

## 2018-19

### Middle School Registration Guide

This document includes information about middle school and how to register for classes. If you have questions or would like more information, please call 763-391-7091

Este documento incluye información sobre la escuela intermedia y cómo registrarse para las clases. Si usted tiene preguntas o si desea más información, por favor llame al 763-315-7649.

Daim ntawv no muaj cov ntaub ntawv hais txog tsev kawm ntawv qib nrab (Middle School) thiab kev cuv npe rau cov chav kawm rau tom tsev kawm ntawv qib nrab (Middle School). Thov hu rau 763-569-7669 yog hais tias koj muaj lus nug lossis koj xav paub txog cov ntaub ntawv no ntau tshaj ntxiv.

Hồ sơ này bao gồm thông tin về các trường trung học và vấn đề đăng ký các lớp học tại các trường trung học. Xin vui lòng gọi 763-585-7319 nếu quý vị có thắc mắc hoặc nếu quý vị muốn biết thêm thông tin

Osseo Area School

### Table of Contents

- Welcome!
- Discover Middle School
- Examine Interests
- Sample Daily Schedule, List of Courses
- Course Descriptions
- Gifted Education and Differentiation
- Transition to Middle School
- Specialty-themed (Magnet) Schools
- Digital Learning for All
- Get Involved

If you are considering open enrollment till middle school other than your assigned attendance area school, apply for open enrollment and complete registration as if you were planning to attend your assigned School. If your application for open enrollment is approved, your course registration information will be transferred to your new school and any necessary adjustments to the schedule will be handled by your new school.

## **Welcome!**

Dear Parents and Guardians

Welcome to middle school in Osseo Area Schools! This guide will help you learn more about middle school and how we will help your student excel and thrive during these years of rapid physical, emotional, and intellectual growth.

### **The middle school years**

Voices are changing. Bodies are growing so fast that legs actually ache. Friendships come and go. These are the middle school years, and there's nowhere else our teachers would rather be than with your student on his/her middle school journey.

In middle school, young adolescent minds thrive on active, engaged learning. More hands-on learning with less lecture. Active discussion vs passive listening. Connecting classroom learning to real-life situations. Learning with student mobile device and other devices in ways that were inconceivable just a few years ago. Our middle school program is designed to keep young adolescents engaged and challenged; help them discover new interests; and support their intellectual, social and emotional growth.

We hope this guide will help you become familiar with the middle school program in Osseo Area Schools, and we look forward to welcoming you and your student next fall!

- Kim Monette Principal Brooklyn Middle School 763-569-7700
- Lisa Hartman Principal Maple Grove Middle School 763-315-7600
- Diana Bledsoe Principal Northview Middle School 763-585-7200
- Brian Chance Principal Osseo Middle School 763-391-8800

“Youth comes but once in a lifetime.” Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

### **Discover Middle School**

Our four middle schools serve students in grades 6-8. Effective middle schools have these key characteristics:

1. INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAMS
2. DAILY ADVISORY

Middle school features can be incorporated into any middle school, even if it has a special thematic focus, like the Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math (STEAM) program at Brooklyn Middle School, or the International Baccalaureate (IB) program at North View. (Course offerings will vary slightly to support each school's magnet theme)

## **INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAMS**

An interdisciplinary team consists of two to six teachers from different subject areas plus the group of students they commonly teach. (The number of teachers on a team can vary, depending on the school/team.) Team teachers coordinate instruction and evaluate student performance across academic areas. Teams provide students with a greater sense of identity, belonging, and support.

### **How do students benefit?**

In the team model, your student has two to six teacher advocates who specifically focus on your student's academic and social/emotional needs, and who know your student well. Being part of a team helps students feel more connected to other students and their teachers. As teachers discuss instruction across an entire team, they can coordinate the timing of schoolwork (for example, avoiding several core subject exams landing on the same day). Because their teachers are collaborating on instruction across all core subject areas, students are better able to make connections among the subject areas.

## **DAILY ADVISORY**

Advisory is similar to a homeroom where a peer group meets daily with a teacher. Advisory time provides a structured curriculum, including college/career planning, social/emotional learning, and academic oversight. It also provides time for academic support (intervention) and enrichment.

The daily advisory promotes strong relationships between students and teachers. Advisory helps teachers provide more consistent oversight and support of students' academic performance, social and emotional needs, motivation, and attendance.

### **How do students benefit?**

Daily advisory benefits students in several ways:

- Stronger sense of belonging within the team and at school;

- More personalized attention from teachers, with more focused attention to academic, social and emotional needs; and
- Opportunities to talk in a safe environment

about topics relevant to young adolescents.

During a typical advisory, the teacher might review assignments on Schoology, guide students through a conversation about how to organize and prepare for assignments that week, or talk with specific students about their grades. On another day, the teacher might engage students in a discussion on how to deal with peer pressure or disagreements on social media.

## **Osseo Area Middle Schools**

Brooklyn Middle School: A Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math School (BMS)

7377 Noble Avenue North Brooklyn Park MN 55443 763.569.7700

School Mascot: Bulldog School Colors: Red and Black

Maple Grove Middle School (MGMS)

7000 Hemlock Lane North Maple Grove MN 55369 763.315.7600

School Mascot: Mustang School Colors: Blue and White

North View Middle School: An International Baccalaureate

World School (NVMS) 5869 69th Avenue North Brooklyn Park MN 55429 763.585.7200

School Mascot: Knight School Colors: Blue and Silver

Osseo Middle School (OMS) 10223 93rd Avenue North Osseo MN 55369 763.391.8800

School Mascot: Oriole School Colors: Orange and Black

In middle school, students take required core subjects and elective courses. In sixth grade and seventh grade, the elective courses are designed to help students experience different subjects so they can identify interests for further study in eighth grade and in high school.

## **Required and Choice Elective Classes**

**Required elective** classes are required elements of a middle school education so that students can gain exposure to a variety of new learning, experiences, and opportunities.

Sixth-graders take required elective classes in art, music, physical education, and technology education/STEAM (Science Technology, Engineering, Arts & Mathematics). Seventh-graders take the required elective class Health & Wellness 7.

**Choice elective** classes are available in 7th and 8th grade. Students can choose to go deeper in the elective of their choice, including art, creative technology, family and consumer science, health and wellness, music, physical education, technology education/STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts & Mathematics), and world language.

A basic overview of courses by grade follows. Please note that course options may vary slightly among schools, particularly in magnet schools.

## Grade 6

### Required

- Advisory, including enrichment and academic support
- English & Language Arts 6
- Foundations of Algebra or Pre-Algebra
- Physical Science 6
- Minnesota Studies 6

### Required Elective Courses

#### Every Other Day Courses:

- Physical Education 6
- Music 6 Choose one of the following options: Introduction to Band, Band, Choir, Making Music, Introduction to Orchestra, Orchestra
- Art 6/Art STEAM 6
- Gateway to Technology 6/Gateway to Technology STEAM 6 (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts & Mathematics)

## Grade 7

### Required

- Advisory, including enrichment and academic support
- English & Language Arts 7
- Pre-Algebra, Linear Algebra, or Algebra I
- Life Science 7
- US Studies 7

### Required Elective Courses

#### Every Other Day Courses:

- Health & Wellness 7

**Choice Elective Courses** (*choose courses to create one of the following combinations: 1 every day and 1 every other day; or 3 every other day*)

Every Other Day Courses:

- Art 7/Art STEAM 7
- Creative Technology: Design and Problem Solving Family & Consumer Science 7
- Music 7: Band, Choir, Orchestra Physical Education 7
- Gateway to Technology 7/Gateway to Technology STEAM 7(Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts & Mathematics)
- At NVMS only: World Language: French 1B or Spanish 1B

Every Day Courses:

- Music 7: Introduction to Band, Introduction to Orchestra
- Physical Education 7 PLUS
- World Language: French 1 or Spanish 1

## Grade 8

### Required

- Advisory, including enrichment and academic support
- English & Language Arts 8
- Linear Algebra, Non-Linear Algebra, or Geometry
- Earth Science 8
- Global Studies 8

**Choice Elective Courses** (*choose courses to create one of the following combinations: 2 every day; 1 every day and 2 every other day; or 4 every other day*)

Every Other Day Courses:

- Art 8/Art STEAM 8
- Creative Technology: Innovation and Multimedia
- Family & Consumer Science 8 Health & Wellness 8
- Physical Education 8
- Gateway to Technology 8/Gateway to Technology STEAM 8 (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts & Mathematics)
- At NVMS only: World Language: French 1B or Spanish 1B
- At BMS only:
- Design Runway
- Intro to Culinary Arts

### Every Day Courses:

- Music 8: Band, Choir, Orchestra Physical Education 8 PLUS
- World Language: French 1 or Spanish 1/ French 2 or Spanish 2

“One’s destination is never a place, but a new way of seeing things.” Henry Miller

## **Sample daily student schedule**

### **Grade 6**

- Advisory
- English & Language Arts 6
- Math
- Physical Science 6
- Minnesota Studies 6
- Lunch
- Music 6/Phy Ed 6
- Art 6/Gateway to Technology 6

### **Grade 7**

- Advisory
- English & Language Arts 7
- Math
- Life Science 7
- US Studies 7
- Lunch
- Health and Wellness 7
- Elective I, II, III

### **Grade 8**

- Advisory
- English & Language Arts 8
- Math
- Earth Science 8
- Global Studies 8
- Lunch
- Elective I, II, III, IV

## **Course Selection Listed by Subject Area**

### **ART**

Art 6/Art STEAM 6

Art 7/Art STEAM 7

Art 8/Art STEAM 8

### **ENGLISH & LANGUAGE ARTS**

English & Language Arts 6

English & Language Arts 7

English & Language Arts 8

### **FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCES**

Family & Consumer Sciences 7

Family & Consumer Sciences 8

### **HEALTH**

Health & Wellness 7

Health & Wellness 8

### **MATH**

Foundations of Algebra Pre-Algebra

Linear Algebra

Non-Linear Algebra Algebra I

Geometry

### **MUSIC**

Intro to Band 6

Band 6

Intro to Band 7

Band 7

Band 8

Choir 6

Choir 7

Choir 8

Making Music 6

Intro to Orchestra 6

Orchestra 6

Intro to Orchestra 7

Orchestra 7

Orchestra 8

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

Physical Education 6

Physical Education 7

Physical Education 7 PLUS

Physical Education 8

Physical Education 8 PLUS

## **SCIENCE**

Physical Science 6

Life Science 7

Earth Science 8

## **SOCIAL STUDIES**

Minnesota Studies 6

US Studies 7

Global Studies 8

## **TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION/ STEAM**

Gateway to Technology 6/Gateway

to Technology STEAM 6 Gateway to Technology 7/Gateway  
to Technology STEAM 7

Gateway to Technology 8/Gateway to Technology STEAM 8

Creative Technology: Design and Problem Solving

Creative Technology: Innovation and Multimedia

## **WORLD LANGUAGES**

Beginning French 1B

Beginning Spanish 1B

French 1

Spanish 1

French 2

Spanish 2

## **COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

## **ART**

### Art 6

#### Art STEAM 6 At BMS

*Required Elective; every other day*

This class explores fun opportunities in two- and three-dimensional art. Through hands-on activities, students experiment with drawing, clay/ pottery, painting, printmaking, digital art, calligraphy and collage. By the end of this course, students will have gained an understanding of the elements of art and principles of design.

### Art 7

#### Art STEAM 7 At BMS

*Choice Elective; every other day*

This class builds on the skills taught in Art 6 to create new and exciting opportunities in two and three- dimensional art. The hands-on course goes deeper into building techniques and methods with drawing, clay/ pottery, painting, printmaking, digital art, calligraphy and collage. The goal is to provide students with broader understanding of the elements of art and principles of design.

### Art 8

#### Art STEAM 8 At BMS

*Choice Elective; every other day*

Students in this course focus on the processes behind the creation of art using knowledge and skills developed through the elements of art and principles of design. Students use both two and three-dimensional media to develop their artistic voice through taking creative risks and experimenting with new techniques in drawing, clay/pottery, painting, printmaking, digital art, calligraphy and collage. The goal is to provide students with the foundation and confidence for a lifelong appreciation of the visual arts.

## **ENGLISH & LANGUAGE ARTS**

### English & Language Arts 6 Language

*Required; every day*

Students focus on developing and strengthening skills in writing, reading, speaking, listening, and thinking. Students will analyze text to determine meaning and cite evidence from texts to support analysis. Students will use the writing process to create informational and narrative compositions. Students will study vocabulary and grammar.

## English & Language Arts 7 Language

*Required; every day*

This course stresses sentence and paragraph writing in composition, study of short stories and novels in literature, independent reading, reference skills, spelling, grammar, and usage. Students gain critical and creative writing skills. Group and individual projects throughout the year focus on writing, research, and speaking.

## English & Language Arts 8

### Language

*Required; every day*

This course emphasizes paragraph writing in composition, short stories and novels in literature, independent reading, research skills and language development centered on spelling, vocabulary, and grammar. Literature is explored in-depth with an emphasis on comprehending and interpreting what authors have communicated. Students gain critical and creative thinking skills, as well as writing, research, and speaking skills. Individual and group projects occur throughout the year.

## **FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCES**

### Family & Consumer Sciences 7

*Choice Elective; every other day*

Enjoy making things? In this year long class, students explore a variety of topics, including food preparation, nutrition, career exploration, understanding personal purchases, financial literacy, growth and development of children, and a design project. Students learn the basics of cooking and work in small group cooking labs. Students learn how to become informed and responsible lifelong learners who are able to make healthy decisions regarding diet, fitness and lifestyle. Students also investigate the exciting world of careers.

### Family & Consumer Sciences 8

*Choice Elective; every other day*

Want to do a little of everything? From children to food and design to money, this project based course gives students more practice with skills that help daily life and lead to success in the workplace. Students will explore design, personal financial responsibility, and the science behind food preparation. Students will work collaboratively to make floor plans, develop financial awareness and prepare delicious healthy foods. Exploring careers and occupational pathways are woven into this fun and fast-paced curriculum.

## HEALTH

### Health and Wellness 7

*Required Elective; every other day*

This course empowers students to make healthy decisions that influence self, family and community. Students are given opportunities to enhance and explore their health within the context of the following topics: introduction to health, decision making and goal setting, safety and injury/violence prevention; substance use/abuse; personal health / nutrition / fitness; community / consumer health; social/ mental / emotional health; disease prevention / HIV-AIDS; and basic family life.

### Health and Wellness 8

*Choice Elective; every other day*

Students learn and apply strategies that will enhance their ability to make healthy choices and reach optimal lifelong health. Students are taught the following units: sports nutrition (focusing on enhancing athletic performance), prevention and treatment of sports injuries, basic first aid, American Red Cross CPR/AED training and certification. The specific unit on sex education is taught on a dual track: abstinence until marriage or abstinence as the best choice for teens. Prior to that unit being taught, parents/ guardians will receive information about the content of each track so they can choose which one is right for their student. Students will also be given the opportunity to take part in community service learning.

## MATH

### Foundations of Algebra

*6th grade: Required; every day*

Students will use positive and negative integers, rational numbers and algebraic properties to solve problems. Students will use mean, median and range to display, interpret data and calculate probability. Other topics include ratio, measurement, scale, translations, reflections, and probability.

### Pre-Algebra

*6th grade: Students should seek advice from current teacher before registering for this class*

*7th grade: Required; every day*

This course builds skills for rational numbers and their operations and their algebraic representations. Topics from math strands such as measurement conversions, area, averages, and data displays are introduced in this course. Other topics include equations and functions, geometry, square roots, and probability.

## Linear Algebra

*7th grade: Students should seek advice from current teacher before registering for this class*

*8th grade: Required; every day*

This course provides a strong foundation in linear algebra and builds skills for rational numbers and their operations, equations, and inequalities. Topics include understanding expressions, equations, and function notation. Linear equations, linear functions, linear inequalities, and graphing will be covered in depth.

## Non-Linear Algebra

*8th grade: Students should seek advice from current teacher before registering for this class;*

*Every day*

This course revisits linear functions and introduces quadratic, exponential (and rational) function families. Students explore functions in tabular, algebraic, and graphical forms. Students write and solve algebraic and application problems. Additional topics include statistics and probability.

## Algebra 1

*7th grade: Students should seek advice from current teacher before registering for this class;*

*Every day*

This class is organized around families of functions, with a special emphasis on linear and quadratic functions. Algebra 1 may include lessons on probability, data analysis, and geometry.

## Geometry

*8th grade: Students should seek advice from current teacher before registering for this class;*

*Every day*

In Geometry, students will develop reasoning and problem solving skills. The course will include analyzing properties of two and three dimensional objects, establishing the validity of geometric conjectures, trigonometry, transformations, angles, parallel and perpendicular lines, and triangle relationships.

## **MUSIC**

*6th-graders are required to choose one:*

### Intro to Band 6

*Required Elective; every other day*

Intro to Band 6 is for students who did not take band in grade 5. Students learn the beginning elements of playing a woodwind or brass instrument. Students meet every other

day and are expected to perform at evening concerts during the year. Upon completion of this course, students are ready to enroll in Band 7.

## Band 6

*Required Elective; every other day*

In Band 6, students meet in class every other day. You can expect your performance skills (individually and as an ensemble) and musical knowledge to grow quickly! Band 6 musicians are required to perform in two evening concerts during the year. Prerequisite: Completion of Band 5 or audition with the band director.

## Choir 6

*Required Elective; every other day*

6th grade choir is for students who enjoy singing in an ensemble! Choir classes meet every other day, and students can expect their performance skills and musical knowledge to grow quickly. A variety of music will be performed. All Choir 6 musicians are required to perform two evening concerts during the year.

## Making Music 6

*Required Elective; every other day*

What role does music play in our lives and in the lives of those around us? While learning the answers to these questions, students also experience making music in many ways. This course is for students not participating in one of the performance classes (choir, band, or orchestra).

## Intro to Orchestra 6

*Required Elective; every other day*

Intro to Orchestra 6 is for students who did not take orchestra in grade 5. Students learn the beginning elements of playing an orchestra instrument: violin, viola, cello or bass. Students meet every other day and are required to perform at evening concerts during the year. Upon completion of this course, students are ready to enroll in Orchestra 7.

## Orchestra 6

*Required Elective; every other day*

In this every-other-day class, students can expect their performance skills (individually and as an ensemble) and musical knowledge to grow quickly! These musicians perform two evening concerts during the year and participation in these concerts is required. Prerequisite: Completion of Orchestra 5 or audition with the orchestra director.

## Intro to Band 7

*Choice Elective; every day*

Intro to Band 7 is for students who did not take band in grade 5 or 6. Students learn the beginning elements of playing a woodwind or brass instrument. Because this class meets every day, students can expect to learn playing skills at an accelerated level. Intro to Band 7 musicians are required to perform at evening concerts during the year. Upon completion of this course, students are ready to enroll in Band 8.

## Band 7

*Choice Elective; every other day*

In Band 7, students continue their individual and ensemble musical growth. Band 7 students are required to perform two evening concerts during the year. Prerequisite: Completion of Band 6, Intro to Band 6 or audition with the band director.

## Choir 7

*Choice Elective; every other day*

7th grade choir is for students who enjoy singing. In this class, students continue to develop their individual and ensemble vocal skills. A variety of music is performed. All Choir 7 musicians are required to perform two evening concerts during the year.

## Intro to Orchestra 7

*Choice Elective; every day*

Intro to Orchestra 7 is for students who did not take orchestra in grade 5 or 6. Students will learn the beginning elements of playing an orchestra instrument: violin, viola, cello or bass. Because this class meets every day, students can expect to learn playing skills at an accelerated level. Students are required to perform at evening concerts during the year. Upon completion of this course, students are ready to enroll in Orchestra 8.

## Orchestra 7

*Choice Elective; every other day*

In Orchestra 7, students continue their individual and ensemble musical growth. This ensemble performs two evening concerts during the year and participation in these concerts is required. Prerequisite: Completion of Orchestra 6, Intro to Orchestra 6 or audition with the orchestra director.

## Band 8

*Choice Elective; every day*

As your skills develop, so does the satisfaction you gain from playing your instrument! In daily band rehearsals, students learn more advanced playing techniques and expand their

knowledge of music and music theory. The band performs several evening concerts throughout the year and participation in these concerts is required. Prerequisite: Completion of Band 7, Intro to Band 7 or audition with the band director.

## Choir 8

*Choice Elective; every day*

As your vocal skills develop, so does the satisfaction you gain from singing in an ensemble. This choir is for all students who enjoy singing! Students are exposed to a variety of music. They continue to develop performance skills and expand their knowledge of music and music theory. The choir performs several evening concerts throughout the year and participation in these concerts is required.

## Orchestra 8

*Choice Elective; every day*

As your skills develop, so does the satisfaction you gain from playing your instrument. Students learn more advanced playing techniques and expand their knowledge of music and music theory. The orchestra performs several evening concerts throughout the year and participation in these concerts is required. Prerequisite: Completion of Orchestra 7, Intro to Orchestra 7 or audition with the orchestra director.

## **Physical Education**

### Physical Education 6

*Required Elective; every other day*

This activity-based course is organized around the movement themes of body control, fitness, propelling, receiving, and striking. The emphasis is on fundamentals, rules, strategies and individual physical fitness. A high level of participation is expected, and students are required to change into appropriate clothing for participation. Activities may include basketball, soccer, volleyball, tennis, badminton, cooperative games, table tennis, fitness training, swimming and other indoor/ outdoor activities.

### Physical Education 7

*Choice Elective; every other day*

This activity-based course is organized around an active and healthy lifestyle. The emphasis is on fundamentals, rules, strategies and individual physical fitness. Activities may include, team/ individual games, cooperative games, fitness training, swimming and other indoor/outdoor activities. A high level of participation is expected, and students are required to change into appropriate clothing for participation.

## Physical Education 7 PLUS

*Choice Elective; every day*

This course promotes an active and healthy lifestyle with a focus on cardiovascular fitness, weight training, and being physically active. Additional activities may include individual/team sports, cooperative games, fitness training, swimming, and other indoor/outdoor activities. A high level of participation is expected, and students are required to change into appropriate clothing for participation.

## Physical Education 8

*Choice Elective; every other day*

This course provides students with the skills, knowledge, and attitudes needed for an active lifestyle. The goal is to introduce students to as many activities as possible so they will remain active and healthy throughout their lifetime. Activities may include, team/individual sports, cooperative games, fitness training, swimming, and other indoor/outdoor activities. A high level of participation is expected, and students are required to change into appropriate clothing for participation.

## Physical Education 8 PLUS

*Choice Elective; every day*

This course promotes an active lifestyle for all students. Student learn and practice the skills, knowledge and attitudes needed for an active lifestyle with a focus on cardiovascular fitness, weight training, and being physically active. Additionally, students will be physically active in many activities that may include team/individual sports, cooperative games, fitness training, swimming, and other indoor/outdoor activities. A high level of participation is expected, and students are required to change into appropriate clothing for participation.

## **SCIENCE**

### Physical Science 6

*Required; every day*

Students will use scientific inquiry to answer questions and explain how materials, properties, and humans impact engineering design. Students will have “hands-on” experiences with problem solving and learn about physical change and force and motion.

### Life Science 7

*Required; every day*

Students will study the scientific method, cells, animals, plants, and human body systems. Students will have “hands-on” experiences with problem solving, dissection, microscope work, and various other lab activities. Emphasis is placed upon creative problem solving

activities, communication skills, group projects, and interdisciplinary activities.

## Earth Science 8

*Required; every day*

Students will study astronomy, physical and historical geology, hydrology, and meteorology. Students work with scientific equipment in various settings throughout the course. Methods of study will be interdisciplinary with an emphasis on creative problem solving, observation, communication skills and research.

## **SOCIAL STUDIES**

### Minnesota Studies 6

*Required; every day*

Students will expand their understanding of Minnesota history by exploring the geographical and historical developments in our state. Students will learn how individuals, groups, and events have shaped the state's history. They will analyze the interaction among the various cultures, emphasizing their contributions to society. Minnesota's role and connection to national and international events will be explored. Students will also learn basic concepts of government and personal finance.

### US Studies 7

*Required; every day*

Students will survey the development of the United States through history from the 1800s to the present while integrating government, geography, and economic concepts. This course will include critical analysis of primary and secondary resources along with in depth research of historical topics.

### Global Studies 8

*Required; every day*

Students will be introduced to cultures and civilizations throughout the world from ancient to modern times. Students will explore world geography as it affects the cultures and civilizations covered in this ie. They will analyze connections between revolutions, independence movements, and social transformations, and understand reasons for the creation of modern nation states. Students will be involved in civic discussions on contemporary issues, research, group and individual problem solving, simulations, and a variety of critical and logical thinking activities.

## TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION/STEAM

### Gateway to Technology 6

#### Gateway to Technology 6 STEAM at BMS

*Required Elective; every other day* Gateway to Technology 6 is a hands-on, lab-based, Project Lead the Way course where students use a variety of tools as they learn about the design process to solve problems and understand the influence of creative and innovative design on our lives. Students learn and recognize the value of an engineering notebook to document and capture their ideas. Students use industry standard 3D modeling software to create a virtual image of their designs and produce a portfolio to showcase their creative solutions. Materials safety, the use of tools and machines, and the principles of design are focuses of study. The course curriculum meets national STEM standards and integrates age-appropriate knowledge with developing STEAM awareness.

### Gateway to Technology 7

#### Gateway to Technology 7 STEAM at BMS

*Choice Elective; every other day*

Gateway to Technology 7 is a hands-on, lab-based, Project Lead the Way course that provides project-based learning – a hands-on approach – that is exciting and challenging for a wide range of students. The curriculum relates technology to students' daily lives. It promotes communication and collaboration by emphasizing a teaming approach. Through this approach, students use their strengths to accomplish project goals while learning challenges at all ability levels. The course curriculum meets national standards and integrates age-appropriate knowledge with developing STEAM awareness.

## Gateway to Technology 8

### Gateway to Technology 8 STEAM at BMS

*Choice Elective; every other day*

In this hands-on, lab-based, Project Lead the Way course, students deepen understanding of engineering technologies. Students gain knowledge and skills to experience industry standard production technologies through hands-on experiences. Students use tools and machines and practice using the principles of design. The course curriculum meets national standards and integrates age-appropriate knowledge with developing STEAM awareness.

### Creative Technology: Design and Problem Solving

*(Gr 7 and 8 only) Choice Elective; every other day*

*Note: This course is offered every other year, alternating with Creative Technology: Innovation and Multimedia.*

Creative Technology: Design & Problem Solving explores the principles of design through the design cycle. Students will engage in different activities using digital technologies in order to create solutions to complex problems. In addition to developing specialist skills, students will have the opportunity to work collaboratively with your peers in other creative and technical areas. The goal of this course requires project-based work across core subject areas, leading students to develop flexible creative and technical skills which will prepare them for their future.

### Creative Technology: Innovation and Multimedia

*(Gr 7 and 8 only) Choice Elective; every other day*

*Note: This course is offered every other year, alternating with Creative Technology: Design and Problem Solving.*

Students will explore the principles of innovation and problem solving through the design cycle. They will engage in a variety of activities using digital technologies in order to create solutions to complex problems. Students will use digital multimedia tools, such as Photoshop, Inventor and iMovie to create products and solutions for a variety of complex problems.

## **WORLD LANGUAGES**

### Beginning French 1B

*(Gr 7 and 8 only - this course is not offered in high school)*

*Choice Elective at NVMS; every other day*

Beginning French 1B is intended for students who have completed French 1A. This course

continues introducing students to communicating in French and becoming familiar with French-speaking cultures. The main linguistic goal is to achieve some degree of comfort with spoken French. The course also includes an initial familiarization with French written materials. Students explore the role of culture by learning about themselves and others as cultural beings.

Important note: This course spreads one year of French 1 over two years (grades 7 & 8). In Beginning French 1B, students receive instruction in half of the French Level 1 standards. Students previously enrolled in French 1A must register for French 1B as an 8th grader to complete the French Level 1 standards and sequence and to advance to a French Level 2 course. French 1B is not offered in high school. Students who do not complete the 1A and 1B sequence in its entirety will not be able to continue in this sequence and register for French 2 at the high school level.

## Beginning Spanish 1B

*(Gr 7 and 8 only - this course is not offered in high school)*

*Choice Elective at NVMS; every other day*

Beginning Spanish 1B is intended for students who have completed Spanish 1A. This course continues introducing students to communicating in Spanish and becoming familiar with Spanish-speaking cultures. The main linguistic goal is to achieve some degree of comfort with spoken Spanish. The course also includes an initial familiarization with Spanish written materials. Students explore the role of culture by learning about themselves and others as cultural beings.

Important note: This course spreads one year of Spanish 1 over two years (grades 7 & 8). In Beginning Spanish 1B, students receive instruction in half of the Spanish Level 1 standards. Students previously enrolled in Spanish 1A must register for Spanish 1B as an 8th grader to complete the Spanish Level 1 standards and sequence and to advance to a Spanish Level 2 course. Spanish 1B is not offered in high school. Students who do not complete the 1A and 1B sequence in its entirety will not be able to continue in this sequence and register for Spanish 2 at the high school level.

*French 1 (Gr 7 and 8 only) Choice Elective; every day*

French 1 introduces students to communicating in French and becoming familiar with French-speaking cultures. Students receive instruction in all of the French Level 1 standards. The main linguistic goal is to achieve some degree of comfort with spoken French. The course also includes an initial familiarization with French written materials. Students explore the role of culture by learning about themselves and others as cultural beings.

Important note: Students planning on attending a postsecondary institution are strongly encouraged to continue the French course sequence by participating in French 2, 3, 4, and

beyond during their high school experience.

### Spanish 1 (*Gr 7 and 8 only*) *Choice Elective; every day*

Spanish 1 introduces students to communicating in Spanish and becoming familiar with Spanish-speaking cultures. Students receive instruction in all of the Spanish Level 1 standards. The main linguistic goal is to achieve some degree of comfort with spoken Spanish. The course also includes an initial familiarization with Spanish written materials. Students explore the role of culture by learning about themselves and others as cultural beings.

Important note: Students planning on attending a postsecondary institution are strongly encouraged to continue the Spanish course sequence by participating in Spanish 2, 3, 4, and beyond during their high school experience.

### French 2

*Choice Elective; every day*

French 2 continues on from French 1. Students will focus on increasing the size of their vocabulary and using more complex sentence structures. Students spend time in class reading and writing, speaking and listening French. Students will be able to communicate more easily with native speakers.

Important note: Students planning on attending a postsecondary institution are strongly encouraged to continue the French course sequence by participating in French 3, 4, and beyond during their high school experience

### Spanish 2

*Choice Elective; every day*

Spanish 2 continues on from Spanish. Students will focus on increasing the size of their vocabulary and using more complex sentence structures. Students spend time in class reading and writing, speaking and listening Spanish. Students will be able to communicate more easily with native speakers.

Important note: Students planning on attending a postsecondary institution are strongly encouraged to continue the Spanish course sequence by participating in Spanish 3, 4, and beyond during their high school experience.

“Children, after all, or not just adults in the making. They are people whose current needs and rights and experiences must be taken seriously.” Alfie Kohn

## **Challenge Young Minds**

Middle school teachers use teaching strategies that help students learn and practice higher-level thinking, reading, and writing skills. Developing these skills in middle school helps students achieve at higher levels and prepares them for more challenging coursework in high school. Our teachers help students learn key concepts and skills at high levels and in the way that is most effective for them.

## **Gifted Education in Middle School**

The middle school approach for high-achieving students blends two strategies:

### **Cluster Classrooms**

Similar to the elementary gifted education cluster model, students in grades 6-8 are placed in classes with a cluster (core group) of students at their same instructional level with teachers specifically trained to meet the needs of gifted adolescent learners. This model narrows the range of instructional levels, allowing teachers to differentiate more effectively than they can in a classroom with a wide range of student abilities. Interdisciplinary teams will enhance the effectiveness of the cluster model. The small team of teachers works with the same number of students, allowing them to better know each student's academic, social and emotional needs. In addition, every middle school has a differentiation specialist working with teachers to support effective differentiated teaching in every classroom.

### **Rigorous Curriculum and Acceleration**

Offering rigorous curriculum means providing depth, flexible pacing, complexity, choice and increased student engagement and self-directed learning. The more challenging materials allow high-achieving students to go deeper with their learning than before.

In every core class (English/language arts, math, social studies and science), teachers differentiate instruction so that students continue to go deeper to extend their mastery of the content they are expected to learn. Teachers identify students who can and should tackle more challenging work within a course.

## **Earning High School Credit in Middle School**

### **Math:**

Students who qualify and elect to participate in the accelerated math course offerings (Algebra I, Non-Linear Algebra, Geometry) can earn high school credit.

## **World Language:**

Students who elect to participate in French 1 and 2 or Spanish 1 and 2 can earn high school credit.

Please consult with your middle school counselor for more information about earning high school credit in middle school.

## **What is “Differentiation”?**

Differentiation means adjusting teaching and learning activities to meet the specific needs of individual students. The goal is to help every student be challenged and to make strong academic growth. Differentiated instruction sometimes means taking different approaches to help students learn the same concept.

### **Example: English**

#### **Non-Differentiated Teaching -**

All students read the same novel. All students participate in the same activities, regardless of learning.

#### **Differentiated Teaching -**

Students have a choice of 4-5 novels with a common theme (for example, courage).

Discussions occur in literature circles according to novel chosen. Students are assigned a variety of roles during this activity, depending on their learning style and interests. Then, whole class activities take place focusing on the common theme of courage.

### **Example: Science**

#### **Non-Differentiated Teaching -**

All students study the same science topic and complete the same project to demonstrate their learning.

#### **Differentiated Teaching -**

Students are given the same assignment: define, describe, and provide a possible solution to an environmental problem. Students have a choice of problems: acid rain; climate change; ozone depletion; waste disposal; water; or air pollution. Students may also propose their own problem. Students can choose how to demonstrate their learning: speech; digital poster; paper; create a website; or something else of their choice.

## **Who determines my student’s cluster classroom placement?**

Current elementary teachers help identify each incoming 6th grade student's middle school cluster grouping. Current middle school teachers do the same for continuing students in 7th and 8th grade.

## **Transition to Middle School**

### **Welcoming New Students**

Our middle schools are ready to welcome you and your student to middle school next fall! Every school has a plan to welcome new students and families.

Students receive leadership training so that they are equipped to welcome and serve as 8th grade mentors to new students each year. Every school has a student leadership program (WEB: Where Everyone Belongs or GPS: Guides to Personal Success) that actively engages new students, builds community, and strengthens school climate and culture.

### **Supporting All Learners**

In addition to meeting the needs of high-achieving students, each school has support systems in place to assist students with other types of needs.

- Special education services are available in every school.
- English Learner Program services are available at every K-12 school.
- School counselors are available to support student learning through educational, social/emotional, and career development.

### **Registration for Middle School Courses**

School counselors provide course registration information to all incoming 6th graders for the upcoming year. Incoming 7th and 8th graders follow the registration process at their current middle school. If you have questions about course registration for your student, please contact the counseling office at your student's middle school (see phone numbers on page 2).

“The important thing in science is not so much to obtain new facts as to discover new ways of thinking about them.” William Lawrence Bragg

## **Specialty-Themed (Magnet) Schools**

### **Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics (STEAM) at Brookland Middle School**

Brooklyn Middle School offers a school-wide STEAM (STEM + Arts) program that provides a middle school path for students in both of our district's elementary magnet school (Arts and STEM).

**Brooklyn Middle School's STEAM program supports students as they:**

- A. Engage in inquiry-based learning experiences that use STEAM to solve problems;
- B. Set goals and work to obtain the skills, knowledge and experiences that will position them for future success, particularly in the STEAM disciplines;
- C. Participate in authentic real-world experiences with practice with practicing scientists, engineers, and technical professionals and participate in challenging; and
- D. Participate in challenging and accelerated opportunities to demonstrate content mastery.

**International Baccalaureate (IB) Middle Years Program at Northview Middle School**

International Baccalaureate (IB) schools infuse a core curriculum with a world focus that helps young people understand their role as responsible world citizens. The emphasis is on changing technology, world languages, and cultures. Students are encouraged to inquire, think, communicate, take risks, achieve, be principled, caring, open minded, well-balanced and reflective. The International Baccalaureate program has gained recognition and respect from the world's leading universities.

The IB Middle years program consists of eight required subject areas that provide a broad Foundation of knowledge. These include Language and Literature (English), Language Acquisition (Spanish or French), Mathematics, Sciences, Arts, Physical and Health Education, Individuals and Societies (Social Studies) and Design. Teachers draw a examples from the world's civilizations to help students develop an appreciation for all cultures, including their own subject matter is presented through six distinctive lenses called Global Context, which enable teachers and students to see relationships among subjects, ideas, and the people throughout the world.

**Digital Learning for All**

Thanks to a supportive community, our district's technology levy is allowing students and teachers to transform teaching and learning in ways that could not have been imagined just a few years ago.

**1-to-1 Student Mobile Device Program**

All middle school students are issued a student mobile device for educational use as part of our district's 1-to-1 student mobile device program.

1-to-1 programs help personalize teaching and learning:

- When students have access to their own portable electronic device in a wireless school environment, they are able to access information and engage in learning in new ways.
- Effective use of student mobile device and similar devices promotes collaboration and creativity, two key skills students need for success in the 21st century workplace.
- Teachers are able to personalize learning more easily than ever before, and students can use online collaboration tools for work in and out of school.

Learn more about Digital Learning for All: [www.district279.org/dl4a-overview2](http://www.district279.org/dl4a-overview2)

## **Schoology**

Schoology is a web-based learning management system that supports online learning, communication, and collaboration among teachers, students, and families. With Schoology students can access homework and class resources anytime, anywhere. It's much easier for students to keep their homework assignments organized in schoology than in their locker. Schoology means fewer assignments lost, richer conversations and support when they students have questions and greater access to study tools.

Students and staff access Schoology through a web browser by visiting [Osseo.Schoology.com](http://Osseo.Schoology.com) and logging in with their ISD 279 network username and password. Students and staff mobile devices also have the schoology IOS app installed.

To learn more about Schoology: [www.district279.org/schoology](http://www.district279.org/schoology)

## **Classroom technology**

Many of our classrooms have voice distribution systems that amplify the teacher's voice in a way that helps ensure that all students can hear, regardless of where they are seated. Voice amplification systems contribute to improved student learning, increased attention, and less vocal strain.

All classrooms have digitized projection systems and many have interactive whiteboards that allow teachers to display information from a computer to the entire class.

Some classrooms have handheld student response system that allow students to respond to questions privately so that only their teachers can see how well they are grasping the material being taught. These systems allow teachers to gather real-time data about how

students are doing so that they can quickly adjust instruction in response to student needs.

## **Get Involved**

Each middle school offers before- and/or after-school programs such as arts (visual, fine, performing), anime, cardio/strength training, chess club, and morning/ afternoon hoops. There's something for everyone!

Middle school students in grades 7-8 are also eligible to participate in a variety of athletics programs for grades 7-12 at the high school level. Athletic offerings may vary by middle school.

### **Fall** (Aug-Sept-Oct)

- Cheerleading
- Cross Country
- Girls Swimming
- Girls Tennis Soccer

### **Winter** (Nov-Dec-Jan)

- Alpine Skiing
- Gymnastics
- Hockey
- Nordic Skiing
- Boys Swimming
- Wrestling

### **Spring** (Mar-Apr-May)

- Baseball
- Golf Lacrosse
- Girls Softball (Fast Pitch)
- Synchronized Swimming
- Boys Tennis
- Track

In addition, a variety of co-curricular activities are available in middle school. Activities may vary by school, but often include:

- Band

- Choir
- Orchestra
- Destination ImagiNation
- Student Council
- Drama
- Musical

## **Out-of-School Time Activities for Middle School Students**

Middle school students have many opportunities to be involved in out-of-school time activities that help students build leadership skills, explore a wide range of interests, and have fun. In addition to clubs, athletics, and other extracurricular activities, all of our middle schools offer after-school activities organized and supervised by the district's Community Education department and available for students in grades 6-8. To learn more about out-of-school time and non-school day activities for middle school students, contact CommunityEducation at 763-391-7223 or visit [www.district279.org/community-education](http://www.district279.org/community-education).

*This document contains the most complete information available as of the date it was published. Information is subject to change; be sure to contact your school if you have any questions about middle school.*

Our mission is to inspire and prepare all students with the confidence, courage and confidence to achieve their dreams; contribute to community and engage in a lifetime of learning.

### **Educational Service Center**

**11200 93rd Avenue North Maple Grove, MN 55369**

**[www.district279.org](http://www.district279.org)**

