

New Berlin

Junior High

Curriculum Guide

2026-2027

New Berlin Junior High School
300 E. Ellis St.
New Berlin, IL 62670
217-488-6012
Fax: 217-488-3107

This document is always available on the district website.

Table of contents

Title Page	1
Table Contents	2
Mission Statement	3
Promotion Requirements	3
Credit Recovery	3
Grading Scale	3
Testing	4
Response to Intervention	4
Course Offerings	5
English Language Arts	7
Mathematics	8
Life, Physical, and Earth/Space Sciences	8
Social Science & History	9
Physical, Health, and Safety Education	9
Academic Support	10
6th Grade Electives	11
7th Grade Electives	12
8th Grade Electives	13

Community Unit School District No. 16

Mission statement

The Mission of Community Unit School District #16, is to serve our communities by equipping students with the skills and tools needed to achieve their personal best and demonstrates Pretzel PRIDE– Perseverance, Respect, Integrity, Discipline, Empathy.

New Berlin Junior High Promotion Requirements

School board policy states that students must pass all of their academic classes to be promoted to the next grade level. Students must pass each core class (each semester) for the year to be promoted to the next grade. In the event a student fails a core academic subject, they have the opportunity for credit recovery.

All Subject Quarter Grades

6th Grade Quarter Calculations will be based on the following criteria:

100% - Total Points

7th Grade Quarter Calculations will be based on the following criteria:

95% - Total Points

5% - Final Test

8th Grade Quarter Calculations will be based on the following criteria:

90% - Total Points

10% - Final Test

Credit Recovery

Students may recover credits through an approved accredited program

The following expectations must be met:

- Students may be removed from Electives to makeup credits
 - Students must pass all core classes (every semester) to be promoted
- Summer school courses must be taken through an accredited program
- A student may take one credit (two courses) per summer
- A summer school course will only be allowed if the student previously failed the course at NBJH
- The student assumes responsibility for all fees
- The course will not count towards a student's GPA
- The building principal must approve the course in advance

Grading Scale

GRADING SCALE

The grade scale used in CUSD #16 Schools to determine final grades is as follows:

A	92-100	C	72-77
A-	90-91	C-	70-71
B+	88-89	D+	68-69
B	82-87	D	62-67
B-	80-81	D-	60-62
C+	78-79	F	0-59

Testing

A variety of testing is conducted at New Berlin Junior High. Chapter and unit tests are administered regularly in each academic subject. NBJH will begin doing semester finals for 7th and 8th grade students for the 25-26 school year to help students prepare better for high school. The following assessments are also required throughout the school year.

iReady - i-Ready is an online program for reading and mathematics that will help your student's teacher(s) determine your student's needs, personalize their learning, and monitor progress throughout the school year. i-Ready allows your teacher(s) to meet your student exactly where they are and provides data to increase your student's learning gains. i-Ready consists of two parts: Diagnostic and Personalized Instruction.

Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR) is the state required series of tests given to students in grades 3-8. There is a single testing period this year that will be open for 30 days and extend from when roughly 75% of the school year is complete to the 90% mark. Tests are given in the areas of English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics at all of these grade levels. All testing will be completed electronically via a computer. The results will show how well our schools and districts are doing in meeting the adopted Illinois Learning Standards, also known as the Common Core State Standards, for learning. Individual student results of the IAR assessment will be reported to parents, and school results will appear on the district report card.

Illinois Science Assessment (ISA) is aligned to the Illinois Learning Standards for Science incorporating the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), which were adopted in 2014. In compliance with federal testing requirements, this assessment will be administered to all students enrolled in a public school in grade 8. This assessment will be administered in an online format. Each test will begin with reading passages, called scenarios, and will be followed by a series of test items.

Response to Intervention (RtI)

RtI is the process of providing interventions to students who are at risk for academic and social-emotional/behavioral problems. The RtI process is a multi-step approach to providing services and interventions to students who struggle with learning and behavior in the school setting at increasing levels of intensity. All students are screened in reading fluency and comprehension, math, and science in the fall, winter and spring. In addition, students are screened for risk-factors related to social-emotional behaviors. All students who do not meet the set expectations on the screenings, or who are referred by their classroom teacher are given further testing to determine if they are in need of interventions. If interventions are needed, students will receive these interventions during the regular school day, and parents will be informed of the interventions being provided. The progress made by students at each stage of intervention is closely monitored. The information gained from an RTI process is used by school personnel and parents to adapt instruction and to make decisions regarding the student's educational program.

New Berlin Junior High offers intervention courses through **XL Savvas and Reading Plus**.. Reading Intervention and Math Intervention are **required** for students who are identified for this program. Students are encouraged to perform their best on standardized testing that includes, but is not limited to: IAR and iReady testing. Students who fail to meet grade-level benchmarks and/or are identified by teacher recommendation will be enrolled in this course.

Course Offerings

6 th Grade		
Subject	Length	Course Code
Language Arts	Year	Required
Math	Year	Required
Science	Year	Required
Social Studies	Year	Required
Physical Education	Year	Required
Advisory	Year	Elective
Personal Development	Quarter	Elective
Technology	Quarter	Elective
Makers	Quarter	Elective
Art Agriculture	Quarter	Elective
Art	Quarter	Possible Elective**
Study Skills	Quarter	Possible Elective**
Superheros	Quarter	Possible Elective**
Teen Issues	Quarter	Possible Elective**
Digital Citizenship	Quarter	Possible Elective**
FACS	Quarter	Possible Elective**
Elective	Quarter/Trimester	Elective**
Intervention	Variable	Required when identified
Band	Year	Elective*
Choir	Year	Elective*

Students enrolled in band and/or choir will not be enrolled in grade-level electives as the courses are at the same time.

Jr. High Electives, **whether quarter or trimester, are dependent on teacher availability which will ultimately be determined by the high school master schedule**

7 th Grade		
Subject	Length	Course Code
Language Arts	Year	Required
Math	Year	Required
Science	Year	Required
Social Studies	Year	Required
Physical Education	Year	Required
Advisory	Year	Elective
STEM	Quarter	Elective
Leadership	Quarter	Elective
Personal Fitness	Quarter	Elective
7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens	Quarter	Elective
Research	Quarter	Possible Elective**
Study Skills	Quarter	Possible Elective**
Engineering	Quarter	Possible Elective**
First Aid	Quarter	Possible Elective**
Makers	Quarter	Possible Elective**
Teen Issues	Quarter	Possible Elective**
Art	Quarter	Possible Elective**

FACS	Quarter	Possible Elective**
Elective	Quarter/Trimester	Elective**
Intervention	Variable	Required when identified
Band	Year	Elective*
Choir	Year	Elective*
Band/Choir Combo	Year	Elective*

*Students enrolled in band and/or choir will not be enrolled in grade-level electives as the courses are at the same time.

Jr. High Electives, **whether quarter or trimester, are dependent on teacher availability which will ultimately be determined by the high school master schedule**

8th Grade		
<u>Subject</u>	<u>Length</u>	<u>Course Code</u>
Language Arts	Year	Required
Math	Year	Required
Science	Year	Required
Social Studies	Year	Required
Physical Education (includes Health)	Year	Required
Advisory	Year	Elective
Agriculture	Quarter	Elective
Art	Quarter	Elective
Communications	Quarter	Elective
Career Exploration	Quarter	Elective
Conspiracy Theories	Quarter	Elective
Makers	Quarter	Possible Elective**
Second Step	Quarter	Possible Elective**
Research	Quarter	Possible Elective**
Publishing	Quarter	Possible Elective**
Music Appreciation	Quarter	Possible Elective**
Art	Quarter	Possible Elective**
FACS	Quarter	Possible Elective**
Elective	Quarter/Trimester	Elective**
Intervention	Variable	Required when identified
Band	Year	Elective*
Choir	Year	Elective*
Band/Choir Combo	Year	Elective*

*Students enrolled in band and/or choir will not be enrolled in grade-level electives as the courses are at the same time.

Jr. High Electives, **whether quarter or trimester are dependent on teacher availability which will ultimately be determined by the high school master schedule**

English Language Arts

6	Required	1	<p>6 ELA – Language Arts (grade 6) will build upon students’ prior knowledge of grammar, vocabulary (Wordly wise), word usage, and the mechanics of writing, and include the four aspects of language use: reading, writing, speaking, and listening. This course uses various genres of literature to improve reading skills, and they link writing exercises for different purposes to those reading selections. This course will be aligned with the ELA Common Core State Standards for grade 6.</p> <p>Unit 1: Childhood Unit 2: Animal Allies Unit 3: Modern Technology Unit 4: Imagination Unit 5: Exploration</p> <p>Vocabulary Basics by Townsend Press is the vocabulary curriculum. The online program, IXL, is used to supplement reading, writing and grammar skills</p>
7	Required	1	<p>7 ELA - Language Arts (grade 7) will build upon students’ prior knowledge of grammar, vocabulary (Wordly wise), word usage, and the mechanics of writing, and include the four aspects of language use: reading, writing, speaking, and listening. This course uses various genres of literature to improve reading skills, and they link writing exercises for different purposes to those reading selections. This course will be aligned with the ELA Common Core State Standards for grade 7.</p> <p>Unit 1: Generations Unit 2: A Starry Home Unit 3: Turning Points Unit 4: People and the Planet Unit 5: Facing Adversity</p> <p>Wordlywise Vocabulary Basics and Groundwork for a Better Vocabulary by Townsend Press are the vocabulary books. The online program, IXL, is used to supplement reading, writing and grammar skills.</p>
8	Required	1	<p>8 ELA - Language Arts (grade 8) will build upon students’ prior knowledge of grammar, vocabulary (Groundwork For a Better Vocabulary), word usage, and the mechanics of writing, and include the four aspects of language use: reading, writing, speaking, and listening. This course uses various genres of literature to improve reading skills, and they link writing exercises for different purposes to those reading selections. This course will be aligned with the ELA Common Core State Standards for grade 8.</p> <p>Unit 1: Rites of Passage Unit 2: The Holocaust Unit 3: What Matters Unit 4: Human Intelligence Unit 5: Invention</p> <p>Wordlywise Groundwork for a Better Vocabulary by Townsend Press is the vocabulary book. The online program, IXL, is used to supplement reading, writing and grammar skills.</p>

Mathematics

Grade	Type	Credit	Description
6	Required	1	6 Math – Mathematics (grade 6) will emphasize skills in numerical operations (including basic operations and their proper order); measurement; patterns; simple functions; geometry; and concepts of data analysis, including statistics and probability. This course will be aligned with the Common Core State Standards in Math for grade 6. Board approved curriculum, IXL and other programs will be used to reinforce and assess student mastery of skills.
7	Required	1	7 Math – Mathematics will emphasize proficiency in skills involving rational number operations, analyzing and using proportional relationships, analyzing and solving percent problems, generating equivalent expressions and solving problems using equations and inequalities, using sampling data to draw inferences about populations, probability and solving problems involving geometry. This course will be aligned with the Illinois State Standards in Math for grade 7. Board approved curriculum, Savvas enVision Mathematics, IXL and other programs will be used to reinforce and assess student mastery of skills.
8	Required	1	8 Math – Mathematics (grade 8) will emphasize proficiency in real numbers, analyzing and solving linear equations, using functions to model relationships, analyze and solve systems of equations, congruence and similarity, understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem, solving problems involving surface area and volume, and investigating bivariate data. This course will be aligned with the Illinois State Standards in Math for grade 8. Board approved curriculum, Savvas enVision Mathematics, IXL and other programs will be used to reinforce and assess student mastery of skills.
8	Optional	1	Algebra - Algebra 1 is a one year course of elementary algebra and prepares students for Geometry. Topics covered include the following: Solving Equations and Inequalities, Linear Functions, Linear Models, Systems of Linear Equations and Inequalities, Introduction to Nonlinear Functions, Exponents and Exponential Functions, Polynomials and Factoring, Quadratic Functions, Solving Quadratic Equations, Radical Functions, and Statistics. (This course would earn high school Math credit - student has to qualify for course)

Life, Physical, & Earth/Space Sciences

Grade	Type	Credit	Description
6	Required	1	6 Science - Science (grade 6) will include subject matter from earth/space sciences, and may organize material around thematic units. This course will align to the Next Generation Science Standards for grade 6.
7	Required	1	7 Science – Science (grade 7) will build on previous years of scientific inquiry and will include subject matter from life or environmental sciences, and may organize material around thematic units. This course will align to the Next Generation Science Standards for grade 7.
8	Required	1	8 Science – Science (grade 8) will build on subject matter from physical sciences, and may organize material around thematic units. This course will align to the Next Generation Science Standards for grade 8.

Social Science & History

Grade	Type	Credit	Description
6	Required	1	6 Social Studies – Social Studies (grade 6) will provide a greater understanding of social studies disciplines, including history, geography, civics and government, and economics. This course will focus on the history, culture, and government of ancient civilizations: Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greece, China, Rome, and Early Europe.
7	Required	1	7 Social Studies - Social Studies comprises an overview of world geography. Topics will include the physical environment, the political landscape, the relationship between people and the land, economic production and development, and the movement of people, goods, and ideas.
8	Required	1	8 Social Studies – 8 Social Studies is primarily an overview of the history of the United States, concentrating on the period of time from our founding fathers to the present era.. This course will include a historical overview of political, military, scientific, and social development. This course will also include three units on U.S. and Illinois civics, and one unit on economics.

Physical, Health, & Safety Education

Grade	Type	Credit	Description
6	Required	1	Physical Education – Physical Education (grade 6) will involve the acquisition of knowledge and skills that provide the foundation for sport, a physically active lifestyle, and social development through physical activity. Activities include those that increase strength, endurance, and flexibility; reinforce safe technique; teach the rules and conventions of games and sports; and explore the relationship between physical activity and health.
7	Required	1	Physical Education – Physical Education (grade 7) will involve the acquisition of knowledge and skills that provide the foundation for sport, a physically active lifestyle, and social development through physical activity. Activities typically include those that increase strength, endurance, and flexibility; reinforce safe technique; teach the rules and conventions of games and sports; and explore the relationship between physical activity and health.
8	Required	1	Physical Education/Health – Physical Education (grade 8) will involve the acquisition of knowledge and skills that provide the foundation for sport, a physically active lifestyle, and social development through physical activity. Activities include those that increase strength, endurance, and flexibility; reinforce safe technique; teach the rules and conventions of games and sports; and explore the relationship between physical activity and health. Health topics (such as the effects of drugs and alcohol, sexual education, and healthy lifestyles) will also be included.
6-8	Per IEP	1	Adapted Physical Education - This course provides physical education activities (sports, fitness, and conditioning) adapted for students with special needs.

Academic Support

Grade	Type	Credit	Description
6-7-8	Elective	Year	Advisory – Study skills will prepare students for success in high school and/or postsecondary education. Course topics will vary according to the student involved, but typically include reading improvement skills, such as scanning, note-taking, and outlining; library and research; listening and note-taking; vocabulary skills; and test-taking skills. This course will also include exercises designed to generate organized, logical thinking and writing.
6-7-8	Elective		Intervention - This course is intended to improve a student’s vocabulary, critical-thinking and analysis skills, or reading rate and comprehension level. This course is designed to be taken in addition to or in coordination with other mathematics courses, providing instruction to assist students in acquiring mathematical skills so that students attain necessary grade-level skills or to reach desired competency skills. **Reading and math interventions will be scheduled using testing data and will affect course requests**

Reading Intervention is **required** for students who are identified for this program. Students are encouraged to perform their best on standardized testing that includes, but is not limited to: IAR, iReady, and other testing. Students who fail to meet grade-level benchmarks and/or are identified by teacher recommendation will be enrolled in this course. This may affect course requests.

Math Intervention is **required** for students who are identified for this program. Students are encouraged to perform their best on standardized testing that includes, but is not limited to: IAR, iReady, and other testing. Students who fail to meet grade-level benchmarks and/or are identified by teacher recommendation will be enrolled in this course. This may affect course requests.

General education math uses a variety of programs to assist students in mastering grade level skills. Some of these programs include, but are not limited to, Khan Academy, IXL, and Prodigy.

6th Grade Elective Options

Grade	Type	Credit	Description
6	Elective	1	Band – Band is a full-year course offered to grades 6-8. This course will develop students' technique for playing brass, woodwind, and percussion instruments and cover a variety of band literature styles. Basic music history and theory will also be covered through preparing repertoire. Previous participation in band is required (exceptions may be made at the discretion of the director). Band is co-curricular; Students are required to attend multiple after-school performances for a grade.
6	Elective	1	Choir - Choir is a full year course offered to grades 6-8. The primary objective of choir is the development of an individual's ability to sing. No previous musical experience is required. Through the study of proper vocal technique, basic music theory, and performance of various styles of repertoire, students will develop skills necessary to perform choral literature in an ensemble setting. Participation in this class requires attending performances outside of the normal school day.
6	Elective	.25/.33	Makers – Students will explore a multifaceted approach to making during this class. They will have the opportunity to interact with hands-on activities as they create a variety of make and take crafts. They will work in small collaborative groups to solve engineering type problems, learn about the engineering process and its real world applications. They will utilize computer coding to develop a series of original stories and explore the world of computer science. STEM ideals such as persistence, collaboration, and creativity will be discussed and practiced throughout the course.
6	Elective	.25/.33	Agriculture -Agriculture is a survey of a wide array of topics within the agricultural industry, exposing students to the many and varied types of agriculture and career opportunities and those in related fields. These courses serve to introduce students to the agricultural field, providing them an opportunity to identify an area for continued study or to determine that their interest lies elsewhere. These courses often focus on developing communication skills, scientific research, types of business ownership, business principles, and leadership skills.
6	Elective	.25/.33	Art —Promote an appreciation for the visual arts while teaching the principles of organization—balance, rhythm, variety, harmony and emphasis—in direct relationship with the elements of design—line, shape, value, color and texture. Students will receive instruction in an array of art techniques. A wide variety of materials will be used to encourage creativity and experimentation with techniques.
6	Elective	.25/.33	Technology —Students will be introduced to various basic computer skills including: keyboarding skills, Google Apps for Education. Students will use appropriate technology skills to conduct research and complete core curriculum. Legal, social, and ethical issues related to the use of computers in daily life will be reinforced.
6	Elective	.25/.33	Personal Development —Personal development will emphasize strengthening self-esteem, recognizing and resisting negative peer pressure, and developing coping skills for dealing with changes within one's self and within others. This course will also have a substance abuse prevention component.
6	Elective	.25/.33	Study Skills - designed to help students build the foundational habits, strategies, and organizational skills necessary for success in middle school and beyond. This course focuses on developing executive functioning skills such as time management, goal setting, organization, note-taking, test preparation, and effective learning strategies.

*Students enrolled in band and/or chorus will not be enrolled in grade-level electives as the courses are at the same time.

Electives will be **assigned** as courses.

7th Grade Elective Options

Grade	Type	Credit	Description
7	Elective	1	Band – Band is a full-year course offered to grades 6-8. This course will develop students' technique for playing brass, woodwind, and percussion instruments and cover a variety of band literature styles. Basic music history and theory will also be covered through preparing repertoire. Previous participation in band is required (exceptions may be made at the discretion of the director). Band is co-curricular; Students are required to attend multiple after-school performances for a grade.
7	Elective	1	Choir - Choir is a full year course offered to grades 6-8. The primary objective of choir is the development of an individual's ability to sing. No previous musical experience is required. Through the study of proper vocal technique, basic music theory, and performance of various styles of repertoire, students will develop skills necessary to perform choral literature in an ensemble setting. Participation in this class requires attending performances outside of the normal school day.
7	Elective	.25/.33	STEM – (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) STEM is an approach to learning that students will take thoughtful risks, engage in hands-on learning, persist in problem solving, embrace collaboration, and work through the creative process.
7	Elective	.25/.33	Leadership— Leadership courses are designed to strengthen students' personal and group leadership skills. This course may cover such topics as public speaking, effective communication, human relations, parliamentary law and procedures, organization and management, and group dynamics.
7	Elective	.25/.33	7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens— 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens unit is from the book of the same name by Sean Covey. This unit gives each student an opportunity to evaluate how he/she makes choices everyday. Each student can develop a mission statement, see how decisions can affect each of them today as well as tomorrow.
7	Elective	.25/.33	Personal Fitness – This course will focus on promoting healthy lifestyles while combining diet and exercise with the focus on students creating a personalized plan that is appropriate for a 10-15 year old.
7	Elective	.25/.33	Technology – Students will be introduced to various basic computer skills including: keyboarding skills, Google Apps for Education. Students will use appropriate technology skills to conduct research and complete core curriculum. Legal, social, and ethical issues related to the use of computers in daily life will be reinforced.

*Students enrolled in band and/or chorus will not be enrolled in grade-level electives as the courses are at the same time.

Electives will be **assigned** as courses.

8th Grade Elective Options

Grade	Type	Credit	Description
8	Elective	1	Band – Band is a full-year course offered to grades 6-8. This course will develop students' technique for playing brass, woodwind, and percussion instruments and cover a variety of band literature styles. Basic music history and theory will also be covered through preparing repertoire. Previous participation in band is required (exceptions may be made at the discretion of the director). Band is co-curricular; Students are required to attend multiple after-school performances for a grade.
8	Elective	1	Choir - Choir is a full year course offered to grades 6-8. The primary objective of choir is the development of an individual's ability to sing. No previous musical experience is required.

			Through the study of proper vocal technique, basic music theory, and performance of various styles of repertoire, students will develop skills necessary to perform choral literature in an ensemble setting. Participation in this class requires attending performances outside of the normal school day.
8	Elective	.25/.33	Agriculture —Agriculture is a survey of a wide array of topics within the agricultural industry, exposing students to the many and varied types of agriculture and career opportunities and those in related fields. These courses serve to introduce students to the agricultural field, providing them an opportunity to identify an area for continued study or to determine that their interest lies elsewhere. These courses often focus on developing communication skills, scientific research, types of business ownership, business principles, and leadership skills.
8	Elective	.25/.33	Art—Promote an appreciation for the visual arts while teaching the principles of organization—balance, rhythm, variety, harmony and emphasis—in direct relationship with the elements of design—line, shape, value, color and texture. Students will receive instruction in an array of art techniques. A wide variety of materials will be used to encourage creativity and experimentation with techniques.
8	Elective	.25/.33	Career Exploration — This course will assist students to make informed decisions about their future academic and occupational goals. Students will also learn how to assess their own skills and interests, explore industry clusters and pathways, and develop plans for career and academic development.
8	Elective	.25/.33	Communications —This elective aims to prepare students for as many communication situations as possible by teaching oral presentation and cooperation skills. Students will prepare and deliver a series of oral presentations, participate in collaborative discussions aimed at strengthening cooperation skills, and perform dramatic skits to a live audience. We approach communication with great respect and dignity for the human person. We communicate with others in a positive manner, with clear purpose and to the best of our ability. The NBJH Communications elective gives students the opportunity to become proficient and confident communicators - and they have fun doing it!
8	Elective	.25	Conspiracy Theories— This course will cover conspiracy theories detailing multiple viewpoints and may cover: JFK assassination, Moon Landing, MLK assassination, 9/11, Area 51, Roswell UFO crash, New World Order, The Pyramids and Other Ancient Structures, Freemasonry, Pearl Harbor, and the Gulf of Tonkin Attack before Vietnam.

*Students enrolled in band and/or chorus will not be enrolled in grade-level electives as the courses are at the same time.

Electives will be **assigned** as courses.

Updated: 1.16.2026