



# Burton Middle School

## 2023-2024 School Year Elective Description Form

\*Please mark your elective choices from 1-3 with #1 being the elective you want most and submit using the BMS Elective Request Google Form. You can also locate this form on CANVAS. (6th grade students please refer to your teacher for this form) **Students who do not complete a request form will be assigned an elective.**

Students have the option of taking a 0 period in order to have two electives. Zero period PE or Jazz Band begins at 7:15am and is granted on a first come first serve basis. Also, zero period can be taken away at any time if attendance, grades, or behavior becomes an issue. If the student is in an Enrichment class they will not be eligible for 0 period. **Parents' permission is required to attend 0 period.**

### **All Year Electives:**

***NOTE: Students elective options are ALL year-long electives. Students will be required to remain in their elective for the school year. Students will not be able to change electives during the semester due to limited space.***

### **Marching Band**

This course is for students who have played an instrument and are advanced in playing their instrument. Students must have a minimum of 2 years or more in playing their instrument. The main purpose is to train musicians in the playing and marching skills needed to produce a unit capable of performing music of the highest level. Participation in addition to assigned class hours (including travel) is required. An audition/recommendation is required. This is a performance based class.

### **Prep Band (Learn how to play)**

This course is designed for students who have little to no previous experience in band to learn an instrument and begin to prepare for performance level middle school music with the Burton Bulldog Marching Band. This group is intended as a 1-year class. This class is intended for incoming 7th graders. Students will also spend time developing music theory and aural training skills.

### **Auxiliary/ Color Guard**

***\*This class will count for PE credits - Students enrolled in this class do not have to take an additional PE course.***

The Burton Bulldog Auxiliary team is a group of amazing and talented students that lead the Bulldog Marching Band down the street. Students who are interested in flag, letter, or majorette positions are encouraged to try out in May for this selective group. During the first semester of school, the band auxiliary marches and performs with the school band. The second semester students work on dance technique, flexibility, and

aspects of performance. This is a performance based class.

### **Jazz Band**

Students audition for the Burton Jazz Band. The band performs around the community in addition to rehearsing at 7:15am each morning. This group plays more modern and popular music heard on the radio. **Students who are interested are required to take Marching Band or Prep Band as well.**

\_\_\_\_\_ I will take this class zero period @ 7:15 am for this to be my second elective.

### **Intro Spanish**

Students will learn the essential Spanish vocabulary and grammar, and develop the pronunciation, listening, reading, and writing skills necessary for basic communication and comprehension

### **Design & Robotics**

Learn to design and model creative and innovative solutions to real life problems. Use your skills and creativity to solve engineering problems with the VEX Robotics® platform as you explore mechanical systems such as windmills, pull toys. Then use your knowledge of gears systems to build complex automated machines to build a computer controlled car. Everything is challenge-by-choice so your engineering skills have no limits.

### **Advanced Design & Robotics(Prerequisite Intro to art or teacher recommendation)**

## **Digital Design/ Intro to Art** *(Student will change at Spring semester to either Art or Digital Design)*

### Digital Design

Students combine art and technology methods to create various forms of video and graphic art. They will use different artistic techniques, such as; digital photography, photo editing (Adobe Photoshop), animation, and video making, to create professional looking work. Students will conduct and present a research project on a career in this field and create a digital portfolio.

### Art

Students will also use basic art making skills, such as; drawing, painting, sculpture and print-making to create unique and creative artworks. They will participate in collaborative work in order to complete group projects that will be displayed on the school site and the school website. The students will also be able to participate in class discussions and art critiques about self and other student work.

and organization that are required during the period. Will be approved by the band teacher.

## **Video Production/Yearbook** (8th grd apply)

Students will have the opportunity to create weekly news broadcasts, video announcements, commercials, and documentaries. They will do so by learning basic pre-production, production, and post production techniques; including planning, storyboarding and video editing. **Interviews will be conducted and approved by Mr. Gonzalez prior to being admitted to the class.**

## **Photography** (7th grd only apply)

Students will have the opportunity to create weekly news broadcasts, video announcements, commercials, and documentaries. They will do so by learning basic pre-production, production, and post production techniques; including planning, storyboarding and video editing. **Interviews will be conducted and approved by Mr. Gonzalez prior to being admitted to the class.**

## **Beginning Drama: Introduction to Theatre**

This introductory class is designed to expose students to the process of creating theatre. Students will explore acting techniques such as voice projection and movement, and other theatrical elements. The course is a

general introduction to drama including acting skills, pantomime, improvisation, characterization, and blocking. Students in this class will be expected to participate in specific performances throughout the year.

## **Intermediate Drama** (Prerequisite: Beginning Drama or Recommendation from Drama Teacher)

Students will further develop their knowledge of dramatic scene structure, explore musical theatre, challenging two person and ensemble scenes, and focus on specific skill sets. This class incorporates more advanced acting exercises, techniques, scene work, and production projects that immerse students in the full theatre experience. Students in this class will be expected to participate in performances throughout the year.

## **Advanced Art** - (Prerequisite Intro to art or teacher recommendation)

## **Criminal Justice** (7th & 8th grd apply)

This class will introduce the most famous cases in history. We will discuss how these cases provided national attention, as we will investigate the practice of law and the process of when and why new laws were passed. Students will have an opportunity to participate in mock trial or argumentative and persuasive debates. Students will engage in forensic activities where we will learn how evidence is used during court cases. Students will also take advantage of our new digital system as we engage in fun activities by creating several crime scenes, developing ways to practice law, and work collaboratively to understand the importance of our justice system.

## **Set Design** (7th & 8th grd apply)

Students will engage in hands-on opportunities to explore set design such as backdrop painting and construction of set props as they relate to specific theater productions. Students will have the ability to design and create as they learn practical applications and specialized skills. Organizational and arts interest are needed for this leadership role which supports BMS & district theater productions through creativity, team effort, and problem-solving skills.

## **Theater Choreography (7th & 8th grd apply)**

*\*This class will count for PE credits - Students enrolled in this class do not have to take an additional PE course.*

Students will have the opportunity to perform and participate in both school and district wide events such as flash mobs and musical theatre productions. Students will help choreograph dances, be extras, and be involved in productions. All experienced levels from beginners to advanced are welcome. **No experience needed, just a love to move and dance!**

## **Speech & Debate (7th & 8th grd apply)**

Students will learn how to write, organize, prepare, and deliver quality public speeches. Students will study how to actively persuade, inspire, inform, and engage an audience through the art of public speaking. We will begin by studying the fundamentals of public communication. Students will also have the opportunity to participate in school and county debate competitions as well as prepare for the Amazing Shake experience at BMS where public speaking is a fundamental skill needed.

## **Creative Writing (8th grd only)**

Students in our creative writing course will explore various types of writing styles and have the ability to expand their own thoughts through the exploration of writing poetry, short stories, plays, children's books, autobiographies, novel structures and more. This course steps outside the box of traditional writing structures and explores how to bring writing into a personal art form.

## **Financial Literacy (7th & 8th may apply)**

Financial literacy will immerse students in real world learning and simulations. Students will learn about basic finances such as checking accounts, credit cards, how to save, how to invest, buying a home, and how to prepare and plan for a rainy day or long term retirement. This class will also bring in Dave Ramsey curriculum to

prepare students with financial understanding necessary in real world situations.

## **Office Aide (8th grd ONLY)**

Students must apply and complete the application through the schools website and interview for the position. The position requires a responsible individual who can answer phones appropriately, and willing to learn organizing skills, and run errands. Confidentiality of student/adult information is required, compromise of such information will lead to immediate termination of aide position and discipline consequences would be implemented. Interviews will occur prior to summer break. Year-Long position.

## **Media/Library Aide (8th grd Only)**

Students must apply and complete the application through the schools website and interview for the position. The position requires a responsible individual who can answer phones appropriately, and willing to learn organizing skills, and run errands. Confidentiality of student/adult information is required, compromise of such information will lead to immediate termination of aide position and discipline consequences would be implemented. Interviews will occur prior to summer break. Year- Long position.

## **Physical Education (P.E.) Aide (8th grd Only)**

This elective option is in addition to your normally scheduled PE class. Students in this position will be PE teachers selected/approved. Students will assist the PE teacher in activities and duties directly related to physical education at BMS.

## **Band Aide (8th grd Only)**

Students will be chosen to be responsible in supporting the band teacher and students with any errands, tasks, and organization that are required during the period. Will be approved by the band teacher.