

BRANSON JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL
263 BUCCANEER BOULEVARD
BRANSON, MO 65616
417-334-3087
2025-2026 ENROLLMENT INFORMATION
8th Grade

Branson Junior High School operates on an eight period day. An eighth grade schedule would include six daily required subjects and two (2) electives, and Pirate Time. Descriptions for all courses may be found on the following pages.

All eighth grade students take the following **REQUIRED DAILY SUBJECTS**.

- English
- Science or Gifted Education
- Pre-Algebra or Algebra 1
- World History
- Pirate Time
- Physical Education/Health

All eighth grade students can take four semester based electives (two during the fall semester and two during the spring semester) from the following **ELECTIVE DAILY SUBJECTS**:

Art

2D Art
3D Art

Agriculture

Agricultural Science
Agricultural Mechanics

Project Lead the Way

Flight and Space
Design and Modeling I
Design and Modeling II*
Medical Detectives

Advisory

Semester 1
Semester 2

Spanish

Intro to Spanish
Spanish I* (HS Credit/GPA)

Choir

Choir

Family and Consumer Science (FACS)

Exploring FCS I
Exploring FCS II

8th Band

Concert Band
Honors Band
Percussion

Drama

Theater*
 Fall Musical Performance
 Spring Play Performance
Drama

Journalism*

Broadcast
Yearbook

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

- A. Read the information in the packet before filling out the attached scheduling form.
- B. Discuss with your parents/guardian which courses will be challenging and most beneficial for you to take next year.
- C. Complete the attached scheduling form.
- D. Review our schedule change policy.
- E. Have your **PARENTS/GUARDIAN SIGN** your enrollment notice and return to your teacher (back page only).
- F. Keep the remaining information for future reference/planning.

Schedule Change Policy:

- We do our best to meet your class requests but you may not get your first choice depending on how the classes fit into your schedule or if the class sections are full.
- Band is a year long commitment
- Schedule changes will only be considered for the following reasons:
 - You are missing a required course
 - You have been assigned two of the same class
 - You have an unassigned period
 - You have already taken a course listed on your schedule
 - You are in the wrong placement

REQUIRED DAILY SUBJECTS

(ALL required subjects are year long courses)

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Required

Meets Daily

Eighth grade English focuses on reading and writing a variety of genres for the purpose of becoming articulate communicators. Strategies to write well, based on knowledge of craft, will be practiced. They will analyze literary and non-fiction texts to promote critical thinking using evidence – based reasoning.

SCIENCE

Required

Meets Daily

Life Science is the study of living things from the simple cell to the most complex organisms. Emphasis will be placed on that natural progression of increasing complexity. Specific units of study include classification of living things, cell structure and processes, comparative characteristics of animals, chemistry of living things, body systems and plant studies. There will be extensive lab work, including animal dissections.

GIFTED EDUCATION

Meets Daily

The gifted class is offered as an appropriate educational opportunity for qualifying students. Qualification is determined by the administration of the Gifted Department. Screening and evaluation takes place annually. The classes are designed to meet the affective needs of gifted individuals as well as to develop the student's critical and creative thinking and reasoning abilities. Development of research skills and their various methods of presentation encourage students to become autonomous learners. The program curriculum provides for problem solving skills with higher level thought processes emphasized. Individual and group processes are provided to enhance the development of peer relationships thus encouraging responsible decision making and effective communication skills.

MATHEMATICS

PRE-ALGEBRA

Required

Meets Daily

Pre-algebra provides an overview of the basic principles of algebra while integrating topics of geometry. Pre-algebra applies computational skills to algebraic problem solving, real numbers, binomials, polynomials, and equations in two variables are studied while integrating these topics with basic knowledge needed for geometry, statistics, and discrete mathematics.

–OR–

ALGEBRA I

Required

Meets Daily

CREDIT – 1 High School Math

Algebra I is offered to eighth graders who have successfully completed Advanced Math in seventh grade and have shown outstanding mastery and algebra readiness as seventh graders. It is essential that the students have command of the four basic operations as well as good abstract thinking skills. Successful completion of Algebra I when taken in junior high serves as the prerequisite to take high school Geometry in ninth grade and Algebra II in the tenth grade. As a prerequisite for entrance into the course, students must have no semester grades lower than a (C-) from the previous year. ***NOTE: This is a high school credit class. Placement in Algebra is tentative based upon test scores, grades, and assessments.***

WORLD HISTORY

Required

Meets Daily

Eighth grade history covers early Mesopotamia Civilizations to the Middle Ages. Emphasis will be placed on the development of civilizations during these periods of history as an understanding of the development of the World as we know it today. Geography is also an important element of this course.

PIRATE TIME

Required

Meets Daily

Pirate time is an intervention and enrichment time to accelerate student learning. Teachers will utilize this daily flexible time to provide small group intervention that is targeted to help students close learning gaps. Additionally, teachers will use this course to create enrichment interventions that include opportunities for students to focus on student interests, passions, and personal growth.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION I/HEALTH

Required

Meets daily

The goal of physical education is to develop physically literate individuals who have the knowledge, skills, and confidence to enjoy a lifetime of healthful physical activity. The student will learn the skills necessary to participate in a variety of physical activities. They will know the implications and the benefits of involvement in various types of physical activities. The student will participate regularly in physical activity with the goal of becoming physically fit. They will understand how physical activity contributes to a healthy lifestyle. Health Education focuses on age-appropriate and accurate health skills that are necessary to achieve optimal health and wellness.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION II /HEALTH

Required

Meets daily

This dynamic and engaging course is designed to introduce 8th-grade students to the fundamentals of strength training, fitness, and overall physical conditioning. Through a variety of age-appropriate exercises and techniques, students will develop a strong foundation in building strength, improving endurance, and enhancing overall athletic performance. Key areas of focus include:

- **Strength Training:** Introduction to basic resistance exercises using bodyweight, free weights, and resistance bands.
- **Conditioning:** Activities to improve cardiovascular endurance, agility, speed, and flexibility.
- **Injury Prevention:** Techniques to ensure safe exercise practices, proper warm-up and cool-down routines, and recovery strategies.
- **Goal Setting and Motivation:** Encouraging a positive mindset, personal goal-setting, and a commitment to long-term fitness.

This course is designed to promote healthy lifestyle habits, self-confidence, and an understanding of the importance of physical activity in daily life. Students will learn how to work as a team, support one another, and build lifelong fitness skills. Whether you're new to fitness or an experienced athlete, this course offers something for everyone!

Health Education focuses on age-appropriate and accurate health skills that are necessary to achieve optimal health and wellness.

ELECTIVES

(ALL electives are semester based unless specified)

ART

Elective

Meets Daily

Course Title: 2D Art

Grades 7-8, Semester

This course will instruct students in the fundamentals of how to create artwork on two dimensional surfaces while incorporating art history throughout. Drawing/painting techniques and styles will be the emphasis in a variety of projects throughout the course. Students will complete several projects that focus on both realistic/non-realistic design, perspective, form, and color theory. A variety of mediums will be explored such as: charcoal, graphite, colored pencils, oil pastels, ink, and different paint materials. Students will explore a blend of traditional and non-traditional styles of drawing and painting methods as they build on their artistic skills whether they are a beginner or experienced in art.

Course Title: 3D Art

Grades 7-8, Semester

This course provides students hands-on opportunities to create and build through the three-dimensional art-making process. Students will learn beginning sculpture techniques as they research, discover, and experience different 3D art styles. Functional and decorative sculptures will be created through the process of designing and building by using various sculpture media such as: clay, wood, metal, paper forms, and recycled materials. History behind many well-known sculptures & their artworks will also be a major component of this course. Students will explore a blend of traditional and non-traditional styles of sculpture methods as they build on their artistic skills whether they are a beginner or experienced in art.

PROJECT LEAD THE WAY

Elective

Meets Daily

Course Title: Design and Modeling I (Engineering)

Grades 7-8, Semester

Students discover the design process as they complete instant team design challenges to create an ankle foot orthosis, engineered skimmers, and a therapeutic toy. They learn thumbnail, orthographic, isometric, and perspective sketching as methods for communicating design. Using the design process, students create a solid model of their design, build a prototype for design testing, and make necessary design modifications based on testing results.

Course Title: Design and Modeling II (Advanced Engineering)

Grades 7-8, Semester

Students will use the skills they learned in Design and Model I to continue learning about the engineering field by creating more advanced models and products. Must pass Design and Model I to take this course.

Course Title: Flight and Space (Aerospace)

Grades 7-8. Semester

Students will explore the exciting world of aerospace that comes alive through the Flight and Space (FS) unit. Students explore the science behind aeronautics and use their knowledge to design, prototype, and test model rocket fuel and a glider. Finally, students will experience space travel and spacecraft innovation through an interactive simulation and plan their mission to mars.

Course Title: Medical Detectives (Biomedical Science/Computer Science)

Grades 8, Semester

In the exciting world of healthcare, students become medical detectives and solve real life medical mysteries. They apply experimental design, creative thinking, and problem solving to investigate the inner-workings of the human body, diagnose disease, and improve human health. Students use medical devices, dissect organs, and explore many careers in the medical field. If you're interested in the fields of medicine or health care, this course is definitely for you!

JOURNALISM

Elective

Meets Daily

Grade 8, Year Long

Journalism is an eighth grade elective class that is applied for by students and selected by the instructor. **Students that take Journalism will be required to replace one of the two electives they originally signed up for.** This class consists of creating the Branson Junior High School yearbook or creating the video school announcements.

SPANISH

Elective

Meets Daily

Course Title: Introductory to Spanish

Grades-7-8; Semester

This is an exploratory Spanish course with the goal of promoting the learning of Spanish as a second language. In this course, students will be introduced to Spanish culture, grammar, and vocabulary. The primary goal is to help students develop proficiency in the four basic skills; listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Creating and communicating in Spanish will be strongly emphasized. The course strives to develop basic Spanish language skills and create an interest for further language study.

Course Title: Spanish I

Grade 8, Year Long

CREDIT – 1 High School Practical Art

The major objectives of this course are the following:

1. The primary goal is to help students develop proficiency on the novice to intermediate level in the four basic skills; listening, speaking, reading, and writing with an emphasis on speaking and comprehension.
2. To increase the students' knowledge and appreciation of the diverse cultures of the Hispanic countries.
3. To give ample opportunity for creative expression and communication through songs, projects, dramatic skits and more.
4. Students who have a background in Spanish or can speak Spanish conversationally, this course may not be a great fit.

NOTE: Spanish I is a high school credit class.

FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCE (FACS)

Elective

Meets Daily

Course Title: Exploring FCS I

Grades 7-8, Semester

This class introduces learners to the various areas of family consumer science. Learners will set goals, build positive relationships, and explore job-seeking skills and leadership traits. In the realm of foods, learners will gain skills and knowledge in safety and sanitation, proper measurement and use of kitchen tools, food selection, and food preparations and techniques. This class also introduces learners to interior design, clothing and textiles, hospitality, tourism, and recreation.

Course Title: Exploring FCS II

Grades 7-8, Semester

This course is designed to help prepare students for multiple roles as individuals and family members in the area of family consumer science. Emphasis is placed upon values clarification, decision making, consumer skills, personal and family relationships, parenting, nutrition, and health and career exploration. This course introduces learners to the kitchen as they develop an understanding of safety and sanitation, recipe terminology and comprehension, meal planning, and budgeting.

COMMUNICATIONS/DRAMA

Elective

Meets Daily

Course Title: Drama

Grades 7-8, Semester (History of Theatre and Stagecraft for the productions)

Drama class provides the opportunity to explore the field of theater. Learners will be exposed to full production elements: set design, costuming, make-up, acting, public relations, lighting, and sound through the different types of theater & stage performances. This is a project-based class that will discuss the history of theater and theater around the world. This does not require students to audition to be in class

Course Title: Theater

Fall Musical Performance

Fall Musical Performance is only offered in the fall and consists of students creating a full musical production from start to finish to be performed for the community. Students will learn about auditioning, acting, set elements, and show creation. Students will need to be able to commit to the performance dates and times. After school practice time may also be provided, but will not be mandatory for students to attend. Individual expenses, although

unlikely, may occur as costuming and props are required for performances. Students will also be able to attend group outing(s) to other area performances. Students must be willing to act, sing, dance, and participate in all facets of the show when required. **This DOES require students to audition to be in the class.** Virtual auditions take place the last week of April/the first week of May of the previous year. Students at the middle school and the intermediate buildings are allowed to audition for the class if they will be a 7th or 8th grader the year of enrollment.

Spring Play Performance

Spring Play Performance is only offered in the spring and consists of students creating a full play production from start to finish to be performed for the community. Students will learn about auditioning, acting, set elements, and show creation. Students will need to be able to commit to the performance dates and times. Very little singing, if any, will be required in the spring play. Individual expenses, although unlikely, may occur as costuming and props are required for performances. After school practice time may also be provided, but will not be mandatory for students to attend. Students will also be able to attend group outing(s) to other area performances. Students must be willing to act and participate in all facets of the show when required. **This DOES require students to audition to be in the class.** Virtual auditions take place the last week of April/the first week of May of the previous year AND/OR the first week of December of the current year if a student decides to add the class before 2nd Semester. Students at the middle school and the intermediate buildings are allowed to audition for the class if they will be a 7th or 8th grader the year of enrollment.

INTRODUCTION TO AGRICULTURE

Elective Meets Daily

Course Title: Agricultural Science

Grades 7-8, Semester

The goal of Agricultural Science is to introduce learners to a working knowledge of plant and animal management. Another goal is to provide students with an understanding of caring for animals as well as plant propagation. Through this course, they will learn the soil, air, and environmental requirements for common production of crops and floral plants. Additionally, animal topics that would be covered in this course include anatomy, production, management, nutrition, selection, animal health, waste management, and biotechnology. The class is designed to increase critical thinking and problem-solving by relating it to real-world problems that people face in agriculture and in the business world.

Course Title: Agricultural Mechanics

Grades 7-8, Semester

The goal of Agricultural Mechanics is to introduce learners to a working knowledge of agricultural mechanical skills that are utilized in a variety of professions. The topics covered in this course would include basic electricity, plumbing, small engines, woodworking, and cold metalworking. This course is designed to increase critical thinking and problem-solving by relating it to real-world problems that people face in agricultural mechanics on a daily basis.

ADVISORY

Elective

Meets Daily

Course Title: Advisory (teacher recommendation only)

Grades 7-8, Semester

Students develop skills specific: organization, self-discipline, life skills, relationship building, goal setting, career readiness, and leadership through a variety of hands-on activities. This course is taken through teacher recommendation only. Students may be moved in or out based on the rubric created.

CHORUS

Elective

Meets Daily

Course Title: Choir

Grades 7-8, Year Long

In seventh/eighth grade chorus, students will improve their singing skills, learn to sing soprano, alto, tenor, and bass parts in 3-and 4-part choral music, develop sight singing abilities, and experience music in various styles. The choir will perform evening concerts approximately once each semester. Concert participation is required.

BAND

Elective

Meets Daily

Course Title: 8th Band

Grade 8, Year Long

Prerequisite: completing 7th grade band with a passing grade (>59%) OR completion of beginning band at another school.

The eighth grade band is for students who have successfully passed the seventh grade band. This group of second year band players continues the path of learning the techniques of playing your instrument, increasing music reading skills, and playing more challenging music. The eighth grade band performs two required concerts; a Winter concert and a Spring concert. In addition, this class may have the chance to take trips to different festivals and participate in performance opportunities around the state.

Eighth grade band is split into three class sections:

- 1) 8TH GRADE HONORS BAND
- 2) 8TH GRADE CONCERT BAND
- 3) PERCUSSION