

BRANSON JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL
263 BUCCANEER BOULEVARD
BRANSON, MO 65616
417-334-3087
2026-2027 ENROLLMENT INFORMATION
8th Grade

Branson Junior High School operates on a seven period day. An eighth grade schedule would include five daily required subjects and two (2) electives. Descriptions for all courses may be found on the following pages.

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

- English
- Science
- Pre-Algebra or Algebra 1
- World History
- 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
Graphic Design

Project Lead the Way

Design and Modeling I
Flight and Space
Medical Detectives

Spanish

Intro to Spanish

Family and Consumer Science (FACS)

Exploring FCS I
Exploring FCS II

Drama

Drama and Stagecraft
Theatre I
Theatre II (Audition required)

Agriculture

Agricultural Science
Agricultural Mechanics

Year Long Classes

STUCO Leadership

Choir

Journalism*

Broadcast
Yearbook

Spanish I*
(HS Credit/GPA)

8th Band

Concert Band
Honors Band
Percussion

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. 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

This course focuses on six priority standards through a deep dive into both literary and informational texts. Students will analyze texts closely, cite strong textual evidence, and examine how an author's word choice shapes meaning and tone. The course also includes a writing unit centered around gathering relevant information, conducting research, and composing a clear, objective informational essay.

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, assessments, and attendance.**

WORLD HISTORY

Required

Meets Daily

In this 8th grade course, students study early civilizations including Mesopotamia, Egypt, India, China, Greece, and Rome. Emphasis is placed on understanding how geography shaped societies, interpreting timelines and primary sources, and recognizing key achievements and historical influences that still affect the modern world.

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 7th and 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.

*** Prerequisite for this class is to attend summer weights with a 60% or higher attendance rate and a recommendation for a PE coach.**

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.

Course Title: Graphic Design

Grades 7-8, Semester

Graphic Design introduces students to the creative world of graphic design, illustration, and digital storytelling. Using Chromebook-accessible software such as Canva, Google Draw, and other free online tools, students will explore how design influences communication, branding, and personal expression. Through hands-on digital projects, students will apply design principles to create meaningful, visually engaging work that reflects both creativity and real-world application.

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: 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!

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.

FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCE (FACS)

Elective

Meets Daily

Course Title: Exploring FCS I

Grades 7-8, Semester

This class builds essential life skills through lessons on interpersonal relationships, personality types, goal setting, personal finance, career exploration, and nutrition and wellness. Students will gain practical tools to understand themselves, plan for their future, and make healthy, informed decisions.

Course Title: Exploring FCS II

Grades 7-8, Semester

This course introduces students to key concepts in housing, interior design, fashion, and clothing materials, along with hands-on sewing skills. Students will also study nutrition and wellness to support healthy living. Through creative projects and practical activities, learners gain real-world skills in design, craftsmanship, and personal well-being.

COMMUNICATIONS/DRAMA

Elective Meets Daily

Course Title: Drama and Stagecraft

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

This introductory course explores the fundamentals of drama and theatrical production with an emphasis on technical theatre and stagecraft. Students will study the elements of drama through the analysis of live and recorded theatrical performances, learning how storytelling is shaped by design and production choices. Through hands-on projects, students will develop foundational skills in sound engineering, lighting design, set rendering and construction concepts, costume design and basic construction, props creation, and puppetry. The course also introduces students to the collaborative nature of theatre production, including an overview of production roles and career pathways within the performing arts. Emphasis is placed on creativity, problem-solving, and an understanding of how technical elements support and enhance performance. This is not a performance class.

Course Title: Theater I:

This course introduces students to the creative and technical elements of live theatre production. Students will explore acting, movement, vocal performance, and collaborative stage work through scenes, ensemble pieces, and school productions. Emphasis will be placed on ensemble building, storytelling, and stage presence. Students will participate in the technical aspects of the show, learning how all parts of a production contribute to the final performance. Fall Theatre I students will perform in a musical performance. Spring Theatre I will perform in a one-act play and compete on the speech team.

Course Title: Theater II:

This course is designed for students who demonstrate advanced skill, experience, and commitment to theatre performance and production. Students will engage in more complex performance work with an emphasis on character development, script analysis, movement, vocal refinement, and ensemble collaboration. Students will explore advanced stagecraft and technical elements, gaining a deeper understanding of how design, rehearsal processes, and performance discipline contribute to high-quality productions. Theatre II students are expected to model professionalism and often take on leadership roles within rehearsals, support production needs, and mentor peers. Fall Theatre II students will perform in a musical performance. Spring Theatre II students will perform in a two-act play.

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.

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.

Year Long Classes

LEADERSHIP

Elective

Meets Daily

Course Title: Leadership

This class is the base of operations for the Student Council! Student Council offers opportunities for students to develop leadership skills while serving their school. The ultimate goal is to make school a fun place to be through planning community events, fundraisers for charity, decorating the school, and celebrating the successes of students and teachers! We help plan mixers, attend district conventions to hear guest speakers speak on leadership, plan assemblies, spirit nights, and seasonal events like Hot Chocolate days around Christmas! We also take volunteering field trips! If you would like to be a part of this class, there will be an interest meeting at the end of April about the application and election process with Mr. Cross.

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.

JOURNALISM

Elective

Meets Daily

Course Title: Broadcast/Print

Grade 8, Year Long

Throughout the year, students attend athletics, clubs, and after-school events to document the memorable moments that define our school community. If you're dedicated, creative, and excited to serve your school by telling its story, this course is the perfect opportunity to make a lasting impact!

Course Title: Yearbook

Grade 8, Year Long

In this hands-on, collaborative course, students become the creative force behind the Branson Junior High School yearbook. Working as a unified team, Yearbook staff members design and produce every element of the book—from the theme and color scheme to the layout, photography, fonts, and captions. Students take on real editorial roles, such as Editor in Chief, Marketing, Photography, and Graphic Design, each contributing essential skills to capture the spirit of BJHS.

SPANISH I

Elective

Meets Daily

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.

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