

# **Berkshire Junior High School**

## **2017/2018 Course Selection Guide**

**Berkshire Jr./Sr. High School  
14510 North Cheshire Street  
P.O. Box 365  
Burton, Ohio 44021**

**Main Office: 440-834-3380  
Fax Line: 440-834-0440  
[www.berkshireschools.org](http://www.berkshireschools.org)**

### **Administration**

**Mr. Stephen Reedy, Principal**

### **Counselors**

**Mrs. Michelle Paluf (A-L)  
Mrs. Brittany Bakalar (M-Z)**

Dear Parents and Students,

This course selection guide is designed to provide students, parents, and staff with an overview of the curriculum of Berkshire Junior High School. This guide should assist students in selecting courses for next year and to plan their program of study in junior high school and the beginning of high school. Other pertinent information is contained in this book, including athletic eligibility. It is essential that you carefully read and understand the descriptions of the courses you select.

**Remember that any courses taken for high school credit will be included on the high school transcript and will be calculated in the grade point average\*.**

Students will not be permitted to drop and add courses once the course selections have been made and submitted to the guidance office. The number of sections for each course offered is determined by the number of students signing up for classes in the spring. Guidance Counselors will make adjustments for students who fail a prerequisite, complete summer school or have scheduling conflicts.

We urge students to take advantage of the many educational opportunities that are available. The junior high school years are significant ones for planning for the future. Working together, we can make a better future and ensure Berkshire students will have every opportunity to maximize their potential as an individual and a responsible citizen. Parental involvement is crucial in making the scheduling process effective.

Please bring the completed **Course Selection Planning Form** to the guidance office by your appointed deadline. If you have any questions regarding scheduling, please call the guidance office, 834-3380 ext. 3313.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Michelle Paluf, students A-L, ext. 3314  
Mrs. Brittany Bakalar, students M-Z, ext. 3308  
Guidance Counselors



## **HONOR AND MERIT ROLL QUALIFICATIONS**

Students with a minimum 3.4 grade point average\* and no course grade lower than a 70% in any nine (9) week grading period, qualify for the Honor Roll.

Students with a 3.00 to 3.399 grade point average\* and no course grade lower than a 60% in any nine (9) week grading period, qualify for the Merit Roll.

\* **Grade Point Average** - the average grade earned by a student, figured by dividing the quality points earned by the number of credits attempted. For more information about G.P.A.'s, contact your student's guidance counselor.

## **NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY REQUIREMENTS**

1. Membership in the National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) is both an honor and a responsibility. NJHS is an honor bestowed by faculty to eligible Seventh and Eighth graders only.
2. Students selected for membership are expected to demonstrate the qualities of scholarship, service, leadership, character, and citizenship. To be eligible for selection, a student must meet the following criteria:
  - **Scholarship:** Have at least a 3.6 cumulative grade point average after the first semester at Berkshire Junior High School.
  - **Service:** NJHS members are required to complete 12 hours of service work each year and participate in the Berkshire Chapter Service Projects.
  - **Leadership:** Take the initiative in class and school activities.
  - **Character:** Demonstrate such qualities as reliability, honesty, sincerity, courtesy, concern, and respect for others.
  - **Citizenship:** Demonstrate civic involvement in and out of school.

## **JUNIOR HIGH ATHLETIC AND EXTRA-CURRICULAR ELIGIBILITY**

The following criteria will determine a student's eligibility for participation in athletics and/or extra-curricular activities.

- All beginning seventh graders are eligible for the first 9-week grading period.
- Any seventh or eighth grade student past the fall quarter of their seventh grade year must pass five classes.
- Students who are absent for the day are not permitted to participate in, or attend, after-school functions (athletic events, dances, plays, etc.). Students who wish to participate in or attend extra-curricular activities must be in school by **11:00 a.m.** on the day the activity occurs. Students wishing to participate in or attend school activities on Saturday must be in school by **11:00 a.m.** on the Friday preceding the event. The Principal must approve any exceptions to this policy. If a student goes home ill during the day regardless of the time, that student **WILL NOT** be permitted to participate in extracurricular activities.
- **All students participating in a sport must first have a sports physical on file before the student will be allowed to practice or participate in a sport.**
- **Please be aware that it is also the policy of many Jr. High sports programs that if a student does not participate in a scheduled practice the day before a game, they will not be able to participate in that game.**



## REQUIRED COURSES – GRADE 7

Language Arts 7

Science 7

World History 7

Mathematics\*  
(Math 7/ Algebra I)

Physical Education 7 (1 semester)

Health (1 semester)

### **Rotation Courses\*\*:**

Career Pathways 7 / Music /  
Introduction to Spanish / Keyboarding /  
7th Grade Engineering Stem Course

\* Students will be assessed and assigned to Math 7 or Algebra I based on the Algebra I Readiness Exam given in the spring of 6th grade. Final grades in Algebra I affect the student's high school GPA and will remain on their high school transcript.

\*\* Career Pathways 7, Music 7, Introduction to Spanish, and Keyboarding, are 9 week (quarterly) courses that are part of a rotation series. Students who are assessed and qualify will be assigned to the 7th Grade Engineering Stem Course in place of one of the other quarterly rotation courses. Please see course descriptions for more information.

## ELECTIVE

Junior High Band (1 year)

(Students who participated in elementary band may also elect to take Junior High Band. Junior High Band fulfills the prerequisite for High School Band.)



# **COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

## **GRADE 7**

### **LANGUAGE ARTS 7**

**Class fee:** \$10 for supplemental reading.

Seventh grade Language Arts is a literature-based course of study that focuses on reading comprehension and writing skills. The course includes reviewing elements of grammar, syntax, mechanics and usage as well as exploring literary elements. Students will practice various forms of writing, including research based. Students will read both fiction and nonfiction articles, novels and poetry. The students will be required to read a book over the summer, and read independently outside of class during the school year.

**NOTE:** Summer reading assignments will be issued to students in grades 6-11 before the end of the school year. Students are expected to have the books read before the first day of school in August. Students will be assessed over the books and have assignments the first week of school. Please check teacher websites and the Berkshire library website for assignments and study guides for summer reading.

### **COMPREHENSIVE 7TH GRADE SCIENCE**

**Class fee:** \$5

The fields of life science, physical science, and earth science are addressed in the seventh grade science curriculum. Students will use a variety of hands-on, small group activities to learn about such topics as structure and diversity of organisms, cells, life processes, weather, climate, biomes, waves (including sound and light) and the nature and transformation of energy.

### **WORLD HISTORY 7**

This course is an integrated study of world history that begins with ancient Greece and continues through the period of global exploration. All four social studies strands are used to illustrate how historical events are shaped by geographical, social, cultural, economic and political factors. Students develop their understanding of how ideas and events from the past shaped the world today.

### **MATH 7**

In MATH 7, the course will focus on four critical areas: (1) developing an understanding of and applying proportional relationships; (2) developing an understanding of operations with rational numbers and working with expressions and linear equations; (3) solving problems involving scale drawings and informal geometric constructions, and working with two- and three-dimensional shapes to solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume; and (4) drawing inferences about populations based on samples.

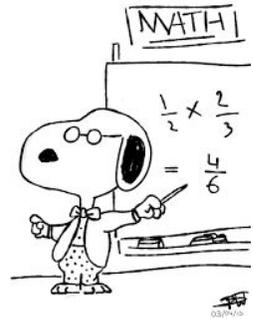
**A TI-30XIIS calculator is required for this course.**

## **ALGEBRA I**

**Prerequisite:** Teacher Recommendation, and a score of “Advanced” on the district Algebra Readiness Exam.

*Credit: 1 (High school credit)*

In ALGEBRA I, the course will focus on five critical areas: (1) relationships between quantities and reasoning with equations; (2) linear and exponential relationships; (3) descriptive statistics; (4) expressions and equations; and (5) quadratic functions and modeling. This course is suitable for any student planning to further their education by attending any postsecondary institution (college or university). **A graphing calculator is required for this course, preferably a TI-84.**



**NOTE: Algebra I is a high school course for high school credit and final grades will affect student’s GPA on their high school transcript.**

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION 7**

This course includes learning skills necessary to perform a variety of activities, striving toward an improved level of fitness, and involvement in regular physical activity. Areas to be covered include: total fitness, fundamental motor skills and movement, lifetime sport and leisure skill development, along with team sports. Sportsmanship and an understanding of the differences of each person’s abilities in a physical education setting will be stressed. The objective of this class is to improve the overall physical fitness levels of each student as well as to provide knowledge, skills, tactics, and strategies to perform individual and team activities. This course is one semester in length.

## **HEALTH 7**

This course emphasizes physical, mental-emotional, and social health. Units include Building a Healthy Foundation, Personal Responsibility and Decision Making, Food and Nutrition, Physical Activity and Weight Management, Tobacco, Alcohol and Drugs, and Communicable Diseases. A presentation on the importance of abstinence by Teen Pregnancy Prevention is also a part of the curriculum. This course is one semester in length.

## **JUNIOR HIGH BAND** (Full Year Course)

Instrumental music in junior high is the intermediate step between elementary band and high school band. The focus is on further developing each individual’s skill through scales, rhythms, and performing styles. The need for a balanced band also requires changing to other instruments not taught in the elementary school. The band performs at the Memorial Day parade in Claridon and participates in a concert, usually in March. Participation in these events is part of the course curriculum and will affect quarterly and final grades.

## **ROTATION COURSES**

### **CAREER PATHWAYS 7TH GRADE**

Prerequisite: Must be 7th Grade

This is a nine week class that will focus on Ohio's Career Clusters. Students will participate in identifying their career interests and skills at this level. The goal of this course is to give students a better idea of the career clusters and the pathway to various jobs and their potential earnings and the outlook. This is a CTE 26 compliant course.

**MUSIC 7** examines the historical musical periods, the history of band and orchestral instruments, and the study of jazz, rock and roll, and composers. Students will also learn about musical notation, musical form and styles, with an emphasis of study pertaining to the foundations of music theory. This course is one quarter in length.

**INTRODUCTION TO SPANISH** The introductory course in Spanish is to promote a familiarity with the language through group activities, games, oral participation, and minimal written activities. Pertinent geography will also be studied. This course is one quarter in length.

**KEYBOARDING** will teach the proper touch-typing technique using covered keyboards. Students will gain the ability to type accurately and with more speed through lessons and typing games. An online program will be used for daily lessons, timed tests, and keeping track of accuracy and words per minute. This course serves as a base for classes offered in grades 8-12. This course is one quarter in length.

### **7TH GRADE ENGINEERING STEM COURSE**

Design a 3-dimensional structure using CAD (computer aided design) using a 3-D printer. This course requires advanced critical thinking and problem solving skills. Teacher recommendation only. This course is one quarter in length.

- Students recommended for the following lab courses will participate for a minimum 9 week (one quarter) period and may be placed in additional labs based on teacher/counselor determination.

**STUDY LAB** will help the student acquire good study habits, both at school and at home. There is an emphasis on organizational skills, note taking, computer literacy, and techniques for keeping up with homework. Focus will be teaching students to study for assessments and testing.

**READING LAB** will develop and strengthen reading skills for success in all academic areas. Students will receive support with reading assignments from the current courses they are taking. The focus will be on teaching students to apply reading comprehension strategies to print and electronic text.

## **REQUIRED COURSES – GRADE 8**

Science 8

U. S. History

Mathematics\*\*

(Math 8, Algebra I or Geometry - Regular/CP/Honors\*\*\*)

Language Arts 8\*

**(Please note: A summer reading book is required for Language Arts 8.)**

Art 8 (1 semester)

Physical Education 8 (1 semester)

## **ELECTIVES**

All eighth grade students must choose two (2) semesters of the following electives, which will be scheduled in addition to the above required classes. Introduction to Computers and Spanish I are for high school credit.

- Family and Consumer Science/Career Pathways 9 (1 Semester)
- Introduction to Computers (1 semester)\*\*\*
- Junior High Band (all year)
- Spanish I (all year)\*\*\*

\* A student with a final grade of “B” or better in Language Arts 7 may elect to take Spanish I. The Spanish I class is a high school course for high school credit and final grades will affect the student’s GPA on their high school transcript.

\*\* Students will be assessed, and assigned to Algebra I, based on the Algebra I Readiness test and teacher recommendation.

\*\*\* Final grades in Algebra I and Introduction to Computers will affect the student’s GPA on their high school transcript.

## **COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

### **GRADE – 8**

#### **LANGUAGE ARTS 8**

**Class fee:** \$10 for supplemental reading

Eighth grade Language Arts will continue the study of grammar and writing skills with a literature-based course of study. Students will review elements of writing and grammar while developing expository and creative writing. Students practice research and writing skills through completing a persuasive research paper. Novels will be included with selections from a literature book as well. Reading, writing and speaking skills will be stressed. The students will also be required to read independently outside of class.

**NOTE:** Summer reading assignments will be issued to students in grades 7-11 before the end of the school year. Students are expected to have the books read before the first day of school in August. Students will be assessed over the books and have assignments the first week of school. Please check teacher websites and the Berkshire library website for assignments and study guides for summer reading.

#### **SCIENCE 8**

**Class fee:** \$5

Eighth grade science is an integrated science course which elaborates on the earth and space, life and physical science concepts introduced in seventh grade. Students will be able to demonstrate an understanding in natural phenomena that shape the features of Earth and the solar system, explore principles of genetics, and study the force and motion of objects.

#### **U. S. HISTORY 8**

The goal of eighth grade U.S. History is for students to demonstrate an understanding of our country's past from exploration (1490's) through the Civil War and Reconstruction (1877). Students focus on this expanse of history through examining primary and secondary source documents, maps, charts, film, art and lecture outlined notes. Students will complete assignments (both in class and as homework), projects, quizzes and tests to prove their level of understanding.

**\*Note:** The eighth grade trip to Washington D.C. takes place each spring and is highly encouraged as a hands on experience which supplements this course.



## **MATH 8**

**Class Fee:** A resource fee may be associated with this course

In MATH 8, the course will focus on three critical areas: (1) formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations, including modeling an association in bivariate data with a linear equation, and solving linear equations and systems of linear equations; (2) grasping the concept of a function and using functions to describe quantitative relationships; (3) analyzing two- and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence, and understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem.

**A TI-30XIIS calculator is required for this course.**

## **ALGEBRA I**

Credit: 1.00 (High school credit)

**Prerequisite:** Algebra I Readiness Test and Teacher recommendation.

In ALGEBRA I, the course will focus on five critical areas: (1) relationships between quantities and reasoning with equations; (2) linear and exponential relationships; (3) descriptive statistics; (4) expressions and equations; and (5) quadratic functions and modeling. This course is suitable for any student planning to further their education by attending any postsecondary institution (college or university). **A graphing calculator is required for this course, preferably a TI-84.**

**NOTE: Algebra I is a high school course for high school credit and final grades will affect the student's GPA on their high school transcript.**

## **GEOMETRY**

Credit: 1.00 (High school credit)

**Prerequisite:** Algebra I and Teacher recommendation.

In GEOMETRY, the course will focus on six critical areas: (1) congruence, proof, and constructions; (2) similarity, proof, and trigonometry; (3) extending to three dimensions; (4) connecting algebra and geometry through coordinates; (5) circles with and without coordinates; and (6) applications of probability. This course will cover the fundamental concepts of Geometry only and it is not suitable for students planning to further their education by attending any postsecondary institution (college or university). **A graphing calculator is strongly recommended for this course. However, at least a TI-30XIIS calculator is required for this course.**

## **COLLEGE PREPARATORY (CP) GEOMETRY**

Credit: 1.00 (High school credit)

**Prerequisite:** "C" average in Algebra IA & IB and teacher recommendation or CP Algebra I or Honors Algebra I and teacher recommendation.

In CP GEOMETRY, the course will focus on six critical areas: (1) congruence, proof, and constructions; (2) similarity, proof, and trigonometry; (3) extending to three dimensions; (4) connecting algebra and geometry through coordinates; (5) circles with and without coordinates; and (6) applications of probability. This course is suitable for any student planning to further their education by attending any postsecondary institution (college or university). **A graphing calculator is strongly recommended for this course. However, at least a TI-30XIIS calculator is required for this course.**

## **HONORS GEOMETRY**

Credit: 1.00 (High school credit)

**Prerequisite:** “A” average in Algebra I and teacher recommendation.

In Honors Geometry, the course will focus on six critical areas: (1) congruence, proof, and constructions; (2) similarity, proof, and trigonometry; (3) extending to three dimensions; (4) connecting algebra and geometry through coordinates; (5) circles with and without coordinates; and (6) applications of probability. **A graphing calculator is strongly recommended for this course. However, at least a TI-30XIIS calculator is required for this course.**

***NOTE:*** All Geometry courses are high school courses for high school credit and final grades will affect the student’s high school GPA.

## **8th GRADE ART**

**Class fee:** \$13

This semester class will concentrate on introducing students to the basic elements and principles of art. Students will reinforce this knowledge by creating works of art in various art media such as drawing, painting, multi media, collage and printmaking. Students will demonstrate that personal experiences and cultural influences generate ideas and themes in art. Eighth grade art students will also be exposed to select artists and their distinctive styles.

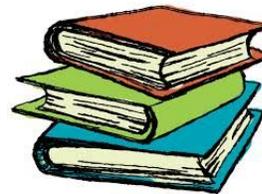
## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION 8**

This course includes learning skills necessary to perform a variety of activities, striving toward an improved level of fitness, and involvement in regular physical activity. Areas to be covered include total fitness, fundamental motor skills and movement, lifetime sport and leisure skill development along with team sports. Sportsmanship and an understanding of the differences of each person’s abilities in a physical education setting will be stressed. This course is one semester in length.

## **INTRODUCTION TO FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCE (18 weeks)**

**Class fee:** \$17

This course will be split into two segments. The first will focus on career development and the second will serve as an introduction to the FCS courses for high school. The class begins with nine weeks of career exploration using Ohio’s career clusters, which will determine individual career interests and skills, career activities and a student project. The second nine weeks will serve as the introduction to Family and Consumer Science courses which will increase the student’s skills in simple meal planning, food preparation, laundering and clothing care, and basic sewing skills. This is a CTE 26 compliant course.



## **INTRODUCTION TO COMPUTERS**

Credit: .50 (High school credit)

Students will learn about the history of computing, how a computer functions through examining its inner workings, navigating the Windows environment, and digital citizenship. The means of exploring the Internet will be discussed including how to better find the information that is located there along with ethical research and copyright practices. It is recommended that students take this course as early as possible since it is a prerequisite for Business Software: Microsoft Office and Basic Coding.

**NOTE:** Introduction to Computers is a high school course for high school credit and final grades will affect the student's high school GPA.

## **JUNIOR HIGH BAND**

Instrumental music in junior high is the intermediate step between elementary band and high school band. The focus is on further developing each individual's skill through scales, rhythms, and performing styles. The need for a balanced band also requires changing to other instruments not taught in the elementary school. The band performs at the Memorial Day parade in Claridon, and participates in a concert, usually in March. Participation in these events is part of the course curriculum and will affect quarterly and final grades.

**NOTE:** Students who excel in Junior High Band in 7<sup>th</sup> grade and have a final grade of "A", may be recommended and selected for High School Band for 8<sup>th</sup> grade. A description of this course can be found in the High School Course Selection Guide. High School Band is a high school course for high school credit and final grades will affect the student's high school GPA. A class fee, based on enrollment, is in effect for this course.

## **SPANISH I**

**Prerequisite:** Final grade of "B" in Language Arts 7 & teacher recommendation.

Credit: 1 (High school credit)

**Class fee:** \$22

Students will learn and attain proficiency in the four skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing of the Spanish language. They will acquire an understanding and appreciation of another people's way of life. Materials presented will require a high level of active student participation through dialogues, dramatizations, and use of audio-visual aids. The program will also introduce aspects of civilization, geography, and culture of Spain and Latin America.

**NOTE:** Spanish I is a high school course for high school credit and final grades will affect the student's GPA on their high school transcript.

## **CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS**

### **INTERACT**

Interact is a self-governing and self-supporting community service club for students in grades 7-12 which is sponsored by the Burton-Middlefield Rotary Club. Some projects that Interactors participate in annually are: Geauga Clean Up Days (yard cleanup for elderly), Rotary Pancake Breakfasts, Salvation Army Bell Ringing, County Home Caroling, Project Linus Blanket making, paper, plastic, battery and eyeglass recycling to name a few. Club members select other local and international projects to volunteer their time and talents for. In the past, club members have elected to raise funds to donate to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (Pennies for Patients), American Cancer Society, United Way, Ghana Wheelchair project, Eyeglasses for the Needy, Geauga County Sheriff K9 Unit, Homeless Stand-down and so on... Join Interact for a chance to make new friends, improve the community, develop leadership skills and make a difference in the world.

### **JUNIOR HIGH STUDENT COUNCIL**

Students will assist in planning events for their classmates, fundraise, and volunteer in the community. Regular meetings will be scheduled.

### **NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY (NJHS)**

NJHS is an honor bestowed by the faculty to students who have a minimum of a 3.6 grade point average. Also, they have exhibited service, character, leadership and citizenship at school and in the community. Joining is by invitation only to eligible seventh and eighth graders in the spring.

**See page 2 for more details.**

### **POWER OF THE PEN**

Power of the Pen is a creative writing team who travels to competitions against other schools in Ohio. The team meets weekly from October to March to develop and practice creative writing skills. Students must be in grades seven or eight to join and may attend weekly practices. A selection process is used to determine the six team members from each grade who will travel to state competitions as participants for these events are limited.

### **RELAY FOR LIFE GEAUGA COUNTY** / Open to grades (7-12)

Requirements: Signed permission packet, \$10 registration fee payable to Relay for Life Group runs from October to May each school year.

Relay for Life is a Signature Event sponsored by The American Cancer Society to raise money to help further its (ACS) mission to save lives. Participants raise funds as a team and in May gather at the Geauga County Fairgrounds for 20 hours walking, playing games, participating in onsite fundraisers, and meeting Cancer Survivors and Caregivers who are also helping to fight the battle against Cancer. All Relay dollars support ACS programs such as their 24 hour call center, Hope Lodge, and various other support groups and pamphlets. Each participant is encouraged to raise at least \$100.

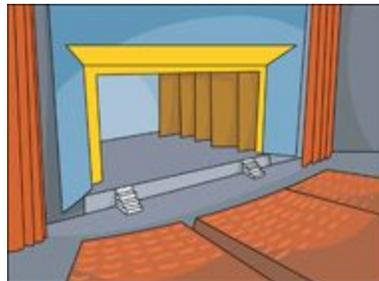
## **BE THE MAJORITY (Formerly SADD/TI)**

Open to all grades (7-12)

Be the Majority is a group of students who are equipped with the skills and attitudes to overcome challenges and at risk behaviors they may encounter in life. These students are leaders, role models and advocates for the drug-free, healthy lifestyle they have chosen! Be the Majority groups bring awareness to their schools through organized events, in-school activities, speakers, etc. Many issues that they bring awareness to include bullying, dating violence, suicide, teen pregnancy, drugs and alcohol, misuse of social media, etc.

## **THESPIANS/STAGE CREW**

The Thespians are an international student organization of theatrical arts. Membership in this organization is gained through participation in the theater-arts program at Berkshire. This can be accomplished through active participation in plays, musicals, stage crew and even as an audience member of professional and/or other regional theater productions. At Berkshire, there are two yearly productions. There is the "Fall Play", which is usually a straight stage production or a comedy. In the spring of the year, Berkshire produces a musical. Stage Crew works parallel with the B.H.S. productions. This includes building of sets, transformation of the stage, costuming, sound, and lighting. Thespians and Stage Crew are open to students in grades 7-12.



# **BERKSHIRE JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS**

BASKETBALL

CHEERLEADING

CROSS COUNTRY

FOOTBALL

SOCCER

TRACK

VOLLEYBALL

WRESTLING

