MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAM PLANNING GUIDE

Blue Valley Schools 2019-20
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Blue Valley is an equal opportunity educator and employer.
This publication is available in alternative formats.
Blue Valley middle schools are designed to meet the needs of a special group of students: young adolescents. We look forward to working with families to help students move successfully through these transitional years. The middle school level focuses on two primary goals – improving the academic performance and encouraging the personal growth of each student. The comprehensive curriculum and structures ensure excellence around college and career readiness, personal and social responsibility, and technology literacy.

Blue Valley middle schools incorporate the following educational principles that are identified in the context of the early adolescence stage of human development:

- Curriculum is grounded in rigorous, academic standards.
- The focus will be on what students should know and be able to do.
- The school is a safe and healthy environment that provides purposeful and meaningful relationships among students and staff.
- Families and the community are involved in supporting student learning and personal growth.
- Instruction is congruent with best educational practices.

Families are invited to become involved as active partners in their child’s school experiences. The experience will be enriching for families and children and helpful to the middle school community.

The Blue Valley middle school program is responsive to the unique developmental needs of young adolescents, including physical, intellectual, emotional, ethical and social domains. Middle school students in Blue Valley are provided an elective program for the purpose of expanding their base of experiences. These elective classes concentrate on introducing practical lifetime skills as well as broadening student interest and self-knowledge.

Students will have many opportunities to be involved in learning experiences that explore connections among ideas and fields of knowledge. These experiences make learning more meaningful. Students learn to solve problems using skills and knowledge from many disciplines and do not spend large amounts of time learning skills in isolation. Applications of skills in real-life situations are extremely important.
GUIDED DISCOVERY
The Guided Discovery class provides special education services for students who have been identified as gifted via the district’s gifted education eligibility process. This process identifies students who demonstrate the characteristics of giftedness and a need for specially designed instruction that is not provided in the general education program. Services within gifted education and Guided Discovery are defined by an Individualized Education Program (IEP). Learning experiences are designed for small group activities based on the gifted education curriculum and personalized experiences based on each student’s IEP.

ENGLISH FOR SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES (ESOL)
After being tested, students who lack proficiency in the English language may enroll in English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) coursework. The primary purpose of the class is for students to achieve proficiency in English. The course is also designed to provide instruction in American culture and to aid students in adjusting to school and life in the community. Currently there are four middle school centers to serve our English language learners (ELLs). ESOL middle school centers, listed with their feeder schools, are: Lakewood Middle (ABMS and PRMS), Overland Trail Middle (LMS), Oxford Middle (HMS) and Blue Valley Middle (PSMS). If a student needs ESOL services and the home school does not have a program, transportation to the ESOL Center middle school is provided by the district free of charge.

LEARNING CENTER/RESOURCE ROOM
The Learning Center/Resource Room serves students who have an Individualized Education Program (IEP). Multidisciplinary teams of educational professionals work with students and their families to determine which services best meet the students’ needs. The resource teachers, along with other staff members, provide instruction on learning strategies and individual skill development. Services may include individual or small group instruction and consultation with general education teachers. Special education staff members also provide support within the general education classes when included in students’ IEPs.

LIBRARY MEDIA
The library media specialist and classroom teacher collaboratively design lessons that engage students in using print, multi-media and electronic resources to build knowledge, solve problems, and share findings. Through a multi-step problem-solving model, students learn skills needed for high school and beyond. Students examine multiple resources; analyzing, synthesizing, evaluating and selecting the information that is most accurate and relevant to the completion of their work. Focus is placed on integrating technology into all phases of the research process. Copyright, plagiarism and proper citation of resources are addressed as part of each research project. Appreciation and enjoyment of literature remain an important part of the middle school library program and are promoted through book talks and literature-related activities.

READING STRATEGIES
The reading strategies class is designed to meet the needs of students whose reading achievement is below the proficient level. Students identified for this class will be personally contacted by school personnel to discuss enrollment.
The English Language Arts program provides an integrated balance of reading narrative and informational texts, along with writing tasks. Students will become adept at gathering information, evaluating sources and citing material accurately, reporting findings from their research and analysis of sources in a clear manner. To be college- and career-ready writers, students must take task, purpose, and audience into careful consideration, choosing words, information, structures, and formats deliberately. Through an integrated approach within the English Language Arts course, skills and strategies will be developed and applied through the Kansas College and Career Readiness Standards.

Each grade level has unique units developed that incorporate literature, informational text, writing, and language skills that support a particular theme. These units balance the following skills within each ELA strand.

**Reading Literature & Informational Texts**

**Key Ideas and Details**
- Read closely and make logical inferences
- Identify central idea or theme, summarize

**Craft and Structure**
- Structure of text
- Point of view and purpose

**Integration of Knowledge and Ideas**
- Content in diverse formats and media
- Argument claims, validity and relevance
- Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity

**Writing**

**Text Types and Purposes**
- Argument
- Informative/explanatory
- Narrative

**Production and Distribution of Writing**
- Task, purpose and audience
- Use of technology to produce and publish

**Research to Build and Present Knowledge**
- Short and sustained research projects
- Gather relevant information from multiple and digital sources
- Draw evidence from literary and informational texts

**Range of Writing**
- Timed writing, extended writing

**Speaking and Listening**

**Comprehension and Collaboration**
- Prepare, participate, collaborate in a range of conversations
- Integrate and evaluate presented information

**Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas**

**Language**

**Conventions of Standard English**

**Knowledge of Language**
- Vocabulary acquisition and use
The Mathematics curriculum focuses on students using the standards of mathematical practice. These standards include: 1) making sense of problems and persevere in solving them; 2) reason abstractly and quantitatively; 3) construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others; 4) model with mathematics; 5) use appropriate tools strategically; 6) attend to precision; 7) look for and make use of structure; and 8) look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning. They should have knowledge of and skill in the use of the vocabulary, forms of representation, materials, tools, techniques, and intellectual methods of the discipline of mathematics, including the ability to define and solve problems with reason, insight, inventiveness, and technical proficiency.

Advanced Integrated Mathematics 6/7 and Algebra 1 are designed for students with a high level of interest in mathematics. Successful students have the ability to reason and problem solve abstractly with ease. Students will investigate and apply course concepts at a deeper level of understanding and at an accelerated pace. The emphasis of these courses is to extend the underlying mathematical concepts found in Integrated Algebra. These courses will require the students to complete more challenging problems.

NOTE:
Students can move from Integrated Mathematics 6 to Advanced Integrated Mathematics 7 or from Integrated Mathematics 7 to Algebra 1 by addressing curricular gaps through the summer program. Costs will be determined by summer school.
Integrated Mathematics 6

- **Ratios and Proportional Relationships**: Understand ratio concepts and use ratio reasoning to solve problems.
- **Number System**: Apply and extend previous understandings of multiplication and division to divide fractions by fractions. Compute fluently with multi-digit numbers and find common factors and multiples. Apply and extend previous understandings of numbers to the system of rational numbers.
- **Expressions and Equations**: Apply and extend previous understandings of arithmetic to algebraic expressions. Reason about and solve one-variable equations and inequalities. Represent and analyze quantitative relationships between dependent and independent variables.
- **Geometry**: Solve real-world mathematical problems involving area, surface area, and volume.
- **Statistics and Probability**: Develop understanding of statistical variability. Summarize and describe distributions.

Advanced Integrated Mathematics 6

- **Ratios and Proportional Relationships**: Understand ratio concepts and use ratio reasoning to solve problems.
- **Number System**: Compute fluently with multi-digit numbers and find common factors and multiples. Apply and extend previous understandings of multiplication and division to divide fractions by fractions. Apply and extend previous understandings of operations to add, subtract, multiply, and divide rational numbers (positive and negative).
- **Expressions and Equations**: Apply and extend previous understandings of arithmetic to algebraic expressions. Reason about and solve one-variable equations and inequalities, including operations with rational numbers. Represent and analyze quantitative relationships between dependent and independent variables. Use inverse operations to analyze relationships.
- **Geometry**: Solve real-world mathematical problems involving area, surface area, and volume of rectangular prisms to extend the Expressions and Equations domain. Draw polygons on the coordinate plane.
- **Statistics and Probability**: Develop understanding of statistical variability. Summarize and describe distributions.

Integrated Mathematics 7

- **Geometry**: 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 of two-and three-dimensional objects composed of polygons, cubes, and prisms.
- **Number System**: Apply and extend previous understandings of operations with fractions to add, subtract, multiply, and divide rational numbers.
- **Ratios and Proportional Relationships**: Analyze proportional relationships and use them to solve real-world and mathematical problems.
- **Expressions and Equations**: Use properties of operations to generate equivalent expressions. Solve real-life and mathematical problems using numerical and algebraic expressions and equations. Emphasis will be placed upon analyzing, graphing, and understanding linear relationships which is the foundation of algebraic concepts.
- **Statistics and Probability**: Use random sampling to draw inferences about a population. Draw informal comparative inferences about two populations. Investigate chance processes and develop, use, and evaluate probability models.

Advanced Integrated Mathematics 7

**Prerequisite**: Successful completion of Advanced Integrated Mathematics 6 curriculum

- **Geometry**: 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 by developing formulas. Verify and describe congruence and similarity using physical models or technology. Proof through informal arguments will be stressed. Understand and describe the effect of dilations, translations, rotations, and reflections on two-dimensional figures.
• **Number System**: Prerequisite understanding of operations with rational numbers (positive/negative fractions and decimals) is expected. Brief review and extensions of these concepts will occur.

• **Ratios and Proportional Relationships**: Analyze proportional relationships and use them to solve real-world and mathematical problems. Emphasis will be placed on computing unit rates and representing proportionality in tables, graphs, equations, diagrams, and verbal descriptions.

• **Expressions and Equations**: Use properties of operations to generate equivalent expressions by factoring and expanding linear expressions with rational coefficients. Solve real-life and mathematical problems using numerical and algebraic expressions and equations involving constructing simple equations and inequalities. Derive and use the equation \( y=mx + b \) on a coordinate plane.

• **Statistics and Probability**: Use random sampling to draw inferences about a population. Draw informal comparative inferences about two populations by using measures of center and variability. Investigate chance processes and develop, use, and evaluate probability models using organized lists, tables, tree diagrams and simulation.

**Integrated Mathematics 8**

• **Number System**: Know that there are numbers that are rational, and approximate them by rational numbers.

• **Expressions and Equations**: 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.

• **Functions**: Define, evaluate and compare functions. Use functions to model relationships between quantities.

• **Geometry**: Understand congruence and similarity using physical models, transparencies, or geometry software. Understand and apply the Pythagorean Theorem.

• **Statistics and Probability**: Investigate patterns of association in bivariate data.

**Algebra I**

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Advanced Integrated Mathematics 7 curriculum

• **Number System**:
  – The Real Number System: Extend the properties of exponents to rational exponents. Use properties of rational and irrational numbers.
  – Quantities: Reason quantitatively and use units to solve problems.

• **Algebra Expressions and Equations** (linear, exponential & quadratic)
  – Seeing Structure in Expressions: Interpret the structure of expressions. Write expressions in equivalent forms to solve problems.
  – Polynomials and Rational Expressions: Perform arithmetic operations on polynomials.
  – Equations: Create equations that describe numbers or relationships.
  – Reasoning with Equations and Inequalities: Understand solving equations as a process of reasoning and explain the reasoning. Solve equations and inequalities in one variable. Solve systems of equations and inequalities. Represent and solve equations and inequalities graphically.

• **Functions**
  – Interpreting Functions: Understand the concept of a function and use function notation. Interpret functions that arise in applications in terms of the context. Analyze functions using different representations.
  – Building Functions: Build a function that models a relationship between two quantities. Build new functions from existing functions.
  – Linear, Quadratic, and Exponential Models: Construct and compare linear, quadratic, and exponential models and solve problems. Interpret expressions for functions in terms of the situation they model.

• **Geometry**
  – Understand and apply the Pythagorean Theorem and its converse.

• **Statistics and Probability**
  – Interpreting Categorical and Quantitative Data: Summarize, represent, and interpret data on a single count or measurement variable. Summarize, represent, and interpret data on two categorical (bivariate) and quantitative variables. Interpret linear models.
Science involves students using the eight practices of Science and Engineering (asking questions and defining problems, developing and using models, planning and carrying out investigations, analyzing and interpreting data, using mathematics and computational thinking, constructing explanations and designing solutions, engaging in argument from evidence, obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information) to learn about Life, Physical and Earth-Space Science. Students develop the abilities necessary to do the processes of both scientific inquiry and engineering design. Current issues in science and the influence of science, engineering, and technology on society and the natural world are explored. Additionally, content reading skills will be taught, developing students’ reading abilities within the discipline and deepening academic vocabulary in Science.

6th Grade Science
- **History of Earth** – Rock Strata, Fossil Records, Geologic Age, Plate Tectonics, Earthquakes, Volcanoes
- **Earth Processes** – Energy and Matter, Weathering and Erosion, Rock Cycling
- **The Changing Earth** – Water, Resources and Resource Distribution
- **Weather** – Atmospheric and Oceanic Circulation, Salinity, Landforms
- **Climate** – Global Climate Change

7th Grade Science
- **Cells** – Structure and Function of Cells
- **Multicellular Interactions within Body Systems** – Interactions of Body Systems
- **Growth, Development, and Reproduction of Organisms** – Growth, Development, Reproduction
- **Genetics** – Inheritance of Traits, Variation of Traits, Artificial Selection
- **Natural Selection and Adaptation** – Natural Selection, Adaptation, Common Ancestry, Embryological Development, Biodiversity
- **Matter and Energy in Organisms** – Photosynthesis, Cellular Respiration, Flow of Matter and Energy in Ecosystems
- **Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems** – Patterns of Interaction

8th Grade Science
- **Energy** – Definitions of Energy, Potential and Kinetic, Conservation, Transfer
- **Structures and Properties of Matter** – Atoms, Molecules, Substances, Physical and Chemical Properties, Solids, Liquids, Gases
- **Chemical Reactions** – Chemical Reactions, Substances, Engineering Design Challenges
- **Forces and Interactions** – Force and Motions, Types of Interactions, Newton’s Laws
- **Waves and Their Applications in Technologies for Information Transfer** – Wave Properties, Electromagnetic Radiation, Information Technologies and Instrumentation
Social Studies

The Social Studies curriculum supports students developing the skills they need to be informed decision makers and engaged citizens in the 21st century. Students are taught the fundamentals necessary to engage in historical thinking while simultaneously being introduced to the physical, political, economic, social and cultural geography of our increasingly interdependent and complex world. Students are expected to analyze primary and secondary sources, view events from multiple perspectives, explore how contemporary issues connect to student learning and continue to develop literacy, research, and technology skills. Disciplinary reading skills will be taught, developing students’ reading abilities within the discipline. Each course is focused on students investigating and addressing compelling questions in the areas of study below.

6th Grade: Ancient World History
- Explore the history of the Ancient World starting with Early River Civilizations to Early Americas.

7th Grade: Geography & Kansas History
Geography (1st Semester)
- Explore the discipline of geography, including physical geography, culture, interactions with earth and environment, and the influence of government, economics, and religion on regions.
KS History (2nd Semester)
- Explore the history of the State of Kansas starting with early civilizations and explorers to the present day.

8th Grade: United States History
- Explore the history of the United States of America starting in 1787 to the early-1900s.
Elective Courses

Students in Blue Valley middle schools take a variety of courses in the fine and practical arts areas. All middle school students have Physical Education instruction for one semester. To complete a schedule, each student will select elective options (not including P.E.) that total 2.50 units.

### Required Course
This course meets every day. One semester is required.
- **Physical Education** (0.50)

### Elective Options
Students will select options totaling 2.5.
All courses meet every day.
- **Technology Explorations** (0.25)
- **Exploring Foods** (0.25)
- **My Style** (0.25)
- **Visual Arts** (0.25)
- **Pre-Engineering** (0.25)
- **Modern Communications** (0.25)
- **Theatre** (0.25)
- **World Language** (0.50)
- **Beginning Band** (1.00)
- **Band** (1.00)
- **Beginning Strings** (1.00)
- **Strings** (1.00)
- **Vocal Music** (0.50 or 1.00)

### Required Course
This course meets every day. One semester is required.
- **Physical Education** (0.50)

### Elective Options
Students will select options totaling 2.5.
All courses meet every day.
- **Technology Innovations** (0.50)
- **Creating with Foods and Textiles** (0.50)
- **Visual Arts** (0.50)
- **Pre-Engineering & Robotics** (0.50)
- **Theatre & Modern Communications** (0.50)
- **World Language** (1.00)
- **Band** (1.00)
- **Strings** (1.00)
- **Vocal Music** (0.50 or 1.00)

### Required Course
This course meets every day. One semester is required.
- **Physical Education** (0.50)

### Elective Options
Students will select options totaling 2.5.
All courses meet every day.
- **Digital Media & Design** (0.50)
- **My Style** (0.50)
- **Exploring Foods** (0.50)
- **Design & Robotics** (0.50)
- **Visual Arts** (0.50)
- **Pre-Engineering** (0.50)
- **Code Studio** (0.50)
- **Modern Communications** (0.50)
- **Theatrical Production** (0.50)
- **World Language** (1.00)
- **Band** (1.00)
- **Strings** (1.00)
- **Vocal Music** (0.50 or 1.00)
**Band & Strings**

Band and Strings focuses on learning to play a band or stringed instrument. This includes a range of instruction including proper playing techniques, scales, rhythm, music reading, concert literature preparation, and other principles of music theory, music history, and music performance. Although a select number and type of instruments may be available for use from the school, students are generally expected to provide their own instrument. Families are expected to purchase the necessary method book for the class.

Band and Strings are co-curricular classes in which students are assessed on performance skills that are demonstrated during class and outside of the school day. Students are expected to participate in scheduled performances throughout the school year.

*Beginning Band or Strings 6 (1.00)* are electives taken for a full year, one period per day. Students will have the opportunity to begin study on a brass, woodwind, or percussion instrument (band) or violin, viola, cello, or double bass (strings). In order to achieve proper balance within the group, instrument choice is made during the first two weeks of school.

*Band or Strings 6 (1.00)* are electives taken for a full year, one period per day. These two classes are designed for any student in grade 6 who has had previous experience playing a band or stringed instrument.

*Band or Strings 7 (1.00)* are electives taken for a full year, one period per day. Many students in these classes have had at least two consecutive years playing experience, or the equivalent, on their individual instruments.

*Band or Strings 8 (1.00)* are electives taken for a full year, one period per day. Many students in these classes have had at least three consecutive years playing experience, or the equivalent, on their individual instruments.

**Vocal Music**

Vocal music focuses on singing in a choir. This includes a range of instruction including individual and group vocal techniques, rhythm, melody, harmony, form, terminology, and enjoyment and appreciation of music. Students electing to continue with vocal music in 7th and 8th grade will explore the changing voice, refine choral skills previously taught, and develop skills in sight reading, theory, harmonic progressions, and rehearsal techniques. Vocal Music is a co-curricular class in which students are assessed on performance skills that are demonstrated during class and outside of the school day. Students are expected to participate in scheduled performances throughout the school year.

*Vocal Music 6 (0.50 or 1.00)* is an elective class that is either taken for one semester or a full year.

*Vocal Music 7 (0.50 or 1.00)* is an elective class that is either taken for one semester or a full year.

*Vocal Music 8 (0.50 or 1.00)* is an elective class that is either taken for one semester or a full year. Students anticipating participation in high school vocal music are encouraged to enroll in this class for the full year.
The Theatre and Communications program builds students’ confidence to express their ideas in a variety of settings, including collaborating with a group, individual and group presentations and theatrical performance. Students will acquire creativity, critical thinking and communication skills that will prepare them for college and careers.

**Theatre 6 (0.25)**
This course introduces students to Theatre, including acting, theatrical terminology, and production responsibilities. Students participate in a variety of Theatre activities, exercises, and scene work, including improvised and scripted scenes. Collaboration, creativity, and critical thinking skills are emphasized and developed. Students will leave this class with improved listening skills, stronger self-confidence, and ability to creatively express ideas, as well as an appreciation for Theatre.

**Modern Communications 6 (0.25)**
This course introduces students to public speaking and elements of verbal/non-verbal communication. Through fun, confidence-building activities, students will discover various styles of communication, develop skills in public speaking, and gain confidence in presenting to an audience. Students will learn how to organize and present information using innovative styles and modern technology. Students will leave this class with the confidence, knowledge, and skills required to deliver effective and innovative presentations in school, college and career.

**Theatre & Modern Communications 7 (0.50)**
This course helps students strengthen their effectiveness in presenting and performing for an audience, as well as develop critical thinking and listening skills. During the Theatre units, students study acting styles, develop performance and directing skills, and increase their understanding and appreciation of Theatre. During the Innovative Communication units, students learn techniques for effective public speaking and presentations and develop skills in persuasion and argumentation which are critical for success in college and career. Students gain confidence, learn how to overcome stage fright, and become effective communicators.

**Theatrical Production 8 (0.50)**
This hands-on course guides students in planning, preparing, and presenting a theatrical work for an audience. Students will use various creative drama techniques to build ensemble, stimulate imagination, and create characters and scenes with an emphasis on realistic acting and developing a stage presence. Students will watch and evaluate performances and learn how to offer constructive criticism. Students will utilize technical and design elements in class productions. Students will gain skills in collaboration, critical thinking, and problem-solving, as well as more confidence and stage presence.

**Modern Communications 8 (0.50)**
This course helps students improve skills in public speaking, argumentation, and critical thinking, as well as utilizing modern and innovative technology in presentations. Students will organize, construct, and deliver a variety of individual and group presentations, with attention to format and audience. Students will learn how to construct arguments using relevant evidence to support ideas and claims, determine reliability of various source materials, and to critically listen and respond in a debate. Positive and effective group communication elements will be emphasized. Students will gain more poise and confidence, and develop advanced presentation skills that will prepare them for communicating effectively in future college and career settings.
Visual Arts

The Visual Arts program is designed to engage students in critical thinking and imaginative problem solving. Elements of Art and Principles of Design will be used as the foundation for creating and evaluating artwork. A nurturing and creative environment is provided in which students can develop their own artistic voice.

**Visual Arts 6 (0.25)**
- Provide students with a transition from the elementary art program to the middle school program.
- Introduce developmental art skills and experiences that increase the understanding and appreciation of art.
- Explore two- and three-dimensional art, such as drawing, painting, mixing color, 1-point perspective, ceramic hand-building, mixed media, and printmaking through sketching, brainstorming and research.
- Select original ideas through inspiration while exploring various artists, histories and cultures that influence artwork.

**Visual Arts 7 (0.50) This course has a fee.**
- Identify and demonstrate Elements of Art with a focus on two-dimensional and three-dimensional media, such as drawing, painting, printmaking, clay, plaster, and paper to communicate and solve visual problems.
- Evaluate ideas through sketching, brainstorming and research.
- Select original ideas through inspiration while evaluating various artists, histories, and cultures that influence artwork.

**Visual Arts 8 (0.50) This course has a fee.**
- An elective course designed to provide the student with appropriate knowledge as needed for the transition into the high school program.
- Multiple media, techniques, and processes are used to involve the student in advanced application of visual problem solving in two-dimensional and three-dimensional art forms.
- Drawing, painting, color mixing, sculpture or ceramics, printmaking, or mixed media are some of the creative media explored.
- Create, understand, and appreciate works of art through the use of the Design Elements and Principles while interpreting ideas through sketching, brainstorming, and research.

**NOTE:** Students who complete Visual Arts 6, Visual Arts 7 and Visual Arts 8 will not be required to take Design Fundamentals in high school as a prerequisite for more advanced art classes.
Computer Technology

**Technology Explorations 6 (0.25)**
Explore the world of technology through interactive and engaging projects. Students will learn about technology and digital productivity tools that will be essential to their middle school experience and beyond. Projects will include:

- Multimedia and digital imaging
- Computer essentials
- Organization of digital life and safe and ethical use
- Introductory coding and its application with various app-enabled devices
- Mobile applications

**Technology Innovations 7 (0.50)**
Design and create digital media, graphics, and code utilizing a variety of computer and mobile platforms. Through individual and team projects, students will solve problems and utilize software and web tools and electronic devices that inspire creativity and innovation. Safe and ethical use will be reinforced. Students will gain experience with:

- Computer and graphics applications
- Digital photography
- Digital multimedia productions including audio, video and special effects and animation
- Coding and its application in electronic devices such as MaKeys and Spheros
- Computer essentials (word processing, spreadsheets, presentations)
- Online collaboration tools for group discussions or projects
- Mobile applications and utilities

**Digital Media & Design 8 (0.50)**
Design and create electronic media utilizing a variety of computer and mobile platforms. Students will solve problems, complete projects, and extend their abilities to use software and web tools that enhance communication and inspire creativity and innovation. Safe and ethical use will be reinforced. Through individual and team projects, students will expand their skills in utilizing:

- Computer and graphics applications
- Digital photography
- Digital multimedia productions including audio, video and special effects and animation
- Online collaboration tools for group discussions or projects

**Code Studio 8 (0.50)**
Discover how coding inspires innovation and is changing our world. Students will expand their creativity and programming skills as they collaboratively design and develop solutions to engaging real-world challenges. Through individual and team projects, students will:

- Create web pages, games and apps
- Engage with computer science as a vehicle for problem solving, communication, and personal expression
- Utilize tools and programming languages that are accessible for beginners, but which offer plenty of room to grow and create sophisticated projects
- Create code to operate electronic devices and mini robots
- Transition from block programming to typed code
Exploring Foods 6 (0.25)
Healthy foods can be tasty and fun to cook. Students will participate in introductory projects related to food preparation. Students will be introduced to the ways foods are produced and how to make wise consumer choices.
- Prepare and taste test a variety of foods.
- Interpret food guidelines and nutrition labels.
- Explore personal preferences for healthy food choices.

My Style 6 (0.25)
Students will provide materials for project(s).
Students will explore the art of sewing and handwork and express their creativity as they construct clothing, accessories and home projects.
- Personalize designs and accessories.
- Use a sewing machine and construction skills to complete sewing projects.
- Make informed consumer decisions about clothing selection and care.

Creating with Foods and Textiles 7 (0.50) This course has a fee.
Students will provide materials for the project(s).
Students will put their creativity into action in the kitchen and sewing lab as they explore the topics of food, nutrition, clothing and consumerism. Students will explore foods from local farms and discover the connections between food, health and the environment.
- Prepare and cook great tasting foods that are healthy.
- Explore foods from local farms and ways to be environmentally friendly.
- Interpret food and nutrition guidelines and relate to personal preferences.
- Apply problem-solving skills, collaboration and creativity to real-life challenges related to healthy food choices, fitness, consumer decisions, and environmental responsibility.
- Demonstrate creativity in a basic sewing project.

Exploring Foods 8 (0.50) This course has a fee.
Students will take the role of a junior chef, preparing and tasting their culinary creations.
- Complete food labs and projects while gaining skills in decision making, goal setting and time management.
- Discover how food gets from area farms to local markets, restaurants, and our tables.
- Apply problem-solving skills, collaboration and creativity to real-life challenges related to healthy food choices, fitness, consumer decisions, community citizenship, and environmental responsibility.
- Explore career interests and gain awareness of high school and college options.

My Style 8 (0.50)
Students will provide materials for project(s).
Students will explore their personal style in clothing and accessories and how it affects personal image. Projects allow students to express creativity through the use of fabric and the art of sewing.
- Explore use of fabrics in personal and home projects.
- Develop skills in goal setting decision making and time management through various projects.
- Apply problem-solving skills and creativity to real-life challenges related to consumer decisions, community citizenship, and environmental responsibility.
- Explore career interests and high school and college options.
Pre-Engineering & Robotics

**Pre-engineering 6 (0.25)**
Pre-engineering offers students an introduction to the engineering design process as it relates to various fields of technology. Through projects in the computer and wood production labs, students gain an understanding of technology’s impact on our lives. Students will:
- Use design process to solve challenges such as air rockets, towers, gliders, architectural drawings and interior design.
- Explore robotics.
- Explore related career fields.

**Pre-engineering & Robotics 7 (0.50) This course has a fee.**
Students apply the engineering design process to solve challenges related to various technology fields. Innovation, critical thinking and teamwork are encouraged as students work in the wood production and computer labs. Students will:
- Design, build models, and test solutions to challenges such as interior and home design, bridges, and dragsters.
- Design, build and program robots.
- Develop skills in computer-aided drawing, technical math, shop safety and the use of tools and equipment.
- Explore various technology careers and related opportunities in high school and college.

**Pre-engineering 8 (0.50) This course has a fee.**
Pre-engineering 8 expands students’ understanding of engineering as it relates to various technology fields. Working in the wood production and computer labs, students apply the engineering design process to solve challenges that encourage innovation, critical thinking, and teamwork. Students will:
- Test and compare solutions in both hands-on and virtual environments.
- Design, build and test prototype solutions to challenges in such areas as architectural structures, solid-fuel rockets, cars and boats.
- Design and construct projects with wood and other materials.
- Gain skills related to safe use of tools and equipment, and manual and computer-aided drawing.
- Explore various technology careers and related opportunities in high school and college.

**Design & Robotics 8 (0.50) This course has a fee.**
Design and Robotics 8 provides an opportunity for students to apply the engineering design process and programming software to invent and innovate. Students will:
- Design, build and program a robot to meet challenges.
- Gain an understanding of beginning programming and sequential logic.
- Learn how technology, creative thinking and problem solving can change our world.
- Explore related careers and opportunities in high school and college.
World Language

**Spanish 1A (6th grade only) (0.50)**
Prerequisite: None
In this one-semester, elective 6th grade class, students develop Novice Mid proficiency level in all skill areas. Spanish is the most frequently spoken second language in the United States, with Latin America being a major trade partner of the United States. Students learn not only language but also the unique cultural practices of the Hispanic people. Students learn to introduce themselves and speak and write about leisure activities. Students read simplified texts on familiar topics. Students learn basic grammar concepts. Performance tasks are essential components of unit assessments. In order to promote proficiency, this class is taught primarily in Spanish and builds upon the K-5 Spanish language experiences. There is no prerequisite for this course, however new Spanish learners may need additional support and practice to make a smooth transition. Spanish 1A is available in all middle schools.

**Important note:** This class is required for students who want to take Spanish in 7th grade. For students who do NOT start Spanish in 6th grade, the next opportunity will be 9th grade.

**Spanish 1B (7th grade only) (1.00)**
Prerequisite: Spanish 1A
This full-year elective class at the Novice Mid-High proficiency level is for students who already have basic Spanish language skills, vocabulary and grammar. Students learn to ask questions, talk about family, foods they eat at home and school, their school and discuss plans during school breaks. Students read for main ideas and details in modified and authentic Spanish passages. Students also study basic grammar and vocabulary and learn about Hispanic cultural practices, products and perspectives related to the topics of the course. Performance tasks are essential components of unit assessments. In order to promote proficiency, this class is taught in Spanish. Spanish 1B is available in all middle schools.

**Important note:** This class is required for students who want to take Spanish in 8th grade.

**Spanish 2 (8th grade only) (1.00)**
Prerequisite: Spanish 1A & 1B or the equivalent of Spanish 1
This full-year elective class is for students with prior Spanish language skills who are ready to create with language and move into the Intermediate Low level of proficiency. Students learn to talk about the past, telling stories about their own life as well as re-telling events that happen in everyday life. Students read for main ideas and details and determine meaning from context in authentic Spanish passages. Students study grammar and vocabulary and learn about Hispanic culture and customs. Performance tasks are essential components of unit assessments. This class is taught in Spanish. Spanish 2 is available in all middle schools.

**Important note:** Eighth grade students who successfully complete this course are eligible for one high school credit and will be placed in Spanish 3 as 9th graders.

**French 1A (6th grade only) (0.50)**
Prerequisite: None
This one-semester beginner-level elective class is open to all 6th grade students. No previous language study is required. French is the official language of 29 countries, spoken on five continents and is the 6th most widely spoken language in the world. French students in the 6th-12th grade program can expect to become proficient Intermediate-level speakers, prepared for the AP French exam and high school student exchange experiences with a skill set that prepares them as global citizens who are career and college ready. Students learn not only language but also the unique cultural practices of the Francophone world. Students learn to introduce themselves, and speak and write about leisure activities. Students read simplified texts on familiar topics. Students learn basic grammar concepts. Performance tasks are essential components of unit assessments. In order to promote proficiency, this class is taught primarily in French.
French is **offered only at LMS and PSMS.** Important note: This class is required for students who want to take French in 7th grade. For students who do NOT start French in 6th grade, the next opportunity will be high school 9th grade.

**French 1B (7th grade only) (1.00)**  
Prerequisite: French 1A  
This yearlong elective class at the Novice Mid-High proficiency level is for students who already have basic French language skills, vocabulary and grammar. Students learn to ask questions, talk about family, foods they eat at home and school, their school and discuss plans during school breaks. Students read for main ideas and details in modified and authentic French passages. Students also study basic grammar and vocabulary and learn about Francophone cultural practices, products and perspectives related to the topics of the course. Performance tasks are essential components of unit assessments. In order to promote proficiency, this class is taught in French. French is **offered only at LMS and PSMS.**  
**Important note:** This class is required for students who want to take French in 8th grade.

**French 2 (8th grade only) (1.00)**  
Prerequisite: French 1A & 1B or the equivalent of French 1  
This yearlong elective class is for students with prior French language skills who are ready to create with language and move into the Intermediate Low level of proficiency. Students learn to talk about the past, telling stories about their own life as well as re-telling events that happen in everyday life. Students read for main ideas and details and determine meaning from context in authentic French passages. Students study grammar and vocabulary and learn about Francophone culture and customs. Performance tasks are essential components of unit assessments. This class is taught in French. French is **offered only at LMS and PSMS.**  
**Important note:** Eighth grade students who successfully complete this course are eligible for one high school credit and will be placed in French 3 as 9th graders.

**Chinese 1A (6th grade only) (0.5)**  
Prerequisite: None  
This one-semester beginner-level elective class is open to all 6th grade students. No previous language study is required. Chinese is widely recognized as the most spoken language in the world with more than a billion speakers. Chinese students in the 6th-12th grade program can expect to become proficient Intermediate-level speakers, prepared for the AP Chinese exam and high school student exchange experiences with a skill set that prepares them as global citizens who are career and college ready. Students learn to introduce themselves, speak and write about family. Students read simplified texts on familiar topics. The focus of this class is on communicative skills of listening and speaking, however students will learn to read and write simplified Chinese characters, as well as type words and phrases. Cultural topics include the geography of China, practices and products related to the unit topics of the course. Performance tasks are essential components of unit assessments. This class is taught mostly in Mandarin Chinese. Chinese is **offered only at ABMS and OTMS.**

**Chinese 1B (7th grade only) (1.00)**  
Prerequisite: Chinese 1A  
This year long, elective class at the Novice Mid proficiency level is for students who already have basic Mandarin language skills, vocabulary, and familiarity with basic characters. Students learn to ask questions, talk about foods they eat at home and school and on special occasions and discuss plans during school breaks. Students read for main ideas and details in modified and authentic Mandarin passages. Students increase their vocabulary, learn to read and write simplified characters on more topics and learn to type short passages. They also learn about
Chinese cultural practices, products and perspectives related to the topics of the course. Performance tasks are essential components of unit assessments. This class is taught in Mandarin Chinese. 

**Chinese is offered only at ABMS and OTMS.**

**Chinese 2 (8th grade only) (1.00)**
Prerequisite: Chinese 1A & 1B
This yearlong elective class is for students with prior Chinese language skills who are ready to start to create with language at the Novice High/Intermediate Low level of proficiency. Students learn to talk about the past, telling stories about their own life as well as re-telling events that happen in everyday life. Students increase their vocabulary, learn to read and write simplified characters on more topics and learn to type longer passages. They also learn about Chinese cultural practices, products and perspectives related to the topics of the course. Performance tasks are essential components of unit assessments. This class is taught in Mandarin Chinese. 

**Chinese is offered only at ABMS and OTMS.**

Important note: Eighth grade students who successfully complete this course are eligible for one high school credit and will be placed in Chinese 3 as 9th graders.

**Beginning Chinese 1 (7th grade only) (1.00)**
Prerequisite: None
This yearlong beginner-level elective class is open to all 7th grade students with no previous language learning in Chinese. Students learn to introduce themselves, speak and write about leisure activities and family, talk about foods they eat at home and school and on special occasions and discuss plans during school breaks. Students read simplified texts on familiar topics. The focus of this class is on communicative skills of listening and speaking, however students will learn to read and write simplified Chinese characters, as well as type words and phrases. Cultural topics include the geography of China, practices and products related to the unit topics of the course. Performance tasks are essential components of unit assessments. This class is taught mostly in Mandarin Chinese. 

**Chinese is offered only at ABMS and OTMS.**

Important note: This course moves at a faster pace than the beginning 6th grade Chinese 1A class and is a full year in length.

**Beginning Chinese 2 (8th graders who started in 7th grade only) (1.00)**
Prerequisite: Beginning Chinese 1
This yearlong elective class is for 8th grade students who started in 7th grade and are at the Novice/Mid to Novice/High proficiency level. They will be able to create with very simple language. Students learn to talk about the past, re-telling simple events that happen in everyday life. Students increase their vocabulary, learn to read and write simplified characters on more topics and learn to type longer passages. They also learn about Chinese cultural practices, products and perspectives related to the topics of the course. Performance tasks are essential components of unit assessments. This class is taught in Mandarin Chinese. 

**Chinese is offered only at ABMS and OTMS.**

Important note: Eighth grade students who successfully complete this course are eligible for high school credit and will be placed in Chinese 3 as 9th graders.
Physical Education

Physical Education (0.50) is required and meets every day for a semester. Physical fitness concepts and activities are stressed. Skill fundamentals of team sports and lifetime sports are also introduced in the basic P.E. curriculum. Each student may need to purchase combination locks to secure items left in P.E. lockers. All clothing items should be marked with the student’s name. Students are expected to dress out and participate. They take written tests and may produce portfolio pieces concerning physical activity. It is important to note the Health Education curriculum is taught with age-appropriate content and materials are integrated by classroom teachers, P.E. teachers, school nurses and school counselors. For specific information about content of the health curriculum, please see the school nurse or the building administrator.

Online PE is an option for 7th and 8th grade students during first semester in cases that a student’s schedule is full or they are looking for more flexibility. Please contact your school’s counselor to discuss this option.

High School Virtual Education

High School Virtual Education opportunities are available for students who have completed the 8th grade year.

Students who have completed the 8th grade year are eligible to enroll in High School Virtual courses offered during the summer semester. Only students who have completed the 8th grade year and will be attending high school during the next upcoming semester are eligible to enroll in a Virtual course.

Blue Valley Virtual Education provides students with the opportunities to design their own personalized learning. The online classrooms contain a variety of technologies including: discussion forums, assignments, quizzes and virtual textbooks. Each web-based course is designed to align with the Blue Valley District curriculum and the Kansas state standards. Additional information about the Virtual Education program can be found on the district website at http://www.bluevalleyk12.org/virtualed.
Sample Student Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Subject</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Social Studies</td>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>PE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Math</td>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>Math</td>
<td>Social Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>PE</td>
<td>Math</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>English Language</td>
<td>English Language</td>
<td>English Language</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>PE</td>
<td>Social Studies</td>
<td>Elective</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Elective</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTES:
- Lunch schedules will vary by building with serving times generally scheduled between 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.
- This is a sample schedule only. Individual school schedules may vary in order to accommodate staffing.

Blue Valley middle schools will provide a program and climate that achieve the following:
1. Help each student to consolidate and refine the basic skills acquired in childhood, to develop further competency in these basic skills and to apply them to new interests and activities.
2. Provide each student with a sense of community.
3. Increase each student’s self-awareness and self-concept.
4. Give each student a measure of control over life in school.
5. Make the peer group a constructive force in the educational process.
6. Make learning a satisfying experience academically, socially, and emotionally.

Additional information regarding the Blue Valley School District can be found at:
www.bluevalleyk12.org