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Academic Guide & Course Catalog 2027-2028

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Casey Burnside, Principal
Scott Carpino, Assistant Principal

Dear Students and Parents,

The Batesville Junior High School Course Catalog highlights the wide range of courses available to students in grades 6-8. Our goal is to provide students with expanded opportunities that support academic growth, career exploration, and long-term success.

This is an important stage for students to begin discovering their interests, strengths, and future possibilities. Through thoughtful course selection and intentional planning, students are encouraged to explore career pathways while building a strong academic foundation that prepares them for high school and beyond.

To further support this process, BJHS counselors meet with 7th- and 8th-grade students during designated planning times each spring. These meetings help students understand their options and make informed decisions aligned with their goals. During 8th grade, students also meet with Batesville High School counselors to develop a personalized four-year course plan, ensuring a smooth transition to high school and future readiness.

We hope this course catalog serves as a valuable tool as you plan for your student's future success. If you have any questions or would like additional guidance, please feel free to contact our counseling staff.

School Counselors

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Whitney Conyers

7th Grade students with last names K–Z and all 8th Grade students
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Sincerely,

Casey Burnside

Principal

Batesville Junior High School

Mission Statement

At BJHS, our mission is to empower students to develop meaningful connections, cultivate critical thinking abilities, and acquire essential learning skills.

Vision Statement

At BJHS, our vision is to create a collaborative community focused on common goals, prioritizing growth and lifelong learning.

BJHS Requirements

English	Full Year
Math	Full Year
Science	Full Year
Social Studies	Full Year
Fine Arts	1 Semester
Physical Education & Health	1 Semester
Career & Technical Education (CTE)	1 Semester

BJHS students are required to take four core classes (English, Math, Science, and Social Studies). In addition, students will select electives for three class periods from Physical Education, Fine Arts, and CTE. Students will be placed in an Advisory class as an intervention period.

The Batesville Junior High School Course Catalog may be updated as necessary to reflect changes or requirements issued by the Arkansas Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE).

BJHS Courses

Traditional Courses

Traditional courses at the BJHS provide a strong academic foundation in core subject areas, including English, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies. These courses focus on building essential skills, critical thinking, and responsible study habits. Students also take elective classes that prepare them for high school coursework and future success.

Honors Courses

Honors courses are offered to help students deepen and extend their learning. These courses require additional commitment and effort.

- Honors Math- 6th & 7th Grades
- Honors English- 6th & 7th Grades
- Honors Science- 6th & 7th Grades

Courses for High School Credit

To help students prepare for their futures, some courses for high school credit are offered at BJHS. Because these courses are rigorous and count toward high school graduation, they require significant commitment and effort.

- Algebra I
- English I
- Physical Science
- Intro. to Agriculture
- Intro. to Computer Science
- Intro. to Education

BJHSC Grading Scale

Grade	Grade Scale
A	90%-100%
B	80%-89%
C	70%-79%
D	60%-69%
F	59% and below

ENGLISH			
Course Name	Grade(s)	Duration	High School Credit
English	6th-8th	1 year	n/a
Honors English	6th-7th	1 year	n/a
English I	8th	1 year	1

English 6 – 366110

Full Year

In this course, 6th-grade students will read, write, and discuss different types of literature. Students will practice writing, use evidence from texts, and learn to identify themes and points of view. The course helps students become stronger readers, writers, and thinkers.

Honors English 6 – 366160

Full Year

This course is an accelerated course that challenges students through advanced reading, writing, grammar, research, and speaking skills. The course moves at a faster pace than traditional ELA, covers Grade 6 and part of Grade 7 standards, and prepares students for Pre-AP and AP coursework.

English 7 – 377110

Full Year

In this course, 7th-grade students will read, write, and discuss fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and current texts. They will practice writing well-organized, grammatically correct pieces and be graded on both the process and the final work.

Honors English 7 – 377160

Full Year

This course is an accelerated course that emphasizes advanced reading, writing, grammar, research, and public speaking skills. The course moves at a faster pace, covers part of Grade 7 and Grade 8 ELA standards, and prepares students for Pre-AP and AP coursework.

English 8 – 388110

Full Year

In this course, students read, write, and discuss a variety of texts. The course focuses on building critical thinking, clear writing, and confident speaking skills. Students will share their ideas in writing and discussion to meet state and national standards.

English I – 410000

Full Year

Students develop independence, strong content knowledge, and the ability to respond to different audiences, purposes, and disciplines. The course emphasizes reading and analyzing literature and literary nonfiction, effective writing, valuing evidence, using technology strategically, and understanding diverse perspectives and cultures.

MATHEMATICS

Course Name	Grade(s)	Duration	High School Credit
Math	6th-8th	1 year	n/a
Honors Math	6th-7th	1 year	n/a
Algebra I	8th	1 year	1

Math 6 – 366310

Full Year

6th-Grade math helps students build strong thinking skills by focusing on four main areas: working with positive and negative numbers, solving simple equations, using ratios and proportions, and solving area and volume problems.

Honors Math 6 – 366330

Full Year

This course is an accelerated course in which students will work with rational numbers, equations, statistics, and geometry, learning to solve real-world problems. The course emphasizes understanding math as a connected, logical subject. The course moves at a faster pace, covers Grade 6 and part of Grade 7 standards, and prepares students for Pre-AP and AP coursework.

Math 7 – 377310

Full Year

7th-grade math helps students build strong problem-solving and analytical skills. They will focus on proportional relationships, operations with rational numbers, expressions and equations, geometry, and using data to make conclusions. The course prepares students for higher-level math through real-world applications.

Honors Math 7 – 377330

Full Year

This course is an accelerated course in which students will study rational numbers, equations, statistics, and geometry while applying their learning to real-world problems. The course moves at a faster pace, covers part of Grade 7 and Grade 8 standards, and prepares students for Pre-AP and AP coursework.

Math 8 – 388310

Full Year

In 8th-grade math, students will focus on three main areas: working with equations and systems, understanding and using functions, and studying geometry with distance, angles, similarity, congruence, and the Pythagorean Theorem.

Algebra I – 430000

Full Year

Students extend their middle school understanding of linear concepts by exploring both linear and exponential relationships and drawing comparisons between the two. The course emphasizes applying mathematical models to data with linear trends and developing a foundation in analyzing, solving, and using quadratic functions.

SCIENCE

Course Name	Grade(s)	Duration
Science	6th-8th	1 year
Honors Science	6th-7th	1 year
Physical Science	8th	1 Year

Science 6 – 366210

Full Year

In this course, students will do hands-on labs and projects while learning to explore, discuss, and explain scientific ideas in Earth, Life, and Physical Science. The course builds skills in thinking, writing, and understanding science concepts.

Honors Science 6 – 366230

Full Year

This course is an accelerated course in which students will explore concepts through challenging labs, research, and critical-thinking activities. The course moves at a faster pace, covers Grade 6 and part of Grade 7 standards, and prepares students for Pre-AP and AP coursework.

Science 7 – 377210

Full Year

7th-Grade Integrated Science covers topics like matter, chemistry, energy in ecosystems, and Earth science, including the rock cycle and plate tectonics. Students learn through labs, discussions, writing, and technology, connecting science to real-world STEM activities.

Honors Science 7 – 377220

Full Year

This course is an accelerated course in which students will explore concepts in matter, chemistry, energy in ecosystems, and Earth science. Students do labs, discussions, writing, and independent research while connecting science to real-world STEM activities. The course moves at a faster pace, covers part of Grade 7 and Grade 8 standards, and prepares students for Pre-AP and AP coursework.

Science 8 – 388210

Full Year

8th-Grade Integrated Science covers space, Earth's history, energy, waves, forces, and life science topics like natural selection and reproduction. Students learn through labs, discussions, writing, and technology while building skills in critical thinking and scientific understanding.

Physical Science – 423000

Full Year

This course builds an understanding of atomic structure and chemical properties using the periodic table, chemical reactions, and energy changes. It also explores energy transfer, electromagnetic radiation, and the role of energy in matter cycling within organisms and ecosystems. Students examine Earth's systems, including natural hazards, resource use, and human environmental impact, while applying mathematical concepts and models.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Course Name	Grade(s)	Duration
Social Studies 6	6th	1 year
Social Studies with Arkansas History	7th & 8th	1 year

Social Studies 6 – 366710

Full Year

6th-Grade Social Studies covers ancient civilizations from the Stone Age through 1500. Students will learn about geography, culture, politics, economy, and society while building reading, writing, and critical thinking skills. They will use media, discussions, and activities to understand people, events, and their impact on history.

Social Studies with Arkansas History 7– 377230

Full Year

7th-Grade Social Studies builds on what students learned in earlier grades about civics, economics, geography, and history. Students will focus on U.S. History from the beginning through the Revolutionary Period while also connecting civics, economics, and geography to these events. They will practice more advanced social studies skills to better understand change over time and how history is interpreted.

Social Studies with Arkansas History 8 – 388230

Full Year

8th-grade Social Studies covers U.S. history from the Civil War through the 1930s, helping students understand cause-and-effect relationships and how social, political, economic, and geographic factors shape events. The course also includes civics, economics, and geography within each historical era. Arkansas History explores the state's history from prehistoric times to the present, connecting key people and events to broader U.S. history.

6TH GRADE ROTATING BLOCK

(Students rotate every 9 weeks)

Course Name	Grade(s)	Duration
Physical Education & Health	6th	9 Weeks
Career Awareness	6th	9 Weeks
Keycode	6th	9 Weeks
Visual Art	6th	9 Weeks

Physical Education & Health – 366600

7 Weeks

This course combines Physical Education and Health to promote active, healthy lifestyles. Students participate in team, individual, and lifetime sports while also learning skills and attitudes that support making healthy choices and positive everyday decisions.

Career Awareness – 356720

7 Weeks

This class focuses on career awareness through various standards and initiatives to prepare students for college and career readiness. These include developing self-awareness, understanding career information, decision-making skills, and planning for high school and beyond.

Keycode – 399320

7 Weeks

This course focuses on developing keyboarding skills and introducing basic computer programming concepts. Students learn touch typing, speed, accuracy, and proper equipment care. The course then extends to formulating algorithms, creating, analyzing, testing, and debugging computer programs to solve real-world problems using a text-based programming language.

Visual Art – 366510

7 Weeks

This course allows students to explore and demonstrate an understanding of the concepts, practices, and historical foundations in the visual arts. After taking this course, students should have a firm understanding of the elements of art and how to incorporate these basic visual symbols to create their works of art.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION & HEALTH

Course Name	Grade(s)	Duration
Physical Education	6th-8th	1 Year or 1 Semester
Health	6th-8th	1 Year or 1 Semester
Strength & Conditioning	6th	1 Year
Athletics	7th-8th	1 Year

Physical Education – 366600/377810/388810

Full Year or 1 Semester

PE focuses on healthy movement through activities like walking, running, basketball, and dodgeball. Activities may change with the season. 6th and 7th-grade students can take PE for a semester or all year.

Health & Safety – 366850/377850/388850

Full Year or 1 Semester

The purpose of this class is to develop attitudes and lifestyles that lead to good choices in everyday life. Subject matter can guide the day-to-day decision-making necessary for students of this age level.

6th Grade Strength & Conditioning – 36681S

Full Year

Strength & Conditioning teaches students the basics of fitness, exercise, and healthy movement. Students learn strength training, proper techniques, and how to build a foundation for lifelong health.

Athletics – 999821/999822/999813/999814

Full Year

Students who participate in basketball, football, and/or volleyball will have a class period during the school day—this course will meet their PE and Health requirement for the year. **NOTE: All athletes must have a current physical on file with the school.**

BJHS SPORTS

Football

Basketball

Volleyball

Cheer

Steppers

Baseball*

Softball*

Golf*

Soccer*

Track*

Cross Country*

***Sports that are not offered during the school day.**

NOTE: All athletes must have a current physical on file with the school.

VISUAL ARTS

Course Name	Grade(s)	Duration
Visual Art	6th-8th	1 Year or 1 Semester
Advanced Visual Art	7th-8th	1 Year or 1 Semester

Visual Art – 366510/377510/388510

Full Year or 1 Semester

Students learn to use the elements of art and principles of design to create original artwork. They will explore different materials and techniques, learn to express ideas through art, and critique their own and others' work. By the end of the year, students will create a portfolio showcasing their progress. The one-semester art course covers the same standards as a full-year course but in less depth.

Advanced Visual Art – 37751A/38851A

Full Year

Visual Art Honors is for motivated students who want to improve their artistic skills. Students will build on their art knowledge, explore different media and styles, and create original work inspired by artists and art movements. Creativity is key, and students are encouraged to show their own style. **Admission requires a portfolio with three diverse artworks and two teacher recommendation forms.**

THEATRE

Course Name	Grade(s)	Duration
Theatre	6th-8th	1 Year

Theatre – 366570/378700

Full Year

In this course, students explore acting, voice, movement, and character through games, improv, and performances. They learn teamwork, confidence, and the basics of costumes, props, and sets. This course is perfect for beginners and experienced performers alike

INSTRUMENTAL PERFORMANCE ARTS

Course Name	Grade(s)	Duration
Instrumental Ensemble Woodwind or Brass 1st Year Band	6th-8th	1 Year
Instrumental Ensemble 2nd Year Band	7th	1 Year
Instrumental Ensemble 2nd-3rd Year Band	8th	1 Year
Instrumental Ensemble Orchestra Introduction	6th-8th	1 Year
Instrumental Ensemble Orchestra 2nd Year	7th-8th	1 Year
Instrumental Ensemble Orchestra 2nd Year Honors	7th-8th	1 Year

Instrumental Ensemble 1st Year
Woodwind – 36654W/37754W/38854W
Brass – 36654B/37754B/38854B

Full Year
Full Year

Instrumental Ensemble 1st year course teaches basic skills for playing woodwind or brass instruments, including reading music, tone, breath control, and instrument care. This course builds a foundation for future band or music opportunities. There are two separate classes—woodwind or brass. Students will be placed based on the instructor's observation and the students' preferences.

Instrumental Ensemble 2nd Year – 377540

Full Year

This course is for second-year band students. They will perform several times throughout the year and may audition for All-Region Band. **Enrollment is open to students who were in 6th grade band or those approved by the band director.**

Instrumental Ensemble 2nd-3rd Year – 388540

Full Year

This course is for students completing their 2nd or 3rd year of band. It focuses on performance excellence with events like regional festivals, concerts, football games, and pep rallies. Students may also audition for All-Region Band and participate in solo or ensemble performances. **Prior band experience is required.**

Instrumental Ensemble Orchestra - Introduction – 36654s/37754i/38854i

Full Year

Instrumental Ensemble Orchestra Introduction is a multilevel approach to strings. The class accommodates those beginners who wish to learn a stringed instrument.

Instrumental Ensemble Orchestra - 2nd Year – 37754s/38854p

Full Year

This orchestra course is for young string players in their second year of performing with stringed instruments, building foundational skills, technique, and musicianship in a supportive setting.

Instrumental Ensemble Orchestra - 2nd Year Honors – 38854s

Full Year

Instrumental Ensemble Orchestra – 2nd Year Honors offers a multilevel string program, supporting beginners while providing performance opportunities for advanced players in All-Region and Honor Orchestra.

VOCAL PERFORMANCE ARTS

Course Name	Grade(s)	Duration
Vocal Ensemble	6th	1 Year
Men's Vocal Ensemble	7th-8th	1 Year
Women's Vocal Ensemble	7th-8th	1 Year

Vocal Ensemble – 366530

Full Year

Students will learn the techniques of vocal music and how to sing two- and three-part songs. All choir students will be required to participate in a winter and spring concert.

Men's Vocal Ensemble – 37753M/38853M

Full Year

This non-auditioned ensemble is open to all 7th-grade and 8th-grade boys. Students will develop vocal technique, build confidence, and perform music from a wide range of styles and cultures. Participation is required in the winter and spring concerts, the pre-assessment concert, and the Choral Performance Assessment.

Women's Vocal Ensemble – 37753G/38853G

Full Year

This non-auditioned ensemble is open to all 7th-grade and 8th-grade girls. Students will develop vocal technique, build confidence, and perform music from a wide range of styles and cultures. Participation is required in the winter and spring concerts, the pre-assessment concert, and the Choral Performance Assessment.

CTE COURSES

Leadership

Course Name	Grade(s)	Duration
Leadership & Service Learning	8th	1 Semester
Career Development	8th	1 Semester

Leadership & Service Learning – 399090

1 Semester

This course is only available to 8th graders. This course explores leadership and service through hands-on projects. Students build teamwork skills, learn different leadership styles, and make a positive impact on their community.

Career Development – 399287

1 Semester

In this course, students will explore career options through research, studying the personal skills, aptitudes, and employer expectations of various careers. Students will identify personal traits in their pursuit of finding a meaningful, fulfilling, and rewarding career. They will identify the values, aptitudes, and abilities necessary for workforce placement.

CTE COURSES

Business

Course Name	Grade(s)	Duration	High School Credit
Office Tech. Skills	6th	1 Semester	n/a
Business Innovations	7th-8th	1 Semester	n/a

Office Tech. Skills – 356880

1 Semester

This technology course is only available to 6th graders. This class builds essential tech skills for school and future careers, focusing on typing, computer basics, ethics, word processing, spreadsheets, and business communication.

Business Innovations – 378010

1 Semester

This technology course is for 7th & 8th graders. Business Innovations explores entrepreneurship and the U.S. business system, covering small business, technology, ethics, and the basics of management and regulations.

CTE COURSES

Technology

Course Name	Grade(s)	Duration	High School Credit
EAST	6th-8th	1 Year	n/a
Introduction to Computer Science	8th	1 Year	1
Computer Science Activity	6th-8th	1 Semester	n/a
Introduction to Journalism	7th-8th	1 Year	n/a

EAST – 366620/377620/388620

Full Year

EAST (Environmental and Spatial Technology) allows students to use teamwork and advanced technology, such as Computer-Aided Design, 3D design, Virtual Reality, or mapping tools, to solve real community problems. **Students are selected through an application process.**

Introduction to Computer Science – 465070

1 Semester

This technology course is only available for 8th graders. This class introduces coding and problem-solving through real-world projects. Students will learn to design, test, and debug programs while utilizing text-based programming languages to accomplish these tasks.

Computer Science Activity – 366650/377650/388650

1 Semester

This technology course is available for 6th, 7th & 8th grades. This course gives students a hands-on look into the digital world, exploring the basics of programming, web design, internet safety, and how data travels across the web.

Introduction to Journalism – 99910J

Full Year

This course explores the fundamentals of media, writing, and production. Students are exposed to journalistic writing, multimedia production, media literacy & ethics. Students develop skills in research, reporting, interviewing, and working under strict deadlines to prepare students to produce school-wide publications or media content and to understand the role of journalism in society.

CTE COURSES Agriculture			
Course Name	Grade(s)	Duration	High School Credit
Intro. to Agriculture	8th	1 Year	1

Introduction to Agriculture – 491150

1 Semester

A foundation course for all agriculture programs, covering FFA, leadership, animal and plant systems, agribusiness, biotechnology, natural resources, and more. **Placement requires a teacher recommendation.**

CTE COURSES Education			
Course Name	Grade(s)	Duration	High School Credit
Introduction to Education	8th	1 Year	1

Introduction to Education – 493240

1 Semester

A foundation course for students interested in teaching. It provides an overview of the teaching profession, child development, and classroom management strategies. Students explore the history of education, learning theories, and the roles of teachers. This course is part of the education pathway leading toward roles like paraprofessionals or future teachers.

ACADEMIC ADVISORY PERIOD

BJHS has incorporated a dedicated Academic Intervention/Enrichment period into the daily schedule. This period is designed to support students who have not yet reached proficiency on Arkansas state-mandated assessments in English, Math, Science, & Social Studies, as well as students who may be experiencing difficulty in these subjects. Targeted assistance is provided through small group instruction and focused skill reinforcement to help students master essential learning objectives.

In addition, this period offers enrichment opportunities for students who are performing at or above grade level and do not require intervention. The purpose of this time is to enhance each student's academic growth by providing tailored support or advanced learning experiences based on individual needs.

All students will be placed in an academic advisory period based on their needs.

CLUBS & ADDITIONAL EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Club meetings are scheduled as needed. Some clubs have pre-arranged meetings during lunch, or before/after school. Most clubs have a minimal membership fee. Clubs/activities with available sponsors will be offered. There will be a special time period announced for club sign-ups.

Advanced Art Club	8th Grade	Covington
Jr. Art Club	6th-8th Grades	Moser
Beta Club	8th Grade (Nomination Required)	Conyers
Book Club	6th-8th Grades	Greenfield
Chess Club	6th-8th Grades	McLean
Discovery Club	6th-8th Grades	Kennedy
FCA Fellowship of Christian Athletes	6th-8th Grades (not limited to athletes)	Sinele
Future Engineers	6th-8th Grades	Hollis
Gardening	6th-8th Grades	Velez
Library Helpers	6th-8th Grades	McLean
Quiz Bowl	7th & 8th Grades (includes 9th grade)	Wehrung
Student Council	6th-8th Grades (Members elected by peers)	Dodd
Theater	6th-8th Grades	Williams & Hall

BJHS STUDENT SUPPORT CONTACTS

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