exercise and various stretching and strength exercises during every class period. Students will be tested periodically throughout each semester utilizing standardized physical fitness tests to determine strength development and flexibility. Special emphasis will be placed on cooperation and good sportsmanship/character during any recreational games within class.

Electives

STUDY HALL (6th - 8th grades) - Semester Class

Study Hall is a structured time during the school day during which students may complete assignments for other classes under the supervision of a teacher or an instructional assistant. 8th graders may take up to two study halls, if they wish. Students may also be assigned to a study hall (after consultation with their parents) if they are having trouble keeping up with work in their core classes.

BAND I (6th - 8th grades) - Year-long Class

Students interested in learning a new instrument will take Band I, or “Beginning Band.” The class will learn songs from a variety of genres such as folk, popular, and classical music appropriate to their musical development and skill-set. Students will receive instruction in music theory and band literature. All band students will participate in after-school concerts, assemblies, large ensemble festivals, and solo/small group festivals throughout the year. Band I is required prior to students taking Band II, with a few exceptions.

Available instruments to learn are: flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, baritone, or percussion (drums). No guitar or piano is offered.

CHOIR I (6th grade) - Year-long Class

Students will learn musical skills by performing songs from a variety of genres such as folk, popular, and classical music and a variety of languages, scored for younger voices. Students will build their confidence as singers and performers, as well as receive instruction in solfege and reading music. All choir students will participate in after-school concerts, assemblies, large ensemble festivals, and solo/small group festivals throughout the year. Advanced students will have the opportunity to audition for the “All-State Choir” and the “OMEA Honor Choir” and will have many other opportunities for advanced singing.

MYTHS AND MONSTERS (7th & 8th grades) - Year-long Class

Adventure awaits! The theme of this class says it all! We will be completing a series of projects that center around the ideas of myths from a variety of cultures, what makes a hero, structure of heroic stories, the oral storytelling tradition, stories that highlight those treated as an “other” (not accepted in mainstream society or culture). Projects will include developing skills surrounding reading of literature and informational texts, completing reliable research, developing speaking and listening skills through presentation, and writing in multiple modes. We will also put a key focus on developing vocabulary. This class is primarily designed as an intervention class for those struggling to perform at grade level in the area of reading and writing.

BAND II (7th & 8th grades) - Year long class

Band II, also known as “Advanced Band,” requires students to have a year or more of experience on at least one band instrument. Skills learned in Band I will be continued, expanded, and further developed. More advanced techniques, musical concepts, and music will be explored. Students will have the opportunity to audition for the “All-State Band” and the “OMEA Honor Band” and will have many other opportunities for advanced playing. Band II students may choose to join the BHS Football or Basketball Bands. All band students will participate in after-school concerts, assemblies, large ensemble festivals, and solo/small group festivals throughout the year.

Students may choose to switch instruments (if approved by teacher) to: oboe, bassoon, french horn, bass clarinet, tuba. No guitar or piano is offered.

BAND III (8th grade ONLY) - Year long class

Band III allows students who have completed Band II to join the High School Concert Band. Students must have 2 or more years on their chosen instrument, and teacher, principal, and parent approval to commit to Band III. Advanced techniques, musical concepts, and music will be explored in depth. Students will have the opportunity to audition for the “All-State Band” and the “OMEA Honor Band” and will have many other opportunities for advanced playing. Band III students will be required to participate in the BHS Football Band and may choose to join the BHS Basketball Band. All band students will participate in after-school concerts, assemblies, large ensemble festivals, and solo/small group festivals throughout the year.

Students may choose to switch instruments (if approved by teacher) to: oboe, bassoon, french horn, bass clarinet, tuba. No guitar or piano is offered.

ART (7th & 8th grades) - Semester Class (may be taken all year)

This course provides an introduction to the elements of design through the use of a variety of art media. Students will have a chance to learn and apply techniques that come with different art forms, such as drawing, painting and sculpture. This course will also give the opportunity for students to make connections with a variety of historical and modern day artists’ work. There will be an emphasis on taking visual problems and finding solutions through the use of the elements and principles of design.

DRAMA (7th-8th grade) - Year-long Class

The play’s the thing! This class is designed to provide a thorough dramatic experience for students. Throughout the year students will explore elements of acting, including: movement, voice, and script work. Students will touch on elements of stage management, costume and set design, and lighting and sound design. Students will learn key vocabulary associated with the theatre and practice analyzing and interpreting scripts. They will also receive basic instruction in the history of theatre and its many genres. Students will perform monologues and short scenes throughout the year, and participate in a final stage production in the spring.

CHOIR II (7th & 8th grades) - Year-long Class

Students will improve musical skills by performing songs from a variety of genres such as folk, popular, and classical music and a variety of languages, scored for growing voices. Students will build their confidence as singers and performers, as well as receive instruction in solfege and reading music. All choir students will participate in after-school concerts, assemblies, large ensemble festivals, and solo/small group festivals throughout the year. Advanced students will have the opportunity to audition for the “All-State Choir” and the “OMEA Honor Choir” and will have many other opportunities for advanced singing.

LIFETIME FITNESS - (7th & 8th grades) Semester Class (may be taken all year)

This semester long course focuses the importance of being fit and living a healthy lifestyle. Knowledge and application of fitness basics are a critical component in achieving a healthy fitness level and lifestyle. This class will give students the knowledge and tools needed to achieve and maintain a healthy fitness level. Students will actively participate in fitness activities to develop balance, coordination, movement skills, strength, flexibility, cardiovascular endurance and core strength/stability. Students will participate in sports that can be played throughout life to help promote a healthy lifestyle.

SPANISH (8th Grade) - Year long class

First year Spanish emphasizes basic communication skills. Students taking this class will be expected to attain a level of speaking proficiency by the end of the first year through practice with the language in and out of the classroom. Students will also begin to learn other basic skills of language: writing, reading, and listening comprehension. In addition, students will learn about Hispanic culture through video, lecture, and social celebration. After completing this course students will be eligible for high school Spanish II in their freshman year. Eligibility will be based on student's performance in the Language Arts class during the seventh grade year. Enrollment in this class is limited and will be based on academic performance.

High School credit may be awarded for successful completion of this course.

NATIONAL PARKS

Students will apply geography skills through a study of our National Park system. Students will learn to distinguish between different types of maps and use them to analyze issues, gather, interpret and document relevant information about their selected National Park of study. Students will use technology to produce and publish a 20 minute oral presentation.

PERSONAL FINANCE

This class has been developed using Foundations in Personal Finance (Middle School Edition) by Dave Ramsey and his team of professionals. Students get to explore, research and discuss a variety of real life topics relating to money. This program has been aligned to meet the National Standards for Financial Literacy.

- Saving and Budgeting
- Credit and Debt
- Education, Careers and Entrepreneurship
- Investing, Insurance and Identity Theft
- Global Economics
- Marketing and Consumerism

YEARBOOK

Students work throughout the school year to prepare the Yearbook by developing text and photography to memorialize the school year. This class will require after school time at athletic events and other school activities to take photographs. Students learn to design and create the format of the yearbook, create engaging text and to market the yearbook. Students are selected through application, and a limited number of students are selected. Students will receive a written notice of their acceptance for this class. This is a half class. Students work for one half of the class period, then go to study hall.

Creative Design

This elective will provide an opportunity for more project-based and hands-on learning outside of our core classes. Projects will enhance topics we already cover in sixth grade through social studies, language arts, math and science, but will not be limited to those subjects. Students can expect to express their creativity through art, crafts, design, engineering and technology.

OFFICE AIDE (8th grade only, by selection of applicants) - Semester Class

Students selected as office aide support the functions of the main office by maintaining the office work room, making copies for staff, running errands to classes, answering the phone, and other tasks that become necessary during a given period. Students learn office ethics of office efficiency and confidentiality. Students must apply for this opportunity and are selected based on their current grades and behavioral standing. There are limited positions available for this elective.

Banks Middle School Course Forecasting Worksheet 2019-2020

NAME:

Sixth Grade	Seventh Grade	Eighth Grade
Required Courses: Science Language Arts Social Studies Mathematics Physical Education	Required Courses: Science Language Arts Social Studies Physical Education Health/Computer Technology Mathematics 7 -or- Accelerated Math 7 (with teacher recommendation)	Required Courses: Science Language Arts Social Studies Physical Education Health/Computer Technology Mathematics 8 -or- Algebra (with teacher recommendation)
Two semesters of the following: Band - Year Choir - Year Study Hall - Personal Finance National Parks Creative Design	Two semesters of the following: Band 1 - Year Band 2 - Year Choir 2 - Year Drama - Year Art - Semester Study Hall - Semester Life Fitness - Semester Myths & Monsters - Year Math Intervention - Semester L.A Intervention - Semester	Four semesters of the following: Band 1 - Year Band 2 - Year Band 3 - Year Choir 2 - Year Drama - Year Art - Semester Study Hall - Semester Life Fitness - Semester Myths & Monsters - Year Math Intervention - Semester L.A Intervention - Semester Office Aide Spanish Yearbook

Preferences: Place your top choices in the spaces below. Year-long classes should be entered for both semester 1 and semester 2. Eighth graders should list Study Hall twice in each semester if they wish to have study hall for both electives. 6th graders should rank all 3 choices, 7th and 8th graders should rank at least 4 choices.

Semester #1	Semester #2
Choice #1 _____	Choice #1 _____
Choice #2 _____	Choice #2 _____
Choice #3 _____	Choice #3 _____
Choice #4 _____	Choice #4 _____
Choice #5 _____	Choice #5 _____