

Brown County Middle School

**8th Grade Course Guide
2026-2027**



Daily Time Schedule

Period 1 8:20 - 9:08

Period 2 9:12 - 9:57

Period 3 10:01 - 10:46

Period 4 7th Grade Lunch: 10:50- 11:20

Class: 11:24 - 12:33

6th Grade Lunch: 11:24 - 11:54

Class: 10:50 - 11:59

8th Grade Lunch: 12:03 - 12:33

Period 5 12:37 - 1:22

Period 6 1:26 - 2:11

Period 7 2:15 - 3:00

Semester Dates

Semester 1 August 5th – December 18th

Semester 2 January 5th – May 28th

Brown County Middle School

8th Grade Course Guide

STUDENT PLACEMENT

Student success in school is dependent upon several variables including student skill, student work ethic, correct placement, and parent support and encouragement. The school works to ensure that students have every chance to succeed. Based on grades, ILEARN, and other test scores, students have been recommended for placement in the appropriate level of math. *Administrative approval is required for change.*

Accelerated Math

Brown County Middle School offers an “accelerated” track in 8th grade for Math. Students who meet the placement criteria will engage in Algebra 1 for high school credit. Placement in this course requires that students meet the established evaluation criteria.

REQUIRED COURSES

Language Arts 8	2 Semesters
Social Studies 8	2 Semesters
Mathematics 8	2 Semesters
Science 8	2 Semesters
Physical Education 8	1 Semester
Health 8	1 Semester

REQUIRED COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

LANGUAGE ARTS

Language Arts 8

Language Arts, Grade 8, is a course based on *Indiana's Academic Standards for English/Language Arts* and *HMH Into Literature* curriculum with emphasis in reading, writing, speaking and listening in interest- and age-appropriate content. Students begin by exploring technology's effect in our lives through a variety of in-class readings, and finishing with a choice project. They evaluate the elements of the genre of horror and why we enjoy being frightened through more literature and writing a literary analysis. Students practice speaking and listening skills with a presentation project that focuses on the importance of ELA in their future. Students learn the value of their current decisions and the effects of those on their future. They read and write to reflect on this, inevitably leading to writing their own personal narrative. Throughout the course, students will be learning a variety of grammar skills.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Social Studies 8

Eighth grade United States History emphasizes the interaction of historical events and geographic, social, and economic influences on national development prior to the twentieth century. Special attention is given to (1) Native American cultures and the pre-Columbian period; (2) colonial, revolutionary, and constitutional issues; (3) early national formation; (4) sectional divisions leading to the Civil War; (5) Reconstruction; (6) industrialization; (7) urbanization; and (8) immigration. In this course, students examine major themes, issues, events, movements, and figures in United States history prior to 1900 and explore relationships to modern issues and current events, for example: (1) antiwar movements in different periods in United States history, (2) the influence of inventions and economic innovations, and (3) Indiana's concurrent growth and development. Students will develop critical thinking and research skills by learning to use primary documents and community resources to identify, evaluate and apply appropriate data and reference information. This course also helps students develop an appreciation of historical preservation and a commitment to the rights and responsibilities of citizenship in a democratic society.

MATH

Math 8

This class provides a review of the four operations with whole numbers, decimal numbers, and fractions. Students extend the study of ratio, proportion, integers, and number theory. More in depth work with probability, geometry, algebra, and statistics is provided. Problem solving techniques are explored and applied throughout each unit.

Algebra 1*

2 Semesters, 2 high school credits

Pre-requist for this course is Honors Math 7. Algebra I formalizes and extends the mathematics students learned in the middle grades. The Indiana Academic Standards for Algebra I consist of five domains: Number Systems, Expressions, and Functions; Linear Equations, Inequalities, and Functions; Systems of Linear Equations and Inequalities; Quadratic and Exponential Equations and Functions; and Data Analysis & Statistics. These critical areas deepen and extend understanding of linear and exponential relationships by contrasting them with each other and by applying linear models to data that exhibit a linear trend. Students will also engage in methods for analyzing, solving, and using quadratic functions. The eight Process Standards for Mathematics apply throughout the course. Together with the content standards, the Process Standards prescribe that students experience mathematics as a coherent, useful, and logical subject that makes use of their ability to make sense of problem situations.

SCIENCE

Science 8

Students in eighth grade understand how atomic structure determines chemical properties and how atoms and molecules interact. They explain how the water cycle and air movement are caused by differential heating of air, land, and water and how these affect weather and climate. They understand that natural and human events change the environmental conditions on the earth. They understand the predictability of characteristics being passed from parent to offspring and how a particular environment selects for traits that increase survival and reproduction by individuals bearing those traits.

HEALTH AND FITNESS

Health 8 (1 Semester)*

1 Semester, 1 high school credit

It is important for our eighth grade students to continue to build on the foundation learned in 7th grade Health and Fitness. Students will review what they had learned in 7th grade and build on it through more research based projects and activities which delve deeper into some of the topics discussed in Health 7. Students will additionally be encouraged to think about the person they hope to become, and what values they should carry with them into adulthood to become that person. Ultimately, the goal of Health 8 is to provide students the tools to make good decisions and build healthy habits that will lead to healthy lifestyles in preparation for high school and adulthood.

Health 8 will continue to examine some of the most important health aspects facing teenagers today. We will continue to use the following units as our primary curriculum for education: decision making, mental/emotional health, disease prevention, drugs and alcohol, relationships, psychology, and personal health.

Physical Education 8 (1 Semester or 2 Semesters)

This Physical Education course is designed to provide students with the knowledge, skills, and understanding necessary to lead an active and healthy lifestyle. Through a variety of physical activities, including individual and team sports, fitness training, and recreational activities, students will develop their physical capabilities while also learning about nutrition, mental wellness, and the benefits of maintaining an active lifestyle. Key components of the course include: fitness development and skill-building activities. Students will engage in both practical and theoretical components, taking part in fitness assessments, goal setting, and learning about the importance of regular exercise. The course will emphasize personal growth, teamwork, and building healthy habits for life.

8th GRADE ELECTIVE COURSES

<p>Eaglet Manufacturing - 2 HS Credits Course *Application Year Long</p>	<p>In this hands-on, exciting course, students will dive into the world of our student-run business Eaglet Manufacturing. As part of a student-run business, you'll work in teams to create, manage, and market products or services.. Students in this course will learn to run equipment, manage orders, manage supplies, learn communication skills and create different products as they are ordered.</p> <p>At the same time, you'll be taking the skills you learned as a 7th grader using Autodesk Inventor, a professional-grade design software, to create detailed 3D models of your ideas. This course will challenge you when using the software and build take your skills to the next level.</p> <p>By the end of the course, you'll have a portfolio of business projects and 3D designs, plus valuable skills that will help you in the future, no matter what career path you choose.</p>
<p>Foundations of Computer Science - 1 HS Credit Course 1 Semester</p>	<p>Computers and the internet have revolutionized the way we access and disseminate information. As technology continues to change at an ever-increasing pace, the need for students to gain a foundational understanding of computer science is clear. Computing Foundations for a Digital Age is designed to introduce students to five major topics</p>

	<p>within computer science including computing systems, networks and the internet, data and analysis, algorithms and planning, and impacts of computing. The course introduces foundational computing concepts while exploring current events and building critical thinking, collaboration, problem solving, and other important skills that are invaluable for life in a global and technologically advancing society.</p>
<p>Intro 2D Art - 1 HS Credit *Application 1 Semester</p>	<p>To apply for this course students must have maintained a Visual Art grade of a B- or higher in prior Visual Art classes. Students will then be considered for course participation based on work ethic, participation, and past portfolio work. This course will allow students to work in 2D art media such as acrylic paint, drawing, pastels, watercolor and mixed media.</p> <p>Students taking Introduction to Two-Dimensional Art engage in sequential learning experiences that encompass art history, art criticism, aesthetics, and production and lead to the creation of portfolio quality works. Students (1) create works of art, (2) reflect upon the outcomes of those experiences, (3) explore historical connections, (4) write about the process, (5) make presentations about their progress at regular intervals, (6) work individually and in groups, (7) find direct correlation to other disciplines, and (8) explore career options in visual art. Students also identify ways to utilize and support art museums, galleries, studios, and community resources.</p>
<p>Advanced Health - 1 HS Credit 1 Semester</p>	<p>In addition to continuing to focus on decision making, mental and emotional health, disease prevention, drugs and alcohol, relationships, and personal health, Advanced Health will include hands-on training in physical fitness. Students will learn proper lifting techniques, build speed and fitness through conditioning sessions, and gain a foundational understanding of how physical activity supports overall well-being through physical fitness</p>

	<p>sessions. Students are required to dress out for each physical fitness session. Lockers will be provided for them to keep their belongings safe.</p> <p>This course is especially valuable for students interested in participating in high school athletics, as it provides them with the knowledge and experience to safely and effectively lift and train. By learning proper form, workout structure, and recovery strategies, students will be better prepared to hit the ground running and excel in their athletic pursuits from day one.</p> <p>The ultimate goal of Advanced Health is to empower students with the tools and experiences needed to make thoughtful choices, develop strong bodies and minds, and build healthy habits that will serve them throughout high school and into adulthood.</p>
<p>Engineering 8 1 Semester</p>	<p>In the Engineering 8 course, you'll step into the shoes of an engineer and explore the world of design, problem-solving, and innovation! This course introduces you to the core principles of engineering through exciting hands-on projects. You'll learn how engineers think and work to solve real-world problems, from designing and building structures to creating new technologies.</p> <p>Throughout the course, you'll dive into key topics like mechanical systems, energy, and materials, all while using tools and technology to bring your ideas to life. You'll develop essential skills in critical thinking, teamwork, and communication as you work through challenges and design solutions for real-life problems.</p> <p>By the end of the course, you'll have a better understanding of how engineering shapes the world around us, and you'll be ready to take on more advanced engineering challenges in the future! Whether you're interested in designing robots, building machines, or developing new inventions, this course is the perfect start to an exciting journey in engineering.</p>

<p>Graphics & Media 1 Semester</p>	<p>Students taking Graphics and Media explore media production practices including graphics and web design, photography and videography. Students will be tasked with taking ideas and bringing them to life through the media practices. This class is hands on with fast paced projects and frequent collaboration, not only with peers, but also students involved in MX Inc and Eaglet classes.</p> <p>Students are expected to be creative, problem solvers, self-motivated, and team players. Taking Visual Art 7 is preferred before applying for this class.</p>
<p>Visual Art 8 1 Semester</p>	<p>This one semester course will build upon what students have learned in prior years in Visual Arts. Students will take part in refining skills in ceramics, print & design, and other 2D Art Media as well as exploring new media like jewelry and photography. Students are highly encouraged to have taken Visual Arts prior to this course.</p>
<p>Choir - Vocal Music 8 Yearlong</p>	<p>Choir is offered for 8th grade students. This class provides group and solo activities and is designed to develop students' musicianship including vocal production, technical skills, and intonation. Students are required to participate in 2 performances each semester (4 per year). Occasionally, there will be other performances out in the community. This is a full year course.</p>
<p>Band - Instrumental Music 8 Year Long</p>	<p>Instrumental Music 8 is an ensemble that is open to all 7th graders currently enrolled in Instrumental Music, or by special exemption by the instructor (see Mr. Finley for details). The group will perform music that is more challenging and builds upon the skills learned previously in 7th grade. This group will also have more opportunities to perform outside the school day than in previous years. This is a full year course.</p>
<p>Theater History 1-2 HS Credit Course 1 Semester (Repeatable)</p>	<p>Theater History is open to both 7th & 8th grade students. Theater introduces students to the basics of acting, performing and technical theater. This course fosters creativity, confidence, and collaboration.</p>

	<p>Students taking this course focus on a specific subject related to theatre arts, such as: Shakespeare, Children’s Theatre, Directing, Arts Management, and other specialized areas of study. These activities should incorporate elements of theatre history, culture, analysis, response, creative process, and integrated studies. Additionally, students explore career opportunities in the theatre, attend and critique theatrical productions, and recognize the responsibilities and the importance of individual theatre patrons in their community.</p>
<p>Intro to Construction 1-2 HS Credit Course 1 Semester (Repeatable)</p>	<p>Intro to Construction is for 8th Grade students only. This course provides a foundational understanding of the construction industry, focusing on safety, basic skills, and career exploration, with hands-on activities and real-world experiences</p>
<p>Intro to Agriculture 1-2 HS Credit Course 1 Semester (Repeatable)</p>	<p>Introduction to Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources is a one or two semester course that is highly recommended as a prerequisite to and as a foundation for all other agricultural classes. Through hands-on learning activities, students are encouraged to investigate areas of agriculture. Students are introduced to the following areas of agriculture: animal science, plant and soil science, food science, horticultural science, agricultural business management, natural resources, agriculture power, structure, and technology, careers in agriculture, leadership, and supervised agricultural experience. An activity- and project-based approach is used along with team building to enhance the effectiveness of the student-learning activities.</p>
<p>Intro to Business 1 HS Credit Course 1 Semester</p>	<p>Introduction to Business introduces students to the world of business, including the concepts, functions, and skills required for meeting the challenges of operating a business in the twenty- first century on a local, national, and/or international scale. The course covers business management, entrepreneurship, marketing fundamentals, and</p>

8th Grade Student ELECTIVE Request Form:

First & Last Name:	
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DIRECTIONS: Please rank your top 4 choices in order of preference #1-4.

Students will complete this form and enter their requests in Skyward with assistance from our counseling team.

High School Credit Elective Courses	Duration	Rankings
Eaglet Manufacturing - (Engineering Essentials) *Application	Year Long 2 HS credits	
Theater History -	Circle one: Semester OR Year 1 or 2 HS credits	
Intro to Construction -	Circle one: Semester OR Year 1 or 2 HS credits	
Intro to Agriculture - <i>*Pending High School Approval</i>	Circle one: Semester OR Year 1 or 2 HS credits	
Intro to Business -	Semester 1 HS Credit	
Foundations of Computer Science -	Semester 1 HS Credit	
Intro 2D Art - *Application	Semester 1 HS Credit	
Advanced Health - (weight lifting) - Can be added in addition to your top 4 choices. EX. #5 <i>*All students will take a Health course, both Health 8 and Advanced Health earn 1 high school credit. Students are automatically enrolled in Health 8 unless they choose this elective.</i>	Semester 1 HS Credit	
Middle School Elective Courses	Duration	
Band - Instrumental Music 8	Year	
Choir - Vocal Music 8	Year	
Engineering 8	Semester	
Graphics & Media	Semester	
Visual Art 8	Semester	
Tech Window - *Application	Semester	
Physical Education - <i>All students will take 1 semester of PE. Students selecting an additional semester of PE will be enrolled in PE for the entire year. (Request on paper only - not in Skyward)</i>	Semester	

*If you took Math 7 Honors this year you will automatically be enrolled in Algebra 1 for 2 HS credits in 8th grade.

8th Grade Sample Student Schedule:

PERIOD	SEMESTER 1	SEMESTER 2
1	Language Arts 8	Language Arts 8
2	Social Studies 8	Social Studies 8
3	Science 8	Science 8
4	Mathematics 8 *or Algebra 1	Mathematics 8 *or Algebra 1
5	Physical Education 8	Health 8 *or Advanced Health
6	Elective	Elective
7	Elective	Elective