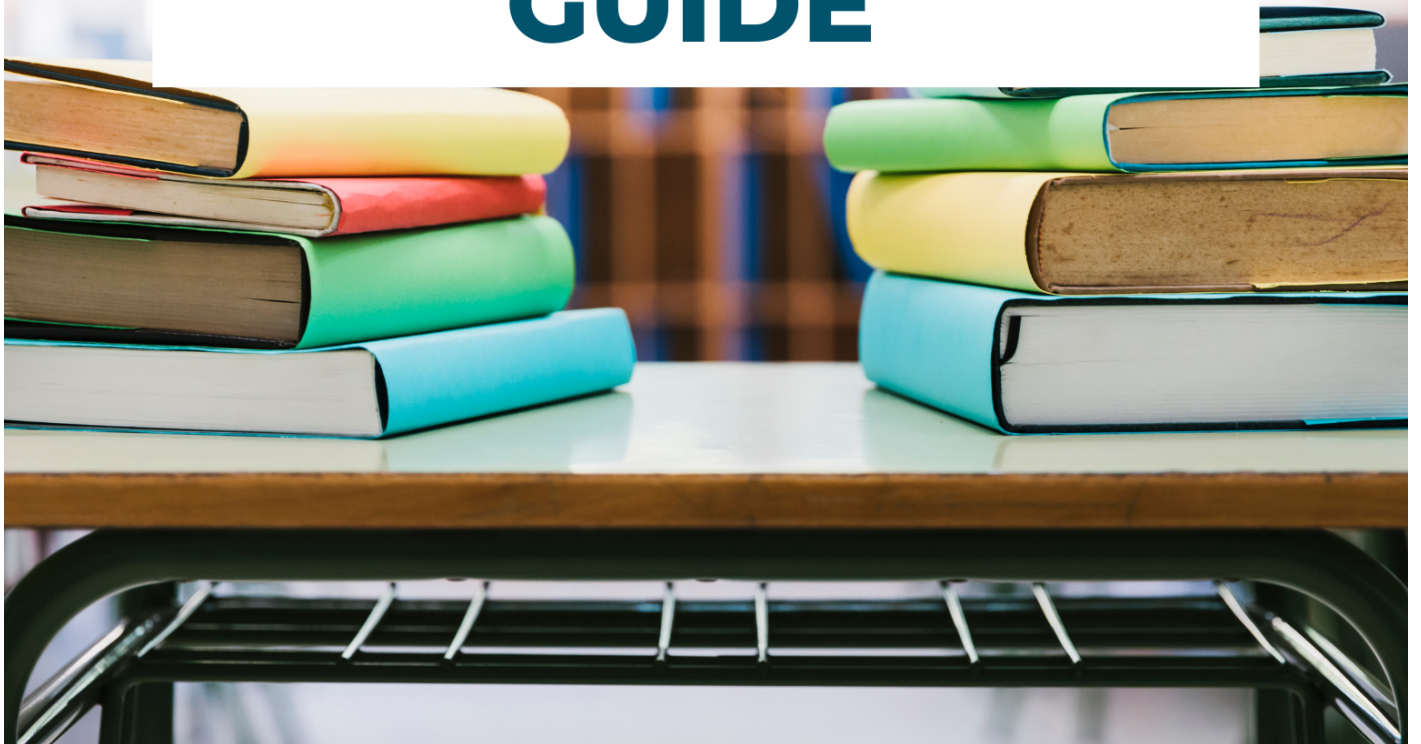




Bentonville  
Schools

**COURSE  
INFORMATION  
GUIDE**



**JUNIOR HIGH • 2023-2024**

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Dear Students and Parents:

What an exciting time of year as we begin planning for the next school year in your child's life. The process of course selection is an important part of your student's education. As we complete one half of the school year, this is a great time to have post-secondary discussions with your child. I know you may be thinking it is too early to discuss college and career, but it is precisely the time to explore college and career opportunities. ACT, Inc. released a college readiness report titled, "The Forgotten Middle," that reported the level of academic achievement that students attain by eighth grade has a larger impact on their college and career readiness by the time they graduate from high school than anything that happens academically in high school.

College and Career Readiness is dependent on a number of behaviors and choices in the junior high environment both academic and psychosocial. Students who display academic discipline by developing good study habits, consistently completing work, maintaining orderly conduct and positive relationships with school personnel are more likely to perform well in school. I hope that this time presents an opportunity for you to work closely with your child and the school to talk about your student's interests and the future possibilities available for your child. Bentonville District has a multitude of choices and opportunities for students, and I encourage you to take advantage of the academically rigorous opportunities available as well and the extracurricular activities available.

I know you will find the counselors and academic staff helpful during this time of exploration; please take advantage by asking questions and having conversations with our talented teachers. We are fortunate to have an abundant academic program and outstanding professional staff. We are appreciative of our families who make this school community the top district in the state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Debbie Jones".

Debbie Jones, Ph.D.  
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## School Contact Information

### **Fulbright Junior High School**

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### **Grimsley Junior High School**

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### **Lincoln Junior High School**

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### **Washington Junior High School**

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## About Our Schools

Established in 1841, Bentonville Schools is the premier public school system in Arkansas serving over 18,000 students in kindergarten through 12th grade. Twenty-three schools, spanning more than 140 miles across Northwest Arkansas, call the district home. Bentonville Schools is critically acclaimed for its academics, arts and athletics and is committed to excellence through innovative, inspiring learning experiences. For more information, visit <https://www.bentonvillek12.org/>

### **Fulbright Junior High School** - <https://www.bentonvillek12.org/o/fjhs>

Fulbright Junior High serves as a leading school in the state for academics, athletics, and the arts by focusing on three core beliefs: We are successful when we learn in relationship (student to student, student to teacher, teacher to teacher, and school to community); We are successful when we learn with rigor and relevance; and We are successful when we learn beyond intellect. Our commitment to these values emboldens students to collaborate, take risks, and build real-world skillsets. Whether it is programming a next generation robot, refining a choral performance, putting in an extra hour of practice on the field, or picking up a good book, there is an opportunity waiting for each student here in the Fulbright Community.

### **Grimsley Junior High School** – <https://www.bentonvillek12.org/o/gjhs>

Grimsley Junior High is named in honor of the Grimsley family and the late Rex Grimsley, a rancher and businessman in Benton County. Grimsley Junior High inspires students to engage in innovative learning to develop global perspective, resilience, and high expectations as they grow to serve the Bentonville community. Students and staff are committed to our campus motto: We inspire. We empower. We succeed. As a staff we are committed to creating a strong academic culture for students in preparation for success at Bentonville West High School.

### **Lincoln Junior High School** - <https://www.bentonvillek12.org/o/ljhs>

Lincoln Junior High is a vibrant school committed to creating proactive citizen leaders! It is our mission and vision to empower our student body to DREAM, LEAD, ACHIEVE, and SERVE. Our service minded school culture has fostered student voice, passion, and motivation. Our pillars of success lie rooted in Response to Intervention (RTI) and serving students based on their individual needs, enrichment and involvement activities, character development we call PRIDE, and high quality teaching and learning. We see ourselves as a team, committed to nurturing a passion for learning and growing for our students and staff. Our purpose is to be impactors, both inside and outside of school, using our passion and PRIDE.

### **Washington Junior High School** - <https://www.bentonvillek12.org/o/wjhs>

Washington Jr. High School (WJHS) strives to be a school where:

- A positive, inspirational culture supports and challenges students to excel beyond what is measured on standardized tests.
- Faculty and staff members work collaboratively and take collective responsibility to ensure high levels of student learning.
- Students are inspired to engage in authentic, rigorous challenges that they know to be important and thereby acquire the skills that will enable them to succeed in an increasingly innovative world and to help make the world better.

Inspiring and achieving excellence in all that we do, that's The Wildcat Way!

## Course Information Guide for Grades 7 and 8

### A. General Information

The information provided in this guide has been prepared to assist each student in developing a long-term program of academic preparation and course selection for the 2023-24 school year.

#### Master Schedule

The master schedule of student courses is developed following course registration conferences where students choose courses they would like to take in the coming school year. Every effort is made to spread out the courses that are only offered one or two periods so that students have a wide variety of choices. Unfortunately, there are many courses at all levels whose enrollments only justify having one or two sections of the course. Students will need to prioritize the courses they want to take and have alternate selections for those courses that may be closed or present scheduling conflicts.

### B. Graduation Requirements and Information

To graduate from a Bentonville high school, a student must earn a minimum of twenty-four (24) credits and have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 1.5000 (GPA is carried out four places). Credits are earned at the rate of one-half (0.5) credit per class per semester. Advisory/Flex/Focus/Seminar classes are non-credit periods. For specific graduation requirements, please see the table below (next page).

Bentonville junior high schools each offer several courses which earn credit toward high school graduation. For more information related to high school credit courses in core content areas, please see the course descriptions below.

## Graduation Requirements

Bentonville graduates must earn a minimum of twenty-four (24) credits and have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 1.5000 (GPA is carried out four places). Credits are earned at the rate of .5 credits per class per semester. Advisory/Flex classes are non-credit periods. Twenty-two (22) credits must be academic classes

Subject	Bentonville Requirements	Arkansas Smart Core Requirements
<b>English</b>	<b>4 Total Credits</b>	<b>4 Total Credits</b>
<b>Math</b>	<b>4 Total Credits</b> 1 credit Algebra I 1 credit Geometry 2 additional mathematics credits*  <i>1 credit of Comp Sci and select electives may be substituted for a 4th math credit.*</i>	<b>4 Total Credits</b> 1 credit Algebra I 1 credit Geometry 1 credit Algebra II 1 credit of math higher than Algebra II
<b>Science</b>	<b>3 Total Credits</b> 1 credit Physical Science 1 credit Biology 1 additional science credit*  <i>1 credit of Comp Sci and select electives may be substituted for a 3rd science credit.*</i>	<b>3 Total Credits</b> 1 credit Physical Science 1 credit Biology 1 additional science credit*
<b>Social Studies</b>	<b>3 Total Credits</b> 1 credit of World History 1 credit of U.S. History 0.5 credit Civics** 0.5 credit Economics**	<b>3 Total Credits</b> 1 credit of World History 1 credit of U.S. History 0.5 credit Civics** 0.5 credit Economics**
<b>Physical Education</b>	<b>0.5 Credit</b>	<b>0.5 Credit</b>
<b>Health</b>	<b>0.5 Credit</b>	<b>0.5 Credit</b>
<b>Communications</b>	<b>0.5 Credit***</b>	<b>0.5 Credit***</b>
<b>Visual &amp; Performing Arts</b>	<b>0.5 Credit</b> <i>Visual, theatrical, or musical arts</i>	<b>0.5 Credit</b> <i>Visual, theatrical, or musical arts</i>
<b>Career Studies</b>	<b>1 Credit</b>	
<b>Foreign Language</b>	University admissions may require two or more credits. See also Honor Graduates	
<b>Computer Science</b>	<i>AR Act 414 of 2021 requires ninth graders entering in the fall of 2022 to earn at least one computer science credit. This may be in other parts of this chart as a math flex credit, science flex credit, Career Studies credit or elective.</i>	
<b>Electives</b>	<b>7 Credits</b> 2 of the 7 elective credits may be Non-Academic Electives****	<b>6 Credits</b>
<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>24 Credits</b>	<b>Smart Core can account for 22 of the 24 credits required in BSD.</b>
<p><i>AR Act 480 requires students to complete a course w/ personal finance standards (Econ).</i>  <i>AR Act 478 requires all students to pass a citizenship test for graduation.</i></p>		

\*Third and fourth math choices: Transitional Math Ready, Algebra II, Quantitative Literacy, Algebra III, Pre-Calculus Pre-AP, Statistics, AP Calculus AB, AP Calculus BC, AP Statistics, IB Math: Apps and Interpret I SL, IB Math: Apps and Interpret II SL, and NWACC College Algebra. Comparable college courses may be substituted where applicable. Career Studies courses may also apply for math or science credits. See course descriptions.

\*\*AP US Government and Politics 1 (both semesters) may be substituted for the .5 credit of Civics. NWACC Government also qualifies. AP Microeconomics and AP Macroeconomics 1 (both semesters) must be completed to substitute for the .5 credit of Economics. NWACC Economics does not qualify for this requirement.

\*\*\*Courses that satisfy the Communications requirement include: Oral Communication, English I Advanced (taken on our campuses), Debate 1, Forensics, and NWACC Public Speaking.

\*\*\*\*Non-Academic electives are courses in athletics (when a course is repeated), physical education (beyond 1 credits), student aide, and the PSAT/ACT/SAT prep course. Academic electives are all other courses. Note: Arkansas Core is the same as Arkansas Smart Core except the math credits do not have to include Algebra II.

## **C. Honor Graduates**

Students may graduate from Bentonville Schools with Honors or High Honors if they meet the specified criteria for their particular graduating class. Any student transferring from a private school or who has been previously home-schooled is eligible to be recognized as graduating with Honors or High Honors if he/she meets the established criteria listed below. The valedictorian, salutatorian, and top ten graduates are selected from the High Honors graduates.

### Honor Graduates - Honors

In addition to meeting graduation requirements for Bentonville Schools and AR Smart Core<sup>1</sup>, a student must:

- Have a 3.5000 cumulative GPA at the end of eight (8) semesters along with 8 credits from advanced courses. ADE honors our Accelerated/Advanced, AP/IB, Ignite Professional Studies or Career Studies internships, and college courses as advanced. GPA is not rounded up from four places
- Successfully complete 26 credits by the end of eight (8) semesters
- Have earned at least 2 credits of high school level world language or 6 credit hours of college level world language. These credits must be from the same world language.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Students who fully complete the IB Diploma are eligible for Honors and High Honors even if they do not have AR Smart Core requirements. All other honors requirements must be met.

<sup>2</sup>A student may choose to be a Professional Studies or Career Studies completer rather than have two credits of the same world language. A Professional Studies or Career Studies completer must have a minimum of three related units in a specific pathway area.

### Honor Graduates - High Honors

In addition to meeting graduation requirements for Bentonville Schools and AR Smart Core<sup>1</sup>, a student must:

- Earn a 3.7500 cumulative GPA at the end of eight (8) semesters along with 12 credits from advanced courses. ADE honors our Accelerated/Advanced, AP/IB, Ignite Professional Studies or Career Studies internships, and college courses as advanced. GPA is not rounded up from four places
- Earn a minimum of 2 credits from AP or IB courses
- Successfully complete 26 credits by the end of eight (8) semesters, and
- Earn at least 2 credits of high school level world language or 6 credit hours of college level world language. These credits must be from the same world language.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Students who fully complete the IB Diploma are eligible for Honors and High Honors even if they do not have AR Smart Core requirements. All other honors requirements must be met.

<sup>2</sup>A student may choose to be a Professional Studies or Career Studies completer rather than have two credits of the same world language. A Professional Studies or Career Studies completer must have a minimum of three related units in a specific pathway area.

### Honor Graduates - Valedictorian

The valedictorian is the senior student who meets all of the following criteria:

- Meets the criteria to graduate with High Honors
- Has the highest GPA among the students who have met the criteria to graduate with High Honors
- Has been continuously enrolled at Bentonville Schools for four consecutive semesters, to include the spring semester of the senior year
- Has no home school credit on the high school transcript
- In the event of a tie in GPA, co-Valedictorian will be named in lieu of Salutatorian

### Honor Graduates - Salutatorian

The salutatorian is the senior student who meets all of the following criteria:



- Meets the criteria to graduate with High Honors
- Has the second highest GPA among the students who have met the criteria to graduate with High Honors
- Has been continuously enrolled at Bentonville Schools for four consecutive semesters, to include the spring semester of the senior year
- Has no home school credit on the high school transcript
- In the event of a tie in GPA, a co-Salutatorian will be named

Honor Graduates - Top Ten Graduates

The top 10 graduates of the senior class are those who meet all of the following criteria:

- Meet the criteria to graduate with High Honors
- Have the ten highest GPA's among students who have met the criteria to graduate with High Honors
- Has been continuously enrolled at a Bentonville Schools HS for four consecutive semesters, to include the spring semester of the senior year. For students graduating in December, continuous enrollment for four consecutive semesters would conclude the fall semester of December graduation

**D. Arkansas Department of Education "Smart Core" Curriculum**

In order to ensure that every child has access to a rigorous curriculum, the Arkansas Department of Education has defined the "Smart Core." This course of study must be completed in order to graduate from an Arkansas public high school. The 22 credits required under Smart Core must be included within the 24 credits required to graduate from a Bentonville high school. The only exception to Smart Core can be accomplished by the parent/guardian signing the Informed Consent Waiver. In the case of a parent signing this waiver, the student will be required to complete the Core course of study embedded within the 24 credits required to graduate from a Bentonville high school. Failure to complete the Smart Core curriculum for graduation may result in negative consequences such as conditional admission to college and ineligibility for scholarship programs. Please see the table of Graduation Requirements above and contact your child's counselor for more information.

**E. Student Transfers**

Bentonville Schools receive many new students each year. Our counseling staff works with transfer students and their parents to ensure appropriate placement. The following policies will summarize how placement decisions are made. Additional details may be found in the senior high schools' course catalog and in Board of Education policy (both are available online at <https://www.bentonvillek12.org/> ).

**Transfer Students from Private Schools or International Schools**

When a student transfers from a private school (accredited or non-accredited), a committee of appropriate personnel to include a counselor, department chair(s), and administrator will review and determine appropriate placement at a Bentonville Schools junior high school. It will be the responsibility of the parent or guardian of the transferring student to provide school officials with a copy of the most recent official student transcript, a copy of the private school course description book, and graded samples of the student's work for the review of the school committee.

**Transfer Students from Other Public Schools**

The student's transcript from the sending public school will be the official documentation of courses completed or in process and grades awarded. If a student transfers from a non-accredited public school, a committee of appropriate personnel to include a counselor, department chair(s), and administrator will review the transcript and make decisions regarding appropriate placement. It will be the responsibility of the parent or guardian of the transferring student to provide the school with a copy of the most recent official transcript, a copy of the course information book from the previous school(s), and graded samples of the student's work for the committee to review.

**Transfer Students from Home School**

When students enter a Bentonville Schools junior high school from a home-school situation, the student's official record of course completion along with grades earned will be reviewed. A committee composed of the counselor, department chair(s), and administrator will review the official home-school records and make decisions regarding appropriate placement.

## Course Descriptions 2023-24 - Grade 7

The information provided in this guide has been prepared to assist each student in developing a long-term program of academic preparation and in selecting courses for the 2023-24 school year. Students and their parents should carefully consider the curriculum offerings prior to determining course selection. Counselors and faculty advisors will assist students and parents in pre-enrollment and in planning for the future.

### ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

#### English 7 #37711R

In this full-year daily course, seventh graders will examine literary and informational texts through in-depth analysis and frequent writing. They will also develop written pieces across a variety of modes and will demonstrate an understanding of standard English, including usage, mechanics, and sentence structure. Students will develop vocabulary skills to aid in their reading and writing processes, and they are expected to practice independent reading.

#### Advanced English 7 #37711P

Advanced English 7 is a daily, full-year course designed to provide a challenging curriculum that is aligned to the Arkansas ELA standards. At the advanced level, students move at an accelerated pace and grapple with literary analysis of more complex texts, including two additional novel studies. Students also complete collaborative and independent writing tasks and project assignments that allow for critical thinking and foster the communication skills needed for higher-level courses.

### MATHEMATICS

#### Math 7 #37731R

Math 7 is a daily, full-year course. The focus of Math 7 instruction will include: (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.

#### Advanced Math 7 #37731P

Advanced Math 7 is a daily, full-year course designed to prepare students for Pre-AP Algebra I in the 8th-grade, as well as high school Advanced and AP math courses. All of the 7th-grade Arkansas Math Standards and one-half of the 8th-grade Arkansas Math Standards are included in this course. The other half of the 8th-grade math standards are included in junior high Pre-AP Algebra I. The focus of Advanced Math 7 instruction will include: (1) developing an understanding of and applying proportional relationships; (2) formulating and reasoning about expressions and 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; (4) drawing inferences about populations based on samples; and (5) analyzing two-dimensional figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence.

## SCIENCE

### Science 7 #37721R

Science 7 is a full-year course based on Arkansas Science standards. The course utilizes a variety of hands-on, minds-on activities that require students to continually build on and revise their knowledge of the structure and properties of matter, interdependent relationships in ecosystems, matter and energy in organisms and ecosystems, chemical reactions, earth's systems, the history of earth, and human impact. Students will apply the engineering design process in different contexts throughout the year. Students will utilize science and engineering practices and make connections with crosscutting concepts to work and think like a scientist.

### Advanced Science 7 #37721P

Advanced courses are designed to increase the critical thinking, analytical reading, and targeted communication skills necessary for higher-level courses. In addition to mastering the regular Science 7 curriculum, students participating in this course will engage in rigorous activities, while meeting the content standards expressed in the content framework.

Students enrolled in 7th Grade Advanced Science will be expected to approach science with skills that support increased depth and rigor. Students will work within flexible groupings, experience an accelerated pace in areas of strength, and be provided learning experiences that lead to advanced level products and/or performances. In order to accomplish these challenges, teachers will instruct students utilizing differentiation strategies suggested in Advanced training.

## SOCIAL STUDIES

### Social Studies 7

7th Grade Social Studies is a full-year course. Students will develop a deeper understanding of history, economics, government, civics and geography as they relate to American history. Students will be expected to examine primary and secondary sources, express their thoughts and conclusions both verbally and in written form, and make connections to the past.

**\*\*AR History may be covered in 7th or 8th for 2023-2024\*** Students will begin the study of Arkansas History which concentrates on an in-depth and rigorous study of Arkansas. Students will examine the geographic, governmental, economic, and historical aspects of the state from its origination to modern day. Students will be challenged to analyze the changes that have occurred within Arkansas; in particular their own local regions. While enrolled in this course, students will evaluate primary and secondary sources, seek answers to compelling questions, and develop and apply disciplinary literacy skills.

*\*Recent changes in the state standards have required changes to our course offerings. AR History will be covered in either 7th or 8th grade. However, students will have a full year of social studies each year.*

### Advanced Social Studies 7

Advanced courses are designed to increase the critical thinking, analytical reading, and targeted writing skills necessary for higher-level courses. In addition to mastering the regular 7th Grade Social Studies curriculum, students participating in this course will engage in rigorous activities while meeting the content standards expressed in the content framework. Students enrolled in Advanced Social Studies read challenging primary and secondary texts. They are expected to analyze and synthesize their conclusions through writing.

*\*Recent changes in the state standards have required changes to our course offerings. AR History will be covered in either 7th or 8th grade. However, students will have a full year of social studies each year.*

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION / HEALTH AND SAFETY**

### **Physical Education / Health and Safety #377812 (Full) / #377811 (Semester)**

This one-semester or full-year required course exposes students to a wide variety of activities with an emphasis on physical fitness and lifetime skills and learning about basic health behaviors to determine the importance of assuming responsibility for personal health. Topics include personality, human body systems, growth and development, nutrition, fitness, alcohol and tobacco, illegal drugs, communicable and noncommunicable diseases, conflict resolution, and basic first-aid and safety. Students will participate in drills, games, and other activities of the sport or skill being taught. Students are expected to participate every day. Written work will also be requested. Periodically, students will take part in a physical fitness test.

### **Grade 7 Electives**

Bentonville Public Schools strives to provide all students with the elective courses of their choice. However, should an elective course not generate sufficient student interest to be efficiently conducted, the course will not be taught. The student's alternate choice would then be substituted.

## **VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS**

### **Introduction to Theatre #378700**

Introduction to Theatre is a one-semester, visual and performing arts course that introduces students to the elements of theatre. Students will explore acting and the technical elements of theatre: costume, makeup, lighting, set, and sound, in a hands-on, student-centered environment. This course fulfills the seventh and eighth grade visual and performing arts requirement.

### **Theatre Fundamentals #37870B**

*Prerequisite: Introduction to Theatre*

Theatre Fundamentals is a performance-based class that builds upon the skills and foundations learned in Introduction to Theatre. Major units covered are: acting (monologue, duo, group), musical theatre (solo, duo, group), costume (design & construction), makeup (design & construction), lighting (design & operation), sound (design & operation), scenery (design & construction), publicity/marketing, and stage management. The course will culminate in the performance of a student-written one-act play performance.

### **Introduction to Forensics #37870F**

Introduction to Forensics is a one-semester acting and public speaking course that helps develop skills for a future in forensics competition. Through active performance activities and textual analysis, students will develop abilities needed for future academic and career work with a strong focus on soft skills (speaking, listening, empathy, interpersonal, organizational, and textual literacy skills).

### **Forensics Fundamentals #37870A**

Students will develop skills in speaking/acting events for competition. These events include solo acting, duet acting, mime, storytelling, improv, words and music, Reader's Theater, interpretation of prose, interpretation of poetry, original oratory, and extemporaneous speaking. Students are required to travel

to forensic tournaments. Forensics Fundamentals is a full-year course designed to prepare the student for forensics competition.

### **Visual Art 7 #377510**

Visual Art 7 is a one-semester course designed to introduce students to secondary-level concepts in studio art. Students will view artists and works from different periods in history. Through lectures, demonstration, and hands-on projects, students will focus on both the concrete and abstract nature of art. The curriculum will be centered on the elements of art and principles of design. There is a \$10 art fee for materials due the first week of class. Students will also be required to provide a sketchbook for the class.

### **Band 7 #37754+**

*Prerequisites: Students must have completed two full semesters of band the previous year and have director approval. Transfer students need to meet with the band director on an individual basis.*

This is a full-year course that provides students the opportunity to study in similar instrument groups and in large concert band. Students will continue to learn the basics of instrument fundamentals, reading music/rhythmic notation, and independent musical performance. Rehearsals and performances outside of the school day are required. This program may have additional fees associated with participation. Please contact a teacher or building administrator for additional information.

### **Orchestra #37754+**

*Prerequisite: Previous orchestra experience*

In this full-year course, students who already play an orchestral stringed instrument will continue the study of the performance fundamentals, re-emphasizing technique, note reading, and rhythms. Level 2 music will be utilized. Students will need to have their own instrument or parents should be prepared to rent an instrument. Students will participate in regional competitions. Please see the orchestra teacher if you have questions about instrument rentals. This program may have additional fees associated with participation. Please contact a teacher or building administrator for additional information.

### **Choir #377531 (Girls) #377532 (Boys)**

Open-enrollment Choruses are full-year or semester courses exploring a wide variety of music arranged for the beginning voice. Students will present concerts, which are open to the public. Literature is selected from reading clinics, regional and national conventions, and professional choral recordings. This program may have additional fees associated with participation. Please contact a teacher or building administrator for additional information.

### **Auditioned Women's Chorus #377533**

Auditioned Women's Chorus is a full-year course exploring a wide variety of music arranged for the female voice. Students will present concerts, which are open to the public. Literature is selected from reading clinics, regional and national conventions, and professional choral recordings. This program may have additional fees associated with participation. Please contact a teacher or building administrator for additional information.

### **Auditioned Men's Chorus #377534**

Auditioned Men's Chorus is a full-year course exploring a wide variety of music arranged for the male voice. Students will present concerts, which are open to the public. Literature is selected from reading clinics, regional and national conventions, and professional choral recordings. This program may have additional fees associated with participation. Please contact a teacher or building administrator for additional information.

## WORLD LANGUAGES

### **Introduction to Spanish Language and Culture #377410**

In Introduction to Spanish Language and Culture, a one-semester course, students will learn benefits to learning a second language and studying various cultures. Students will have the opportunity to explore different Spanish-speaking countries and learn about various cultural practices from the Spanish-speaking world. Students will also learn basic Spanish pronunciation and conversational skills and will have opportunities to practice these skills in class with their peers and teacher. Completion of this course will help to prepare students for more structured exploration and mastery of the Spanish language in Spanish I at the junior high or high school level.

## CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

### **Exploring Business Applications #399040**

Exploring Business Applications is a one-semester course with emphasis given to computer concepts and operations, programming and design, computer software, and the implications of technology in society and ethics. This course is designed to provide students with an understanding of the fundamental uses of computer applications and technology in business and careers. Students will have an opportunity to participate in the activities of Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA).

### **Gateway to Technology**

Gateway to Technology courses are one-semester courses open to 7th and 8th graders. The semester courses include:

- Design & Modeling #399120
- Automation & Robotics #399110
- Computer Science #377650

Through hands-on projects, students explore how science has affected technology throughout history by applying concepts to STEM activities and projects. Students acquire knowledge and skills in problem solving, teamwork, collaboration and innovation.

### **Family & Consumer Science Investigation #399080**

This one semester course emphasizes introductory competencies related to personal development, communication, relationships, home environment, nutrition and wellness, food safety and preparation, resource management, child development, and clothing. Upon completion of this course, students will gain skills that will enable them to function more effectively as a family member, community leader, and productive citizen. Students will have an opportunity to participate in the activities of Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA).

### **Yearbook (Annual) and Student Media #999130**

Students who apply and are selected for this course will be responsible for assisting in the production of the yearbook. Other forms of media will also be explored (websites, social media, video production, etc.) for the purpose of writing, editing, publishing, and/or broadcasting school publications. Students in this course may be expected to work outside of class and/or the regular school day.

### **EAST #377620**

EAST (Education Accelerated by Service and Technology) is a project-based, service-learning program designed to improve leadership and critical success skills. Students will deploy state-of-the-art technologies, be encouraged to think critically to creatively solve problems, and become positive agents



of change to improve the school, community, or world. (This course availability is dependent on year-to-year funding by external organizations).

### **Keyboarding #399050**

Keyboarding is a one-semester course offered to students in grades 7-8. This course is designed to help students develop speed and accuracy by learning the touch operation of alphanumeric/keyboard characters. Emphasis is placed on mastery of the keyboard with desirable keyboarding techniques, development of speed and accuracy, and proper care of the equipment. Keyboarding is the foundation for developing entry-level skills for business careers.

### **ATHLETICS**

Athletics requires students to maintain the current athletic requirements set by the Bentonville School District. Students must have coaches' approval before enrolling. Athletics requires dedication and hard work every day, including practices before and/or after school. Students must be sure that they have the available time that athletics requires. Students who enroll in athletics must remain in that class and participate the entire time the athletic course is scheduled unless the coach or a building administrator removes them for discipline or grades.

The following sports are a part of the athletic program for 7<sup>th</sup> grade students:

**Football #99981K**

**Volleyball #99982Z**

**Cross Country #99982Y**

**Basketball #99981+**

**Track #99982U**

**Spirit Squad #99985+**

## **Course Descriptions 2023-24 - Grade 8**

### **ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS**

#### **English 8 #38811R**

In English 8, students articulate ideas, analyze literary and informational texts, synthesize information, study vocabulary, and write argumentative, expository and narrative pieces. Students further develop reading fluency and comprehension with a continued emphasis on reading strategies and literary studies. In this all-inclusive full-year language arts class that is aligned to the Arkansas ELA standards, students examine connections among reading, writing, grammar study, and research as they hone comprehension and communication skills.

#### **Advanced English 8 #38811P**

Advanced English 8 is a full-year course designed to provide a challenging curriculum that is aligned to the Arkansas ELA standards. At the advanced level, students move at an accelerated pace and grapple with literary analysis of more complex texts, including an additional class novel study and ongoing choice literature circle novels. Students also complete collaborative and independent writing tasks and project assignments that allow for critical thinking and foster the communication skills needed for higher-level Students who choose Advanced English 8 will have required summer reading.

#### **Reading Lab #388130**

Students who are identified through Response to Intervention as needing additional support in literacy will be scheduled into this course to provide additional instruction in reading comprehension and composition skills while completing the 8th grade English curriculum.



## MATHEMATICS

### **Math 8 #38831R**

Math 8 is a full-year course designed to prepare students for Algebra I. The focus of Math 8 instruction will include: (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.

### **Math Lab #388320**

Math Lab supports the 8th grade math curriculum while also filling foundational gaps in student understanding. Smaller class sizes allow students more teacher contact time and allows teachers to incorporate a variety of teaching strategies. This course is designed for students who were minimally proficient or below proficient on the state-required assessment.

### **Pre-AP Algebra I (1.0 High School Credit) #430301**

Pre-AP Algebra I is a full-year, rigorous course designed to prepare students for high school Advanced and AP math courses. This course embeds the College Board Pre-AP Algebra I course with one-half of the Grade 8 Arkansas Mathematics Standards. The first half of Grade 8 math standards were taught in Advanced Math 7. The Pre-AP Algebra 1 framework relies on the four cross-cutting concepts: patterns of change, representations, modeling with functions, and solutions. These concepts build conceptual understanding and spiral throughout the course.

Pre-AP Algebra I is a high school credit course. The grade will be calculated into the student's high school GPA and will be included on the student's high school transcript. Students who successfully complete this advanced course are on the path to take accelerated high school coursework in mathematics (such as AP Calculus and/or AP Statistics).

Prerequisite: Due to the advanced nature of this course, it is strongly encouraged that students should have completed the Advanced Math 7 course with a grade of "A" or "B" both semesters.

## SCIENCE

### **Science 8 #38821R**

Science 8 is a full-year high school preparatory course based on Arkansas Science standards and will help students conceptually understand science in the world around them. The course will utilize a variety of hands-on, minds-on activities that will require students to continually build on and revise their knowledge of energy, forces and interactions, space systems, the history of Earth, natural selection and adaptations, growth, development and reproduction of organisms, and waves and electromagnetic radiation. Students will apply the engineering design process in different contexts throughout the year. Students will utilize science and engineering practices and make connections with crosscutting concepts to work and think like a scientist.

### **Accelerated Physical Science Integrated (1.0 High School Credit) #423003**

8th Grade Accelerated Physical Science is a full-year, intense high school credit course designed to prepare students to take Advanced Placement (AP) science courses in high school and will include algebraic reasoning to help students conceptually understand science in the world around them. The

course includes foundational physical science standards from 8th grade science, 9th grade physical science standards, and life science, earth science and physical science standards from other high school level courses. Students will be engaged through hands-on, minds-on activities while they explore matter and its interactions in relation to the periodic table and chemical reactions. Students will apply their understanding of invisible forces and predict their work within a system. Students will demonstrate understanding of energy and transfer within and out of a system by designing, building, and refining a device that converts energy from one form to another. Students will understand waves, their properties and uses in information technology. Finally, students will demonstrate their understanding of human impact on ecosystems by designing, evaluating, and refining a solution that will reduce the impacts of human activities on ecosystems. Students will utilize science and engineering practices and make connections with crosscutting concepts to work and think like a scientist.

8th Grade Accelerated Physical Science is a high school credit course. The grade will be calculated into the student's high school GPA and will be included on the student's high school transcript. Students who successfully complete this advanced accelerated course are on the path to take advanced high school science courses (such as AP Biology and AP Environmental Science).

Recommendation: Due to the advanced nature of this course, it is strongly encouraged that students have earned scores of "Ready" or "Exceeding" on the math and science portions of the ACT Aspire exam.

## SOCIAL STUDIES

### U. S. History

8th Grade Social Studies is a full-year course. Students will develop a deeper understanding of history, economics, government, civics and geography as they relate to American history. Students will be expected to examine primary and secondary sources, express their thoughts and conclusions both verbally and in written form, and make connections to the past.

**\*\*AR History may be covered in 7th or 8th for 20223-2024\*** Students will begin the study of Arkansas History which concentrates on an in-depth and rigorous study of Arkansas. Students will examine the geographic, governmental, economic, and historical aspects of the state from its origination to modern day. Students will be challenged to analyze the changes that have occurred within Arkansas; in particular their own local regions. While enrolled in this course, students will evaluate primary and secondary sources, seek answers to compelling questions, and develop and apply disciplinary literacy skills.

*\*Recent changes in the state standards have required changes to our course offerings. AR History will be covered in either 7th or 8th grade. However, students will have a full year of social studies each year.*

### Advanced U. S. History

Advanced courses are designed to increase the critical thinking, analytical reading, and targeted writing skills necessary for higher-level courses. In addition to mastering the regular 8th Grade Social Studies curriculum, students participating in this course will engage in rigorous activities, with an Advanced certified educator, while meeting the content standards expressed in the content framework. Students enrolled in Advanced U.S. History/ Arkansas History read challenging primary and secondary texts. They are expected to analyze and synthesize their conclusions through writing. Students are introduced to Document Based Questions, a fundamental skill used in AP history courses at the high school level. Students in some Advanced 8th grade social studies participate in National History Day Projects.

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

### **Physical Education/Health #388811 / 388850-Health & Safety**

In this one-semester or full year required course, students will be exposed to a wide variety of activities with an emphasis on physical fitness and lifetime skills. Topics include personality, human body systems, growth and development, nutrition, fitness, alcohol and tobacco, illegal drugs, communicable and noncommunicable diseases, conflict resolution, and basic first-aid and safety. Students will participate in drills, games, and other activities of the sport or skills taught. Students will be expected to participate every day. Written work may also be required. Physical fitness tests will also be included.

## GRADE 8 ELECTIVES

### **VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS**

#### **Introduction to Theatre #378700**

Introduction to Theatre is a one-semester, performing arts course that introduces students to the elements of theatre. Students will explore acting and the technical elements of theatre: costume, makeup, lighting, set, and sound in a hands-on, student-centered environment. This course fulfills the seventh and eighth grade visual and performing arts requirement.

#### **Theatre Fundamentals #37870B**

*Prerequisite: Introduction to Theatre*

Theatre Fundamentals is a performance-based class that builds upon the skills and foundations learned in Introduction to Theatre. Major units covered are: acting (monologue, duo, group), musical theatre (solo, duo, group), costume (design & construction), makeup (design & construction), lighting (design & operation), sound (design & operation), scenery (design & construction), publicity/marketing, and stage management. The course will culminate in the performance of a student-written one-act play performance.

#### **Introduction to Forensics #37870F**

Introduction to Forensics is a one-semester acting and public-speaking course that helps develop skills for a future in forensics competition. Through active performance activities and textual analysis, students will develop abilities needed for future academic and career work with a strong focus on soft skills (speaking, listening, empathy, interpersonal, organizational, and textual literacy skills).

#### **Forensics Fundamentals #37870A**

*Prerequisite: Introduction to Forensics, Teacher Recommendation, or Tryout*

Forensics Fundamentals is a class that builds upon the skills and foundations learned in Introduction to Forensics. Students will develop skills in speaking/acting events for competition. These events include solo acting, duet acting, mime, storytelling, improv, words and music, Reader's Theater, interpretation of prose, interpretation of poetry, original oratory, and extemporaneous speaking. Students are required to travel to forensics tournaments. Introduction to Forensics is a full-year course designed to prepare the student for high school forensics competitions.

#### **Band 8 #38854+**

*Prerequisites: Students must have completed 4 full semesters of band the previous years and have director approval. Students must also earn a "B" or higher on the 7th grade proficiency test the previous year. Transfer students need to meet with the band director on an individual basis.*

Varsity Band is a full-year course that provides students with a balanced comprehensive study of music through concert band. Skills in the psychomotor, cognitive, and affective domains are impacted. Ensemble

and solo activities are designed to develop elements of musicianship including, but not limited to: (1) tone production, (2) technical skill, (3) intonation, (4) music reading skills, (5) listening skill, (6) analyzing music, and (7) studying historically significant styles of literature. Rehearsals and performances outside of the school day are required. This program may have additional fees associated with participation. Please contact a teacher or building administrator for additional information.

### **Orchestra #38854+**

*Prerequisite: Previous orchestra experience*

In this full-year course, students who already play an orchestral stringed instrument will continue the study of performance fundamentals, re-emphasizing technique, note reading, and rhythms. Level 2 music will be utilized. Students will need to have their own instrument or parents should be prepared to rent an instrument. Students will participate in regional competition. Please see the orchestra teacher if you have questions about instrument rentals. This program may have additional fees associated with participation. Please contact a teacher or building administrator for additional information.

### **Art #388510**

Art 8 is a one-semester course designed to continue students' growth in the area of studio art. Students will view artists and works from different points in history. Students will be able to create and critique artworks of many styles. With a variety of lectures, demonstration, and hands-on projects, students will be exposed to a wide-array of art mediums and subject matter. The curriculum will be centered on the elements of art and principles of design. There is a \$10 art fee for materials due the first week of class. Students will also be required to provide a sketchbook for the class.

### **Advanced Art #38851P**

*Prerequisite: Instructor approval*

Advanced Art 8 is a full-year course designed for advanced artists to further pursue their developing style. Students will expand their previous knowledge of art history and technique, while building a portfolio of diverse works created with multiple mediums. There is a \$15 art fee for materials due the first week of class. Students will also be required to provide a sketchbook for the class. This class is by audition or instructor consent only.

### **Choir #388531 (Girls) #388532 (Boys)**

Open-enrollment Choruses are full-year or semester courses exploring a wide variety of music arranged for the beginning voice. Students will present concerts, which are open to the public. Literature is selected from reading clinics, regional and national conventions, and professional choral recordings. This program may have additional fees associated with participation. Please contact a teacher or building administrator for additional information.

### **Auditioned Women's Chorus #388533**

Auditioned Women's Chorus is a full-year course exploring a wide variety of music arranged for the female voice. Students will present concerts, which are open to the public. Literature is selected from reading clinics, regional and national conventions, and professional choral recordings. This program may have additional fees associated with participation. Please contact a teacher or building administrator for additional information.

### **Auditioned Men's Chorus #388534**

Auditioned Men's Chorus is a full-year course exploring a wide variety of music arranged for the male voice. Students will present concerts, which are open to the public. Literature is selected from reading clinics, regional and national conventions, and professional choral recordings. This program may have additional fees associated with participation. Please contact a teacher or building administrator for additional information.

## WORLD LANGUAGES

### **Spanish I (1.0 High School Credit) #440001**

Spanish I is a full-year course where students will study topics used in basic communication, beginning vocabulary and grammar tenses that facilitate conversation, skills needed for accurate pronunciation and intonation of the Spanish language, and various Hispanic cultural events to enhance their understanding of a diverse society. Students will be expected to engage in listening, speaking, reading and writing activities as well as creative activities that demonstrate knowledge of their learning.

Spanish I is a high school credit course. The grade will be calculated into the student's high school GPA and will be included on the student's high school transcript. Upon successful completion of 8th grade Spanish I, the student may take Spanish II in the 9th grade.

### **Introduction to Spanish Language and Culture #388410**

In Introduction to Spanish Language and Culture, a one-semester course, students will learn benefits to learning a second language and studying various cultures. Students will have the opportunity to explore different Spanish-speaking countries and learn about various cultural practices from the Spanish-speaking world. Students will also learn basic Spanish pronunciation and conversational skills and will have opportunities to practice these skills in class with their peers and teacher. Completion of this course will help to prepare students for more structured exploration and mastery of the Spanish language in Spanish I at the Jr. High or High School level.

## CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

### **Gateway to Technology**

Gateway to Technology courses are one-semester courses open to 7th and 8th graders. The semester courses include:

- Design & Modeling #399120
- Automation & Robotics #399110
- Computer Science #388650

Through hands-on projects, students explore how science has affected technology throughout history by applying concepts to STEM activities and projects. Students acquire knowledge and skills in problem solving, teamwork, collaboration and innovation.

### **Career Development #399280**

Career Development is an activity-based career exploration course designed to broaden students' knowledge about careers within the 16 Career Clusters. Instruction will include units relating to self-awareness, 2) career awareness, 3) career planning, education and training, and 4) introduction of employability skills. Experiences shall include opportunities for guest speakers, field trips, job shadows, lectures, and applied activities. Upon completion of the course, students will have developed a tentative 6-year education and training plan. This is a state-mandated course for students entering high school.

### **EAST #388620**

EAST (Education Accelerated by Service and Technology) is a project-based, service-learning program designed to improve leadership and critical success skills. Students will deploy state-of-the-art technologies, be encouraged to think critically to creatively solve problems, and become positive agents

of change to improve the school, community, or world. (This course availability is dependent on year-to-year funding by external organizations).

### **Keyboarding #399050**

Keyboarding is a one-semester course offered to students in grades 7-8. This course is designed to help students develop speed and accuracy by learning the touch operation of alphanumeric/keyboard characters. Emphasis is placed on mastery of the keyboard with desirable keyboarding techniques, development of speed and accuracy, and proper care of the equipment. Keyboarding is the foundation for developing entry-level skills for business careers.

### **Introduction to Business and Marketing #388930**

This one-semester course is designed to introduce students to career pathways offered at the high school level. Emphasis is placed on understanding business administration and marketing concepts, the role of information technology in business, principles of finance, functions of the hospitality and tourism industry, supply chain and logistics, and principles of entrepreneurship and leadership. Students will have an opportunity to participate in Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA).

### **Exploring Business Applications #399040**

Exploring Business Applications is a one-semester course with emphasis given to computer concepts and operations, programming and design, computer software, and the implications of technology in society and ethics. This course is designed to provide students with an understanding of the fundamental uses for computer applications and technology in business and careers. Students will have an opportunity to participate in the activities of Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA).

### **Leadership and Service Learning (0.5 High School Credit) #493160**

Leadership and Service Learning is a one-semester course which emphasizes the importance of leadership skills, volunteerism, and professionalism in the development of personal qualities. It focuses on the benefits of community service, leadership roles, and civic responsibilities. Current technology is used to enhance communication skills and promote professionalism. Students will have an opportunity to participate in Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA).

Leadership and Service Learning is a high school credit course. The grade will be calculated into the student's high school GPA and will be included on the student's high school transcript.

### **Exploring Personal Finance #399260**

Exploring Personal Finance is designed to introduce students to the knowledge and skills required for managing their personal and family financial resources. Students learn to manage resources through hands-on applications that are relevant to their lives. Projections will require students to use academic skills in language arts, math, social sciences, and science. Emphasis is given to the development of competencies related to values, needs and wants, goals and decision-making, career exploration, understanding paychecks, budgeting, saving, electronic banking, credit, and managing accounts. Students will have an opportunity to participate in the activities of Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA).

### **Family & Consumer Science Investigation #399080**

This one semester course emphasizes introductory competencies related to personal development, communication, relationships, home environment, nutrition and wellness, food safety and preparation, resource management, child development, and clothing. Students will have an opportunity to participate in the activities of Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America. Upon completion of this course, students will gain skills that will enable them to function more effectively as a family member, community leader, and productive citizen. Students will have an opportunity to participate in the activities of Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA).



### **Yearbook (Annual) and Student Media #999130**

Students who enroll in this course will be responsible for assisting in the production of the yearbook. Other forms of media will also be explored (websites, social media, video production, etc.) for the purpose of writing, editing, publishing, and/or broadcasting school publications. Students in this course may be expected to work outside of class and/or the regular school day.

### **ATHLETICS**

Athletics requires students to maintain the current athletic requirements set by the Bentonville School District. Students must have coaches' approval before enrolling. Athletics requires dedication and hard work every day including practices before and/or after school. Students must be sure that they have the available time that athletics requires. Students who enroll in athletics must remain in that class and participate the entire length of time the course is scheduled unless the coach or a building administrator removes them for discipline or grades. The following sports are a part of the athletic program for 8th grade students:

**Cross Country #99982X** - a fall semester course.

**Football #99981F** - a full year course with a competition schedule of 9-10 games.

**Basketball #99981+** - a full year course with a competition schedule of 15-18 games.

**Spirit Squad #99985+ (Cheerleading / Dance Teams)** - a full year course.

**Volleyball #99982V** - a full year course with a schedule of 15 to 18 games.

**Track #99981T** - a spring semester course.