



# Course Description Guide

## 7th Grade

(Revised 2/28/22)

It is the policy of Brenham ISD not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, or handicap in its vocational programs, services or activities as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.



# Brenham

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT EST. 1875

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to Brenham Junior High School. Our goal is for each student to be successful in their academic studies as well as their extra-curricular activities. This course selection guide is designed to help you and your child choose the best academic path for junior high and also to enable them to begin preparing for Brenham High School.

Our faculty and staff are available to help you and your child in any way possible. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

# PUBLIC EDUCATION IN TEXAS CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS

The direction for public education in Texas is driven by the legislature and is delegated to the State Board of Education as the chief governing body of public schools in Texas.

The philosophy of the State Board of Education established the framework for the goals of public-school education. Public education is responsible for providing each student with the opportunity for development of knowledge, skills, and competencies that every student should possess to be a self-supporting, self-governing, and contributing member of society. A primary purpose of the curriculum must also be to prepare thoughtful, active citizens who understand the importance of patriotism, can function productively in a free enterprise society, and appreciate the basic democratic values of our national heritage.

## CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS

Our Junior High provides a multiple period day for instruction, and most students will enroll in eight classes. Course requirements mandated by the Texas Education Agency require students to enroll in English, Math, Science, and Social Studies. Elective Classes have the following requirements:

- Students in grade 7 are required to take 1 Physical Education credit.
- Students in grade 7 are required to take 1 Fine Arts credit.
- BISD Students in grade 7 are required to take Leadworthy and Coding.
- Students in grade 7 will choose 1 additional elective

## GRADING

*The state grading scale is as follows:*

90 - 100	A
80 - 89	B
70 - 79	C
69 - below	F

## PROMOTION POLICY

In grades 2-8, promotion to the next grade level shall be based on an overall average of 70 on a scale of 100 based on course-level, grade-level standards (essential knowledge and skills) for all **core** subject areas and a grade of 70 or above in reading/language arts and mathematics.

The parent or guardian of each student who has not successfully completed a subject or course for the year shall be notified by the district as soon as practical of any summer program available in the district that may permit the student to successfully complete the failed subjects or courses.

## **ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

A student may participate in extracurricular activities by having a passing grade of 70 in ALL subjects and by meeting the other requirements set by local and state policy.

## **SPECIAL EDUCATION**

Students with disabilities may be eligible for and need special education services. BISD offers a wide range of instructional options for students with disabilities through services designed to meet unique education needs. These instructional options range from placement in the general education classroom with support services to placement in specialized classes. Students with disabilities may also be eligible for and need certain related services that may be necessary for the student to benefit from special education instruction.

An ARD Committee that includes the student, parents, administrators, counselors, teachers, and special education personnel makes all special education programming decisions for individual students.

## **ALTERNATIVE SELECTIONS – ELECTIVES**

Students must select alternate selections in order to ensure a complete schedule. Every attempt will be made to honor students' first choices; but due to physical limitations, maximum class sizes may need to be imposed.

## **CREDIT BY EXAM WITHOUT PRIOR INSTRUCTION**

Students wanting information regarding credit by exam without prior instruction should contact the counseling office. Students may not use credit by exams to gain credit when credit has been denied for excessive absences or when a student has received prior instruction over the material tested. Please Note: *CREDIT BY EXAM DATES for the 2022-2023 school year will be announced on the BISD website.*

## **THE STATE OF TEXAS ASSESSMENTS OF ACADEMIC READINESS (STAAR)**

The STAAR program includes annual assessments for grades 3–8 in reading language arts and mathematics; in science at grades 5 and 8; and in social studies at grade 8; and end-of-course assessment for Algebra I.

Districts are required to provide acceleration to any student who fails a STAAR assessment, whether in grades 3-8 or high school. Students may be placed in a Math and/or Reading Lab Course in order to fulfill the state requirements, if they do not complete acceleration in summer school.

## **ADVANCED CLASSES**

Brenham ISD acknowledges that student participation in advanced coursework is valuable. BISD encourages all willing and/or academically prepared students to participate in advanced courses. Advanced courses are designed to prepare students for college-level courses, like AP and Dual Credit, in high school. Participation in advanced courses is a foundation of college readiness. Students who participate in AP coursework are more likely to complete a bachelor's degree in college and typically have higher college GPAs.

### **Choosing Advanced Academics:**

Advanced courses in Brenham Independent School District are designed to challenge students beyond level coursework. Indicators for success in advanced coursework are located below each course description as recommended placement criteria. While we expect students to be successful in all advanced coursework, a close look at the student's total course load and commitment to other activities should also be considered when choosing how many advanced courses to take. For some students, the best path is to start by enrolling in one advanced course, so that they better understand the expectation of advanced coursework. The decision to enroll in advanced classes ultimately rests with the parents and the students.

Students who are willing and/or academically prepared may consider enrolling in the following classes:

- Advanced English Language Arts
- Advanced Math
- Advanced Science
- Advanced Texas History

## **SCHEDULE CHANGES**

The master schedule is based on the courses requested by students. After selecting required courses, students should choose electives and alternates carefully. Those decisions are binding. Schedules are determined by course selections; therefore, schedule changes will only be made if:

- Student scheduled for a class for which he/she already has credit
- Student is scheduled into a class for which the student does not have prerequisite
- Student not enrolled in an audition course for which they were approved
- Balancing of class size
- Student has an incomplete schedule
- Student is cut from any extracurricular program within the deadline
- ARD/504 Committee decision
- Student must have a Fine Art credit
- Student must have a PE credit
- Students must be enrolled in a Math/Reading Lab course

The following requests will not be approved:

- Requests for a teacher change
- Requests for a lunch change
- Requests to drop a course after the drop deadline
- Requests for a class period change

Procedures to request a schedule change:

Students must complete and turn in the Schedule Change Request Form, which is available in the counseling office, no later than 10 days after the first day of school. Until your concern is addressed, YOU MUST FOLLOW YOUR CURRENT SCHEDULE. No student is to leave a class for a schedule concern unless sent for by a counselor. Requests that are NOT turned in by the deadline stated on the form will not be honored.

## **HOW TO HANDLE A TEACHER CONCERN**

Students or parents who have a teacher concern should first contact the appropriate staff member. The most direct route to resolving a concern is to confer directly with the person involved, whether it be a teacher, coach, or sponsor, etc. Over 95% of concerns are handled at this level. If the outcome of the discussion is not satisfactory, they should request a conference with their child's assistant principal. Please note that the previous steps cannot be scheduled on the same day in order to ensure that adequate time is available for the assistant principal to obtain relative information from the student and teacher in question. If not satisfied at that level, they can request a conference with the principal or designee.

## **BJHS NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY**

National Honor Society (NHS) and National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) are more than just an honor roll. Each Honor Society chapter establishes rules for membership that are based upon a student's outstanding performance in the areas of Scholarship, Service, Leadership and Character (plus Citizenship for NJHS). These criteria for selection form the foundation upon which the organization and its activities are built.

NJHS is an honor earned by 7th graders. Based on characteristics below, students will be asked to fill out and submit an application in the spring semester of their 7th grade year. Selected students will then be inducted and serve as members of the NJHS as an 8th grader.

- **Scholarship** - Students who have a cumulative grade point average of 95 in their core subjects (Math, Reading, Language Arts, Science and History) through the end of the 4th 6-weeks meet the scholarship requirement for membership in NJHS. These students are then eligible for consideration on the basis of service, leadership and character (and citizenship for NJHS).
- **Service** - This quality is defined through the voluntary contributions made by a student to the school or community done without compensation and with a positive, courteous and enthusiastic spirit.
- **Leadership** - Student leaders are those who are resourceful, good problem solvers, promoters of school activities, idea contributors, dependable and persons who

exemplify positive attitudes about life. Leadership experiences can be drawn from school or community activities while working with or for others.

- **Character** - The student of good character upholds principles of morality and ethics, is cooperative, demonstrates high standards of honesty and reliability, shows courtesy, concern and respect for others and generally maintains a good and clean lifestyle.
- **Citizenship** - The student who demonstrates citizenship understands the importance of civic involvement, has a high regard for freedom, justice and democracy and demonstrates mature participation and responsibility through involvement with such activities as scouting, community organizations and school clubs.

***Students will not be allowed in the program if they have discipline referrals resulting in ISS, DAEP or Out of School Suspension or if conduct grades reflect an N or a U.***

## **ACADEMIC COURSES**

### **ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS**

#### **7TH GRADE ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS**

Seventh grade English Language Arts will integrate the elements of literature, rhetoric, and the writing and research processes. Communication skills such as listening, speaking, and reading will also be emphasized. Instruction covers all 7<sup>th</sup> grade Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills – developing skills and concepts for the depth of understanding.

#### **7TH GRADE ADV. ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS**

In addition to having a considerably faster pace than the level seventh grade English Language Arts curriculum, a greater variety of literature and writing assignments will be implemented in the accelerated classes. The expectations of the teacher and demands on the students are much greater. Research projects, oral presentations, self-initiated learning, and critical thinking are required. Instruction covers all 7<sup>th</sup> grade Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills – developing skills and concepts for the depth of understanding.

***The recommended requirements for 7<sup>th</sup> grade Adv. English Language Arts could be but are not limited to:***

- Identified as a Gifted/Talented student
- 85 course average (or higher) in 6<sup>th</sup> grade Language Arts
- Masters Level on STAAR Reading
- MAP scores reflect Meets or Masters in reading

## **MATH**

### **7TH GRADE MATHEMATICS**

Seventh grade mathematics is one step in the sequential organization of the mathematics program. This course provides students with a transitional stage in their math journey that is crucial to their success in Algebra and beyond. Instruction covers all 7<sup>th</sup> grade Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills – developing skills and concepts for the depth of understanding. It includes rich problem-solving that requires students to think critically and make important math connections.

### **7TH GRADE PRE-ALGEBRA**

Pre-Algebra is one step in the sequential organization of the mathematics program designed to prepare students for Algebra I. Students must understand concepts, know basic facts, and efficiently use computational skills, to select and apply appropriate problem-solving strategies. The Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills of eighth grade mathematics will be addressed in the class. Students are expected to be mature enough to handle a rigorous and fast paced schedule of class activities including homework assignments and various enrichment projects.

***The recommended requirements for 7<sup>th</sup> grade Pre-Algebra could be but are not limited to:***

- Identified as a Gifted/Talented student
- 90 course average (or higher) in 6<sup>th</sup> grade Math
- Masters Level on STAAR Math
- MAP scores reflect Meets or Masters in Math

## **SCIENCE**

### **7TH GRADE SCIENCE**

This course includes the study of scientific process, cell structure and function, plant processes, genetics, human body systems, ecosystems, conservation of resources, animal adaptations, catastrophic events, and the use of dichotomous keys to identify organisms. A major emphasis is placed on lab skills and the use of Scientific Methodology. Instruction covers all 7<sup>th</sup> grade Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills – developing skills and concepts for the depth of understanding.



## **7TH GRADE ADV. SCIENCE**

This course involves the same content as seventh grade science. Concepts are extended through rigorous and extensive academic and lab activities. This is a project/research-based class with the involvement of independent study assignments. **Major projects are a core part of this class.** Instruction covers all 7<sup>th</sup> grade Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills – developing skills and concepts for the depth of understanding.

***The recommended requirements for 7<sup>th</sup> grade Adv. Science could be but are not limited to:***

- Identified as a Gifted/Talented student
- 85 course average (or higher) in 6<sup>th</sup> grade
- MAP Scores reflect Meets or Masters in Reading and Math

## **HISTORY**

### **7TH GRADE TEXAS HISTORY/GEOGRAPHY**

This course focuses on a survey of Texas history from prehistoric times to the twenty-first century and stresses geography and the relationship between man and his environment. Emphasis is placed on individuals who have contributed to the development of Texas. The development and structure of Texas government are studied along with the responsibilities of good citizenship. Instruction covers all 7<sup>th</sup> grade Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills – developing skills and concepts for the depth of understanding.

### **7TH GRADE ADV. TEXAS HISTORY/GEOGRAPHY**

This advanced course, designed for students who exhibit high performance across the various academic subject areas, includes the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for the regular seventh grade Texas History/Geography course, but in greater depth and complexity. Independent and/or whole class reading assignments, with emphasis on analyzing historical documents will also be assigned. ***Note: All enrolled students must participate in the History Fair.***

***The recommended requirements for 7<sup>th</sup> grade Adv. Texas History could be but are not limited to:***

- Identified as a Gifted/Talented student
- 85 course average (or higher) in 6<sup>th</sup> grade Reading and Social Studies
- MAP Scores reflect Meets or Masters in Reading

## OTHER REQUIRED COURSES

### **CITIZENSHIP REQUIREMENT: (LEADWORTHY/CODING)**

In an effort to help build the skills that our students need to be productive citizens in the global community, we are requiring all 7th grade students to take a semester course in character education and leadership development called, Leadworthy. This class focuses on building self confidence and interpersonal skills necessary to be successful in life. During the opposite semester, students will take an introductory computer coding class. This course will give them a basic understanding of computer science in order to broaden your child's view of the real world, and develop their creativity, critical thinking, and problem solving skills. **You do not need to register for these classes; your student will automatically be enrolled.**

### **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

**Students are required to have a Physical Education credit. Students are only allowed to take 1 Physical education class per year. Students can be in one athletic period and participate in a second sport after school OR they can take a semester of one and a semester of the other. Choose ONE of the following:**

#### **7TH GRADE PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

Each student ***must*** dress out and participate in daily activities. Students will need to provide their own workout clothes. Activities include basketball, football, volleyball, fitness activities, ultimate running, jumping rope and other activities as equipment is available. A student's grade is based upon participation and dressing out.

#### **BOYS ATHLETICS**

All students interested in football, basketball, and track are allowed to participate as long as they remain academically eligible and follow athletic policies. Practice times are before and/or after school and during the scheduled class period. Students will be provided practice clothes and uniforms for games. Students will be provided a locker to store and protect their clothing and valuables. Students will be responsible for providing their own locks. Each athlete must participate in at least one sport and must have a **physical prior to entering competition. Students must also complete Rank 1 on the computer.** This course will satisfy the PE requirement.

#### **GIRLS ATHLETICS**

All students interested in volleyball, basketball, and track are allowed to participate as long as they remain academically eligible and follow athletic policies. Practice times are before and/or after school and during the scheduled class period. Students will be provided practice clothes and uniforms for games. Students will be provided a locker to

store and protect their clothing and valuables. Students will be responsible for providing their own locks. Each athlete must participate in at least one sport and must have a **physical prior to entering competition. Students must also complete Rank 1 on the computer.** This course will satisfy the PE requirement.

## TENNIS

Students will learn about the game of tennis, how to play and how to keep score. Dressing out in athletic clothes, bringing your tennis racket and participating every day is mandatory. Competitive play is not required. After school practices and competition with schools in our area begin during the Spring Semester. The majority of a student's grade is based on participation and dressing out. Uniforms are provided for competition. Students will need to provide their own workout clothes, tennis racket and lock for a dressing room locker. **Each student must have a physical on file and complete Rank 1 on the computer.** This course will satisfy the PE requirement.

## CROSS COUNTRY

Dressing out in athletic clothes and daily participation is mandatory. Students will begin endurance training beginning the first week of school, building up to 3 - 4 miles by November/December. Students will race in 4 or 5 meets (held on Saturdays) in the Fall. Each race is 2 miles. Uniforms are provided for competitions. **Each student must have a physical on file and complete Rank 1 on the computer.**

During the track season in the Spring, students may choose the event they wish to train for and compete in. They will compete in 4 or 5 meets in the Spring (held on Fridays or Saturdays). The majority of a student's grade is based on participation and dressing out. **Each student must have a physical on file and complete Rank 1 on the computer.** This course will satisfy the PE requirement.

## SWIMMING

This class will teach the skills and techniques designed to prepare athletes to swim on the BHS level. Practices will be before and/or after school. (Swimsuits and goggles MUST be purchased by the swimmers.) Some meets will be held during the Spring. **Each student must have a physical on file and complete Rank 1 on the computer prior to the start of the school year.** This course will satisfy the PE requirement.

## GOLF

This class will focus on the fundamentals of golf. Travel to the golf course on specified days will need to be provided by parents and new player tryouts will be required the 1st week in August. There will also be a \$50 course fee to cover the cost of golf shirts and hats. **Each student must have a physical on file and complete Rank 1 on the computer prior to the start of the school year.** This course will satisfy the PE requirement.

## OTHER REQUIRED COURSES CONT.

### **FINE ARTS**

Students are required to have a Fine Arts credit during their 7th grade year. Please choose at least ONE, but no more than TWO of the following:

**BEGINNING ART** (This is a semester course taken in conjunction with Beginning Theater Arts; THE TWO SEMESTERS COUNT AS 1 FULL YEAR.)

The semester is filled with projects that reflect the study of the elements of design: line, color, shape, space, value, texture and form. Students will draw, paint, print and sculpt. They will also read about great artists. Students will enter various art contests such as the Washington County Fair, the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, and other community art contests. At the end of the semester, students will have their own folder filled with their work to take home. Students will be required to purchase some art supplies for this course. Supplies are available at the local stores.

**BEGINNING THEATRE ARTS** (This is a semester course taken in conjunction with Beginning Art; THE TWO SEMESTERS COUNT AS 1 FULL YEAR.)

This introductory course will engage students in the art of theater. Students will begin to explore pantomime, improvisational and memorization techniques, learn basic acting techniques, knowledge and skills needed to be successful in theater, but also begin to develop the self confidence and self discipline required to accomplish long and short term goals in life.

### **BAND**

BJHS has 3 bands: 1 Symphonic Band and 2 Concert Bands. Each of these groups perform at pep rallies, at junior high football games, concerts, contests and the Maifest Parade. All students who sign up for band are placed into a specific band by the directors. They will receive information concerning instrument rental or purchase by a band director. **There will be a financial obligation with the class. (instrument purchase/rental, book(s), and supplies as needed.)**

### **CHOIR**

Students will learn the basics of singing, sight-singing and choral performance. Choir students are expected to participate in Solo Competition and Region Choir auditions. This group also competes at UIL competitions. Concerts are usually held in the evening and are mandatory. Extra rehearsals will be held and are also mandatory.

## **DANCE**

This is an introductory course that provides the students with an exploration of basic movement fundamentals: ballet, jazz, hip-hop, modern lyrical, contemporary, world dance and choreography. **\$30 class fee.** Information regarding the purchasing of all required dance attire will be addressed by the instructor. Dance performances may be required in venues after school. This course will satisfy the PE requirement. **Each student must have a physical on file and complete Rank 1 on the computer.**

## **BRENEDIERS**

**This course requires an audition.** Students will learn dance elements, movement, time, space, rhythm, shape and energy. Students will be expected to perform at pep rallies, football games, competitions, and the Spring Show. Information regarding the required dance attire will be addressed by the instructor; additional fees will be required. **Each student must have a physical on file and complete Rank 1 on the computer.** This course will satisfy the PE requirement.

## **CHEER**

### **Cheer Prerequisite: Spring Audition and Selection Based on Judges Scores**

This cheerleading course trains participants in most aspects of cheerleading and prepares the squad to cheer and support a multitude of campus events such as girl's and boy's athletics, pep rallies, and other activities. Emphasis is placed on promoting positive school spirit, strong leadership skills, safety, flexibility, as well as proper cheer techniques. Students are required to attend summer camp and participation at selected outside of school events (i.e. football, basketball, volleyball) is required. This course will satisfy PE requirement. **Each student must have a physical on file and complete Rank 1 on the computer.**

**Note: Cheer gear and a uniform is required. Payment must be made when placing your cheer uniform order.**

## **ELECTIVE COURSES**

Please choose **ONE** elective or **0** if you choose **2** from above

### **STEAM**

Our **STEAM**ology elective offers students the space and tools to integrate the nature of **Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics** to discover solutions to real world problems. Using a makerspace setting students will be challenged each six weeks to focus on a problem that can be solved by a different career field in **STEAM**. Through these challenges students will become creative and innovative problem solvers, researchers, engineers and designers. They will also use the skills of collaboration, communication and critical thinking to explore the careers and solutions of the 21st Century. There's a world of possibilities in **STEAM**ology!

**BEGINNING CULINARY ARTS** (This is a semester course taken in conjunction with Beginning Floral Design; THE TWO SEMESTERS COUNT AS 1 FULL YEAR.)

In this class students will learn the basics of nutrition, food safety, sanitation, and skills. Class themes can include: Kitchen Safety, Proper Food Handling, Utensil Safety, Food Allergies, Baking, Foods in History, Salad Your Way, and a Cooking Contest. This is a 1 semester course.

**BEGINNING FLORAL DESIGN** (This is a semester course taken in conjunction with Beginning Culinary Arts; THE TWO SEMESTERS COUNT AS 1 FULL YEAR.)

Students will attain academic skills and knowledge as well as technical knowledge and skills related to horticultural systems. Students will identify design principles and techniques in floral art and interiorscapes. Demonstrate floral design principles and techniques, develop and formulate ideas from the environment, make informed judgments about personal designs and the designs of others.

### **AVID (A STUDENT MUST BE INTERVIEWED AND BE ACCEPTED INTO THIS CLASS)**

An elective course that prepares students for college readiness and success. Students participate in activities that incorporate strategies focused on writing, inquiry, collaboration, organization and reading to support their academic growth. Students must apply for entry into this elective course. The process includes, but is not limited to, a written application and an oral interview. Grades, STAAR scores, attendance and behavior records are all reviewed as part of the process. **Students must fill out an application, be selected for an interview and selected by the AVID site team for acceptance.**