

Boiling Springs Middle School

2020-2021 Course Catalog



Mr. Andy Rogers, Principal
Mr. Coleman Byars, Assistant Principal
Ms. Amber Comer, Assistant Principal
Mr. Benji Robinson, Assistant Principal
Ms. Sherry Hamby, School Counselor
Ms. Tracy Hrdlicka, School Counselor
Mr. Kyle Whitesides, School Counselor

<http://www.spartanburg2.k12.sc.us/BSJ/index.htm>

INTRODUCTION

District Two middle schools offer a core curriculum of common knowledge, many exciting exploratory electives, and special elective classes for those students who qualify. The classes are designed to meet the needs of students with opportunities for individual progress. Four core subjects are taught on a daily basis:

- English/Language Arts
- Math
- Science
- Social Studies

Exploratory electives are offered daily as well. Exploratory electives are an integral part of an effective middle school program. It is important that middle level students experience a wide range of exploratory offerings so that they can make informed choices about elective offerings when they become high school students.

Physical Education/Health is considered to be of great importance for young people today and is a required class for all students.

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Boiling Springs Middle School offers the following exploratory electives:

App Creator (7 th and 8 th)	Creative Writing (6 th)	Physical Education
Art	Digital Literacy (7 th)	Service Learning
AVID	Digital Me (6 th)	Spanish
Band	Global Focus with Personalized Learning (7 th)	STEM
Chorus	Google Basics (8 th)	Test Prep (SAT) 8 th
Computer Science for Innovators and Makers (6 th)	Orchestra	

ACADEMICS

LANGUAGE ARTS

Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Grade Language Arts

The sixth, seventh and eighth grade language arts curricula uses a literature-based format. Every lesson should involve students responding to literature. Listening, speaking, reading, and writing will be carried on before, during, and after reading. SC Standards are used to drive instruction.

Sixth Grade: English/Language Arts

The sixth grade English/Language Arts curriculum helps students refine their reading preferences and lay the groundwork for becoming life-long readers. They apply skills that they have acquired in earlier grades to read and interpret more challenging texts. They read a variety of informational texts as well as four major types of literary texts: fiction, literary nonfiction, poetry and drama. They also learn to respond to texts in a variety of ways.

Sixth Grade: English/Language Arts Honors

The sixth grade English/Language Arts Honors curriculum includes rigorous content and the application of knowledge through high-order skills. The students are taught to make logical inferences, cite specific textual evidence to support conclusions, and analyze texts, which include fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and drama. Students will integrate, compare, and contrast information presented in different media or formats. Students will use clear and coherent writing to produce narratives, informational, and argumentative essays. They will show command of English conventions of grammar, capitalization, and punctuation. They will learn to use valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence to support their positions. **Pre-requisites: Identified as gifted/talented.**

Seventh Grade: English/Language Arts Advanced

The seventh grade English/Language Arts Advanced curriculum introduces components in composition, grammar, and vocabulary. Reference, listening, and speaking skills are introduced as well as the reading skills which encompass comprehension, word meaning, literary analysis, writing, oral and silent reading, locating information, and study skills. Literature genres such as fiction, non-fiction and poetry, are introduced during the course of the year. This class will move at a fast and rigorous pace with independent reading and writing projects.

Seventh Grade: English/Language Arts Honors

English/Language Arts Honors utilizes challenging texts and complex ideas as they relate to middle grade curriculum standards. Texts will be assigned in the form of novels, independent readings, and a variety of nonfiction sources in both print and non-print format. Direct student instruction relies heavily on the inquiry process through independent and group projects. Projects require knowledge of basic technology (i.e., computer skills, Microsoft Word programs.)

Pre-requisites: Identified as gifted/talented and/or an ELA average of 90 or above.

Eighth Grade: English/Language Arts Advanced

The eighth grade English/Language Arts curriculum is based on a complete literature program offering quality traditional and contemporary literary selections. The number and variety of selections offer choice and flexibility in meeting curriculum requirements as well as students' needs and interests. Grammar and vocabulary are studied in the context of literature. Composition is taught in conjunction with literature, research and personal experience. The writing process is used to ensure success for all students.

English I Honors is a high-school, honors-level course for students who have the ability to pursue an accelerated English program. Literary study includes the characteristics of all genres and the reading of selections of literary criticism. Grammar and composition skills are sharpened through various weekly writing assignments, particularly through the multi-paragraph essay. Students in this course will be required to work with more intensity, at a deeper level, and produce a greater range of more complex and difficult material. *Each student must take the SC End-of-Course exam that counts 20% of the final grade. Students who successfully complete the requirements of this course will be awarded 1 Carnegie unit.* **Pre-requisites: Identified as gifted/talented and/or an ELA average of 90 or above.**

SOCIAL STUDIES

Sixth Grade

In sixth grade, the curriculum focuses on understanding the transition of humans from prehistoric times through the Renaissance and Reformation seeking causes and effects as they compare various developing civilizations. These early civilizations include the Greek and Roman cultures, Chinese, Japanese and Indian cultures, African (Ghana, Mali and Songhai) and American (Mayan, Aztec and Incan) civilizations. From there, students develop an understanding of feudalism during the Middle Ages and how the Renaissance and Reformation grew from that time.

Seventh Grade

In seventh grade, students study World History. They will examine global events, ideas, and people that impacted the creation of an international community. Students will discover the different time periods starting with Colonial Expansion through the Rise of Global Trade, The Age of Revolutions, Industrialization, Imperialism, the World Wars, to today. The class will focus on causation and context through utilizing hands-on activities, engaging in collaborative learning, project-based learning, and incorporating interdisciplinary methods. Students will have a firm grasp on not only the important players and events of history, but also on how each time period shaped the events to come. Students will gain a quality understanding of the world around them, and an appreciation of society's origins.

Eighth Grade

In eighth grade, students study American History with a major emphasis on South Carolina History. The curriculum compares South Carolina's relationship to the overall development of our nation. The major emphasis of the relationship will be on the period of colonization through the Civil War without neglecting South Carolina's role in the twentieth century.

MATHEMATICS

Sixth Grade: Math 6

Math 6 uses mathematical processes to gain a better understanding of fractions, decimals, percentages, data analysis/probability, measurement, geometry, and beginning algebra concepts. Students will make realistic and relevant applications from areas such as travel, shopping, and sports along with interdisciplinary connections when applicable.

Sixth Grade: Math 6 Honors

Math 6 Honors uses mathematical processes to gain a better understanding of fractions, decimals, percentages, data analysis/probability, measurement, geometry, and beginning algebra concepts. Students will make realistic and relevant applications from areas such as travel, shopping, and sports along with interdisciplinary connections when applicable. This course is taught at a faster pace and higher level. The class teaches 6th grade standards but focuses on Algebra concepts with a few of the 7th grade skills added in. **Pre-requisites: Identified as gifted/talented.**

Seventh Grade: Math Advanced

Math Advanced relates and applies algebraic concepts to geometry, probability, statistics, data analysis, and measurement. Students will make realistic and relevant applications from areas such as travel, shopping, and sports. Interdisciplinary connections will be made to science, social studies, fine arts and other curriculum areas. The course integrates algebraic concepts with basic math skills.

Seventh Grade: Math Honors

Math Honors will cover the same content as Math Advanced but with a greater depth of topics and at a quickened pace. The curriculum will place emphasis on algebraic concepts. **Pre-requisites: Identified as gifted/talented and/or a math average of 90 or above.**

Eighth Grade: Pre-Algebra Advanced

Pre-Algebra Advanced is designed to develop algebraic reasoning and problem-solving skills with a greater depth of topics and at a quickened pace. This course should prepare students for Algebra I which is offered at the ninth grade level.

Algebra I Honors will place emphasis on critical and analytical thinking, rational decision-making, and inductive and deductive reasoning. Honors Algebra is designed for students exhibiting superior abilities in mathematics. Students selected for this course must meet the Honors Algebra selection criteria. This course must cover Algebra I standards and 8th grade Math (PASS) standards, and students must be self-disciplined to do homework. *Each student must take the SC End-of-Course exam that counts 20% of the final grade. Students who successfully complete the requirements of this course will be awarded 1 Carnegie unit.* **Pre-requisites: Identified as gifted/talented and/or a math average of 90 or above.**

SCIENCE

Sixth Grade: General Science

Science content for our sixth graders will include the following topics: scientific inquiry, weather/climate, plants/animals along with a unit on energy. Our teachers use the interactive notebook technique to assist students in note-taking. Students will gain experience with lab assignments as well.

Seventh Grade: Life Science

Science content for seventh graders includes a continuation of scientific inquiry, cells/heredity, human body systems and disease, ecology, and a unit on chemistry. Students will be reading and writing in this content area along with participating in hands-on science labs.

Eighth Grade: Earth Science

Eighth grade students will have a third year of scientific inquiry. They will also study the Earth's biological history, structure and processes, astronomy, forces/motion, and a unit on waves. Student will participate in science labs along with writing assignments.

ESOL/STUDY SKILLS

Sixth, Seventh & Eight Grade: ESOL (Speakers of Other Languages)

ESOL, which is federally mandated, is designed for students whose native language is not English. Skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing are emphasized with regard to second language acquisition. Testing is required for placement and a deficit in any of the aforesaid areas qualifies the student for the program. Coursework is geared towards individual needs as well as vocabulary development, grammar mastery, reading comprehension, and developmental writing. Life skills, social skills, phonic and cultural awareness are also incorporated.

Sixth, Seventh & Eight Grade: Study Skills

Study Skills is designed to give students enhancement of basic skills, tutorial assistance in content area classes, and preparation for PASS testing. Students enrolled must have met certain district and state qualifications and must have an IEP.

Note: This course will be taken for two consecutive semesters.

EXPLORATORY ELECTIVES

NOTE TO PARENTS AND STUDENTS: Exploratory electives should be studied and selections made carefully. Every effort will be made to schedule students in requested classes. However, scheduling conflicts may prevent students from being enrolled in selected exploratory courses.

Sixth Grade: Creative Writing

This class introduces students to the processes and techniques of creative writing in multiple fictional genres. Some elements include poetry, fiction, and drama; students will experiment with creating compositions in these genres. Mentor texts will expose students to various writing styles, and offer examples of the craft and strategies of other writers. Students will be exposed to guest speakers, educational field trips, and working with guest instructors. This class is dedicated to sharing student work, conveying the writer’s craft and various readings, and responding to student writing. Learn how to love writing and add your own personal touch!

Semester Course

Seventh Grade: Global Focus with Personalized Learning

This course will incorporate world class skills from the Profile of the South Carolina Graduate. Students will be connecting with other students across the globe. Units of study will explore content from science and social studies classes, so students can apply knowledge using technology and multi-media skills. The class will involve several hands-on projects.

Semester Course

Eighth Grade: Test Prep 8 (SAT Lab)

SAT Lab is a semester class designed to provide students with the opportunity to learn advanced vocabulary, and review stems previously learned in ELA classes. Students also write creatively utilizing a variety of topics. The creative writing reinforces the types of writing taught in the ELA classroom, but with emphasis on creativity. Students also work on test-taking strategies and advanced reading comprehension skills that when utilized can improve scores on standardized tests. Brain teasers, puzzles, and word games are also used to help students learn to “think outside the box”.

Pre-requisites: Identified as gifted/talented or top 20% based on SC READY Reading score

BAND

Course Title(s): Band 6, Band 7, Band 8

Band is offered for students in sixth, seventh and eighth grade who are interested in learning to play a brass, woodwind, or percussion instrument. Band is a performance based class where individuals are graded on their effort, progress, and ability to read and perform their music. The Boiling Springs Middle School band participates in statewide band festivals, presents a Christmas and Spring Concert, performs at school pep rallies, and marches in the Boiling Springs Christmas parade! Sixth grade students do not need any prior musical experience to join the band.

Note: Students are required to provide their own instrument.

Pre-requisite for Band 7: Completion of Band 6

Pre-requisite for Band 8: Completion of Band 7

CHORUS

Course Title(s): Chorus 6, Chorus 7, Chorus 8

Chorus is a performance-based class designed for students who desire to sing and to learn about various styles of singing. Students will learn proper singing skills including balance and blend, tone production, enunciation, articulation, and breathe control. Students will also learn basic music theory, sight reading and ear training skills. In addition to various auditioned-based events, performance opportunities throughout the year may include winter and spring concerts and school performances.

Pre-requisites for Chorus 8: Completion of Chorus 6 or Chorus 7

ORCHESTRA

Course Title(s): Orchestra 6

Orchestra offers sixth grade students the opportunity to develop music skills and techniques by learning how to play a stringed instrument (violin, viola, cello or bass). Students will also learn proper posture, left and right hand skills, listening skills, creativity, and music literacy. Students will perform in winter and spring concerts and have the opportunity to perform at SCMEA Solo and Ensemble Festival.

Note: Students are required to provide their own instrument.

Course Title(s): Orchestra 7, Orchestra 8

Orchestra offers seventh and eighth grade students the opportunity to continue developing music reading skills, theory, and string technique. Musical skills emphasized at this level include shifting, more intricate rhythms and learning to play various musical styles. Students have the opportunity to perform at winter and spring concerts, SCMEA Solo and Ensemble Festival, Jr. All-State and Region Orchestras, as well as SCMEA Concert Festival.

Note: Students are required to provide their own instrument.

Pre-requisite for Orchestra 7: Completion of Orchestra 6

Pre-requisite for Orchestra 8: Completion of Orchestra 7

ART

Course Title(s): Art 6, Art 7, Art 8

Art offers students an education in the visual arts. Students are able to develop basic and advanced skills that are aligned with the South Carolina Visual Art Standards. Throughout the art course, students are able to use a variety of materials, practice traditional and modern techniques, study different artists and cultures and produce final artworks that are personal to the students' own styles and interpretations. Students are able to learn about art careers and how art applies to other subjects. Students learn and practice how to critique their own work and works of others. **An art fee of \$10 is required at the beginning of each semester.**

Pre-requisite: No previous experience required.

AVID

Course Title(s): AVID 6, AVID 7, and AVID 8

Advancement VIA Individual Determination (AVID) is a college and career readiness program designed to challenge, support, and inspire students in an effort to make sure they are college and career ready. We focus on collaboration skills, problem-solving, inquiry, organization, goal-setting, college and career research, and numerous other topics. Students participate in various community service activities and visit local colleges each year to experience a variety of campuses.

Pre-requisites: No previous experience required.

Digital Literacy

Course Title(s): Digital Me Grade 6

This course will prepare sixth grade students to effectively, ethically, and safely use internet connected tools as well as learn computer basics. Students will learn essential information about hardware, software, and the Internet. Students will use these tools in responsible and productive ways to accomplish authentic tasks.

Pre-requisite: No previous experience required.

Course Title(s): Digital Literacy Grade 7

This course is designed to equip students with many of the needed computer skills to excel in a digital world. Students will be exposed to a broad range of computer technology from basic hardware/software to applications and the internet. Digital Literacy will support the student with the concepts in the 8th grade technology proficiency assessment.

Pre-requisite: No previous experience required.

Course Title(s): Google Basics Grade 8

This course introduces the student to basic google tools and applications through the completion of real world, student centered activities.

Pre-requisite: No previous experience required.

Intro to STEM Careers

Course Title(s): Intro to STEM Careers 6, Intro to STEM Career 7, Intro to STEM Career 8

This course is designed to assist students in introductory career exploration, in addition to developing their skills for problem solving and collaboration. Though a hands on technology component, students will examine real life problems and work to find a solution with a partner and/or team.

\$10 fee required at the beginning of each semester

Pre-requisite: No previous experience required.

Project Lead the Way

Course Title(s): Computer Science for Innovators and Makers Grade 6

Will center on physical computing projects (which may include interactive art, wearable technology, and mechanical devices) that bring programming out of the virtual environment and into the physical world. Students will design and develop programmed devices along with the code that brings them to life. These objects, systems, or installations will interact with their environment through sensors (input) and actuators (output). These personally relevant, visible, tangible, and shareable creations promote student awareness of interactive systems and broaden their understanding of abstract computer science concepts

Course Title (s): App Creator 7th and 8th Grade

This unit will expose students to computer science as means of computationally analyzing and developing solutions to authentic problems through mobile app development, and will convey the positive impact of the application of computer science to other disciplines and to society.



PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical Education is a vital school subject where students acquire skills, knowledge, and success through participation. If physical education is to make a valuable contribution to education, it is necessary that we, teachers and parents, work together to motivate our children to participate in these activities and to develop a positive attitude toward better health fitness and skills.

The sixth, seventh and eighth grade physical education program provides each student an opportunity to develop his/her own skills. The program includes individual sports, team sports, and physical fitness activities. An emphasis is placed on lifetime sports, recreational activities, and carry-over skills that will provide students with the ability to make wise and healthy use of their leisure time. **Gym shoes are required to participate.**

Course Title(s): Physical Education 6

Sixth grade physical education consists of beginner skills which include utilizing motor skills and movement patterns in game situations. P.E. emphasizes sportsmanship and teamwork. Safety concepts are reviewed.

Pre-requisite: No previous experience required.

Course Title(s): Physical Education 7

Seventh grade physical education consists of the development of intermediate skills which include teamwork, sportsmanship, rules, leadership skills, lead-up games, and modified game situations. Safety concepts are reviewed.

Pre-requisite: No previous experience required.

Course Title(s): Physical Education 8

Eighth grade physical education moves from intermediate to advanced game situations using strategy and thinking skills. Students also have the opportunity to compete against each other and participate in tournaments. Again, safety concepts are stressed.

Pre-requisite: No previous experience required.

SERVICE LEARNING

Course Title(s): Service Learning 6, Service Learning 7, Service Learning 8

This class puts our L.E.A.D. principles to work on and off our campus. This class offers a variety of service learning opportunities for our students and the Boiling Springs Community. This class has a partnership with Oakland Elementary for mentoring elementary children, along with visiting at Senior Adult Centers, recycling, making care packages for those in need, along with an emphasis on personal wellness.

Pre-requisite: No previous experience required.

SPANISH

Course Title(s): Spanish 6, Spanish 7 and Spanish 8

Spanish is designed to expose students to Spanish language and culture and introduce them to vocabulary and simple grammatical concepts in order to prepare them for entry level high school Spanish. The 3 modes of communication (interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational) different per grade level: students will be exposed to different material in Spanish 6, Spanish 7, and Spanish 8.

Pre-requisites: No previous experience required.