



## **2026-2027 – Middle School Program of Studies**

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## Welcome to the 2026-2027 School Year

Benilde-St. Margaret's is a Catholic, coeducational middle and high school dedicated to academic excellence and college preparation. We are happy to have this opportunity to introduce you to the Middle School Program of Studies, which outlines our course offerings for the upcoming school year.

Our school is committed to fostering strong academic growth within a caring and structured environment. Recognizing the unique developmental needs of middle school students, we offer a comprehensive curriculum complemented by a wide range of extracurricular opportunities. Together, these experiences support intellectual, spiritual, and personal development as students grow into confident, responsible learners.

### Middle School Program

The middle school program focuses on the intellectual, emotional, spiritual, social, and physical development of the young person. Our program includes a solid Catholic base of academic theology classes, liturgies, and prayer services. Advisories convene weekly for academic check-ins, activities, and special interest meetings. Relevant issues such as peer pressure, decision-making, self-esteem, and healthy social relationships are also addressed in middle school.

### Curriculum

Our curriculum includes three levels of mathematics:

- (1) concepts (for students working and/or testing below grade level or having difficulty learning in that area)
- (2) standard (grade level)
- (3) accelerated (for students working and testing significantly above grade level)

In eighth grade, we offer accelerated classes for both English and literature.

The middle school curriculum emphasizes the development of language arts skills through Writing Across the Curriculum and individual classes for English and literature. In addition to separate English and literature classes, all students have an opportunity to study a world language of their choosing.

Our math curriculum includes sixth grade math, pre-algebra, algebra, and geometry. Basic skills are strengthened in preparation for higher math in high school.

In middle school, technology is regarded as an important tool for learning. Each student is provided a personal laptop for daily academic use. Technology is integrated into all areas of the curriculum. However, technology is not used as the primary source of instruction.

### System Format

In the Benilde-St. Margaret's Middle School students are on a quarter system. Quarter grade reports, as well as other teacher updates, are posted online for students and parents. In addition, parent-teacher conferences are held twice each year. Our program is designed to prepare students for continuing education in high school and college, as well as for life-long learning. We are deeply committed to Catholic education and to our students.

## *Go Red Knights!*

### Middle School Overview

YR = Year-long, S = Semester, Q = Quarter

#### Sixth Grade Classes

English  
YR

Literature  
YR

Math  
YR

Science  
YR

Social Studies  
YR

Theology  
S

World Language  
Exploration  
S

M3PE  
S

Fine Arts: Music  
S

Fine Arts: Visual  
Arts  
Q

Theology Seminar  
6  
Q

#### Seventh Grade Classes

English  
YR

Literature  
YR

Math  
YR

Science  
YR

Social Studies  
YR

Theology  
S

World Language  
YR

M3PE  
S

Fine Arts: Music  
S

Fine Arts: Visual  
Arts  
Q

Theology Seminar  
7  
Q

#### Eighth Grade Classes

English  
YR

Literature  
YR

Math  
YR

Science  
YR

Social Studies  
YR

Theology  
S

World Language  
YR

M3PE  
S

Fine Arts:  
Requirement  
S

Semester Choice  
Elective  
Q

## Grading

Letter Grade	Standard GPA
A	4.000
A-	3.700
B+	3.300
B	3.000
B-	2.700
C+	2.300
C	2.000
C-	1.670
D+	1.300
D	1.000
D-	.700
F	.000

## BSM GPA

Only courses taken at BSM will have grades factored into the BSM GPA.

## Honor Rolls

Honor rolls are determined at the end of each semester.

B Honor Roll (3.0-3.69); A Honor Roll (3.7-4.0)

*The courses listed in this Program of Studies may not be the same as the final courses offered during the school year. The number of students registered for a course, scheduling priorities, and personnel will determine final course offerings.*

# Fine Arts: Visual Arts & Music

*\*More 8th grade electives, including Fine Arts, can be found on page 18.*

## Art 6

*One quarter course, required of 6th graders*

The curriculum for 6th graders focuses on a portion of the elements and principles of design. The elements that are explored in class will help to create the backbone of students' middle school art experience. Line, value, color, texture, and repetition are all investigated through the various projects completed in class. Students will develop observation and technical skills in drawing, painting, and sculpture in order to create work that expresses student personal thoughts and feelings

## Art 7

*One quarter course, required of 7th graders*

Seventh grade art is a course designed to introduce and increase the knowledge of the elements and principles of art while giving the students opportunities to try multiple types of media. Students will learn fine arts skills through printmaking, drawing and sculpture. Lessons are integrated with contemporary and more traditional art forms so that students will understand and appreciate the influences of art from many genres and cultures.

**All students in grades 6 and 7 need to select one of the following music offerings:**

### **String Orchestra for Beginners: Grades 6-8**

*Year-long course*

Would you like to learn how to play the violin, viola, cello, or string bass? This course introduces the string instruments while learning simple pieces, posture for playing, basic positions for instruments, bowing and musical techniques as well as beginning music theory. Instrument care and ensemble playing skills are also taught.

### **Middle School String Orchestra: Grades 6-8**

*Year-long course*

This course is designed for those that have previous experience with playing their instrument, continuing to increase musical awareness, refinement of technique, and performance skills. Throughout the year, students will study a variety of repertoire studied from classics to pop to contemporary and liturgical music. Performances in a variety of venues including school mass, community and school events, and seasonal concerts. Weekly private lessons outside of school are strongly encouraged, which are offered through BSM.

### **Beginning Band: Grades 6-8**

*Year-long course*

The objective of this class is to provide an environment in which beginners with no prior experience can learn a musical instrument. The course focuses on the basics of instrumental music such as note names, developing a good tone, and basic rhythm vocabulary. After a year of beginning band, students can transition into their grade level ensemble.

# Fine Arts: Visual Arts & Music

## 6th Grade Band

*Year-long course*

This course is intended to develop basic music competencies. This class will focus on instrumental technique, music literacy, rhythmic comprehension, and preparing for an end-of-semester performance. Music includes sacred, classical, and contemporary genres. Attendance is required at performances, the Christmas concert in December, and the spring concert in May.

## 6th Grade Choir

*Year-long course*

This course is intended to develop beginning music competencies. This class will focus on vocal technique, music literacy, singing in unison and 2-part harmony, and preparing for an end-of-semester performance. Music includes sacred, classical, and contemporary genres. Attendance is required at performances, the Christmas concert in December, and the spring concert in May.

## 7th Grade Band

*Year-long course; Prerequisite: At least one year of prior band experience*

This course is intended to develop beginning and intermediate music competencies. This class will focus on instrumental technique, music, and rhythmic fluency, playing independent parts, and preparing for an end-of-semester performance. Music includes a variety of genres. Attendance is required at performances, the Christmas concert in December, and the spring concert in May.

## 7th Grade Choir

*Year-long course*

This course is intended to develop competencies in music from beginning to intermediate. This class will focus on vocal technique, music literacy, singing in two-part harmony, and preparing for an end-of-semester performance. Music includes sacred, classical, and contemporary genres. Attendance is required at performances, the Christmas concert in December, and the spring concert in May.

# Language Arts

## English

*Year-long course required of all middle school students. In 8th grade, this course is offered on two levels: standard and accelerated.*

This course develops students' writing and speaking skills by focusing on grammar, usage, mechanics, and spelling. Students will apply writing techniques across various subjects, engage in reading and writing activities, and practice organization skills through research and presentations. Students are required to read independently to foster lifelong reading habits.

## 6th Grade

This course provides an introduction to writing conventions to develop clear, concise and effective communication. Students will learn to write strong sentences, paragraphs, literary responses, various letter formats as well as creative and academic writing. An additional emphasis on self-reflective writing will help students understand the “why” behind their thinking and writing.

## 7th Grade

This course develops strong writers and communicators through four major units: narrative, informative/news, research, and creative writing. Students learn to express ideas clearly, use evidence effectively, and apply essential grammar and revision skills. Each unit includes a speaking component (such as interviews, presentations, or peer sharing) to build confidence in oral communication.

## 8th Grade

This course develops writers to compose narratives, research, persuasive writing and speeches. An emphasis is placed on further development of writing, grammar, and speaking skills with multiple opportunities for students to organize, practice, and present. A written essay is required each quarter. Students also focus on researching content, persuading the audience, analyzing information, application of grammatical rules, and the organization of writing.

# Language Arts

## Literature

*Year-long course required of all middle school students. In 8th grade, this course is offered on two levels: standard and accelerated.*

This course enhances students' reading comprehension and interpretation skills, emphasizing the ability to analyze literature through different genres. Students will respond to literature through discussion and writing and deepen their understanding of literary elements. Students in all grades are required to read independently and to foster lifelong reading habits.

### 6th Grade

Introduction to classic and contemporary literature with a focus on character development, themes, and story structure.

### 7th Grade

Exploration of young adult literature with a focus on identifying themes, symbolism, and character analysis. Emphasis is placed on vocabulary growth and practice with reading strategies that foster comprehension.

### 8th Grade

Contains a focused study of Greek mythology and poetry, along with other genres of literature, including short stories and novels. Literary analysis is explored, with a focus on critical thinking and written & verbal responses. There is a strong emphasis on vocabulary growth and practice. Reading for pleasure is an essential part of the course.

## 6th Grade Math Courses

### Math 6

*Year-long course offered to 6th graders on two levels: standard and accelerated.*

This course will focus on the knowledge of positive rational numbers, their different forms (decimals, fractions, and percents), and the accurate computations of these numbers. Students will examine topics in geometry and measurement that include finding the perimeter, area, surface area, and volume of two- or three-dimensional figures, as well as the relationship of angles in geometric figures. Students will also be introduced to pre-algebra topics such as solving equations and inequalities and the use of mathematical properties to generate equivalent expressions.

### Accelerated Pre-Algebra

*Year-long course offered to 6th graders who have repeatedly scored in the 95% of standardized tests and who were top performers on the BSM Placement Test. Students will be asked to maintain an A- in this course to ensure long-term success in mathematics.*

In this course, students will explore the various representations of numbers and strive for mastery in computing those numbers. Students will also learn how to solve many forms of linear equations and inequalities, including proportions and problems that require the application of percentages. Connections between algebra, geometry, and data analysis will be examined throughout the year. In order to improve their ability to communicate about mathematics, students will apply these pre-algebra topics to real-life problems as they learn problem-solving techniques. Students will also connect mathematics to technology through the introduction to graphing on computers and the use of spreadsheets.

## 7th Grade Math Courses

### Pre-Algebra

*Year-long course offered to 7th graders on three levels: concepts, standard, and accelerated.*

In this course, students will explore the various representations of numbers and strive for mastery in computing those numbers. Students will also learn how to solve many forms of linear equations and inequalities, including proportions and problems that require the application of percentages. Connections between algebra, geometry, and data analysis will be examined throughout the year. In order to improve their ability to communicate about mathematics, students will apply these pre-algebra topics to real-life problems as they learn problem-solving techniques. Students will also connect mathematics to technology through the introduction to graphing on computers and the use of spreadsheets.

## Algebra I

*Year-long course offered to 7th graders who have repeatedly scored in the 95% of standardized tests and who were top performers on the BSM Placement Test. Students will be asked to maintain an A- in this course to ensure long-term success in mathematics.*

This is an algebra course that covers aspects of geometry, trigonometry, probability, and statistics. Students will learn a variety of methods to solve basic and complex linear equations, linear inequalities, systems of linear equations, and how to graph these functions. Students will apply these topics to real-life situations as they learn problem-solving techniques. In addition to these topics, students in Algebra I will cover additional concepts, including performing operations on polynomials, factoring polynomials, graphing quadratic equations, using the Quadratic Formula, and performing operations on rational expressions. Students will use technology for math games, instructional videos, an introduction to graphing on computers, and the use of spreadsheets.

## 8th Grade Math Courses

### Algebra Fundamentals

*Year-long course offered to 8th graders on two levels: concepts and standard.*

This is an algebra course that covers aspects of geometry, trigonometry, probability, and statistics. Students will learn a variety of methods to solve basic and complex linear equations, linear inequalities, systems of linear equations, and how to graph these functions. Students will apply these topics to real-life situations as they learn problem-solving techniques. Students will use technology for math games, instructional videos, an introduction to graphing on computers, and the use of spreadsheets.

### Algebra I

*Year-long accelerated course.*

This is an algebra course that covers aspects of geometry, trigonometry, probability, and statistics. Students will learn a variety of methods to solve basic and complex linear equations, linear inequalities, systems of linear equations, and how to graph these functions. Students will apply these topics to real-life situations as they learn problem-solving techniques. In addition to these topics, students in Algebra I will cover additional concepts, including performing operations on polynomials, factoring polynomials, graphing quadratic equations, using the Quadratic Formula, and performing operations on rational expressions. Students will use technology for math games, instructional videos, an introduction to graphing on computers, and the use of spreadsheets.

# M3PE & Learning Lab

## M3PE

*Required of all middle schoolers.*

M3PE affords students the opportunity to learn health-related topics, improve skill level, and master game play. The physical education program offers a wide variety of activities to assist students in developing interests and skills. The goal is to provide enjoyable activities in which the students can meet with success. Individual, team, lifetime, and fitness units are offered. The lessons focus on participation, fundamentals, sportsmanship, motor skills, and student interaction.

## Learning Lab 6-8

*Year-long class, taken in place of a world language; Available for students who have documented accommodation plans at BSM*

Students will receive academic and organizational support in this class supervised by a learning specialist. Students who are recommended for will receive Reading intervention during Learning Lab as well. Students will receive a P (pass) /NP (no pass) notation on their academic transcript. This class supports students with a documented diagnosis that affects their ability to perform in a school setting.

*The middle school science program is designed to spark curiosity, build foundational scientific understanding, and help students make sense of the world around them. Sixth grade students begin their middle school science journey with Earth Science. Students then have the choice to take either the traditional course offerings (Life Science 7 and Physical Science 8) or the thematic science course offerings which are detailed on the next page.*

## **Earth Science 6**

*Year-long course, required of 6th graders*

In Earth Science 6, we will focus on exploring Earth's systems, including its geological history, plate tectonics, weather patterns, the water cycle, and the interactions between Earth and the solar system. Students will analyze data, construct models, and explain Minnesota-based phenomena using evidence to understand the dynamics of our planet and its place in the universe.

## **Life Science 7**

*Year-long course required of 7th graders*

In this course, students examine living systems, their interactions, and interdependence. Areas of study include the nature of science, ecology, cell biology, genetics, and the human body. Students will also work to develop science practices such as data analysis, model construction, and argumentation that they will apply to future courses.

## **Physical Science 8**

*Year-long course required of 8th graders*

This project-based course gives students an introduction to physics and engineering. Students will learn fundamental science skills through which teamwork and cooperative learning will be emphasized. Topics covered will include measurement, the metric system, motion, Newton's laws, forces, and energy. Also, physical and chemical properties, using properties to classify matter, the periodic table, chemical formulas, and nomenclature will be covered. Activities will include projects, laboratory work, formal assignments, inquiry-based activities, lectures, and demonstrations.

*\*As an alternative to these required science classes, students have the option to opt into our thematic science classes described on the next page.*

## Thematic Course Offerings

*This two-year sequence of courses, beginning in 7th grade and continuing in 8th grade, provides a thematic approach to learning science. Each course will integrate earth science, life science, and physical science concepts. Students will participate in multiple field trip opportunities to dig deeper into the content. These courses are designed for students who are interested in science and would like accelerated, hands-on programming.*

*Students enrolled in the 7th grade course during the 26/27 school year must enroll in the 8th grade course the following year. Field trip fees for each class are estimated to be around \$175 and will be billed through tuition.*

*If interest exceeds capacity in the class, students will be randomly selected for this class.*

### **Our Place in the Universe 7**

*Year-long course taken in place of Life Science 7*

This place-based course will provide the opportunity to learn more about the geological and ecological processes that have shaped the state of Minnesota. We will explore Earth's place in the universe and physics concepts that support our knowledge of astronomical systems. Beyond content area knowledge, emphasis will also be placed on science practices and literacy. Students will develop skills in data analysis, scientific modeling, and experimental design.

### **The Chemistry of Us 8**

*Prerequisite: Our Place in the Universe*

*Year-long course taken in place of Physical Science 8*

This course is the second in the thematic science course sequence. This course will investigate the human body from the atomic level to body systems. The chemistry that supports biological processes within our bodies will also be covered. Emphasis will be placed on interactive labs that allow students to grow a deeper understanding of the content while building upon science skills introduced in the 7th grade thematic course.

## Minnesota History 6

*Year-long course required for 6th graders*

In 6th grade, students will explore the rich history and geography of Minnesota, focusing on the state's development over time and the influence of diverse groups on its social, political, and economic landscapes. Throughout the year, students will develop skills in critical thinking, historical literacy, and geographical analysis. Inquiry-based projects, simulations, and collaborative discussions will encourage students to connect Minnesota's past with contemporary issues, fostering a deep understanding of their place within the state and the broader world.

## United States History 7

*Year-long course required of 7th graders*

Seventh grade United States history concentrates on the period of time immediately following the Revolutionary War through the early-1900s. Units of study include: Foundations of Our Nation, The Age of Jackson, Reform & Changing American Life, Westward Expansion, The Civil War, Reconstruction, & Industrial America. Throughout the course, students will work to develop skills in historical reading comprehension, historical literacy, evaluation of various historical sources, and argumentation based on relevant evidence.

## Global Studies 8

*Year-long course required of 8th graders*

In this course, students explore the dynamic relationship between humans and the environment. They investigate how humans shape the land and how the land, in turn, shapes human life. Critical thinking is emphasized as students connect historical events with current global issues.

*All students are required to take Theology in middle school.*

## **Theology 6**

*Semester course, required of 6th graders*

In this course, students will explore the foundational elements of the Catholic faith, focusing on Sacred Scripture as inspired by God and its relevance in our world today. Students will also explore the role of the Church as a visible sign of God's presence through prayer, worship, and the Sacraments. By examining Communion of Saints and God's call to discipleship, students will gain a deeper understanding of their faith and the significance of a faith community in a constantly changing world.

## **Theology 7**

*Semester course, required of 7th graders*

This class focuses on ways in which we contribute to and build up the Kingdom of God. By exploring God's covenant with His people, students study key figures in the Hebrew Scriptures and their connection to Jesus's teaching and ministry. Students also explore how the sacrifices of early Christians and the mission of the Church inspire growth and unconditional love for God and the greater community.

## **Theology 8**

*Semester course, required of 8th graders*

This class connects Catholic tradition and teaching to current topics. While exploring the principles of Catholic Social Teaching, students use Scripture and Church documents to examine ways they are called to action. As students investigate the teachings of Jesus, his mission for the early Christian community, and the guidance of the Church throughout history, they gain an understanding of the ways in which we can live out our mission of love and action.

## **Theology Seminar 6 and 7**

*Quarter course, required of 6th and 7th graders*

In this course, students explore what it means to be made in God's image by investigating their unique gifts, experiences, abilities, and areas for growth. Students also examine how beliefs and values shape their lives and call them to build healthy relationships. Using diverse sources for discussion, reflection, and evaluation, students will balance individual exploration with collaborative work and practice respectful, guided conversations.

## 6th Grade World Language Exploration

*Two semester-long classes*

All 6th grade students not coming from an immersion school will have the opportunity to take both French 6 and Spanish 6 for a semester. Students will experience a proficiency-oriented curriculum and exploratory French and Spanish courses. As an exploratory curriculum, both courses have three primary objectives:

1. development of linguistic proficiency in French and Spanish
2. exposure to products, practices, and perspectives from a range of French and Spanish speaking communities
3. fostering interest in continuing language study

Each day is filled with communicative, target language activities that build connections within the classroom and from the classroom to the outside world. In 7th and 8th grade, students will choose to study either French or Spanish for the remainder of middle school.

## French A

*Year-long course, open to 7th or 8th grade students*

French A offers the opportunity to begin the exploration of the French language, which connects students to 175 million French speakers in more than 50 countries. Our exploration of Francophone culture will include Quebec, the Caribbean, West and North Africa, and Europe. Throughout this course, students will focus on all four language skills (listening, speaking, reading, and writing) through a wide range of activities, including pair and group work, role-playing, listening, and reading. Students will be corresponding with French “epals” throughout the year, thus offering real-life applications to students’ growing language capacities. A field trip to a French immersion weekend at Concordia Language Villages in Bemidji, MN, will also be offered as well as the opportunity to host a French student for 10 days in the Spring or 3 weeks over the summer. Vocabulary topics include: introductions, descriptions, preferences, numbers, colors, time, family, school, weather, seasons, months, and daily routine. Grammar topics include: present and immediate future tenses for essential verbs, possessive adjectives, and adjective/noun agreement. Students will also read mini-novels in French: Brandon Brown *Veut Un Chien*.

## French B

*Prerequisite French A*

*Year-long course*

French B offers 8th graders the opportunity to continue their exploration of the French language as well as the Francophone culture. Throughout this course, students will focus on all four language skills (listening, speaking, reading, and writing) and culture through a wide range of activities, including pair/group work, role-playing, listening, and reading. Students will continue their correspondence with French “epals” throughout the year and will also have the opportunity to host a French student for 10 days in the Spring or 3 weeks over the summer. An opportunity to attend an immersion weekend at Concordia Language Villages in Bemidji, MN will also be offered. Vocabulary topics explored include: café food, clothing, shopping, house, places in a town, and travel. Grammar topics include: a review of all verbs studied in French A, additional irregular verbs, and le passé composé tense. Students will do units on Paris monuments and art history. Students will also read mini-novels in French: Brandon Brown *Le Nouvel Houdini* and Alice la Liste, and watch a mini-series, “Rendez-vous à Nice.”

# World Languages

## Spanish A

*Year-long course, open to 7th or 8th grade students*

Spanish A introduces students to the Spanish-speaking world. This introductory course focuses on building students' working vocabulary, speaking skills, and writing skills through various interpretive, interpersonal, and presentational learning activities. Students will communicate with real pen pals as they will be able to ask and answer questions and give information regarding the following themes: hobbies and free time, descriptions, school life, mealtime, places in the community, invitations, making plans, and sports. Movies, stories, and music are extensive tools used to teach acquisition. Students will explore the cultures of Spanish-speaking countries and become more aware of the diversity of cultures around the globe. As a cumulative activity, students will read, interpret, and retell a novice mid-level novel in the last quarter.

## Spanish B

*Prerequisite: Spanish A*

*Year-long course*

Spanish B expands students' knowledge of the Spanish-speaking world. Students will explore the global influence of the Spanish language and cultures through news sources, stories, music, and movies. Students will continue to work in the three modes of communication: interpretive, interpersonal, and presentational. Specific themes of study include the family, shopping and clothing, vacation and travel, entertainment, and the environment, with an increased focus on vocabulary acquisition. Past tense structures are also introduced. Students will acquire pen pals from a Spanish-speaking country in the second semester to interact with a native Spanish speaker while demonstrating advanced communication skills, reading comprehension, and sentence structure. As a cumulative activity, students will read, interpret, and retell a novice high-level novel in the last quarter.

## Introducción al español para hispanohablantes (YR)

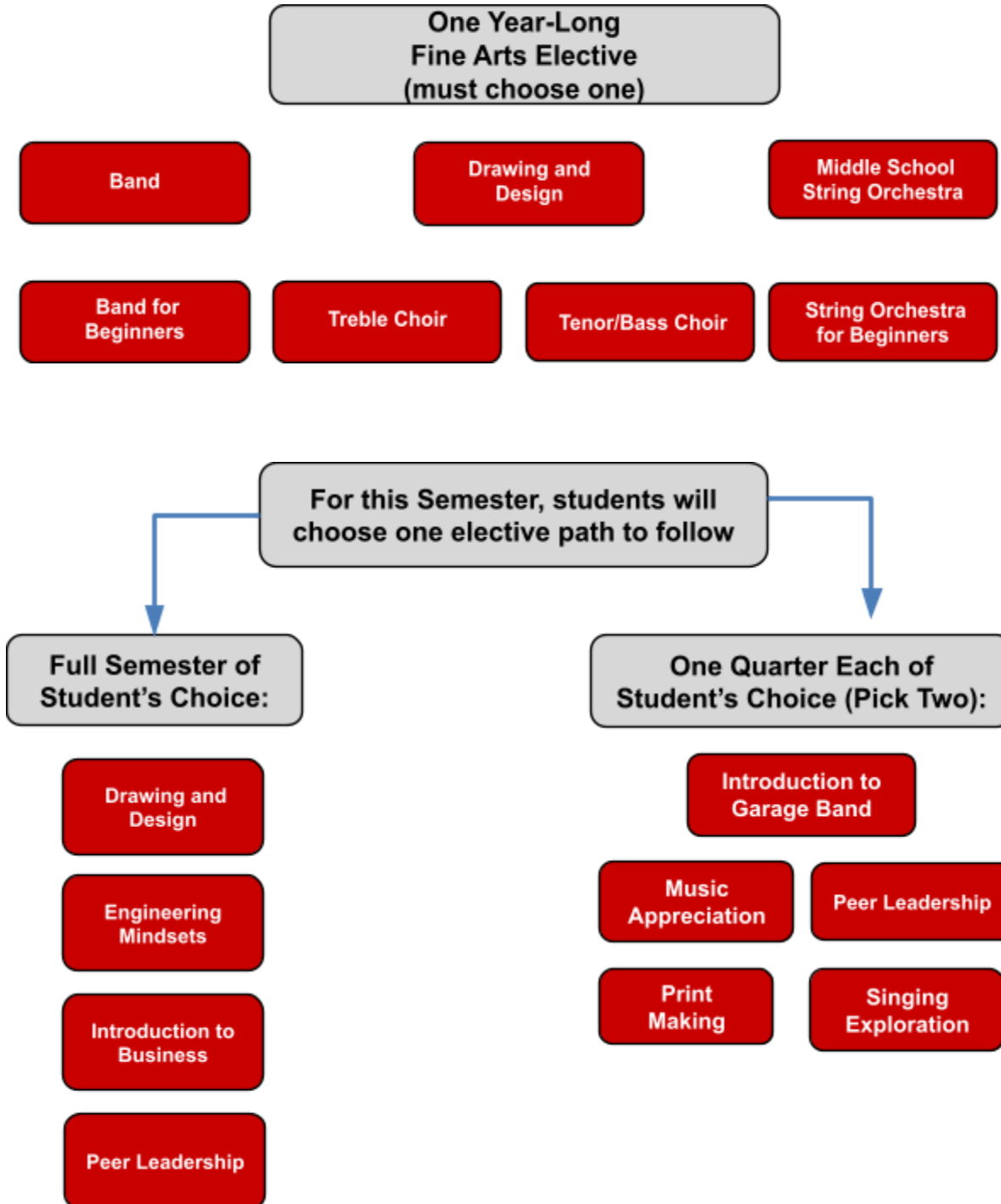
*Year-long course*

*This course is designed for 6th and 7th-graders with heritage or immersion backgrounds with advanced spoken fluency in Spanish.*

Through the study of literature, music, movies, projects, and games, students will refine their grammar and academic language skills, while learning about diverse cultures of the Spanish-speaking world, including the United States. This class is designed to prepare students for future success in Hispanohablantes 1 and is taught entirely in Spanish and students are expected to communicate in Spanish at all times.



All students are required to take fine arts classes during their middle school experience. In eighth grade, students can choose which fine arts electives they would like to take. There are both quarter and semester classes available. In addition to a fine arts elective requirement, 8th grade students have the opportunity to take an additional elective. This can be a one semester class or two quarter classes. The visual below shows the options. Descriptions for the elective courses are on pages 18-20.



## Year-Long Fine Arts Electives

**Beginning Band: Grades 6-8 (See page 5)**

**Middle School String Orchestra: Grades 6-8 (See page 5)**

**String Orchestra for Beginners: Grades 6-8 (See page 5)**

### 8th Grade Band

*Year-long course, meets 2-3 times per week*

*Prerequisite: at least one year of prior band experience*

This course is intended to develop competencies in music from beginning to intermediate. This class focuses on instrumental technique, music literacy and fluency, reading dotted and syncopated rhythms, playing within a variety of time signatures, and preparing for an end-of-semester performance. Attendance is required at performances, the Christmas concert in December and the spring concert in May.

### 8th Grade Treble Choir

*Year-long course, meets 2-3 times per week*

This course is intended to develop beginning to intermediate music competencies in the changing female voice. This class will focus on vocal technique through the voice change, music literacy, singing in 2 and 3 part harmony, and preparing for an end-of-semester performance. Music includes sacred, classical, and contemporary genres. Attendance is required at performances, the Christmas concert in December and the spring concert in May.

### 8th Grade Tenor/Bass Choir

*Year-long course, meets 2-3 times per week*

This course is intended to develop beginning to intermediate music competencies in the changing male voice. This class will focus on vocal technique through the voice change, music literacy, singing in 2 and 3 part harmony, and preparing for an end-of-semester performance. Music includes sacred, classical, and contemporary genres. Attendance is required at performances, the Christmas concert in December and the spring concert in May.

### Drawing and Design

*Year-long course, open to 8th grade*

In Drawing and Design, students will learn primarily two-dimensional techniques artists use to draw, illustrate, and combine artistic language in making. Through study of the elements of art and design, students will explore skills that will improve their ability to create artwork based on what they see in front of them and imagine. We will utilize a wide array of two-dimensional media; this includes but is not limited to graphite, oil pastel, collage, and paint, along with 3D exploratory media such as 3D print.

## Semester-Long Fine Arts Electives

### Drawing and Design

*One semester course, open to 8th grade*

In Drawing and Design, students will learn techniques artists use to draw, illustrate, and combine artistic language. Through study of the elements of art and design, students will explore skills that will improve their ability to create artwork based on what they see and imagine. We will utilize a wide array of two-dimensional media; this includes but is not limited to graphite, oil pastel, collage, and paint, along with 3D exploratory media.

### Engineering Mindsets

*Semester course, open to 8th grade*

This is the introductory course in the BSM Engineering Program. The aim of this class is to equip students with the understanding and the decision-making skills needed to be successful in future engineering classes here at BSM. Students will learn via a series of challenges that increase in complexity as they proceed through the semester. Through consistent iteration to complete these challenges, students gain a better understanding of structural, mechanical, and electrical systems.

### Introduction to Business

*Semester course; open to 8<sup>th</sup> grade*

This class is designed to give students an introductory understanding of business topics, including business ethics & social responsibility; business ownership & entrepreneurship; management & leadership; business organization; business accounting and operations. Students will have the opportunity to explore areas of business they are interested in and can then further explore those concepts by taking more advanced and detailed business courses throughout their high school experience.

### Peer Leadership

*Semester course; open to 8<sup>th</sup> grade*

In this course, students explore ways to create a vibrant and positive school culture while developing strong leadership skills and cultivating a caring community. Students use their own faith, values, and experiences to evaluate ways to address the challenges of adolescent life, creating safe and positive spaces for all students. Individuals in this class will use problem-solving, conflict management skills, creativity, and other non-academic skills to foster empathy for others. While enriching their own personal growth and understanding of their individual talents and strengths, students will participate in service experiences both in and out of the school building that allow them to use their skills to benefit others.

## Quarter-Long Fine Arts Electives

### 8th Grade Intro to Garage Band

*Quarter course, open to 8<sup>th</sup> graders*

This quarter-long course focuses on the songwriting process and learning the controls of music technology. Students will learn about basic music theory and chord progressions and use that knowledge to make their own music using GarageBand. No prior music experience is required.

### 8th Grade Music Appreciation

*Quarter course, open to 8<sup>th</sup> graders*

This quarter-long course focuses on listening critically to different types of music while learning about the roots of popular music and the artists that make it. Students will be exposed to a wide variety of musical genres and will examine the contexts in which these genres emerged, the connections between genres, and No prior music experience is required.

### Peer Leadership

*One quarter course, open to 8th grade*

In this course, students explore ways to create a vibrant and positive school culture while developing strong leadership skills and cultivating a caring community. Students use their own faith, values, and experiences to evaluate ways to address the challenges of adolescent life, creating safe and positive spaces for all students. Individuals in this class will use problem-solving, conflict management skills, creativity, and other non-academic skills to foster empathy for others. While enriching their own personal growth and understanding of their individual talents and strengths, students will participate in service experiences both in and out of the school building that allow them to use their skills to benefit others.

### Printmaking

*One quarter course, open to 8th grade*

Explore the art of printmaking in this hands-on course designed for creative expression and skill-building. Students will experiment with techniques such as relief printing, monoprinting, and stenciling while learning to apply composition, texture, and design principles. Projects encourage both technical development and personal expression, resulting in unique prints that showcase each student's creativity.

### 8th Grade Singing Exploration

*Quarter course, open to 8<sup>th</sup> graders*

This quarter-long course focuses on learning music through the oral tradition found across cultures. Students will learn a variety of pieces using a different set of skills than the standard choir class. Some pieces will be taught by ear and through movement and pattern repetition. Students may take this class with or without prior singing experience. Students may also have the opportunity to learn music for percussion instruments.