

Bondurant-Farrar Middle School

6th - 8th Course Selection

This document is furnished to assist students and parents in the course selection process. The curriculum of Bondurant-Farrar Middle School has been developed to provide a general education foundation to all students while offering opportunities for exploration in various fields.

6th GRADE	7th GRADE	8th GRADE
Language Arts 6	Language Arts 7	Language Arts 8
Math 6 or *Math 6+	Math 7 or *Math 7+	Math 8 or *Algebra
Reading 6 or *Reading 6+	Reading 7 or *Reading 7+	Reading 8 or *Reading 8+
Science 6	Science 7	Science 8
Social Studies 6	Social Studies 7	Social Studies 8
P.E.	P.E.	P.E.
Health		
STEM		
Art	Exploratory Rotation: Art, Career, Design & Modeling, Family & Consumer Science, Health	Exploratory Rotation: Financial Literacy, Career, Automation & Robotics, Family & Consumer Science, Health
Must choose 1 music course from the following options: Band, Choir, or General Music	Must choose 1 elective per semester from the following options: Advanced Art, Band, Child Development, Chinese, Spanish, Choir, Computer Programming, LEGO Robotics, Video Production, Medical Detectives	Must choose 1 elective per semester from the following options: Art 8, Advanced Art, Band, Ceramics, Chinese, Spanish, Choir, Computer Programming, Design & Modeling 2.0, Food & Nutrition, Video Productions, Bluejay Digital, Medical Detectives
*TAG	*TAG	*TAG

*Teacher placement required

How Is Teacher Placement Determined?

Math Placement

Each grade level, sixth, seventh, and eighth, offer an advanced course section in the subject of math (6+, 7+, Algebra). This course is offered to those students who:

- Score high proficiency on the Iowa Assessment math scores for two of the last three academic years (95th percentile or higher)
- Score high proficiency on the FastBridge aMath assessment (85th percentile or higher)
- Demonstrate strong classroom performance in the previous grade in the area of math
- Score 70% or higher on a placement assessment of skills

6+ will cover all 6th and 7th grade standards, excluding geometry in 7th grade. 7+ will cover the 7th grade geometry standards and 8th grade standards. Algebra will be aligned with the high school level course. Students placed in this course will be expected to complete all work in a timely manner, maintain an A or B average, and work well both individually and collaboratively. Grades earned in Algebra I will be part of the student's high school transcript.

Reading Placement

Each grade level, sixth, seventh, and eighth, offer an advanced course section in the subject of reading. This course is offered to those students who:

- Score high proficiency on the Iowa Assessment reading scores for two of the last three academic years (95th percentile or higher)
- Score high proficiency on the FastBridge aReading comprehension assessment (85th percentile or higher)
- Demonstrate strong classroom performance in the previous grade in the area of reading

This course will cover all of grade level standards and will also allow for challenge/enrichment activities and learning within each unit and topic we study. Students placed in this course will be expected to work well, both individually as well as within group or partner settings, to be successful in this course.

TAG Placement

In order to qualify for TAG services at Bondurant-Farrar, a student needs to:

- Score at or above the 97th percentile on a majority of Iowa Assessments subtests or the new Iowa Statewide Assessment of Student Progress (ISASP), or on a-Reading/a-Math tests, based on grade-level norms.
- Score at or above the 96th percentile (9th stanine) on two of the three subtests (verbal, quantitative, and nonverbal) of the Cognitive Abilities Tests (CogAT) or have a complete composite score at or above the 96th percentile when compared to norms for students of the same age.

7th and 8th Grade Elective Class Descriptions

Child Development

This class will focus on basic concepts of child development with an emphasis on caring for and working with school-age children. We will discuss topics related to babysitting and keeping kids safe when they are in your care. Students will practice planning and implementing activities for elementary children. This course may include visits to the elementary buildings. We will also talk about a healthy environment for children in terms of nutrition and positive emotional and social development.

Food and Nutrition

This class will build on the basics concepts of nutrition and healthy meal preparation. Students will learn about developing healthy habits when cooking and eating and will practice meal preparation in the lab. We will discuss MyPlate, nutrients and how we can incorporate those concepts into meals. Students will also learn about basic skills related to food preparation such as measuring, kitchen equipment, cooking techniques and sanitation.

Video Production

Students will be responsible for filming events during and after school and producing those videos for a public audience. Students will learn how to effectively shoot quality video, edit with the use of iMovie and/or other software, and maintain a school YouTube account. Some elements of Adobe Photoshop and digital design may be incorporated as well.

Bluejay Digital (Must have previously taken video production)

Bluejay Digital builds on skills learned in video production to produce "The Rant." Students will film, edit, write, and produce news packages and help contribute to other tasks as needed. In addition, students will also learn basic graphic design skills in order to create advertisements for BFMS activities.

Lego Robotics

In this course students will work with small groups to build LEGO Robotics pieces in order to solve challenges. The course will also involve some computer programming in order to get the LEGO Robots to move as desired.

Computer Programming

In this elective students will be granted the opportunity to program objects and see their results on an object other than their computer. It is not necessary to have a background in programming in order to take this course. We will not be using Scratch for a platform for this programming.

Medical Detectives

In the Medical Detectives class, students play the role of real-life medical detectives as they collect and analyze medical data to diagnose disease. They solve medical mysteries through hands-on projects and labs, measure and interpret vital signs, dissect a sheep brain, investigate disease outbreaks, and explore how a breakdown within the human body can lead to dysfunction.

Advanced Art

Advanced Art will give students opportunities to complete projects and learning that Exploratory Art does not allow for due to its short 6 week length. Projects will include painting, ceramics (clay), mixed media, and opportunities for students to propose art projects.

Ceramics (Must have previously taken advanced art)

Do you enjoy working with your hands? Do you love clay? Sign up for ceramics! We will go over various hand-building techniques including coiling and slab building, as well as touch on some history of ceramics and famous ceramic artists. There will also be an introduction to the potter's wheel if time allows. It will be hard work and messy at times, but also loads of fun!

Chinese

This exploratory class introduces students to the basic Chinese language skills. Students will learn Chinese phonetics (pinyin), Chinese character structure as well as Chinese culture. In this class, students will be actively introduced to the language structure and use through role-play, songs, games and situational videos.

Spanish

This course provides a basic introduction to the language and culture of the Spanish speaking world. The student will attain an acceptable degree of proficiency in the four skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing with an emphasis on listening and speaking. Students will learn the target language through songs, stories, relevant activities and videos. This course is strongly recommended for for any student interested in learning a second language.

Spanish I (for high school credit)

This course provides an introduction to the language and culture of the Spanish speaking world. Emphasis will be placed on the student attaining an acceptable degree of proficiency in the four skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Culture is presented in conjunction with these four skills. This course is strongly recommended for the college-bound student and also for any student interested in learning a second language. **Please note that since this class is offered for high school credit that grades earned for this class will be part of the student's high school transcript.