

Frequently Asked Questions by BMS Parents and Students

When will the students be choosing their electives?

This is the first year students will be offered a choice so the upcoming 8th graders will pilot the choice option by taking an online survey during the last few weeks of school. If the choice option works well for the upcoming school year then 7th and 8th grade students will get the choice option next year.

What are the 3 periods that are not core classes?

Each student will have a Physical Education course and will have the opportunity to take other elective courses. We also offer a student academic enrichment period during 7th period. Each student is assigned an enrichment teacher that monitors student achievement and success.

What electives are offered?

The below elective courses are offered based on student requests and teacher availability.

- *Alabama Law and Society - Play by the Rules*
- *Art History*
- *Band (year long)*
- *Choir*
- *Computer Science*
- *Creative Writing*
- *Cross Fit Kids*
- *Current Events*
- *Digital Communications*
- *Forensics*
- *Game Development*
- *Graphic Art*
- *Innovations/Inquiry Based Learning*
- *Landscaping/Gardening*
- *Life Skills*
- *Math Lab*
- *Music History*
- *PE*
- *Project Lead the Way - Automation*
- *Project Lead the Way - Engineering*
- *Project Lead the Way - Medical Detectives*
- *Public Speaking/Drama*
- *Reading Lab*
- *Robotics*
- *Spanish Culture*
- *STEM*

- Traditional Art
- Yearbook (year long)

If a student is in band this year, will they be in band next year?

If a student chooses to take band then they will be placed into band at the middle school.

If a child is currently in Pre-AP courses, are those classes offered at the middle school?

Buckhorn Middle School offers Pre-AP courses in Math, English and Science courses.

Does Buckhorn Middle School require school uniforms?

Buckhorn Middle does not require students to wear school uniforms.

What is the school dress code?

The Madison County School student dress code is outlined in the Madison County Student Code of Conduct.

<https://d3jc3ahdjad7x7.cloudfront.net/8xbNGDJUWqKXrJ0dbxdKxzVYrBLMi4WMOSlt1O8SJSrJbvOH.pdf>

How do students get placed into Pre-AP classes?

The following criteria will be used in making student selections for Pre AP courses:

7 th Grade		
Pre-AP Math	Pre-AP Science	Pre-AP English or Language Arts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • $\geq 80\%$ in 6th grade Pre AP math at end of the 3rd nine weeks (w/5 pts. Added) <p style="text-align: center;">or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6th grade Spring STAR Enterprise Math Scaled Score of 823 (75th percentile) or higher** • ACT-Aspire Math Scaled Score of 419 from 5th grade • A minimum average of 90% in 6th grade math. (avg. will be determined by computing avg. of first three nine-weeks grades.)*** 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • $\geq 80\%$ in 6th grade Pre AP science at end of the 3rd nine weeks (w/5 pts. Added) <p style="text-align: center;">or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A minimum average of 90% in 6th grade science. (avg. will be determined by computing avg. of first three nine-weeks grades.)** • ACT-Aspire Science Scaled Score of 424 from 5th grade • Meet or exceed the 75th percentile on the 6th grade Spring Benchmark of either the STAR Enterprise Reading or Math test 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • $\geq 80\%$ in 6th grade Pre AP English/LA at end of the 3rd nine weeks (w/5 pts. Added) <p style="text-align: center;">or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6th grade Spring STAR Enterprise Reading Scaled Score of 983 (75th percentile) or higher** • ACT-Aspire English Scaled Score of 427 from 5th grade...or a combined English/Reading score of 847. • A minimum average of 90% in 6th grade English/LA. (avg. will be determined by computing avg. of first three nine-weeks grades.)***

***Students in Pre AP courses will have 5 pts. added to their grade for determining selection by ranking.

8 th Grade		
Algebra I	Pre AP Science	Pre AP English or Language Arts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pass 7th grade Pre AP Math <p style="text-align: center;">or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ACT-Aspire Math Scaled Score of 423 from 6th grade 7th grade STAR Enterprise Spring Math score of 852 (75th percentile) A minimum math average of 85% in 7th grade math 80% on the Orleans Hanna Algebra I Diagnostic Test <p><i>(Schools have the option to only use 3 of the 4 criteria)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ≥ 80% in 7th grade Pre AP science at end of the 3rd nine weeks (w/5 pts. Added) <p style="text-align: center;">or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet or exceed the 75th percentile on the 7th grade Spring Benchmark of either the STAR Enterprise Reading or Math test ACT-Aspire Science Scaled Score of 424 from 6th grade A minimum average of 90% in 7th grade science. (avg. will be determined by computing avg. of first three nine-weeks grades.)** 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ≥ 80% in 7th grade Pre AP English/LA at end of the 3rd nine weeks (w/5 pts. Added) <p style="text-align: center;">or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7th grade Spring STAR Enterprise Reading Scaled Score of 1161 (75th percentile) or higher** ACT-Aspire English Scaled Score of 427 from 6th grade...or a combined English/Reading score of 849. A minimum average of 90% in 7th grade English. (avg. will be determined by computing avg. of first three nine-weeks grades.)**

***Students in Pre AP courses will have 5 pts. added to their grade for determining selection by ranking.*

What are the biggest challenges in the transition to middle school?

- A Larger School and Different Classrooms
- Greater Academic Expectations
- Social Pressures of Middle School
- Getting Used to Middle School

How to overcome these challenges?

- Getting used to middle school may take a few months.
- Visit the school at least once with your child before school starts.
- Meet with your child's teachers before school starts or during the first month of school to review his learning needs or IEP.

Where can we find a list of clubs available?

A list of clubs and extracurricular activities may be found on our website very soon!

http://buckhornmiddle.mcsc12.org/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=388831&type=d&pREC_ID=881785

Do you have a date set for orientation?

We have not set an official date, however, our tentative date is July 27th. Specific times are TBD, check back here for updates.

Will the students have lockers?

Yes.