

BENTON MIDDLE SCHOOL
Visual and Performing Arts Magnet
 Elective Course Catalog (2016-17)

Course Title	Course Description
3D Art	Do you like to build your creative ideas in 3 dimensions? Use the elements of art and principles of design to create sculptures, carvings and models. Develop your ideas into projects with hands-on experiences in working with multiple mediums, including various forms of paper, wood, metal and clay! Learn the properties of clay and glaze as you create timeless pieces of useful and decorative art such a bowl, cup, wall hanging or vase!
Advanced Band	Advanced Band is a fun and exciting class for students who have one year or more of experience in the Benton Band program or take private lessons. Students in this group have a strong understanding of music theory, rhythm, advanced technique. Students will be able to enjoy an assortment of music and be challenged and continue to grow as musicians. Students can achieve success on a personal level and make several new friends in the team environment that is created in the Band community. We welcome students who want to continue to grow as musicians and take their skills to the next level.
Advanced Chorus	This course is designed for the large performing group, whose members have a strong grasp of middle level choral music, a broadened base of performance experience, and a desire to explore more advanced literature. Previous experience at the intermediate level or evidence of competency at the intermediate level is required. Students sing three-part and/or four-part music in this year long performing choral music group. Students have the opportunity to sing solos and participate in small ensembles. Some afterschool rehearsals and evening performances may be required and students will be expected to participate in ALL afterschool rehearsals and evening performances.
Advanced Drama (Acting)	This is a production and performance class. It is intended for the advanced acting student and provides further in-depth work in the areas of acting, movement, voice and speech, scene work, monologue work, and one-act productions. Videotaping of classroom performances will take place and they may be used as in-class demonstration tools. Students will be encouraged to work independently on their projects and critique their own and other students' work. Directing scenes and one-acts will also be covered.
Advanced Orchestra	Advanced Orchestra is a fun and exciting class for students who have one year or more of experience in the Benton Orchestra program or take private lessons. Students in this group have a strong understanding of music theory, rhythm, advanced technique. Students will be able to enjoy an assortment of music and be challenged and continue to grow as musicians. Students can achieve success on a personal level and make several new friends in the team environment that is created in the Orchestral community. We welcome students who want to continue to grow as musicians and take their skills to the next level.

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Advanced Photography	Students that have successfully complete the prior two years of instruction in photography are welcome to take this challenging class. At this level, students will use the full-featured classroom DSLR cameras to learn in depth the elements involved in the exposure triangle, fully exploring concepts such as depth of field with aperture priority. They will also dig deeper into the modes, functions and control available in the advanced level camera and how it relates to artistic results. This, along with professional level lighting equipment, the students will create professional level results. Additionally, students at this level will further develop their skill with PhotoShop. They will self-select assignments from a variety of how-to materials provided and will be guided by their teacher who is a 20-year veteran in the use of PhotoShop.
Advanced Piano	Advanced Piano is a fun and exciting class for students who have one year or more of experience in the Benton Piano program or take private lessons. Students in this group have a strong understanding of music theory, rhythm, advanced technique. Students will be able to enjoy an assortment of music and be challenged and continue to grow as musicians. Students can achieve success on a personal level and make several new friends in the team environment that is created in the Piano community. We welcome students who want to continue to grow as musicians and take their skills to the next level.
AVID 6-8	Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) is an academic elective course that prepares students for college readiness and success; it is scheduled during the regular school day as a year-long course. Each week, students receive instruction utilizing a rigorous college preparatory curriculum provided by AVID Center, tutor-facilitated study groups, motivational activities and academic success skills. In AVID, students participate in activities that incorporate strategies focused on writing, inquiry, collaboration, organization and reading to support their academic growth.
Beginning Band	Beginning band is a fun and exciting class for students who no prior experience or have less than a year of experience playing a band instrument. Students can choose from an assortment of classical instruments and have a wonderful opportunity to gain an understanding for reading, writing and performing music. Students can achieve success on a personal level and make several new friends in the team environment that is created in the band community.
Beginning Chorus	This course provides a variety of singing opportunities for students with limited formal choral experience. The semester long course is an introduction to vocal music at the Middle school level and a preparatory experience for Concert Chorus here at Benton. Vocal techniques and music reading are emphasized, and students are given the opportunity to explore various musical sources and styles. Much emphasis is placed on providing a positive musical experience to students through class activities.

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Beginning Drama (Acting)	This is a performance class. It is a basic course intended as a general introductory to drama with emphasis on acting exercises, movement, voice and speech, scene work, monologue work, and play structure. Videotaping of classroom performances will take place and they may be used as in-class demonstration tools. The fundamental principles and techniques of drama will be explored with a variety of materials.
Beginning Guitar	This one-year course is designed for students with no previous guitar experience. Students will receive guidance and direction in solving problems related to playing the guitar at a beginning level and will learn many of the different styles, skills and techniques required to become a successful guitarist. Areas of concentration include: correct posture, note reading, aural skills, flat-picking, singing songs, rhythmic patterns, chord study, finger-picking styles, musical forms, improvisation and performing experiences.
Beginning Orchestra	Beginning Orchestra is a fun and exciting class for students who no prior experience or have less than a year of experience playing an Orchestra string instrument, such as Violin, Viola, Cello or String Bass. Students can choose from an assortment of classical instruments and have a wonderful opportunity to gain an understanding for reading, writing and performing music. Students can achieve success on a personal level and make several new friends in the team environment that is created in the Orchestra community.
Beginning Photography	Beginning photography students learn the technology of photography to insure their image will “turn out” as planned. As they reading about, evaluation of that information, and engage in the vitally important practice, students explore the array of modes built into the modern “point and shoot” digital camera. Through these steps, students gain control of the physical methods of photographic image capturing such as shutter speed, aperture, and ISO. This learning is interwoven with artistic standards such as the value of light, contrast, color, texture, shape, composition, and perspective. Some of the topics explore in this first year class are portraiture, night photography, drawing with light, freeze action, point of view, black and white photography, and creating a magazine cover with PhotoShop.
Beginning Piano	Beginning Piano is a fun and exciting class for students who no prior experience or have less than a year of experience in piano. This is a great class to introduce students to music and give a strong foundation for reading notes, rhythms, performing and writing music. Beginning piano can give students a strong foundation to branch out into any other music class. The class is a piano studio where each student is able to access their own piano. Students can achieve success on a personal level and make several new friends in the team environment that is created in the piano studio.

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Cartooning	Explore the many styles of cartooning from Marvel comics to Manga as you develop and improve your own style. Create collections of characters and story lines and put them together to form comic strips and anime. Improve freehand drawing, rendering, and storyboarding skills. Explore careers in cartooning and the exciting history of animation!
French	French is a Language Arts class; this rigorous elective is an introduction to understanding, speaking, reading and writing French. The students will acquire the fundamental skills of conversation, grammar, reading, and writing in French, and will explore the history, customs, and art of France as well as the cultures of other Francophone countries.
Intermediate Drama (Acting)	This is a performance class. It is intended for students who would like to continue developing their theatrical abilities. Closer attention is given to developing the student's ability in character interpretations and in creating characterization through acting. Videotaping of classroom performances will take place and they may be used as in-class demonstration tools. Play analysis and film analysis is also included.
Intermediate Guitar	This one-year course is designed for students who have successfully completed the skills outlined in the Beginning Guitar syllabus. This course includes further development of the skills necessary to become independent as a guitarist. This course emphasizes the development of style, articulation, dynamics, rhythmic ability and skills inherent to performance. Students will receive guidance and direction in solving problems related to playing the guitar on an intermediate level and will learn many of the different styles, skills and techniques required to become a successful guitarist. Areas of concentration include: correct posture, note reading, aural skills, flat picking, singing songs, rhythmic patterns, chord study, finger picking styles, musical forms, improvisation and performing experiences. A progression of technical proficiency is expected.
Intermediate Photography	Intermediate photography students that have demonstrated competence and self-control during their time in Beginning Photography will use the higher-level classroom digital cameras with manual control settings. These students will expand on their prior learning; develop a greater understanding of natural and artificial lighting, composition, and use of PhotoShop. These students are also responsible for photographs that will appear in our Benton Yearbook and learn to use the software to build yearbook pages.
Media Arts	Media Arts is a class which focuses on integrating the arts with technology. The goal of Media Arts course is to build the basic, fundamental concepts, technical, and artistic skills necessary to produce graphic designs, media artwork, video composition, podcasts, basic web sites, stop motion animation, and basic coding techniques. Students will focus on building their graphic design vocabulary and integrating learned concepts into their digital artwork. Students will leverage various resources such as Adobe Illustrator, Adobe Photoshop, iMovie, Garage Band, FrameByFrame, and other Internet based resources and Apps.

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Project Lead The Way (Design & Modeling/Automation & Robotics)	Students take two courses (one per semester). Design & Modeling (Semester): Students apply the design process to solve problems and understand the influence of creativity and innovation in their lives. They work in teams to design a playground and furniture, capturing research and ideas in their engineering notebooks. Using Autodesk® design software, students create a virtual image of their designs and produce a portfolio to showcase their innovative solutions. Automation & Robotics (Semester): Students trace the history, development, and influence of automation and robotics as they learn about mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation, and computer control systems. Students use the VEX Robotics® platform to design, build, and program real-world objects such as traffic lights, toll booths, and robotic arms.
Stagecraft	This is NOT a performance class. This course is designed for the student who is interested in the technical elements of theatre. Areas of study include: scene design and construction, lighting skills, costume, makeup, sound and properties. Videotaping or pictures of work may take place and they may be used as in-class demonstration tools. This class demands a high level of concentration, safety, and labor.
Studio Art	Prepare to open your mind, dare to be original, challenge your creativity, take risks, and produce artwork beyond your own expectations! Draw, paint and use mixed media to create portraits, landscapes, illusions, collages and abstract art. Learn how to mix color while experimenting with composition. Get inspiration from famous artists and historically significant art pieces. Apply the elements and principals of art to your art as you prepare a year-long portfolio of work!
Video Productions	Video Productions is a course in which you will be able to tell stories visually by using cinematic techniques that are common in your favorite movies and television shows. You will work both individually and collaboratively to take projects from conception to finished product by writing scripts, shooting scenes, and editing videos. This course will draw upon all of the arts (photography, drama, music, etc.) to empower you to tell memorable stories using motion pictures.
World Percussion	World Percussion class is a hands on percussion course that explores rhythmic motives derived from different cultures rich in percussive music. The concept of poly-rhythms and rhythm stacking through African, Latin, and Caribbean music will all be examined and practiced through the use of music reading as well as by rote memorization. Students will preform on various hand drum instruments of varying style and ethnic backgrounds. Rhythmic content will progress from the easy to medium level. Topics will include music reading skills, technique, and general musicality. Students will perform as a group and individually during class time.