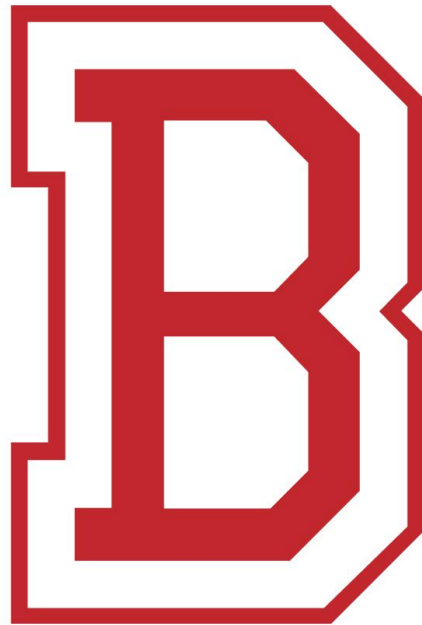


Bedford Middle School

Home of the Stonecutters!



**A Guide for BMS Courses and
Student Engagement
Opportunities**

Welcome to Bedford Middle School! This guide has been developed to help students and families understand the courses and opportunities available to 7th and 8th grade students. If you have any questions, please reach out to the office staff for assistance and clarification.

Course Descriptions for 7th and 8th Grade

Core Classes

(Full Year Course)

- **English/Language Arts** - The following courses of ELA are offered in the seventh and eighth grades:
 - **7th Grade ELA** - ELA course for the majority of our 7th grade students. It is designed to strengthen and enhance existing skills. Placement is based on a combination of standardized tests, grades in 6th grade ELA class, and recommendation of the 6th grade teacher. This course spans a wide range of topics based on the Indiana Academic Standards in the areas of reading, writing, speaking, listening, and media literacy.
 - **Advanced 7th Grade ELA**- ELA course designed for 7th grade students who understand and demonstrate ELA skills above the 7th grade level. Placement in this course is based on a combination of standardized tests, grades in 6th grade ELA class, and recommendation of the 6th grade teacher. This course spans a wide range of topics based on the Indiana Academic Standards in the areas of reading, writing, speaking, listening, and media literacy.
 - **8th Grade ELA**- ELA course for the majority of our 8th grade students. It is designed to strengthen and enhance existing skills. Placement is based on a combination of standardized tests, grades in 7th grade ELA class, and recommendation of the 7th grade teacher. This course spans a wide range of topics based on the Indiana Academic Standards in the areas of reading, writing, speaking, listening, and media literacy.
 - **Advanced 8th Grade ELA**- ELA course designed for 8th grade students who understand and demonstrate ELA skills above the 8th grade level. Placement in this course is based on a combination of standardized tests, grades in 7th grade ELA class, and recommendation of the 7th grade teacher. This course spans a wide range of topics based on the Indiana Academic Standards in the areas of reading, writing, speaking, listening, and media literacy.

- **Mathematics** - The following courses of mathematics are offered in the seventh and eighth grades:
 - **7th Grade Math** - is the math course for the majority of our 7th grade students. It is designed to strengthen and enhance existing skills. Placement is based on a



combination of standardized tests, grades in 6th grade math class, and recommendation of the 6th grade teacher. This curriculum spans a wide range of topics based on the Indiana Academic Standards.

- **7th Grade Advanced Math** - Advanced math is designed for students who understand and demonstrate math skills above the 7th grade level. Placement is based on a combination of standardized tests, grades in 6th grade math class, and recommendation of the 6th grade teacher. This curriculum spans a wide range of topics based on the Indiana Academic Standards.
 - **8th Grade Math** - is the math course for the majority of our 8th grade students. It is designed to strengthen and enhance existing skills. Placement is based on a combination of standardized tests, grades in 7th grade math class, and recommendation of the 7th grade math teacher. This curriculum spans a wide range of topics based on the Indiana Academic Standards.
 - **Algebra** - Algebra is designed for students who understand and demonstrate math skills above the 8th grade level. Placement is based on a combination of standardized tests, grades in 7th grade math class, and recommendation of the 7th grade teacher. This curriculum spans a wide range of topics based on the Indiana Academic Standards. This class is for high school credit.
- **Science** - The following courses of Science are offered in the seventh and eighth grades:
 - **7th Grade** - During this year-long course, students will explore Earth's structure, organization of life, energy and motion, and the engineering and design process.
 - **8th grade** - During this year-long course, students will explore chemistry, genetics, weather and climate, and the engineering and design process.
 - **Social Studies** -
 - **7th Grade** - BMS Seventh grade social studies courses guide students through the Eastern Hemisphere. Students will learn about the cultures and histories of the people inhabiting Africa, Asia, and Australia/Oceania. The goal of the course is to get students to think critically about history and develop certain historical thinking through inquiry and analysis. Topics covered include: Ancient Civilizations, World Religions, Imperialism, Economics, Government and the Modern World. Writing and analyzing texts and a focus on vocabulary are also large parts of what students will experience as they become more familiar with the Eastern World.
 - **8th Grade** - In this course, students will look at United States history starting in early America and going through the Reconstruction era of our country. Students will practice using historical thinking skills as they examine key concepts of our history, government, and different cultures of our past. Our students will develop an awareness and understanding of values and attitudes within our country's past. Students will investigate the roles and responsibilities of United States Citizens as established in the Constitution of the United States of America.



Related Arts

(One Course Per Nine Weeks)

- **Art** - The following courses of art are offered in the seventh and eighth grades:
 - **7th Grade Art** - This nine-week mandatory course introduces the basic elements and principles of art mainly through two-dimensional projects. Some of the topics that will be covered include: painting, perspective drawing, grid drawing, color theory, and art history. Students will do at least one 3-D ceramic project of various complexity.
 - **8th Grade Art** - This nine-week mandatory course continues the study of the basic elements and principles of art mainly through two and three-dimensional projects and written work. Students will work on longer-term projects that further their artistic skills and creativity. Topics covered will include: collage, painting, shading, tie dying, figure drawing, perspective drawing and portraiture. Students usually do at least two ceramic projects of greater complexity than 7th grade.
- **Physical Education (7th grade)** - Physical Education introduces students to activities that emphasize the importance of movement and physical activity in their lives. Students learn the basic rules, skills, and strategies that challenge the students in many ways. This class helps develop skills outside of physical fitness including problem solving, critical thinking, leadership, communication, accountability, and work ethic. No matter what the ability level of the student at the beginning of a unit, the students are always encouraged to do their best to achieve continuous improvement.
- **Health (8th grade)** - This health education course will introduce students to each dimension of health. Students will explore each dimension and learn how their decisions, and the decisions of others, can impact health. Students will debunk myths, complete projects, and practice behaviors that are needed to live a healthy lifestyle. The goal of this class is to teach students the knowledge and skills needed to make healthy choices in life so that they can thrive.
- **Project Lead the Way (PLTW)** - This course engages students in activities, projects, and problem-based learning while providing hands-on experiences in a rigorous and innovative science, technology, engineering, and mathematics curriculum.
- **Exploring College and Careers** - This class provides students opportunities to explore their personal goals, interests, and aptitudes as they relate to career concepts, including exploring the 16 national career clusters and Indiana's College & Career Pathways, and begin to determine what they want and expect for their future. Students learn about various traditional and nontraditional careers and gain an awareness of the level of education and type of training needed for a variety of careers and occupations. Students build good study habits, expand their technology skills, develop or update their Graduation Plans and complete a college and career readiness exam. Virtual and real life opportunities are provided for students to observe and explore various careers.



Electives

(Full Year Course)

- **Band** - This class is for anyone interested in learning a musical instrument (flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, baritone, tuba, or percussion) and having fun making music as a team. ANY student may join band. No experience or instrument ownership is required. Band teaches students how to play an instrument, read music, work as a team, and perform with artistry and confidence. Full band playing is emphasized, with the opportunity for solo and small ensemble playing. Players with no experience (or less than one year of experience) should sign up for Beginning Band. Players with one year (or more) of instruction should sign up for Advanced Band. This class has two or more performances throughout the year both in school and out of school. (This class does NOT conflict with after school athletics)
- **Choir** - This class is for anyone with an interest in singing. No audition necessary. Students will learn to sing with the correct approach to breath support, tone production, diction, balance, blend, and more. The choir(s) will perform 3-4 formal concerts throughout the year. Students will learn about their voice, voice change, and how to sing in harmony. Students will also learn sight-singing, basic music theory, and the joy of music and have a blast!
- **Orchestra** - Orchestra is a class and community of musicians in which students learn to make music together and to work as a team while also having a lot of fun! Students in Orchestra learn one of the four orchestra string instruments: violin, viola, cello, or bass. Seventh grade orchestra is our beginning class which gets students started in learning to play a string instrument. The 7th grade performs in two concerts during the school year. In 8th grade students continue learning new skills on their instruments and also have more opportunities to perform. The 8th grade does three performances during the school year with additional optional opportunities for students. Students do not need any prior musical experience to sign up for orchestra. Orchestra does not conflict with any school sports or other school activities.
- **Chromebook Repair and Maintenance** - This class is for students who have a service mindset and want to aid in keeping their classmates in working Chromebooks. Students learn to troubleshoot and repair many hardware items pertaining to student chromebooks. When not working directly with a chromebook in need of repair, students are given a variety of research projects to aid in understanding the cost effectiveness of repairing versus replacing a broken chromebook as well as exploring a variety of STEM careers and other technology ideas.
- **Media Experience** - This class is for students who want to work to build school spirit and keep everyone informed through a variety of media design projects including: team locker signs, Facebook posts, digital announcements and building the school yearbook. Students will experience creating in Veed.IO, Pixlr, Adobe, Canva and Google Slides. (This is a service class that strives to meet the varied media needs of BMS.)
- **Study Hall** - This class is for students who need extra time at school to complete homework.



Exploratory Electives

Some courses are subject to change due to availability

Exploratory Elective Descriptions

Advanced Art / Mixed Media - Students will explore a variety of different artistic media in an effort to broaden their creative horizons. For example, these students built more complex slab clay structures, poured acrylic, created stained glass mosaic art, tie-dyed textiles, painted, drew and screen printed. Last quarter our Advanced Art class helped design and paint the backdrops for the play the drama class put on. The first quarter class painted cello bodies that were irreparable and sold them as a fundraiser. The projects are very much in flux with this class and as something cool presents itself, we try to tackle it.

Advanced Band / Jazz 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.

Advanced PE - Advanced Physical Education is an Exploratory Elective course available to all students. This course focuses on the knowledge and skills needed to make health decisions regarding exercise in everyday life. Students learn about the foundation and importance of physical activity and develop their skills using games, activities, and training. Students will play games, build projects, research, and have fun while learning about physical activity in everyday life.

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.

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.

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.



Explore the World - If you have ever wondered what other cultures around the world look like, this is the class for you. We will look into places around the world. Research what kinds of clothes they wear, what sort of foods they eat, what traditions they have, or how they celebrate. Let's explore together.

Fiber Arts / Sewing - This elective explores the traditional and modern world of textile fibers and provides the opportunity to build hand and machine sewing skills through a variety of small projects that students may keep or give as gifts. Students will also creatively apply principles of art and design in their work as they explore personal color and fabric preferences. Projects include: paper quilt block design contest, macrame, weaving, hand stitches & embroidery, felt ornaments, folded coasters, recycled crafts and pillow making if time allows.

Forensics / Crime Scene Investigation - Do you dig forensics? Are you a crime show fanatic interested in solving cold cases and crime scene investigating? Sign up for nine weeks of sleuthing! This class will introduce students to 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 nine week course will be trying to solve a thirty-year-old cold case..

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.

History of Video Games - This course introduces students to the history of video game entertainment. Significant events and landmark achievements in the gaming industry will be explored in detail. Study will focus on the period from 1980 through 2019. Students will read about, discuss, watch, and potentially play select video games.

Intro to Strings - 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.

Journalism - "Extra! Extra! Read all about it!" Have you ever considered what it would be like to have a role in news reporting? In journalism, you will have the opportunity to collect, verify, and analyze newsworthy information. We will learn about journalism's ethics and how to investigate newsworthy events. You will learn how to and conduct interviews, research sources, and stay up to date with the latest "scoop". At the end of your nine weeks, we will combine our articles and create an actual newspaper for our campus community.

Life Skills - The Life Skills class is a fun, interactive class meant to improve a student's knowledge and skills for everyday life. We will work toward goal-setting, making good choices,



improving communication, healthy lifestyles, how to choose healthy relationships and being your own advocate in everyday life and at school.

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.

***Music History (2nd Semester Only)** - Music history is a short introduction into the history behind the music we have today. Students will learn about music from the ancient Greeks to the music of today. Students will receive many opportunities to discuss the music they like and to engage with music from the past.

Personal Finance / Budgeting - The middle school nine-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 (Cell Phone)- 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 artists of the craft.

Pixar in a Box / 3D Printing - We will explore how animated films are made at Pixar. Students will complete a series of interactive lessons that take us through the process from storytelling to rendering a final product. Along the way, students will have a chance to print out their own creations using a 3D printer.

Puzzling / Board Games - This nine week course will include brain games, board games and jigsaw puzzles. The class will help students sharpen their ability to solve problems through games. It will also help students with concentration, memory and cognitive skills.

Student Leadership - This course will guide students as they develop and improve their 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.

***Theater / Drama (1st Semester Only)** - Theater class is a two nine-week course for students to explore all aspects of theater. It is only offered the first semester. 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!

Travel and Exploration - Are you adventurous and interested in learning about amazing travel opportunities? In Travel and Exploration we will explore the many unique and exciting vacation destinations just waiting to be traversed within the diverse regions of our country. While indulging your wanderlust with plans to travel paths that lead to rugged mountain terrains, gorgeous beaches, or entertaining theme parks, you'll learn how to create a budget for your trip, ways to manage your time, and safe travel practices. Bring your walking shoes and sunscreen and join us in an unforgettable classroom experience.

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.



Student Engagement Opportunities

Students at Bedford Middle School have the opportunity to join sports teams, academic teams, or clubs. See the list below. We hope to include more clubs and afterschool opportunities as interest arises. Please reach out to the office for more information.

Band Club

Color Guard

VEX Robotics

Athletics

- Girls Basketball* - 7th and 8th grade - Red Teams and White Teams
- Boys Basketball* - 7th and 8th grade - Red Teams and White Teams
- Football - 7th and 8th grade teams
- Volleyball - 7th and 8th grade teams
- Cross Country - girls and boys teams
- Track - girls and boys teams
- Tennis - girls and boys teams
- Golf - girls and boys teams
- Wrestling (Coed)
- Swimming (Coed)
- Cheerleading (Football and Basketball)
- Girls Softball (Club)
- Boys Baseball (Club)
- Soccer (Club)

*Depending on the number of students wanting to participate

