

# 2025-2026 BMS ELECTIVE COURSE DESCRIPTION GUIDE FOR 7TH & 8TH GRADES

\*=Prerequisite required before taking course  
Click on the Course Titles to watch videos about Courses.

Art Electives		
<a href="#">Art 3D</a>	7/8	Students in <b>Art 3D</b> will explore the principles of design while creating three-dimensional artwork using a variety of art media.
<a href="#">Art Drawing and Design*</a>	7/8	<b>Art Drawing and Design</b> is a perfect choice for those students who have an interest in improving their drawing and design skills through a variety of drawing techniques. Students will also learn how to create more interesting compositions through the use of design. <i>*Prerequisite: Art FUNDamentals</i>
<a href="#">Art FUNDamentals</a>	7/8	<b>Art FUNDamentals</b> is designed for students who have an interest in exploring art. This class will focus on learning about how to use the elements and principles of art and design while exploring a variety of art media. This course is a prerequisite for many advanced art classes in middle school.
<a href="#">Art Hobbies</a>	7/8	<b>Art Hobbies</b> is designed for students who want to explore a variety of art forms, many of which could lead to a lifelong hobby or even a business venture. Possible projects could include weaving, jewelry making, stamp making, paper making, and soft sculpture.
<a href="#">Art Painting and Mixed Media*</a>	7/8	<b>Art Painting and Mixed Media</b> is designed for students who have an interest in playing with color and a wide range of art materials with the goal of improving their painting skills through a variety of painting styles. Students will also learn how to use other materials in their projects to create interesting works of art. <i>*Prerequisite: Art FUNDamentals</i>
<a href="#">Art Mud to Masterpiece*</a>	7/8	<b>Art Mud to Masterpiece</b> students will be introduced to the magic that is clay. Throughout the class we will explore many ceramic construction techniques from handbuilding, to wheel throwing, and various surface decoration options. Students will also finish a variety of functional and decorative ceramic objects using glazes. If you like getting creative AND messy, this is the class for you. <i>*Prerequisite: Art FUNDamentals</i>
Computer Science Electives		
<a href="#">CS Advanced Computing*</a>	7/8	<b>Advanced Computing</b> takes coding to the next level. Students will create apps to interact with the Circuit Playground. Students will learn to code both input and output commands to control the circuit playground's LEDs, temperature and sound sensors, push button and toggle switch, and the accelerometer. <i>*Prerequisite: CS Web Design or CS Animations &amp; Games</i>
<a href="#">CS Animations and Games</a>	7/8	Gamers rejoice! In <b>Animations and Games</b> , students will program animations, interactive art, and games using the block coding method. The course starts off with simple shapes and builds up to more sophisticated sprite-based games, using the same programming concepts and the design process computer scientists use daily. In the final project, students will develop a personalized, interactive program.
<a href="#">CS Elements of Design</a>	7/8	Let your creativity shine! <b>Elements of Design</b> course allows students to dig into the concepts of graphic design. Students will understand design concepts and use a variety of programs to draw and create. Students will draw animations, work with painting tools, use 3D modeling and animation programs to create 3D objects and animate them.
<a href="#">CS Coding Fun</a>	7/8	9 weeks of <b>Coding Fun</b> ! Students will use game creation software to make a wide variety of 2d games. Right from the start students will start creating games like Geometry Monster, Asteroids, Wave Defense, a Platformer Game like Mario Brothers and much more.
<a href="#">CS Web Design</a>	7/8	Looking for a way to express yourself? In <b>Web Design</b> students will learn how to create and share content on their own web pages. Using the rules of digital citizenship, students will learn how to structure and style their webpages using HTML and CSS. They will also practice valuable programming skills such as debugging and commenting.

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<i>English Language Arts Electives</i>		
<a href="#">ELA Challenge: Literacy League</a>	7/8	Do you love to read and write? Do you wish you had time to work on independent projects with positive feedback? This course includes a fun workshop setting with authentic projects and pieces to inspire and encourage students who enjoy ELA. <b>Literacy League</b> activities may include: blackout poetry, writing contests, short story interpretation, reader's theater, word play, etc.
<a href="#">Presentation and Public Speaking</a>	7/8	<b>Presentation and Public Speaking</b> will help students become more comfortable speaking in front of small and large groups. Activities will include learning about the different types of communication, practicing public speaking in a variety of situations, reflecting on famous speeches, and exploring/creating TED talks. Students will also write and present up to four different types of speeches.
<a href="#">Theatre/Performance</a>	7/8	<b>Theatre/Performance</b> is an introduction to fundamental acting skills. Students learn movement, vocal control and characterization skills while participating in various activities that may include plays, improvisation, reader's theatre, impromptu, pantomime, and short scenes. Through these activities, students will learn physical and vocal presentation skills and develop basic knowledge of theatre arts. Evaluation will be based primarily on in-class performances.
GENERAL ELECTIVES		
<a href="#">Genius Hour</a>	7/8	<b>Genius Hour</b> is a time for students to learn about a topic of their interest. They research a topic, set goals and deadlines, decide how they would like to present their findings. Topics can range from a specific area he/she would like to learn more about, to an active project involving our community. Students will help each other think through problems in their project and brainstorm solutions.
<a href="#">LINKS Explo</a> ** (BMS ONLY)	7/8	<p><b>LINKS</b> provides an experiential opportunity for general education students to develop connections with a diverse group of students with special needs. LINKS will attend exploratory classes with an identified peer and provide ongoing support for this student through modeling and guiding, as well as develop a supportive and friendly relationship. The goal for LINKS students is to ensure all students are acknowledged for what makes them different from others, as well as what makes them the same. This course will empower students to create an inclusive learning environment focusing on strengths and assets of all students. Students will attend a regularly scheduled advisory session and complete assignments throughout the quarter.</p> <p><i>LINKS will have higher expectations for positive behaviors and will have course objectives based on supporting their partner with special needs.</i></p> <p><i>**Application is required for this course (<a href="#">LINKS Application</a>).</i></p>
MATH ELECTIVE		
<a href="#">Math Challenge: Mathletes</a>	7/8	Are you an individual who excels in mathematics to the point where you would enjoy a chance to solve 'bigger' math problems? If so, <b>Mathletes</b> is for you. Like all serious athletes, Mathletes flex their mathematical muscles through daily problem solving and real-world challenge problems in preparation for the big game. Through daily stretches, class competitions, warm ups and workouts, students get in tip top math shape and prepare to <b>perform at the next level</b> when it comes to problem solving and future math experiences.
Science Electives		
<a href="#">Science Challenge: Science Olympiad</a>	7/8	Do you excel in science? Are you a highly motivated student looking to be challenged beyond what your core science classes can offer? Are you a current member or considering joining the Science Olympiad team this year? If so, <b>Science Olympiad</b> is the challenge you are looking for. The Science Olympiad Elective is an extension of the Science Olympiad program and provides rigorous, standards-based challenges related to various scientific disciplines, including earth science, biology, chemistry, physics, and engineering. Through this course you will gain advanced scientific knowledge through individual research and advanced design challenges. <a href="https://www.soinc.org/">https://www.soinc.org/</a>

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<a href="#">Discovery Science</a>	7/8	<b>Discovery Science</b> is a series of week-long projects that are designed with one thought in mind: allowing students to think. Students are pushed to be critical, analyze different solutions to problems, and create. Responsibility, communication, and teamwork are key elements that have a main focus throughout this 9-week class. Students use hands-on, problem solving situations to gain a better understanding of what engineers and scientists do on a daily basis. If you are looking to learn in a different way and use your brain to think, this class is for you. It might even knock your socks off.
<a href="#">STEAM Blue B*</a>	7	<b>STEAM Blue (Automation and Robotics B)</b> is the second course in the series of Automation and Robotics courses at HPS. This course builds on previous experiences from the sixth-grade level, utilizing new mechanisms along with optical sensors to detect movement and color. Deeper emphasis will be placed on students designing and building their own devices that meet project expectations. All students will utilize skills such as time management, problem-solving, experimental design, and the engineering design process. <b>Automation and Robotics A is a prerequisite to this course.</b>
<a href="#">STEAM White</a>	8	<b>STEAM White (Medical Detectives)</b> Step into the role of a medical detective! In this hands-on course, you'll measure and interpret vital signs, dissect a sheep brain, and investigate disease outbreaks all to gain an understanding of how to improve human health. Discover how even small breakdowns in the body can lead to dysfunction—and how science can help diagnose and treat these issues. This course is perfect for students interested in exploring careers in the <b>biomedical field</b> , such as doctors, biomedical researchers, medical technicians, neurologists, and epidemiologists. By applying experimental design, creative thinking, and problem-solving, you'll build skills that are essential for success in the high-demand fields of healthcare, medical technology, veterinary care, and beyond.

Music Electives		
<a href="#">Band 7*</a>	7	<b>Band 7</b> is a year-long course where students continue working on ensemble team skills in a full band setting. Students perform in at least four concerts per year, and all performances are required. Students will also have the option of taking part in Solo and Ensemble Festival and jazz band. <b>*Prerequisite:</b> Band 6 (or instructor permission)
<a href="#">Band 8*</a>	8	<b>Band 8</b> is a year-long course where students continue working on ensemble team skills in a full band setting. Students perform in at least six performances, including two marching opportunities and one trip. All performances are required. Students will also have the option of taking part in Solo and Ensemble Festival as well as jazz band. <b>*Prerequisite:</b> Band 7 (or instructor permission)
<a href="#">Choir 7*</a>	7	<b>Choir 7</b> is a year-long course where students develop healthy vocal techniques, sight reading skills, and study music theory in a full group setting. Many styles of music will be performed. Required performances include fall, winter, and spring concerts, one community event, and District Choral Festival. Students also have the option of taking part in the District Solo and Ensemble Festival. <b>*Prerequisite:</b> Choir 6 (or instructor permission)
<a href="#">Choir 8*</a>	8	<b>Choir 8</b> is a year-long course where students refine their vocal techniques, develop sight reading skills, and study music theory in a full group setting. Many styles of music will be performed. Required performances include the fall, winter, and spring Concerts, one community event, and District Choral Festival. Students also have the option of taking part in the District Solo and Ensemble Festival. <b>*Prerequisite:</b> Choir 7 (or instructor permission)
<a href="#">Orchestra 7*</a>	7	<b>Orchestra 7</b> is a year-long course where students apply their skills in a full group setting. The orchestra will be scheduled to perform four times during the school year. These performances are required. The students will also have the opportunity to take part in an optional Solo & Ensemble Festival that takes place in late winter/early spring. <b>*Prerequisite:</b> Orchestra 6 (or instructor permission)

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<a href="#">Orchestra 8*</a>	8	<p><b>Orchestra 8</b> is a year-long course where students apply their skills in a full group setting. The orchestra will be scheduled to perform four times during the school year. These performances are required. The students will also have the opportunity to take part in an optional Solo &amp; Ensemble Festival that takes place in late winter/early spring.</p> <p><i>*Prerequisite: Orchestra 7 (or instructor permission)</i></p>
<b>Physical Education Electives</b>		
<a href="#">PE Maize/PE Blue</a>	7/8	<p><b>PE MAIZE:</b> (Outdoor) Examples of activities which may be part of the course: tennis, golf, flag football, ultimate frisbee, biking, soccer, softball, gymnastics, badminton, weekly running and daily games. Students will receive instruction in rules, skills and strategies associated with different sports, as well as learning experiences involving physical conditioning activities and lifelong physical activities. The course promotes the spirit of cooperation, leadership, fair play and friendly competition.</p> <p><b>PE BLUE:</b> (Indoor) Examples of activities which may be part of the course: floor hockey, pickleball, volleyball, team handball, basketball, weight training, weekly running and daily games. Students will receive instruction in rules, skills and strategies associated with different sports, as well as learning experiences involving physical conditioning activities and lifelong physical activities. The course promotes the spirit of cooperation, leadership, fair play and friendly competition.</p>

<b>SOCIAL STUDIES ELECTIVES</b>		
<a href="#">Current Events 7</a>	7	Do you want to learn more about the world around us while having fun at the same time? Are you interested in investigating the “fake news” created by bias in the media? Then <b>Current Events 7</b> is the elective for you! In this project-based class, students use technology, competition, and collaboration to study current issues across the globe while considering both ELA and social studies curriculum. From politics to sports to popular culture, this class has something for everyone! Example projects include video newscasts, debate tournaments, podcasts, and much more!
<a href="#">Current Events 8</a>	8	Do you want to learn more about the world around us while having fun at the same time? Are you interested in investigating the “fake news” created by bias in the media? Then <b>Current Events 8</b> is the elective for you! In this project-based class, students use technology, competition, and collaboration to study current issues across the globe while considering both ELA and social studies curriculum. From politics to sports to popular culture, this class has something for everyone! Example projects include video newscasts, debate tournaments, podcasts, and much more!
<a href="#">Leadership 7</a>	7	<b>Leadership 7</b> is a course that allows students to develop communication skills through public speaking and further their understanding of principle-based decision-making and personal image. Specific lessons will develop skills to counteract negative influences (peer pressure, bullying, etc.), as well as strengthen relationships with their peers and families. The class will also promote the need for goal-setting, both personally and professionally.
<b>INDUSTRIAL ARTS ELECTIVES</b>		
<a href="#">Woodworking FUNdamentals</a>	7/8	<b>Woodworking FUNdamentals</b> is a course that allows you to build projects using tools, machines and skills you acquire during the class. Class begins with learning about basic hand tools, machines, safety in the shop, and reading a ruler to the 16th of an inch. After successfully passing a proficiency test on the power tools, students will have the opportunity to use them to build projects. Basic operations, measurements, and construction techniques will be used to create several projects. This is a hands-on class, allowing you to be proud of the projects you build and take home.
<a href="#">Woodworking Applications*</a>	7/8	<b>Woodworking Applications</b> is a more advanced course that builds on the foundational skills of woodworking FUNdamentals. Basic and more advanced operations and construction techniques will be used to make projects.

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<i>World Language Electives</i>		
<a href="#">Spanish 1A &amp; Spanish 1B</a>	8	<p><b>HS Spanish 1</b> is a year-long <b>high-school-level course</b> designed to teach students to develop skills in basic listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Approximately 1,000 words in the target language will be presented. Methodologies used to promote development of skills will be done through the use of audio/visual tools, games, computers, peer instruction, teacher/student conversations and through regular daily assignments. Comparing and contrasting Hispanic vs. non-Hispanic cultures is integrated into each instructional unit, focusing on major aspects of daily living. Students will acquire basic language skills allowing them to communicate in Spanish in lifelike situations relevant to the home, school, careers, and broader cultural events. Due to the cumulative nature of a language, it is highly recommended that students achieve a high level of success in each course in order to be prepared for the next level of language study. High school credit is awarded for successful completion. Please consider <a href="#">these guidelines</a> before scheduling your student for this high school course.</p> <p><i>*Prerequisite for 1B: successful completion of Spanish 1A</i></p>



