



**Bernice Ayer Middle School**

# **ELECTIVE GUIDE**

**Grades 6, 7, 8**

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# **BAMS PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS**

## **6<sup>th</sup> Grade Elective Choices**

### **6th Graders**

#### **EXPLORATORY WHEEL (8071)**

Students will rotate through a combination of the exploratory wheel classes. Courses may be quarterly or by semester. The wheel provides students with a sampling of courses, which they may choose as a yearlong elective in seventh and/or eighth grade. The exploratory wheel classes are **NOT** offered to students in the Two-Way Immersion program.

#### **Exploratory Wheel – Art**

This course introduces a variety of media techniques: drawing, painting, lettering; two and three-dimensional design; and a number of craft experiences. As students become acquainted with the elements and principles of art, they gain basic understanding of art concepts pertinent to our present-day society as well as the past.

#### **Exploratory Wheel - Computer Applications**

The computer wheel class is designed to assist students in becoming better digital citizens. The class will devote 10-15 minutes every session to develop and assess proper keyboarding habits and skills. Students will learn about online safety, cyber security, cyberbullying, appropriate computer use, etc. They will also learn about the various programs offered by Microsoft and Google (word, power point, excel, google doc., slides, and sheets)

#### **Exploratory Wheel – Theater**

Students are introduced to the art of theatre through ensemble work, playwriting, staging and performance. Along with basic acting skills, they learn theatre history, parts of the stage, voice, movement, pantomime, cultural puppetry, and musical theatre. Students demonstrate knowledge and skills through a variety of theatre activities and projects.

## 6th Grade Band

This class is for 6th grade students with or without experience who would like to play a wind or brass instrument. Students will perform traditional and popular music; attend field trips, and study music theory and history in a fun and structured environment. **A limited number of concerts outside of the school day are a required part of this class.**

## 6th Grade Orchestra

This class is for 6th grade students with or without experience who would like to play a string instrument. Students will perform traditional and popular music; attend field trips, and study music theory and history in a fun and structured environment. **A limited number of concerts outside of the school day are a required part of this class.**

## Dual Immersion Program – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Students (6732)

*\*\*Dual Immersion students will take Spanish Dual Immersion as their elective. They may take an additional elective class of either Band or Orchestra ONLY. This will require they begin school at 7:30 am. Transportation is the responsibility of the parent. \*\**

## Spanish Dual Immersion - 6th grade

A one-year course of study for Spanish speakers with an emphasis on literature. Students will participate in learning activities that emphasize meaningful communication, fluency, critical thinking skills, cultural awareness and will use their oral reading, and writing skills to complete projects and to interpret literature.

## 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Elective Choices

### Advanced Art (0502)

Advanced Art is a yearlong elective course where students explore the elements of art and the principles of design through a variety of projects. These projects include a diverse range of mediums such as watercolor, printmaking, charcoal, and acrylic paint. Students will also analyze famous works of art and learn art historical context in order to broaden their artistic knowledge. The aim of this course is to cover the foundations of art to help give students the tools to creatively express themselves.

***Teacher recommendation and application required.***

### Associate Student Body (9193)

The ASB Leadership Program is an elective class that serves the school as the student council, providing representation and activities for the entire student body. The program focuses on leadership development, through an emphasis on planning techniques, decision-making skills, problem solving, organizational skills, group dynamics, principles of communication, budgeting and issues of public relations. The class emphasizes skill building, planning, implementation evaluation and experiential learning for growing the individual students in the areas of respect, responsibility, service and initiative. An outgrowth of the program is the promotion and enhancement of a positive school climate. Students are expected to support school wide activities during lunch a minimum of two times per week. In addition, students are expected to support ASB activities before and after school a minimum of once a quarter. Class size is limited. ASB student leaders are an inclusive and diverse group that represent our school demographics. Students are selected based on multiple requirements set by ASB teacher.

***Teacher recommendation required.***

### Advanced Orchestra (0522)

This class is for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade strings players. Continuing seventh and eighth grade music students will further develop technical proficiency on their instruments while gaining increased knowledge of music theory, as well as historical and cultural contexts of a variety of music. The Advanced Orchestra will perform at school events, concerts, and festivals throughout the school year.

## Chamber Orchestra (0523)

This Yearlong class requires students to audition. This group will further their skills on their instruments, work on repertoire for competitive performances, and perform out in the community in local events such as community holiday performances, Knott's Berry Farm and Disneyland. Attendance at extra rehearsals and all performances is required. ***Audition Required***

## PAL / PEER ASSISTANT LEADERS (1383)

This community service-based class is dedicated to helping others. It is the mission of **Peer Assistant Leaders** to make a difference in our school and in our community and to reach out and make other people's lives better. This class is designed for students who have hearts filled with compassion and kindness who want to devote their year to building a better world. Some of the projects and services that PALs oversee are: New student lunch, Teacher Assistance, Elementary School Mentorship, New Student Tours, Back to School Night Guidance, Red and Blue Ribbon Week, Holiday Food Drive, Toys for Tots, 5th Grade Tours, and many other events in between. PAL is a class that everyone can benefit from, but is geared towards students who are unselfish and giving and who will dedicate their time to the benefits of others. These PALs are responsible for enacting these projects with responsibility and enthusiasm; they are also required to be positive role models for their peers 100% of the time as they have been selected to be generous and thoughtful leaders at BAMS. Class size is limited. PAL student leaders are an inclusive and diverse group that represent our school demographics.

Students are selected based on multiple requirements set by PAL teacher.

***Teacher recommendation required. Students must maintain a 2.75 grade point average and have an outstanding grade in citizenship.***

## SCHOOL SERVICE AIDE (1911) - 8<sup>th</sup> Grade ONLY

The school service aide is an integral partner in the school office. They are the first to greet parents and students at the attendance window. They assist the office staff in delivering call slips, keeping log of students who arrive tardy to school and issue tardy slips. They help parents who deliver students' forgotten items and assist teachers with copies and homework packets. They deliver items to teachers and staff. If there is down time, students are encouraged to work on homework or read. Students who are selected for this elective must be trustworthy and understand the importance of confidentiality.

## SPANISH 1 (1693) - 8<sup>th</sup> Grade ONLY

This is a fast-paced, intensive, academic, college preparatory class. No previous Spanish knowledge is required; however, students are expected to be academically self-motivated. Good note-taking skills and excellent study habits are necessary. This class is the linguistic equivalent of going from kindergarten through 3rd grade in one year. Students will learn how to understand, speak, read and write basic Spanish, which is a prerequisite for Spanish 2 in high school. Cultural and historical topics are intertwined with the language to allow students to have a more complete understanding of the people with whom they will converse.

## Theater Arts (0541)

**THEATRE ARTS/MUSICAL THEATRE (Year-Long Course)** The play is the thing in this class! This is a production class with the focus on producing plays. Students learn acting skills through the process of creating a play from page to stage. Along with the introductory acting skills needed for a play, students will apply their talent by rehearsing and performing a play for an audience. Additional activities include field trips to see plays. If you want to be part of an ensemble that is a family where everyone belongs...this is definitely the class for you! No experience necessary.

***Audition and teacher recommendation required***

## Video Production (M2352)

**Introduction to Video Production Program** In this class, students will learn the basics of video production, storyboarding, layout, lighting, recording and editing using WeVideo. Students will learn about the various film shots that are used when making and producing short films. They will need to film/edit a series of videos in groups, which will require them to work together as a team in order to produce a quality product. ***Teacher recommendation required.***

## Wind Ensemble (Advanced Band)

This class is for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade wind, brass and percussion students. Continuing seventh and eighth grade music students will further develop technical proficiency on their instruments while gaining increased knowledge of music theory, as well as historical and cultural contexts of a variety of music. The Wind Ensemble will perform at school events, concerts, and festivals throughout the school year.

## Yearbook (9173)

Students enrolled in this course will have the opportunity to create and publish the school yearbook. Activities include establishment of theme, creating and conducting student surveys,

taking photographs, learning about the different aspects of photography (Composition, Framing & Negative Space, Rule of Thirds, etc.), understanding elements of effective layout and design, sales of the yearbook and eighth grade dedication ads, and publicity. Students will use an online yearbook program and will be asked to meet strict deadlines. Yearbook students are expected to maintain satisfactory academic and citizenship grades in all classes. ***Teacher recommendation required.***

### **TWIS 1 - 7th Grade (2185) Dual Immersion Students ONLY**

This course is designed for Native and Heritage Spanish language speakers and students in the Dual Immersion Program. The class will be conducted entirely in Spanish to develop and improve the overall Spanish linguistic skills that the students already possess. Students in this class will learn the standard grammatical aspects, the mechanics (punctuation), and spelling of the Spanish language.

### **TWIS II Spanish for Spanish Speakers 1A/1B - 8th grade (2186) – Dual Immersion Students ONLY**

This course is designed for Native and Heritage Spanish language speakers and students in the Dual Immersion Program. The class will be conducted entirely in Spanish to develop and improve the overall Spanish linguistic skills that the students already possess. Students in this class will learn the standard grammatical aspects, the mechanics (punctuation), and spelling of the Spanish language.

## **Exploratory Wheel 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade (8465)**

Students will rotate through all the courses in the exploratory wheel. Courses may be quarterly or by semester.

### **Performing Arts**

Art wheel includes the basics of acting, speech and singing. Students perform in all three areas as well as research behind the scenes jobs involving the arts. No prior experience is required.

### **Career Tech. Education**

This course provides students with the opportunity to explore technologies being employed in current careers. Students will be exposed to programming, graphic design, photography, computer-aided design, audio/video production, engineering, and many other technologies. The goal of the class is to expose students to as much technology as possible so that they can begin to make informed decisions about future classes and careers.



## ART

In this Elective Art Class, students will initially become familiar with all of the "Art Elements" (LINE, SHAPE, FORM, VALUE, COLOR, TEXTURE, and SPACE) before applying these concepts to projects that are more involved. Basic drawing & painting techniques will be taught, and students will learn how to demonstrate the "Design Principles" (MOVEMENT, PATTERN, RHYTHM, BALANCE, EMPHASIS, CONTRAST, UNITY, & PROPORTION) in their artwork. Art History is embedded within this class, which is designed to be a fun way for students to build knowledge & creativity, while gaining confidence