**BERKLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT'S COURSE GUIDE**

**2016-2017**

K-8 Nonessential Course Offerings

Nonessential Course Requirements:

Nonessential courses must be offered in addition to remedial courses, mathematics, science, social studies, and English Language Arts. Nonessential courses cannot replace core courses. Nonessential courses should have a minimum of 15 students enrolled. Nonessential courses should not exceed the maximum number of minutes in district.

Art

The Berkley art curriculum is divided into eight strands: drawing, painting, fibers, printmaking, sculpture, ceramics, jewelry, and technology. Students will have the opportunity to learn art objectives while exploring the theme of art as a universal language. They will compare similarities and differences in art from all around the world and learn how culture and environment influence the work of artists.

Physical Education

Physical Education classes are to facilitate the development and maintenance of

optimal physical well-being in all students. This includes refinement of motor skills necessary

for successful participation in common movement cultures, and knowledge, attitude and

experiences essential for adapting and maintaining patterns of regular physical activity.

Media

Media/Library:

Students in library media listen to a story, read, check out books, complete an assignment, take an Accelerated Reading quiz, work on library skills, research a topic, type a document, create a PowerPoint slideshow, edit a video, or just look for the latest new books.

Technology/Computer:

Each student receives lab time with the media teacher with focused teaching on essential computer skills. Teachers are also allowed to sign-out the lab for weekly computer time for their classes. This course is designed to increase students’ keyboarding skills through practice and reinforcement of correct techniques. Students will be introduced to the Microsoft Office

productivity suite where they will cover basic applications such as Word, Excel, PowerPoint and

database principles. Introductory principles of computer technology, ethics, and use of the

Internet for research and evaluation will also be taught using the 21 Things for Students units of

study. Students will produce a variety of word processing, spreadsheet and presentation projects.

*Schools are responsible for providing media equipment and materials.*

Middle School Band

Students will learn and improve upon tone, technique, rhythm, intonation, and interpretation.

They will be assessed on individual and group performances. Relationships between music and

other disciplines outside of music are explored. Students work on improvisation skills and

analyze music from a historical and cultural context as they listen to, analyze, describe and

evaluate music performances. Students participate in various concert experiences.

Schools are responsible for providing band instruments.

Foreign Language (Spanish k-8, French, German, Chinese 6-8)

Spanish I, French I German I, and Chinese I are designed for beginner and near-beginner students. Students increase language proficiency through the study of the themes listed in the Michigan World Languages Standards. Students will develop their ability to listen, speak, read and write in the target language. Culture is interwoven throughout the units. Students will compare and make connections between their own culture and those of Spanish, French, German and Chinese-speaking worlds and their respective communities.

Current Events/ Newspaper

This course offers students a chance to report, film and produce a newspaper, website or

radio/video newscast. Using audio and video equipment, students will to create a professional newscast. Students will report, write, and produce the school newspaper. Students will create a radio station within the classroom, in which they may bring in their favorite music to record, write scripts, stories, etc. Students have the opportunity to experiment with different forms of media and use their creativity to produce a variety of news and projects.

Middle School Family Consumer Science/Life Skills

Part 1:

Focuses on developing skills for healthy and independent living. Emphasis is on

kitchen safety and sanitation, reading and understanding recipes, measurement skills, cooking

techniques and basic machine sewing skills. Students will also learn about personal

health, emphasizing the normal changes and challenges of adolescent growth.

Part 2:

This hands-on course takes a fresh look at preparing and serving creative foods. Students explore

the discipline of sewing by completing a hand and machine sewn project. Students participate in experiences which help to prepare them for becoming an independent person. This course

emphasizes alcohol, tobacco, and health awareness.

Part 3:

Students have the opportunity to explore their personal skills and interests to determine possible career pathways. This course also explores cooking techniques, food preparation, table setting, table manners, and planning for and hosting holiday meals. It addresses the

dangers of illicit drug use and provides techniques for coping with stress.

Middle School Health

Part 1:

This program meets the unique needs and characteristics of middle school students by studying

the importance of following good, life-long health practices. The program utilizes a variety of

interactive teaching strategies and programs that include: Bullying, Recognizing and Accepting

Disabilities, Personal Hygiene, Community Health and Wellness.

Part 2:

Emphasizes the normal changes and challenges of adolescent growth and

focuses on the skills necessary for positive and healthy development. This course introduces the

students to a variety of topics including: Nutrition, Body Systems and Infectious and Noninfectious Diseases.

Part 3:

Provides students an opportunity to develop an understanding of health

concepts, behaviors and skills that reduce health risks and enhance the health and well-being of

self and others. Students set personal health goals and evaluate health information, products,

services and the effects of healthy behaviors on the community. Specific topics will include:

Teens and Tobacco, Prescription and Non-Prescription Drugs, Marijuana, Alcohol and

Community and Consumer Health.

Middle School Robotics

Students use motors and rotation, sound, light, touch and ultrasonic sensors to program basic

robot behaviors. Students tackle complex assignments and compete on a world stage using a

variety of skills deeply rooted in science, technology, engineering and math. Units of instruction

include robotics basics, circuits and computers, hardware, software and firmware, movement,

sights, sounds and gears, taking turns, sight and touch, variable programming, linear algorithms,

and logic programming. Lessons are built around the “NXT and EV3 Video Trainer” artifact

from Carnegie Mellon University's Robotics Academy. In order to round out a complete STEM

curriculum, these self-paced learning-to-program videos are supplemented with lessons on

robotics technologies, explicit math and science concepts, and the Engineering Process. This

introductory STEM Robotics master curriculum uses the LEGO® MINDSTORMS® EV3

Education Base Set and EV3 programing software to teach a full STEM Robotics course.

*Schools are responsible for providing robotics equipment.*

Middle School Choir

Part 1:

Dedicated to the pursuit of excellence in music through performance.

Students learn to sing with proper technique, expression, accuracy and a wide variety of

literature. Students will sing music written in unison and two-parts and compose short pieces

using solfege. Students will read whole, dotted half, half, quarter notes and rests in 4/4 and 3/4

time and identify and define standard notation symbols for pitch, rhythm, dynamics, tempo,

articulation and expression. Students participate in various concert experiences during the school

year.

Part 2:

In addition to the part 1 curriculum, students will learn to sing music written in three parts

and be introduced to the bass clef. Students will read at sight melodies in the treble and bass

clef, which include intervals of M3/m3, and evaluate the quality and effectiveness of music

performances by themselves. Students participate in various concert experiences during the

school year.

Part 3:

Choir 3 builds off the choir curriculum in part 1 and 2. Students will sing

music written in two and three parts, read simple melodies in both the treble and bass clef, and

sight read examples in major keys up to three sharps or flats. Attention is given to the elements

of music: tension, release and balance. Students participate in various concert experiences

during the school year.

Middle School Orchestra

Part 1:

This course introduces ensemble playing, independent rhythm/counting and ear-training.

Musicianship skills such as sight-reading and instrument geography are developed. The skills

needed to perform as an ensemble and follow a conductor continue to be developed. The

student’s understanding of posture, intonation, rhythm and counting are solidified. The student’s

ability to read music is developed. Students will participate in various concert experiences.

Part 2:

Students are introduced to advanced techniques, including shifting, vibrato and advanced

bowing. Students learn to become independent in tuning their instruments without help.

Students will participate in various concert experiences.

Part 3:

Students continue the refinement of advanced techniques, including shifting, vibrato and

advanced bowing. Special attention is given to the skills needed for transition from middle school to high school orchestra. Students will participate in various concert experiences.

Study Skills and Strategies

Emphasizes academic support to promote the success for students who are currently enrolled in advanced, regular, or remedial level core content area courses. Students review content area material from their other courses and learn techniques and study skills appropriate to their ability and the content material. This course provides instruction on study habits, time management, organization, note-taking, test-taking, active listening, oral and written communication, and learning strategies. Students will have ongoing opportunities to apply these study skills to their daily work and receive feedback to enhance their study habits. This course is not graded and allows time for students to apply new skills in their daily work.