



BAKER MIDDLE SCHOOL

7th & 8th GRADE COURSE DESCRIPTION SHEET



YEAR LONG ELECTIVES

Symphonic Band and Advanced Orchestra (Grade 8)

This course is a continuation of skills and techniques learned in Concert Band, 7th Grade Orchestra, or equivalent. This course is an advanced ensemble and may require an audition to ensure correct placement. Within the National Core Arts Standards, students in band and orchestra will learn to 1) Perform, 2) Create, 3) Respond, and 4) Connect with music of various genres and styles while advancing their study of a band or orchestra instrument.

Many evening performances are required as part of the core instruction as well as two Saturday performances including MSBOA Band Festival and the Music in the Parks festival at Cedar Point. It is expected that students enrolled in Symphonic Band or 8th Grade Orchestra are committed and dependable young musicians for the entire school year.

Concert Band and Chamber Orchestra (Grade 7)

This course is a continuation of skills and techniques learned in 6th grade band or orchestra or equivalent. Within the National Core Arts Standards, students in band and orchestra will learn to 1) Perform, 2) Create, 3) Respond, and 4) Connect with music of various genres and styles while learning the study of a band or orchestra instrument.

Five to six performances and rehearsals outside of the school day are required as part of the core instruction. It is expected that students enrolled in Concert Band or 7th Grade Orchestra are committed and dependable young musicians for the entire school year.

Choir (Grade 7)

This course is offered to students with a strong interest or experience in vocal music. Previous Choir experience is not necessary to select this course. Choir will develop musical skills, including vocal technique, stage presence, music reading, and aural perception through a variety of musical styles and cultures. This course will build on skills and will focus on the development of musical skills, including vocal technique, stage presence, music reading, and aural perception through a variety of musical styles and cultures. The choir will present day and evening performances in the schools and community.

Show Choir (Grade 8)

Show Choir is an extension of the 7th grade Choir class but also welcomes 8th graders new to choir. Students will build on what they learned in the previous class, to develop skills and gain an understanding of vocal music and performance.

Graphic Design/ Yearbook (Grades 7 and 8)

This course combines the ongoing creation of the school yearbook which includes photography and the use of online software to write, edit, and design page layouts for the yearbook. The end result will be a professionally published yearbook. Students will become extensively connected with the Baker School Community through their research and design process.

World Language (Grades 7 & 8)

- **Chinese 1 (Grade 8); French 1 (Grade 8); German 1 (Grade 8); Japanese 1 (Grade 8)**
- **Spanish 1 (Grades 7 & 8) ; Spanish 2 (Grade 8)**

World Language courses welcome all serious students interested in a full-year, world language experience. These classes are the equivalent to the world language classes taken in high school. *These classes will count toward high school credit and will be calculated into the student's GPA at the high school.* Basic speaking, reading, listening and writing skills are taught, using a variety of teaching methods. Students will learn basic social and language skills to cope with real-life, authentic situations with an emphasis on oral proficiency. Students must be in very good academic standing to take a high school level course.

SEMESTER OR ½ YEAR ELECTIVES

Art 1 (Grades 7 and 8)

This course welcomes anyone with the desire to create. The focus of this class will be on the building blocks of the Elements of Art and the Principles of Design used in creative art projects. Course work will include working with and learning about a wide variety of art media: ceramics, drawing, painting, printmaking, collage, and sculpture. Students will progress their creative thinking and artistic ability and develop the ability to work independently. Group projects will also allow for creative fun with classmates.

Art 2 (Grades 8) (Prerequisite: Art 1)

The Art 2 student is able to develop their creative ideas and work independently. Students have a desire and willingness to learn about themselves as creative, thinking beings. A sketchbook will be used to collect student learning and their ideas. Students will develop their art project choices and explore ways to communicate their ideas using visual arts media and techniques with the guidance of the visual arts teacher.

Ceramics (Grades 7 and 8)

Ceramics class is a **hands-on**, visual art course that explores the varied methods of hand-building clay techniques. Different types of clay are used to create artwork using pinch, coil and slab construction techniques. The clay process will be explored - its history to the art of glazing. This design-based course is a **hands-on**, 3D, art-making class that incorporates some art history, creative problem solving skills and creative exploration.

Jazz Band (Grade 8)

This course is **open to all students by audition or teacher approval**. Previous band experience is required. Members of the Jazz Band also participate in a concert band ensemble. The basics of jazz-band style are covered, and the students will perform during the semester.

Music Exploration (Grades 7 & 8)

This course is open to all 7th and 8th grade students, regardless of previous musical experience. Through listening, composing, performing and creating, students will gain a deeper understanding of the dimensions of music, including rhythm, melody, harmony and form while learning about their favorite current musical genres and artists. Students will learn to use Garageband and other music technology to explore layering, sampling, and looping in popular music. Students will also learn to play the ukulele as we study various popular musical genres including jazz, pop/rock, hip-hop, and rap. This course combines hands-on music making with the history of popular music and current musical trends.

Fiddlers (Grade 8)

This course is open to all 8th grade violin, viola, cello or bass players also enrolled in 8th grade orchestra. Any 8th grade student with previous guitar, mandolin, or banjo playing experience may also register for Fiddlers with teacher approval. Students will learn about and play various fiddle styles such as bluegrass, old time, Scottish, Irish, and French-Canadian. Students will perform at various concerts throughout the year.

Culinary and Textile Arts (Grades 7 and 8)

The Culinary and Textile Arts 1 class celebrates the creative thinking and problem solving processes. It provides students hands on opportunities to explore these special art forms and their historical and cultural significance. By analyzing cultural trends, products, and resources, students will gain knowledge, understanding, and the skills required to complete satisfying and relevant projects related to cooking and construction of textile-related pieces.

Fundamentals of Fitness (Grade 8)

This course will provide a positive, motivating atmosphere to focus on the fitness components: cardiovascular endurance, muscular endurance, muscular strength, and flexibility. The course will focus on the fitness components (cardiovascular endurance, muscular endurance, muscular strength and flexibility) through yoga, HIIT training, circuit training, interval training, cardiovascular drumming, etc. Students will experience a positive, motivating atmosphere that will help build or improve self-confidence. The course will also incorporate nutrition, and other health aspects that affect a person fitness level.

Physical Education (Grade 8)

This course will provide students with an opportunity to improve their cardiovascular endurance, muscular strength and endurance, and flexibility. Students will also participate and learn game strategy with a focus on competitive team sports.

Theater Arts (Grades 7 and 8)

This course introduces students to public speaking, pantomime, role playing, interviews, listening skills, improvisation, and problem solving activities. These communication activities foster and develop self-confidence, self-discipline, teamwork and the ability to discuss, respond, evaluate and interact with others. Communication skills are used in the Theater portion of the course in which to the art of physical and vocal expression through acting, improvisation, and scene study is examined. Through Theater, students will explore character movement, voice, attitude, and motivation as they develop and learn the techniques of acting. The course includes a public performance involving students in all aspects of the production. This course is open to all 7th and 8th graders. Students may take this class up to two times during middle school.

Video Technology 1 (Grades 7 and 8)

This class that will focus on creative video production. Students will learn about the power, emotion, and appeal of film. Students will be creating their own video projects that will be presented to the class and to the entire school. Students will also be in charge of the morning announcements, broadcasting Baker Middle School News along with samples of their work to the entire school. Film/Video is the ultimate art, combining music, language, drama, and visual arts all into one product. This course is open to 7th and 8th graders.

Video Technology 2 (Grade 8) (Prerequisite: Video Technology 1)

Video Technology 2 is an extension of the Video Technology 1 class. Students will build on what they learned in the previous class, to develop skills and gain an understanding of the techniques of the creation of video as an art.

Genius Hour (7th or 8th Grades)

Genius Hour provides students the opportunity to explore a project of their own choosing. Since they are not evaluated on the success of their inquiry, they are free to fully engage in the process without the fear of failure. After a few weeks of instruction and a mini-project, students have the semester to focus on their passion either cooperatively or independently. Students will be evaluated on their process journals (both written and video) and on the final presentation of their project at the end of the semester. Past projects have included a paper airplane that can fly 50 yards, care packages for Children's Hospital, learning a new language, creating uniquely spiced popcorn, creating a working video game, and upcycled clothing.

Creative Writing (7th or 8th Grades)

Creative writing puts the Art in Language Arts. Students will explore many genres including short fiction, memoir/autobiography, playwriting, and poetry/song lyrics. The techniques of published writers will be studied through mentor texts in a workshop setting. Classes focus daily writing that includes quick writes, journaling, and drafting formal pieces with one-on-one conferencing. Students will take their learning and build their own portfolios of work based on their own interests.