

# Bedford Middle School

## Exploratory Elective Descriptions 2022-2023

**Advanced Art/Mixed Media** - Students will have the opportunity to get more in-depth with some 3-D forms of art, namely: acrylic pours, collage art, sculpture, ceramics and mosaics. Students will do some structured projects and then have a chance to pursue more independent projects that interest them.

**Advanced Band** - Advanced Band will allow students to study topics not covered (or only briefly covered) in band class such as jazz, solos, chamber music (small ensembles such as trios or quartets), pep band and basics of marching band.

**Anatomy / Intro to Dissection** - In this class we will explore animal diversity through dissection. As we work our way through different animal phyla, we will study the anatomy of different animals by learning both the structure and function of their unique anatomical features.

**Current Events** - BMS Current Events course will use current events that focus on world and local issues that affect students' everyday lives, such as economics, government, and conflict. Students will use newspapers, online media, and newscasts to support class discussion. Additionally, students will participate in group projects and presentations, in order to better understand the world around them. At the end of this course students will be able to recognize and address basic current event topics to view a more complete picture of the events happening around them.

**Fiber Arts** - An Intro to the world of Fiber Arts. Join me in learning the History and process of many types of craft making. Crocheting, Knitting, Embroidery, Dyeing of cloth, Macrame and so much more!

**Forensics / Crime Scene Investigation** - Do you dig forensics? Are you a crime show junkie interested in solving cold cases and crime scene investigating? Sign up for 9 weeks of sleuthing! This class will introduce students into the terms and practices of crime scene investigation. Students will practice evidence collecting, fingerprint analysis, blood spatter, shoe print, and other means of collecting evidence. The culmination of the 9 week course will be trying to solve a cold case from 30 years ago.

**History of Rock and Roll** - The history of Rock and Roll will integrate U.S. History with the history and progression of Rock and Roll music. Prominent players and groups of each era will be covered as well as technological, sociological, economic, and cultural factors that shaped the styles of rock and roll music. Extensive time in the classroom will be spent listening to enhance the experience.

**Imagineering** - We will look at how artists, designers, and engineers collaborate to design and build a theme park. We will work on project based exercises to design our own theme park. Each week, we will look at a different iconic ride and explore its history and design changes from concept to completion.

**Intro to Strings and Instruments** - This elective is for anyone who is curious about string instruments (violin, viola, cello, bass), but is not quite ready to commit to Orchestra. This is also for current Orchestra students who would like to learn a second string instrument.

**Lit Lab (Book Club)** - Lit Lab will be a reading workshop where students will self-select materials to read from a variety of sources. They will complete interactive journals, participate in group discussions, and submit book reviews.

**NaNoWriMo (Creative Writing)** - Create characters, build settings, and hatch plots. Take the challenge and go on a writing adventure to try and create your very own novel. No writing experience is necessary. Creativity and imagination are all you need. The NaNoWriMo Young Writers Program is designed to challenge young writers and provides motivation with a gamelike approach.

**Personal Finance / Budgeting** - The middle school 9-Week course will help students build core personal finance skills and learn real-world strategies to effectively manage their personal finances. Topics include decision making, taxes, budgeting, saving, consumer skills, preparing for high school and more.

**Photography** - Students will learn the basics of photography through exploring the capabilities of their cell phone camera while completing a variety of photo-based projects. Students will also have the opportunity to look at the history of photography and a few of the well known artist of the craft.

**Puzzling** - The puzzling class is for students who want to improve their memory and problem solving skills. We will do a variety of fun and challenging puzzles including; Jigsaw puzzles, Rubik's Cube, Sudoku, Boggle, Wordle, Nonograms, Patterns, and more. Students will also create puzzles for other students to solve.

**Robotics** - Robotics is a year-long course for students who would like to learn more about the VEX Robotics program. Students will build, code, and possibly compete with their robot.

**Student Leadership** - This course will guide students as they develop and improve leadership skills. Students will learn effective habits, improve their interpersonal and communication skills, discover ways to control their emotions better and create personal goals, among many other abilities. Students will also be able to identify new ways of thinking and gain a new level of self-awareness. At the completion of this course, students will be able to apply their newfound leadership skills in real-life situations.

**Textiles / Sewing** - Textiles & sewing will offer students the opportunity to build hand and machine sewing skills through a variety of small projects that they may keep or give as gifts. Students will also creatively apply principles of art and design in their work as they explore personal fabric and pattern preferences.

**Theater / Drama** - Theatre class is a 2 nine-week course for students to explore all aspects of theater. This is a perfect class for aspiring actors, singers, dancers, directors, students interested in set design, or students who are just curious about theater and want to learn more! Part of the class will focus on building knowledge about theater and the other part of the course will focus on putting on its very own stage show! All interests and ability levels are welcome to be a part!

**Yoga / Mindfulness** - Students will explore the health and wellness benefits of yoga and mindfulness. This course will use various sources like Riley Children's Health website, Headspace, and Mindfulness for Kids.