



January 24, 2025

Dear Seventh Grade Parent,

With over half the year completed at Buffalo Community Middle School, it's time to begin scheduling for the 2025-2026 school year. On the reverse side of this letter, you will find brief descriptions of the elective courses we intend to offer eighth grade students next year.

The core subjects for 8<sup>th</sup> grade include Math, English, Geography, and Science. In addition to the core classes listed above, students will rotate through *Health 8*, *Technology Education 8*, and *College and Career Prep 8*. Students will either be in the music performance track or the elective track.

Eighth grade students may choose to be in a music performance group (band, choir or orchestra). On days opposite of their music performance class, students will have physical education. Students will have one additional elective of their choice.

We encourage students to continue in music, but we offer elective course options for eighth grade students who do not wish to continue in band, orchestra or choir. Students in the elective track will participate in physical education every other day throughout the entire year. They will take Health 8 on alternating days during half the year, and during the other half, they will have study hall every other day. Students will have two additional electives of their choice.

**This year, students will receive the registration materials and register online with their Primetime teacher on January 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>.** If you have questions, please feel free to contact Kim Young, Scheduling Assistant, at 763-682-8207 or Principal Matt Lubben at 763-682-8203.

Sincerely,

Matt Lubben, Principal

## GRADE 8 ELECTIVE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

### **Art 2-D:**

Artists will explore the process of creating two-dimensional artworks. Artistic media may include drawing, painting, collage, and digital artwork. Art students will be given the opportunity to make independent choices while finding their own hands-on learning path in creating individual and collaborative artwork.

### **Art 3-D:**

Artists will explore the process of creating three-dimensional artworks. Artistic media may include clay on pottery wheels, hand-building clay, and metals. Art students will be given the opportunity to make independent choices while finding their own hands-on learning path in creating individual and collaborative artwork.

### **Foods 101:**

This lab-based elective takes students one step beyond 7<sup>th</sup> grade FACS. The course will focus on Meal Planning, Food Science and Healthy Fast Food Options. Topics may include: grocery shopping, appetizers, main course, desserts and yeast breads.

### **Unified PE:**

Student mentors will participate alongside of students with special needs who have DAPE services in recreation, leisure, and fitness while increasing their understanding of inclusion, social justice, and advocacy. Student mentors and their peers will have opportunities to participate in community based education outings. Student mentors will also be given opportunities to teach their peers activities to increase their leadership skills.

### **Intro to World Language:**

Students will have the opportunity to explore language and learn some German, French, and Spanish before deciding which one to study in high school. High school students will assist with the instruction and provide a preview of what BHS offers.

### **Special Education Mentorship:**

This course is designed to provide students with an opportunity to be a peer mentor to students with disabilities. Students will work alongside a student or several students with disabilities to model social skills and develop academic skills. Students will work closely with the special education teacher to communicate student progress and problem solve. Students have the opportunity to be a role model, develop leadership skills, but most importantly, have fun!

### **Transportation Technology:**

This technology elective will provide an overview of transportation systems. Students will design and manufacture a CO<sub>2</sub> dragster and a model rocket. Principles of design will be utilized to plan and draw the project.

### **Textile Discovery:**

In this class students will explore the world of textiles through research as well as project-based learning. Students will have the opportunity to learn about and work with different materials and fibers as they learn new skills and techniques in crocheting, knitting, quilting and sew. Students will select and bring in supplies for a final project of their choosing.

### **Woods:**

Students will learn about drafting and scaling, calculating board feet, and producing a bill of materials for a woods project. Safety is taught before students can begin working with the machinery. Students will design and build a woods project from options the instructor develops.