

# Burr Oak Middle School 2020-2021 Course Catalogue



The purpose of the 2020-2021 Course Guide is to share curriculum information. Furthermore, this document can serve as a Curriculum Guide for selecting future courses at the middle school level. Our teachers are committed to supporting students' academic and personal growth.

## **Curriculum Information and Supports**

Core Classes and Descriptions

Exploratory Classes and Descriptions

**Grade Reporting & Assessment** Students will receive quarterly report cards as well as semester and end of year grades. Parents are encouraged to meet with their child's teachers and advisors on a regular basis to monitor progress and growth, as well as track their students' activity on Google Classroom and Synergy. Each course will culminate in a final assessment tailored to meet the needs and standards of the teacher, student and curriculum. Final assessments will vary and may include the following: formative & summative assessments, projects, presentations, etc.

## **Core Course Offerings**

All students in middle school take four core courses during the school year. These courses are a year long. Core courses are Math, Science, Social Studies, and English Language Arts. Curriculum, instruction, and assessment are aligned with high standards.

### **5th & 6th Grade English Language Arts**

In 5th and 6th grade language arts, students will focus on developing skills in reading, writing, speaking, and listening, which correspond to the ELA 5th and 6th grade Common Core standards.

[5th Grade Curriculum Map](#)

[6th Grade Curriculum Map](#)

## **Reading:**

The main areas of study in literature and reading include the following: identifying the main idea or theme of text, making inferences, citing textual evidence, and comparing and contrasting a variety of texts that have a similar theme. Students will also examine several literary elements including plot, characterization, author's purpose, and genre. In addition, students will apply a variety of reading strategies, such as defining unknown words and phrases using context clues, analyzing figurative language, annotating/flagging texts, integrating close reading techniques, and summarizing/retelling. Throughout the year, students will explore these elements using short stories, poetry, and excerpts from novels in the Scott Foresman Reading Street Curriculum.

**Writing:**

Students create a variety of organized pieces of writing throughout the year, such as personal or fictional narratives, expository writing, and argumentative paragraphs. Each unit emphasizes the reciprocal nature of reading and writing. Writing instruction will integrate the skills and knowledge that students learn and practice as they read. Students will apply those skills and that knowledge in their writing.

**Language:**

Students will explore the Common Core State Standards for Language in the Conventions, Vocabulary, and Spelling strands as well as in the Oral Vocabulary, Selection Vocabulary, and High-Frequency Words sections of each week.

**Speaking and Listening:**

Speaking and listening skills will be developed throughout the course. Students will engage in formal and informal academic discussions (small group and large group), as well as presentations to a variety of audiences to develop necessary skills such as body language, eye contact, and vocal projection and clarity. In addition, students will polish their active listening skills.

### **7th Grade English Language Arts**

In 7th grade language arts, students will focus on developing skills in reading, writing, speaking, and listening, which correspond to the ELA 7th grade Common Core standards.

[Curriculum Map](#)

**Reading**

Students will read and analyze a variety of fiction and nonfiction pieces across multiple genres. Areas of study include investigating elements of plot, characterization, and setting, interpreting literary devices, and analyzing themes. Through the reading selections, students will further develop literary and informational text skills and the exploration of Big Ideas and Essential Questions. Students will explore community and society through literature. Texts explored throughout the year include *The Outsiders*, *The Giver*, and *The Maze Runner*. Other various short stories, informational texts/articles, and poems will be utilized.

**Writing**

Students will create a variety of organized pieces of writing throughout the year, such as personal memoirs, expository writing, and argumentative paragraphs. Each unit emphasizes the reciprocal nature of reading and writing. Writing instruction will integrate the skills and knowledge that students learn and practice as they read. Students will apply those skills and that knowledge in their writing.

**Language:**

Students will expand their vocabulary by examining and applying words used within texts. Improvement of knowledge of the English language will develop through the use of grammar-specific mini-lessons as well as assessment and re-teaching of correct application of grammar conventions in individual writing.

**Speaking/Listening:**

Students will have numerous opportunities to discuss and process pieces of literature with their peers and their instructor. They will discuss texts in whole class and small group settings numerous times throughout the year. Each novel unit will include Big Idea discussions that connect the story to the student's lives and the world around them. Students will also explore informational literacy through a research project in which they will explain how they would survive a tragic scenario.

### **8th Grade English Language Arts**

In 8th grade language arts, students will focus on developing skills in reading, writing, speaking, and listening, which correspond to the ELA 8th grade Common Core standards.

[Curriculum Map](#)

**Reading:**

Students will read and analyze a variety of fiction and nonfiction pieces across multiple genres. Areas of study include investigating elements of plot, characterization, and setting, interpreting literary devices, and analyzing themes. Through the reading selections, students will further develop literary and informational text skills and the exploration of Big Ideas and Essential Questions. Students will explore community and society through literature. Texts explored throughout the year include: *The Help*, *The Diary of Anne Frank* (both the journal and the graphic novel version), and *Ready Player One*. Other various short stories, informational texts/articles, and poems will be utilized.

**Writing:**

Students will create a variety of organized pieces of writing throughout the year, such as personal memoirs, expository writing, and argumentative paragraphs. Each unit emphasizes the reciprocal nature of reading and writing. Writing instruction will integrate the skills and knowledge that students learn and practice as they read. Students will apply those skills and that knowledge in their writing.

**Language:**

Students will expand their vocabulary by examining and applying words used within texts. Improvement of knowledge of the English language will develop through the use of grammar-specific mini-lessons as well as assessment and re-teaching of correct application of grammar conventions in individual writing.

**Speaking and Listening:**

Students will have numerous opportunities to discuss and process pieces of literature with their peers and their instructor. They will discuss texts in whole class and small group settings numerous times throughout the year. Each novel unit will include Big Idea discussions that connect the story to the student's lives and the world around them. Students will also explore communications in ELA through a research project in which they explore the concept of truth by examining darker truths in the world such as world problems and/or humanitarian crises.

### **5th Grade Social Studies**

The fifth grade social studies content expectations mark a departure from the social studies approach taken in previous grades. Building upon the geography, civics and government, and economics concepts of the United States mastered in fourth grade and historical inquiry from earlier grades, the fifth grade expectations begin a more discipline-centered approach concentrating on the early history of the United States. Students begin their study of American history with American Indian peoples before the arrival of European explorers and conclude with the adoption of the Bill of Rights in 1791. Although the content expectations are organized by historical era, they build upon students' understandings of the other social studies disciplines from earlier grades and require students to apply these concepts within the context of American history

[https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/5thgradeSSGLCE\\_229669\\_7.pdf](https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/5thgradeSSGLCE_229669_7.pdf)

### **6th Grade Social Studies**

**Western Hemisphere Studies:** Sixth grade students will explore the tools and mental constructs used by historians and geographers. They will develop an understanding of Ancient World History, Eras 1 – 3, of the Western Hemisphere and will study contemporary geography of the Western Hemisphere. Contemporary civics/government and economics content is integrated throughout the year. As a capstone, the students will conduct investigations about past and present global issues. Using significant content knowledge, research, and inquiry, they will analyze an issue and propose a plan for the future. As part of the inquiry, they compose civic, persuasive essays using reasoned argument.

[https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/6thgradeSSGLCE\\_229671\\_7.pdf](https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/6thgradeSSGLCE_229671_7.pdf)

## 7th Grade Social Studies

**Eastern Hemisphere Studies:** Seventh grade students will review the tools and mental constructs used by historians and geographers. They will develop an understanding of Ancient World History, Eras 1 – 3, of the Eastern Hemisphere and will study contemporary geography of the Eastern Hemisphere. Contemporary civics/government and economics content is integrated throughout the year. As a capstone, the students will conduct investigations about past and present global issues. Using significant content knowledge, research, and inquiry, they will analyze the issue and propose a plan for the future. As part of the inquiry, they compose civic, persuasive essays using reasoned argument.

[https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/7thgradeSSGLCE\\_229672\\_7.pdf](https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/7thgradeSSGLCE_229672_7.pdf)

## 8th Grade Social Studies

**Integrated United States History:** Eighth grade students continue their study of United States History from the writing of the Constitution through Reconstruction. Geographic, civics/government, and economics content is integrated within the historical context. Using significant content knowledge, research, and inquiry, the students analyze an issue and propose a plan for civic action. They develop reasoned arguments and write a persuasive civic essay addressing issues from the past within a historical context. Where appropriate, they make comparisons to relevant contemporary issues.

[https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/8thgradeSSGLCE\\_229673\\_7.pdf](https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/8thgradeSSGLCE_229673_7.pdf)

## Mathematics

**Math lessons and instruction follow the Michigan Math Standards:**

[https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/K-12\\_MI\\_Math\\_Standards\\_REV\\_470033\\_7\\_550413\\_7.pdf](https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/K-12_MI_Math_Standards_REV_470033_7_550413_7.pdf)

**5th Grade Math:** In Grade 5, instructional time will focus on three critical areas: (1) developing fluency with addition and subtraction of fractions, and developing understanding of the multiplication of fractions and of division of fractions in limited cases (unit fractions divided by whole numbers and whole numbers divided by unit fractions); (2) extending division to 2-digit divisors, integrating decimal fractions into the place value system and developing understanding of operations with decimals to hundredths, and developing fluency with whole number and decimal operations; and (3) developing understanding of volume.

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade Math:** In Grade 6, instructional will focus on four critical areas: (1) connecting ratio and rate to whole number multiplication and division and using concepts of ratio and rate to solve problems; (2) completing understanding of division of fractions and extending the notion of number to the system of rational numbers, which includes negative numbers; (3) writing, interpreting, and using expressions and equations; and (4) developing understanding of statistical thinking

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade Math:** In Grade 7, instructional time will focus on four critical areas: (1) developing understanding of and applying proportional relationships; (2) developing understanding of operations with rational numbers and working with expressions and linear equations; (3) solving problems involving scale drawings and informal geometric constructions, and working with two- and three-dimensional shapes to solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume; and (4) drawing inferences about populations based on samples.

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade Math:** In Grade 8, instructional time will focus on three critical areas: (1) formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations, including modeling an association in bivariate data with a linear equation, and solving linear equations and systems of linear equations; (2) grasping the

concept of a function and using functions to describe quantitative relationships; (3) analyzing two- and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence, and understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem

## Science

The Middle School Science Curriculum builds upon the skills, knowledge, and standards introduced in grades K-4. Burr Oak Middle School bases its curriculum and instruction on the Michigan State Standards and Next Generation Science Standards.

[https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/K-12\\_Science\\_Performance\\_Expectations\\_v5\\_496901\\_7.pdf](https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/K-12_Science_Performance_Expectations_v5_496901_7.pdf)

<https://www.nextgenscience.org/michigan>

<p><b>Fifth Grade</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Structure and Properties of Matter</li> <li>● Matter and Energy in Organisms and Ecosystems</li> <li>● Earth's Systems</li> <li>● Space Systems: Stars and the Solar System</li> <li>● Engineering Design</li> </ul>
<p><b>Sixth-Eighth Grade</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Structure and Properties of Matter</li> <li>● Chemical Reactions</li> <li>● Forces and Interactions</li> <li>● Energy</li> <li>● Waves and Electromagnetic Radiation</li> <li>● Structure, Function, and Information Processing</li> <li>● Matter and Energy in Organisms and Ecosystems</li> <li>● Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems</li> <li>● Growth, Development, and Reproduction of Organisms</li> <li>● Natural Selection and Adaptations</li> <li>● Space Systems</li> <li>● History of Earth</li> <li>● Earth's Systems</li> <li>● Weather and Climate</li> </ul>

### Exploratory Course Offerings- Quarter-Long Courses

Burr Oak Middle School is proud to offer a variety of exploratory choices for students. Students are provided multiple opportunities to explore a rich variety of topics and interests in order to develop their identity, learn about their strengths, discover and demonstrate their own competence, and plan for their future. The curriculum emphasizes a deep understanding of important concepts and the development of essential skills.

**American Sign Language** This course will jump start your American Sign Language journey by learning the basics of this visual language and exploring the Deaf culture. Get ready to broaden your concept of communication through connections and comparisons to your own culture and community.

**Art (6)** Come and enjoy the world of art! Students will learn how to build a sculpture with clay, draw

realistically and explore different types of media. Students continue to study great artists, to explore historical cultures and to learn the basic principles and language of art criticism. Get ready for a fun, imagination-filled class.

**Computers (6)** - In this class students will build on basic operations and concepts including Google tools and management strategies for organizing their electronic world using school and home computer systems.

**Drama** Drama is an exciting, hands-on class that will provide you with not only many smiles but also plenty of insight into theatre history, literary elements and performance techniques. You will have the opportunity to develop storytelling and acting skills by performing in skits and scenes as well as participating in several theatre games. You will also explore various aspects of backstage technical work, and, most importantly, build self-confidence!

**Health** As a comprehensive class designed to provide students with knowledge and life skills, learning is achieved through a variety of hands-on activities, projects and classroom experiences and discussions. Current information, facts and concepts are provided for emotional/social health, growth/development/sex education, nutrition, disease prevention and control, drug use prevention, and injury prevention. A variety of life skills and health-enhancing behaviors are taught to help students reduce health risks. These include: making healthy choices, communication, managing stress, coping with peer pressure and more.

**Literacy and the Power of Choices** - Students engage with the Scholastic Choices curriculum designed to educate students on the skills to make healthy positive decisions. Topics explored include: social skills, life skills, small-group counseling, health & phys. Ed., English Language Arts, character education, and family & consumer science. Students will explore articles and resources that are relevant to their lives while also improving their literacy skills.

**Physical Education** - Students participate in daily physical education throughout the school years. Students learn the importance of lifelong fitness through goal setting when learning various individual sports, team sports, skills development, and participate in cooperative learning activities. Good citizenship, sportsmanship, responsibility, accountability, and respect are developed throughout the year.

**Automation & Robotics** - This class centers around using technology to navigate through the world of machines. Programming robots to solve a problem while learning about energy transfer and the engineering process encourages creativity and the use of 21st century skills. Students trace the history, development, and influence of automation and robotics as they learn about mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation, and computer control systems.

**Coding**- Is there an app for that? If not, students can create it! Students will collaborate to create mobile apps that make a difference in people's lives. Students explore the impact of computing in society and the application of computing across career paths and build skills and awareness in digital citizenship and cybersecurity. Students model, simulate and analyze data about themselves and their interests.

**Foods** - Come and enjoy the fascinating world of foods! Students will learn basic skills relating to kitchen safety, safe food handling, and food preparation..

**Drawing and Painting** - Hey, get a picture frame ready. This class is where you take your skills to the next level. You will be painting on a canvas and using modeling paste to create texture. You will also be drawing someone who inspires you. In the end you will be taking different types of mediums to create a piece that represents you. No prior art classes are required for this class..

