

Blankner Middle School Electives

2019-2020

Performing and Fine Arts:

***Each of the classes identified with an asterisk is co-curricular and may require rehearsals and performances outside the school day.**

Art I: Studio Art Basics - Art I students will gain and expand basic art skills such as drawing, painting, printmaking, ceramics, collage, mixed media and sculpture basics. This course focuses on learning to identify and use the principles of design and the elements of art to create personal and expressive pieces of artwork. Knowledge of basic art criticism will help students assess the culture, history and work of other artists and apply what they learn. Students will become accustomed to studio work and to challenging themselves creatively.

Art II: Exploring Art in the Studio - Art II students will draw upon the Art I basics as they explore a variety of new media and ideas. They will advance by combining previously learned skills and new techniques as they become more confident. This course focuses on expanding art skills in order to become a well-educated art student. Students will learn to effectively manipulate the elements of art and the principles of design in order to take risks and effectively communicate an artistic message. Critique, art history and community works will be used as students learn to assess, improve and innovate.

Art III: Advanced Studio - Art III students will use foundational skills from Art I and II to create focused and adept work. Students will challenge themselves as they critique, reflect and revise to create new work that truly expresses a personal point of view. The focus of the class will be improvisation using new materials and ideas to determine personal strengths. Students will be expected to use a sketchbook efficiently, creatively solve open-ended artistic problems and use good decision making and independent thinking. Students will be asked to explain, evaluate and measure artistic growth in personal and group works. Art III students who attend Boone High School may have the opportunity to submit portfolios for advanced placement.

***Beginning Band** - The Beginning Band is open to all 6th-8th graders with little or no instrumental experience. Students will develop foundational instrumental technique, foundational music literacy, and aesthetic musical awareness through rehearsal, performance, and study of high-quality band literature. Instrumentalists work on the fundamentals of music notation, sound production, instrument care and maintenance, and personal and group rehearsal strategies. The Beginning Band will perform in at least two concerts during the school year. Students will also have the opportunity to perform in *Solo and Ensemble MPA*. This course requires students to obtain a musical instrument (e.g., borrow, rent, purchase) from an outside source (or school). The suggested practice time for students in this class is 20 minutes a day, 5 days a week (totaling 100 minutes/week) of focused practice.

***Advanced Band** - The Advanced Band is made up of students who have successfully completed Beginning Band. Students will build on instrument technique and music literacy while enhancing aesthetic response through rehearsal, performance, and study of high-quality band literature. Public performances will serve as a culmination of specific instructional goals. The Advanced Band will perform in several concerts throughout the year, including the Florida Bandmaster's Association (FBA) Music Performance Assessment (MPA) held each Spring. Each member of this group will be encouraged to audition for *All-State Band*, *All-County Band* and *Solo and Ensemble Festival*. The suggested practice time for students in this group is 24 minutes a day, 5 days a week (totaling 120 minutes/week) of focused practice.

Drama 1 - Students learn the basics of building a character through such activities as pantomime, improvisation, and effective speaking using articulation, projection, and breathing. Students also learn the importance of technical theatre and explore the use of such elements as costumes, props, and scenery. Students practice writing for the theatre and explore various theatre roles and functions. Students learn to critique performances based on group generated criteria which helps to strengthen performances. Public performances may serve as a culmination of specific instructional goals.

Drama 2 - Students with previous theatre experience and instruction continue to study acting, design, and dramatic literature to increase the enjoyment and understanding of what is required to prepare plays for the public. Students explore theatre history, study the great American playwrights, examine the cultural and historical contributions to theatre, and begin to use the information to inform and improve their theatre knowledge and skills. Students begin to use the basic elements of theatre design through practical application and projects.

Drama 3 - Students continue to build skills and knowledge as they explore aspects of theatre. Students explore theatre history, study the great American playwrights, examine the cultural and historical contributions to theatre, and improve their theatre knowledge and skills. Students learn about and begin to use the basic elements of theatre design through practical application and projects. Public performances may serve as a culmination of specific instructional goals.

***Orchestra 1 (Beginning Orchestra)** - This course is for students who have little or no experience on violin, viola, cello, or bass. Students will learn the fundamental skills needed to perform string orchestra music as part of an orchestral ensemble. There will be evening performances during the school year that are required as part of the course. There are a limited number of school instruments available.

***Orchestra 2 (Intermediate Orchestra)** - This course is for students with previous orchestra experience. Students will work to continue to develop their skills in this class to prepare them for Advanced Orchestra. Rising 6th graders may audition for this course with a placement test. There will be evening performances during the school year that are required as part of the course. There are a limited number of school instruments available.

***Orchestra 3 (Advanced Orchestra)** - This course is for advanced orchestra students with previous performance experience. Enrollment in this course is determined by a placement test. There will be evening performances during the school year that are required as part of the course. There are a limited number of school instruments available.

***Guitar 1** - This course is for students who have little or no experience on the guitar. Students will learn to read music and play a variety of styles, including classical, jazz, and rock. There will be evening performances during the school year that are required as part of the course. There is a class set of guitars for student use during class time. Students are encouraged, but not required to own a guitar. 7th and 8th grade only.

***Guitar 2** - This course is for students who successfully complete Guitar 1. Students will advance their skills on guitar and experience more ensemble work in a variety of styles. There will be evening performances during

the school year that are required as part of the course. There is a class set of guitars for student use during class time. Students are strongly encourage to have their own guitar at home to practice.

***Beginning Band** - The Beginning Band is open to all 6th-8th graders with little or no instrumental experience. Students will develop foundational instrumental technique, foundational music literacy, and aesthetic musical awareness through rehearsal, performance, and study of high-quality band literature. Instrumentalists work on the fundamentals of music notation, sound production, instrument care and maintenance, and personal and group rehearsal strategies. The Beginning Band will perform in at least two concerts during the school year. Students will also have the opportunity to perform in *Solo and Ensemble MPA*. This course requires students to obtain a musical instrument (e.g., borrow, rent, purchase) from an outside source (or school). The suggested practice time for students in this class is 20 minutes a day, 5 days a week (totaling 100 minutes/week) of focused practice.

***Advanced Band** - The Advanced Band is made up of students who have successfully completed Beginning Band. Students will build on instrument technique and music literacy while enhancing aesthetic response through rehearsal, performance, and study of high-quality band literature. Public performances will serve as a culmination of specific instructional goals. The Advanced Band will perform in several concerts throughout the year, including the Florida Bandmaster's Association (FBA) Music Performance Assessment (MPA) held each Spring. Each member of this group will be encouraged to audition for *All-State Band*, *All-County Band* and *Solo and Ensemble Festival*. The suggested practice time for students in this group is 24 minutes a day, 5 days a week (totaling 120 minutes/week) of focused practice.

***Steel Drum Ensemble** - Students with little or no instrumental ensemble experience will develop musicianship and performance skills as they study, rehearse, and perform high-quality steel drum ensemble literature. Students will build instrument technique and music literacy while enhancing aesthetic response through rehearsal and performance. The Steel Drum Ensemble will perform in the winter and spring concerts as well as other performances throughout the year. Most practicing on the instruments will occur during class, but rhythmic drill practice, music theory exercises and extended percussion techniques may be assigned as homework as part of the grade. 7th and 8th Grade Only

***Chorus** - Students with little or no choral experience as well as intermediate vocal students develop vocal technique and skills, critical and creative thinking skills, and an appreciation of music from around the world and through time. Public performances may serve as a culmination of specific instructional goals. Students may be required to attend and/or participate in rehearsals and performances outside the school day to support, extend, and assess learning in the classroom.

Other Electives:

Project Lead The Way (Science of Technology) - PLTW illuminates the range of paths and possibilities students can look forward to in high school and beyond. The program uses hands-on projects in computer science, engineering and other STEM areas to boost classroom engagement and excitement. The Science and Technology course teaches students how science has impacted technology in the past, present and the future. Students apply the concepts of physics, chemistry, and nanotechnology to STEM activities and projects including making ice cream, cleaning up an oil spill and discovering the properties of nano-materials. This course is a semester course and will be paired with a PE course. More information about this program can be found at www.PLTW.org.

Medical Detectives is open to all grades.

Aerospace Technology is open to all grades.

Middle School Beginning Spanish - This is an introductory course in Spanish. Students will develop a strong foundation by building vocabulary, learning rules for conjugating verbs, and examining the structure and grammatical rules of the language. Students will learn beginning skills in listening, speaking, reading and writing. In addition students will learn about the culture and make connections and comparisons.

**This class is open to 6th, 7th, and 8th graders.*

High School Spanish 1 - In HS Spanish 1, students will build on vocabulary and grammatical rules from MS Beginning Spanish to be able to exchange information in the target language. Students will continue learning skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing. In addition, students will continue to learn about the culture and make connections and comparisons.

Students will receive HS credit for this class and it will become a part of their high school transcript. Successful completion of this course counts towards the first of the two years of foreign language courses required for admission into state universities.

**This class is open to 7th and 8th graders who have completed MS Beginning Spanish.*

High School Spanish 2 - HS Spanish 2 reinforces the fundamental skills acquired by the students in HS Spanish 1. The course develops increased listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills as well as cultural awareness. Specific content to be covered is a continuation of listening and oral skills acquired in HS Spanish 1. Reading and writing receive more emphasis, while oral communication remains the primary objective.

Students will receive HS credit for this class and it will become a part of their high school transcript. Successful completion of this course counts towards the second of the two years of foreign language courses required for admission into state universities.

**This class is only open to 8th graders who have successfully completed High School Spanish 1.*

Journalism 1

The purpose of this course is to enable students to develop fundamental skills in the production of journalism across print, multimedia, web, and broadcast/radio platforms and to become aware of journalism history, careers, ethics use, and management techniques related to the production of journalistic media. The content should include, but not be limited to, the following:

- demonstrating entry-level skills in telling stories and providing reports and choosing appropriate platforms/mediums of print, multimedia, online, and broadcast/radio
- demonstrating fundamental skills in layout design, organization/management skills, and use of technology for the successful production of journalistic media
- using fundamental research skills and networking formats collaboration amongst peers, especially during the drafting and practicing stages
- demonstrating awareness of the varied careers within the multiple formats of 21st century journalism

Yearbook/Journalism 2 – 7th and 8th Grade Only – By Application -

The purpose of this course is to enable students to develop skills in the production of journalism across print, multimedia, web, and broadcast/radio platforms and to become aware of journalism history, careers, ethics use, and management techniques related to the production of journalistic media. The content should include, but not be limited to, the following:

- demonstrating skills in telling stories and providing reports and choosing appropriate platforms/mediums of print, multimedia, online, and broadcast/radio
- demonstrating fundamental skills in layout design, organization/management skills, and use of technology for the successful production of journalistic media
- using fundamental research skills and networking formats collaboration amongst peers, especially during the drafting and practicing stages
- demonstrating awareness of the varied careers within the multiple formats of 21st century journalism

Advanced Academics 1 – A student- centered, teacher guided elective course for students identified as gifted learners. Students must be staffed as eligible to receive Gifted Services. In this class, students work on a variety of in class projects that are based on gifted student goals. Students have the opportunity to get creative, think critically, and step outside the box.

Advanced Academics 2- For students who have already taken Advanced Academics! New projects and new ideas as we continue to dig deeper into interests, creativity, and critical thinking.

Digital TV Production – 7th and 8th Grade – By Application- Students will learn about the operations and processes in a TV studio. Skills learned will include production and editing of video, audio and graphics, script writing and the operation of equipment such as video cameras, computers, teleprompters and sound mixing and video mixing hardware and software. Students should be comfortable reading and writing in front of others and presenting their work live. Students will need to have transportation to and from school before and after school hours to prepare for daily news shows and record before and after school events. Students must submit a completed application to be eligible for this course.

Financial Literacy - 8th Grade Only – By Application - The purpose of this class is to educate students in the basics of personal finance. Students go all through their educational careers and in most cases are never taught how to balance a check book, understand the magic of compound interest, investing, the pitfalls of credit cards and much more. Most adults learn about personal finance the hard way. Students leave this course empowered to make smart financial decisions later in life.

Several platforms are used in SAVE Financial Literacy. EverFi Financial Literacy is a web based component that supplies interactive instruction of the concepts listed above. Additionally, resources from Mass Mutual and Dave Ramsey are utilized extensively throughout the course. The class also interacts and collaborates with Boone High School's Finance Magnet program 11th grade students on special projects and competitions.

The students leave this course with the knowledge base and strategies to help them make wise financial decisions throughout their life. The real-world value of the content taught in this course is one of the best educations a person can receive.

Critical Thinking - This class is designed for students who need additional teacher support and would benefit from the re-teaching of concepts. There is typically one lesson/assignment given per week pertaining to the critical thinking elements. Students will have time to work independently studying, reading and completing homework. Core Teacher Recommendation needed.

Peer Counseling – 8th Grade Only – By Application - The purpose of this course is to enable students to develop awareness of self and others. Emphasis will be on acquisition of basic skills for thoughtful planning, peer facilitation, effective communication and making healthy choices. Students will meet weekly for instruction, have activities to complete, and practice what they have learned in classrooms with their Peer Counselor assignment.

The course content will include the following: Peer Facilitating, Human Needs, Self-Awareness and Expression, Peer Pressure, Conflict Resolution, Goal Setting, Social Skills, Active Listening, Personal Choices, Healthy, Lifestyles, and Effects of Stress

Digital TV Production – 7th and 8th Grade – By Application- Students will learn about the operations and processes in a TV studio. Skills learned will include production and editing of video, audio and graphics, script writing and the operation of equipment such as video cameras, computers, teleprompters and sound mixing and video mixing hardware and software. Students should be comfortable reading and writing in front of others and presenting their work live. Students will need to have transportation to and from school before and after school hours to prepare for daily news shows and record before and after school events. Students must submit a completed application to be eligible for this course.

PE:

6th Grade Fitness: - This fitness course is designed for 6th grade students and intended to be 18 weeks in length. The purpose of this course is to provide students with the knowledge, skills, and values they need to become healthy and physically active for a lifetime. This course addresses both the health and skill-related components of physical fitness which are critical for students' success.

6/7 M/J Comprehensive PE: - This course is designed for 6th and 7th grade students and intended to be 18 weeks in length. The purpose of this course is to provide a foundation of knowledge, skills, and values necessary for the development of a physically active lifestyle. The course content provides exposure to a variety of movement opportunities and experiences which includes, but is not limited to: Fitness Activities, Educational Gymnastics and Dance, and Team Sports. The integration of fitness concepts throughout the content is critical to student success in this course and in the development of a healthy and physically active lifestyle.

7th Grade Team Sports: - This course is designed for 7th grade students and is intended to be 18 weeks in length. The purpose of this course is to develop the physical skills necessary to be competent in many forms of movement, knowledge of team sports concepts such as offensive and defensive strategies and tactics, and appropriate social behaviors within a team or group setting. The integration of fitness concepts throughout the content is critical to the success of this course.

7/8 M/J Comprehensive PE - This course is designed for 7th and 8th grade students and is intended to be 18 weeks in length. The purpose of this course is to build on previously acquired knowledge, skills, and values necessary for the implementation and maintenance of a physically active lifestyle. The course content provides exposure to a variety of movement opportunities and experiences which include, but is not limited to: Outdoor Pursuits/Aquatics, Individual/Dual Sports and Alternative/Extreme Sports. The integration of fitness concepts throughout the content is critical to student success in this course.

8th Grade Individual/Dual Sports: - This course is designed for 8th grade students and is intended to be 18 weeks in length. The purpose of this course is to introduce and enhance skills of Individual and dual sports. It places an emphasis of applying rules and skills in game situations in addition to the development of a healthy and physically active lifestyle.