

Batchelor Middle School

Home of the Bulldogs!



Curriculum Guide 2021-22



MONROE COUNTY
COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION
ENGAGE. EMPOWER. EDUCATE.

Course Description for 7th Grade Courses

Full Year Courses

ENGLISH

This course incorporates the various components of language arts. The focus is on literature, writing, grammar, spelling, mechanics, vocabulary, reading, study skills, speaking and listening. Areas of study include the genres of literature, process-based writing, review and improvement in the basic skills of language and mechanics, and reading comprehension. Technology and research are an integral part of instruction. Current Indiana and MCCSC Standards of Instruction provide the guidelines for this course.

MATHEMATICS

Levels of mathematics are offered in the seventh grade. There are advanced math and regular 7th grade math. A third semester remedial math class is required if a student failed the math section of ISTEP in 6th grade. Algebra is also offered.

7TH GRADE MATH- Math 7 is for students of average ability and is designed to strengthen and enhance existing skills. Placement is based on a combination of standardized tests, grades in 6th grade math class, and recommendation of the 6th grade teacher. This class prepares the students for Pre-algebra. The curriculum spans a wide range of topics based on the Indiana Standards which includes operations with rational numbers (whole numbers, fractions, decimal numbers and integers), evaluating expressions, solving equations, conversions between metric and customary systems, geometry, formulas for perimeter, area and volume, ratios, proportions, percents, probability, statistics, graphing, data collection and analysis. Problem solving is a strong component of the class. Calculators and computers are used when appropriate.

ADVANCED MATH- Advanced math is designed for students who understand and demonstrate math skills above the 7th grade level. Placement is based on a combination of prognosis tests, standardized tests, grades, and recommendation of the 6th grade teacher. This class provides a foundation for taking Algebra I in the 8th grade. The class will explore topics based on the Indiana Standards involving expressions, equations, inequalities, concepts and computations using fractions, decimals, and integers. Students will also develop skills using ratios, proportions, percent, graphing in a coordinate plane, geometry and its applications, congruent triangles, square roots, probability, and statistics. Problem solving is stressed and appropriate use of calculators and computers will be included in this class.

ALGEBRA I or GEOMETRY -Placement is based on a combination of prognosis tests, standardized tests, grades, and recommendation of the 6th grade teacher. This class is organized in a combination 7th/8th grade format. Topics are based on the Indiana Standards and are eligible for high school credit.

SCIENCE

The curriculum for 7th grade science involves a combination of State mandates and MCCSC requirements. The 7th grade student will be exposed to progressive instruction in formation of soil and rocks, plate tectonics, Cell Theory, Germ Theory, and basic physics. The underlying theme throughout the year is the scientific process and supporting hypotheses and conclusions with evidence. The subject sequence is: measurement skills in a laboratory setting; problem solving using the scientific method; soil; rocks and minerals; plate tectonics; the structure and function of cells; bacteria and viruses and their effects on the living world; and force and motion.

SOCIAL STUDIES

In this course students compare history, geography, government, economic systems, current issues, and cultures of Asia, Africa, the Middle East, and Pacific islands. The studies help students to have a greater understanding of environmental influences on economic, cultural, and political institutions. Within the content areas, students develop an awareness and understanding of values and attitudes which differ from their own; a familiarization with terms and places that are foreign; an ability to organize, analyze, synthesize, and criticize major facts learned; and the ability to develop generalizations based on content areas.



HUMANITIES

The class is designed to be a two-period class integrating English and social studies. Students will continue to learn the state identified standards and develop a more in depth knowledge of world geography while improving their communication, research, and collaborative skills. It provides a flexible learning environment that uses more project based activities. If you select "Very Interested" on your course selection sheet, it is very likely you will be placed in this program.

ROTATION

This is a full year class divided up by terms. All students take the same class the first term. It is titled Bulldog Basics. Students will learn about Batchelor PRIDE, various student learning management systems, Skyward, and other technology used within Batchelor. After term 1 they will rotate through five other classes. They will take music, art, careers, mxINCedu, and computer science for six weeks each.

Semester Course

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical education is a course which will introduce students to activities which emphasize the importance of physical conditioning, physical fitness, and lifelong leisure skills. Students will learn the rules, basic skills, game strategies, sportsmanship, proper etiquette, and teamwork. No matter what the ability level of the student at the beginning of a unit, the students are encouraged to do their best to achieve continuous improvement.

WRITER'S WORKSHOP

The course utilizes collaborative and interdisciplinary teaching in which cooperation and cross-curricular investigations are blended into the curriculum. Students are given various routes (thematic choices) to understand a subject and to extend their depth of knowledge. Student choice is integrated into the course. The ultimate goal of this learning strategy is to give students deep conceptual understandings of their topic. A student-centered learning approach is emphasized while aligning to standards.

Full Year Electives

BAND

This class is for anyone interested in learning a musical instrument (flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, baritone, tuba, or percussion) and having fun making music as a team. ANY student may join band. No experience or instrument ownership is required. Band teaches students how to play an instrument, read music, work as a team, and perform with artistry and confidence. Players with no experience (or less than one year of experience) should sign up for Beginning Band. Players with one year (or more) of instruction should sign up for Advanced Band (if you were in "Star Band" or 6th grade band, you should sign up for Advanced Band). (This class does NOT conflict with after school athletics– This class does NOT include guitar players)

CHORUS

This class is for anyone with an interest in singing. Students will learn to sing with the correct approach to breath support, tone production, diction, balance, blend, and more. The Chorus will perform 3-4 formal concerts throughout the year and a special solo (karaoke) concert as well in February. Repertoire ranges from classical to R&B, Broadway to jazz, gospel to hip hop, and everywhere in between. Men and women will be assigned to a voice part and sing harmonized music divided by Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass. Above all, students will learn the joy of music and have a blast! (*This class does NOT conflict with after school athletics or cheerleading*)

STRING ORCHESTRA

Orchestra classes at Batchelor are part of the MCCSC Orchestra Program which spans from 5th to 12th grade. The Batchelor Orchestra performs a wide variety of music at five or six concerts every year, including solo and ensemble contest and large group orchestra contest. Students who have studied a string instrument (violin, viola, cello or bass) with



the MCCSC beginning/continuing strings, at Batchelor or with a private teacher will be prepared for the Batchelor Orchestra program; students will continue to develop music reading and music listening skills. Students with **more** than two years of playing experience should sign up for **Advanced Strings**. Students who played in the MCCSC beginning and/or continuing string program as a 6th grader or who have two years (or **less**) of playing experience should sign up for **Strings**. Students can rent or purchase an instrument from a music store, or can rent an instrument from the school (financial aid is available for qualifying students). Students who have no previous experience are welcome and should sign up for **Strings**. (*This class does NOT conflict with after school athletics and cheerleading – This class does NOT include guitar*).

SPANISH I*

This course is the equivalent of Spanish I in high school. Students who elect to take Spanish must have strong study habits. We recommend that a student have at least a B or above in 6th grade English as Spanish is a rigorous course of study. This course uses the high school curriculum.

FRENCH I*

This course is the equivalent of French I in high school. Students who elect to take French must have strong study habits. We recommend that a student have at least a B or above in 6th grade English as French is a rigorous course of study. This course uses the high school curriculum.

CHINESE I*

This course is the equivalent of Chinese I in high school. It is a rigorous middle school program designed to prepare students to enter Chinese II in High School. This course will introduce students to effective strategies for beginning Chinese language learning. We recommend that a student have at least a B or above in 6th grade English as Chinese is a rigorous course of study. This course uses the high school curriculum.

**Please understand that the class offerings are based on enrollment.*

Semester Electives

ART I

This elective course may be taken for one semester. Students will study the basic elements and principles of art through two-dimensional projects and written work. Some of the topics that will be covered: painting, portraiture, perspective drawing, color theory, and art history.

VIDEO PRODUCTIONS/B-TV

This is a project based class that teaches the basics of video production. Students will learn various aspects of producing a video including: writing, storyboarding, camera technique, lighting, sound and microphones, and editing. The students will use the Apple I-Movie and Final Cut Pro editing systems. The students will also learn the business aspect of filmmaking. First year students will also use a textbook to learn the concepts and terminology. After learning the basics, students will work with groups to produce documentaries, original dramas, newscasts, PSA's, original music videos, and other types of videos. Students will have the opportunity to enter their work in national film competitions. The classes produce a weekly newscast and some classes also Skype with classrooms from other countries. Writing scripts and screenplays are part of the curriculum. Second year students will focus primarily on producing video projects and editing.

PROJECT LEAD THE WAY

This semester course engages students in activities, projects, and problem-based learning while providing hands-on experiences in a rigorous and innovative science, technology, engineering, and mathematics curriculum. The foundation units are *automation and robotics* and *design and modeling*. Students will use industry standard 3D modeling software to create a virtual image of their designs.



REQUIRED

Full Year Courses

LANGUAGE ARTS
SCIENCE
SOCIAL STUDIES
MATHEMATICS
ROTATION

Semester Courses

PHYSICAL EDUCATION
WRITER'S WORKSHOP**

ELECTIVES

Full Year Electives***

___ BEGINNING BAND
___ ADVANCED BAND
___ CHORUS
___ STRINGS
___ ADVANCED STRINGS
___ SPANISH I****
___ FRENCH I****
___ CHINESE I****

Semester Electives***

___ VIDEO PRODUCTION (1 POINT)
___ ART (1 POINT)
___ PROJECT LEAD THE WAY (1 POINT)

** All students are required to take Writer's Workshop. However, if a student scored at the PASS+ level in the English/Language Arts portion of the ILEARN test they may opt out of the class and take another elective in its place.

*** Students may be required to take an intervention class in Language Arts or Math if they fail either portion of the ILEARN test.

**** Spanish, French and Chinese I all use a high school level curriculum and will only be offered if enough students sign up.



Course Description for 8th Grade Courses

Full Year Courses

ENGLISH

This course incorporates the various components of language arts. The focus is on literature, writing, grammar, spelling, mechanics, vocabulary, reading, study skills, speaking and listening. Areas of study include the genres of literature, process-based writing, review and improvement in the basic skills of language and mechanics, and reading comprehension. Technology and research are an integral part of instruction. Current Indiana and MCCSC Standards of Instruction provide the guidelines for this course.

MATHEMATICS

Levels of mathematics are offered in the eighth grade. There are advanced pre-Algebra, Algebra, and Geometry. A third semester remedial math class is required if a student failed the math section of ILEARN in 7th grade.

PRE-ALGEBRA - Pre-algebra consists of topics including order of operations, algebraic expressions, multi-step equations, linear equations, and geometry. These concepts will be the foundation for high school math classes.

ALGEBRA I or GEOMETRY - Placement is based on a combination of prognosis tests, standardized tests, grades, and recommendation of the 7th grade teacher. This class is organized in a combination 7th/8th grade format. Topics are based on the Indiana Standards and are eligible for high school credit.

SCIENCE: Skills for the 21st Century

This year-long period course combines science, engineering, design, and mathematics in a problem-based learning environment. Students will learn basic science, engineering, and design concepts then apply those ideas to solve real-world problems. Foundational concepts include robotics, physics, chemistry, genetics, design, and modeling, the capstone of the class is a semester-long project designing a solution to a science-based problem which will be presented to the community.

SOCIAL STUDIES

In this course students study United States History with a focus on pre-Revolutionary War through Reconstruction. The focus is on 8th grade Indiana Standards.

Options for Required Courses

Humanities

This class is a co-taught course integrating English and United States history. Since the course integrates two subjects into one humanities study, two classes of students meet together during a common time over two class periods. Students will learn the state identified standards for both English and United States history while improving their communication, research, and collaboration skills. It provides a flexible learning environment that uses more project-based activities. If you select "Very Interested" on your course selection sheet, it is very likely you will be placed in this program.

PREPARING FOR COLLEGE AND CAREERS

This is a semester course that addresses knowledge, skills, and behaviors that all students will need to be prepared and successful in college, career, and life. This course will focus and address topics such as decision making, goal setting, communication, time management, personal finance, career interests and skills and post-secondary education options.



Full Year Electives*****

BAND

This class is for anyone interested in learning a musical instrument (flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, baritone, tuba, or percussion) and having fun making music as a team. ANY student may join band. No experience or instrument ownership is required. Band teaches students how to play an instrument, read music, work as a team, and perform with artistry and confidence. Players with no experience (or less than one year of experience) should sign up for Beginning Band. Players with one year (or more) of instruction should sign up for Advanced Band (if you took Beginning Band in 7th grade you should sign up for Advanced Band). (This class does NOT conflict with after school athletics– This class does NOT include guitar players)

CHORUS

This class is for anyone with an interest in singing. Students will learn to sing with the correct approach to breathe support, tone production, diction, balance, blend, and more. The Chorus will perform 3-4 formal concerts throughout the year and a special solo (karaoke) concert as well in February. Repertoire ranges from classical to R&B, Broadway to jazz, gospel to hip hop, and everywhere in between. Men and women will be assigned to a voice part and sing harmonized music divided by Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass. Above all, students will learn the joy of music and have a blast! (*This class does NOT conflict with after school athletics or cheerleading*)

STRING ORCHESTRA

Orchestra classes at Batchelor are part of the MCCSC Orchestra Program which spans from 5th to 12th grade. The Batchelor Orchestra performs a wide variety of music at five or six concerts every year, including solo and ensemble contest and large group orchestra contest. Students who have studied a string instrument (violin, viola, cello or bass) with the MCCSC beginning/continuing strings, at Batchelor or with a private teacher will be prepared for the Batchelor Orchestra program; students will continue to develop music reading and music listening skills. Students who were in a Batchelor Orchestra as a 7th grader and students with **more** than two years of playing experience should sign up for **Advanced Strings**. Students who played in the MCCSC beginning and/or continuing string program as a 6th grader or who have two years (or **less**) of playing experience should sign up for **Strings**. Students can rent or purchase an instrument from a music store, or can rent an instrument from the school (financial aid is available for qualifying students). Students who have no previous experience are welcome and should sign up for **Strings**. (*This class does NOT conflict with after school athletics and cheerleading – This class does NOT include guitar*).

SPANISH I or SPANISH II*****

These courses are equivalent to Spanish & 2 in high school. Spanish II is only for 8th graders who took Spanish I last year and received at least a semester grade of a B for both semesters.

FRENCH I or FRENCH II*****

These courses are equivalent to French I & 2 in high school. Students who elect to take French must have strong study habits. We recommend that a student have at least a B or above in 7th grade Language Arts, as this is a rigorous course of study. This course uses the high school curriculum and can be taken for high school credit.

CHINESE I or CHINESE II*****

These courses are equivalent to Chinese I & 2 in high school. Chinese is a rigorous middle school program designed to prepare students to enter Chinese II or III in High School. This course will introduce students to effective strategies for

beginning Chinese language learning. We recommend that a student have at least a B or above in 7th grade Language Arts, as this is a rigorous course of study.

**** The High Schools will only recognize **one** foreign language class for credit. If a student takes both level I & II they may receive credit for the highest level course, which is Level II.



SEMESTER ELECTIVES****

ART I

This elective course may be taken for one semester. Students will study the basic elements and principles of art through two-dimensional projects and written work. Some of the topics that will be covered: painting, portraiture, perspective drawing, color theory, and art history.

ART II

This one-semester elective course continues the study of the basic elements and principles of art started in Art I through a variety of two and three dimensional projects and written work. We will work on longer term projects that further our artistic skills and creativity. Topics covered will include: collage, shading, printmaking, perspective drawing and portraiture.

PROJECT LEAD THE WAY

This semester course engages students in activities, projects, and problem-based learning while providing hands-on experiences in a rigorous and innovative science, technology, engineering, and mathematics curriculum. The foundation units are *automation and robotics* and *design and modeling*. Students will use 3D modeling software to create a virtual image of their designs.

VIDEO PRODUCTIONS/B-TV

This is a project based class that teaches the basics of video production. Students will learn various aspects of producing a video including: writing, storyboarding, camera technique, lighting, sound and microphones, and editing. The students will use the Apple I-Movie and Final Cut Pro editing systems. The students will also learn the business aspect of filmmaking. First year students will also use a textbook to learn the concepts and terminology. After learning the basics, students will work with groups to produce documentaries, original dramas, newscasts, PSA's, original music videos, and other types of videos. Students will have the opportunity to enter their work in national film competitions. The classes produce a weekly newscast and some classes also Skype with classrooms from other countries. Writing scripts and screenplays are part of the curriculum. Second year students will focus primarily on producing video projects and editing.

****As explained in the course descriptions, Batchelor Middle School offers academic intervention to those students who did not pass one or both portions of the ILEARN test in 7th grade.



REQUIRED

Full Year Courses

LANGUAGE ARTS
SCIENCE
SOCIAL STUDIES
MATH

Semester Courses

PHYSICAL EDUCATION/HEALTH
WRITER'S WORKSHOP
PREPARING COLLEGE & CAREERS

ELECTIVE

Full Year Electives***

- _____ BEGINNING BAND
- _____ ADVANCED BAND
- _____ CHORUS
- _____ STRINGS
- _____ ADVANCED STRINGS
- _____ SPANISH I OR II****
- _____ FRENCH I OR II****
- _____ CHINESE I OR II****

Semester Electives***

- _____ VIDEO PRODUCTION
- _____ ART I
- _____ ART II*****
- _____ PROJECT LEAD THE WAY

*** All students are required to take Writer's Workshop. However, if a student scored at the PASS+ level in the English/Language Arts portion of the ILEARN test or take a World Language, they may opt out of the class and take another elective in its place.

**** Spanish, French & Chinese Classes use a high school level curriculum and may be taken for high school credit.

***** Art II is for students who took Art as a 7th grader and would like to take it again, or for students who want to take Art I first semester as an 8th grader and Art II second semester.

