

**BANKS MIDDLE
SCHOOL
2023 - 2024
CURRICULUM
GUIDE**



FORECASTING PROCESS

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

Language Arts

Social Studies

Mathematics

Science

Health (7th/8th grade)

Physical Education

Homeroom (6th grade) or Learning Wheel (7th/8th grade)

Students will forecast for their desired electives. Students will be placed in one full-year elective or 2 semester long electives, as seating is available. **This means that we are not always able to accommodate electives by preference.**

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, and student's grades in prior semesters.

Students will complete a forecasting sheet ranking their elective choices and return it to the office or their assigned teacher.

Curriculum Guide 2023-2024

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Personal Finance

Intro to Leadership

National Parks

Game Design/Strategy

Aerobics

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 aid in the development of their personal reading skills.

8th GRADE ENGLISH/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.

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, India, China & the Silk Road, Greece and Rome. Students will begin their year with a comprehensive study of world geography that gives 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 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, 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 a 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:

- 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
- 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 and use proportional relationships in real-world and mathematical problems.
- 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, and compare geometric figures.
- Solve real-life and mathematical problems involving 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:

- Recognize irrational numbers and approximate them using 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 state and district mathematics assessments, 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:

- Recognize irrational numbers and approximate them using 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.
- 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 (NOT graphing) are required.*

*Prerequisite: recommendation by the seventh grade mathematics teacher, highly successful completion of accelerated Math 7 Accelerated, and high performance on state and district assessments. 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 state and district mathematics assessments.

Geometry will be offered through a virtual platform only, overseen by a BMS Math teacher. 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.

HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

HEALTH 7 - Semester Class (2 Quarters per year)

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 (2 Quarters per year)

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 the 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.

HOMEROOM (6th grade)

Homeroom is designed to be a home base for 6th grade students. In homeroom we will actively work on creating a positive school climate by addressing the way students relate to one another, the school, and the community. Advisors will work with students to create and maintain a positive school climate and learn strategies to be safe, respectful, and responsible citizens.

Homeroom at Banks Middle School includes study skills, organization, time management, planner use, character development lessons, student directed academic support, reteaching, targeted intervention, and enrichment activities. Advisors use a teacher-student team approach to meet the individual needs of each unique middle school student.

MIDDLE SCHOOL LEARNING WHEEL (7th & 8th grade)

All 7th and 8th grade students will be enrolled in this required semester long academic class. This class will be divided into sections that students will rotate through over the course of 1 semester. Each section will have a focus designed to enrich and develop students skills. Sections will include: Academic and School Success Skills, Character Education and Social Emotional Learning (using the research based CharacterStrong and Second Steps Curriculums), and Technology/ Career Exploration.

Electives -

These are our anticipated elective offerings. Courses may change based on student interest, class sizes and staffing.

Year-long Classes:

BAND I AND BAND II (6th - 8th grades)

Students interested in learning to play an instrument will take 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 (6th-8th grade) (can be taken for one semester) This is a year-long course that explores choral music from a wide variety of cultures and time periods through study and performance. The core curriculum emphasizes the basics of vocal technique, sight-reading, music theory, and music history.

YEARBOOK/COMMUNITY RELATIONS (8th grade only, by selection of applicants)

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. Community Relations is where students' main learning objective is to create and produce products that tell the story of students at BMS. Students enrolled work together to make the yearbook, plan events and fundraisers, and manage all social media. They will show the community that middle school students do amazing things!

This course is open to 7th and 8th grade students by application. Admission to the class will look at academics, behavioral and attendance reports. Enrollment is capped at 20 students.

Semester Classes:

AEROBICS ELECTIVE (6th-8th grade)

This course will incorporate low and high impact aerobics, circuit training, resistance training, yoga and stretching, body weight training, and gym games.

ART (6th–8th grade)

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 design. The main focus of this class will be learning about a variety of different art media, the techniques for using these media, and then creating independent projects with these different media. Some media we may explore are graphite, charcoal, pastels, watercolor, acrylic paint, etc

CULTURES OF THE WORLD (6th–8th grade): Students will learn about what culture is and what it means to us as individuals. Students will learn to define "culture", explore our own culture, and explore other cultures in our world. We will learn about what makes cultures similar and what makes them unique. Students will also learn about cultural components such as food, language, literature, art and film. Students will complete research on other cultures and present to their peers.

CREATIVE DESIGN (6th–8th grade)

This elective will provide an opportunity for more project-based and hands-on learning.. Projects will be teacher selected but student driven and created. Students can expect to express their creativity through art, crafts, design, engineering and technology.

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE (6th–8th grade)

Family and consumer science teach students the foundations of adult life, including nutrition, menu planning, food preparation, clothing care and construction, money management, grooming, consumer awareness, and child development.

FILM STUDIES (6th –8th grade)– The goal of this class is to learn to watch films, both new and old, with a more critical eye. All films viewed are rated PG. Each film will be accompanied by in-class discussions and independent analysis work. We may also incorporate background research or other projects into this course.

GAME STRATEGY AND DESIGN (7th–8th grade)

Students will explore various games from board games, dice games, cards, etc., and learn about the strategies and math behind winning. Students will also design an original game.

GALLERY ART (6th-8th grade)

Students will produce weekly themed art on a single sheet of paper. Students will share their own artwork and award the artwork of their classmates in weekly gallery walks. After each gallery walk, students will get to vote on their next theme. Deadlines are very important in this class, but the art we create is worth the hard work!

GENERAL MUSIC- (6th-8th grade)- In this semester course, students will learn music appreciation and a variety of musical components such as harmony, melody, textures, and style. Students will explore the basics of music through classroom instruments and song. Students will learn about instrument families and types of musical ensembles"

INTRO TO ENGINEERING DESIGN (6th-8th grade)

This course is an academic elective which applies the Engineering Design Process of problem solving to a variety of challenges. Students will learn about careers in engineering and have the opportunity to research and write a report on these careers.

INTRO TO LEADERSHIP (6th-8th grade)- Students will learn many components of leadership such as communication, community involvement, developing partnerships, event/activity planning, and public speaking.

NATIONAL PARKS (6th-8th grade)-Students will explore and virtually travel to some of the national parks in the United States. While you may have heard of some of the more well-known parks – Crater Lake, Grand Canyon, Yellowstone, Yosemite, Glacier – it may surprise you to know that there are 62 protected areas known as national parks in the U.S. as well as 401 areas that are part of the National Park system but not formal National Parks. We will look at when they were discovered, the history (in some cases geological) of what formed them, how they became a national treasure, and how we can carry on the legacy of protecting them. Each student will have an opportunity to research one national park and present their national treasure to the class. This class involves studies related to science, social studies, reading, writing, and technology. Come and explore!

PERSONAL FINANCE (6th-8th grade)

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, including: 1. Saving and Budgeting 2. Credit and Debt 3. Education, Careers and Entrepreneurship 4. Investing, Insurance and Identity Theft 5. Global Economics, Marketing and Consumerism.

YOGA (6th-8th grade)

In this class, we will utilize yoga practices to become more physically, mentally, energetically, and emotionally fit. Yoga students will learn basic yoga poses and flows (asana) as well as stress reduction and mindfulness techniques to gain an increased ability to concentrate.

OFFICE AIDE (8th grade only, application required, limited to 14 students by selection of applicants)

Students selected as an 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, attendance, teacher feedback, and behavioral standing. There are limited positions available for this elective.

PLEASE CHOOSE AN ELECTIVE WE WILL PLACE YOU THE BEST WE CAN.

Student Name: _____

Current Grade Level: _____

Elective Forecasting for 2022-23 School Year

Please rank **your top 10** of the following classes in the order of most to least interest. Number 1 would be your top choice, number 10 would be your last choice. We will try our hardest to give students classes from their top three choices. Elective offerings will depend on staffing and student interest. Some classes are limited to 7th and/or 8th grade students. Students forecasting for Band or Choir will get those courses.

Year long classes:

_____ Band 1

_____ Band II

_____ Yearbook/Community Relations

_____ Choir

Semester long classes:

_____ Gallery Art

_____ Personal Finance

_____ Family and Consumer Science

_____ Yoga

_____ Film Studies

_____ Creative Design

_____ Engineering

_____ General Music

_____ Cultures of the World

_____ Game Strategy and Design (7th and 8th grade only)

_____ Aerobics

_____ Intro to Leadership

_____ Art

_____ Office Aide (8th grade only by application)

_____ National Parks