

# Brenham Junior High



## Course Description Guide

### 7th Grade

### 2023-2024

Brenham Junior High School  
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Brenham, TX 77833  
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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 all students to be successful in their academic studies and extracurricular activities. This course selection guide is designed to help you and your child choose the best academic path for Brenham Junior High School. It will also support your child in preparing for the next step in their secondary education. We are available to help you and your child in any way possible. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

Michael J. Watts

Principal, Brenham Junior High School  
1200 Carlee Drive  
Brenham, TX 77833  
979-277-3830

# **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 all students 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.

## **CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS**

Brenham Junior High provides a multiple period day for instruction where 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 Art credit
- Students in grade 7 are required to take Leadworth and Coding
- Students in grade 7 will choose 1 additional elective

## **COURSE SELECTION OPTIONS ACADEMIC COURSES**

### **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 all future math courses. 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 apply appropriate problem-solving strategies. Instruction covers all 7<sup>th</sup> grade Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills – developing skills and concepts for the depth of understanding. There is also exposure to 8<sup>th</sup> grade Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills. Students are expected to manage a rigorous and fast paced schedule of class activities including homework assignments and various enrichment projects.

# **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 ADVANCED 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 and research-based class with the involvement of independent study assignments. Project based learning is 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.

# **HISTORY**

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

This course focuses on 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 ADVANCED TEXAS HISTORY/GEOGRAPHY**

This advanced course 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 an emphasis on analyzing historical documents, and project based learning is a vital component of this advanced course.

# **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 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 ADVANCED ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS**

In addition to having a considerably faster pace than the on level seventh grade English Language Arts curriculum, a greater variety of literature and writing assignments will be implemented in the accelerated classes. 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.

# **REQUIRED COURSES**

**Two courses, Leadworthy and Coding, will each be taken as semester courses to meet the citizenship requirements. These semester courses will be taken during opposite semesters. You do not need to register for these classes; all 7th grade students will automatically be enrolled.**

## **LEADWORTHY**

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.

## **CODING**

Students will take an introductory computer coding class. This course will give students a basic understanding of computer science in order to develop their creativity, critical thinking, and problem solving skills.

# PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Students are required to have a Physical Education credit. Students are only allowed to take one Physical Education class OR one Athletic class per year.

## 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 trying out for the football, basketball, and/or track teams 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. **Each student must have a physical on file and complete Rank 1 on the computer.**

## GIRLS ATHLETICS

All students interested in trying out for the volleyball, basketball, and/or track teams 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. **Each student must have a physical on file and complete Rank 1 on the computer.**

## 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.**

## 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. 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.**

## SWIMMING

This class will teach the skills and techniques designed to prepare athletes to swim at a competitive level. Practices will be before and/or after school. Swimsuits and goggles must be purchased by the swimmers. If the cost for this class poses an issue, please let the coach know. Meets will be held throughout the year. **Each student must have a physical on file and complete Rank 1 on the computer.**

## 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. If the cost for this class poses an issue, please let the coach know. **Each student must have a physical on file and complete Rank 1 on the computer.**

# FINE ARTS

**Students are required to have at least one Fine Arts credit during their 7th grade year.**

## 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.

## **BEGINNING ART AND BEGINNING THEATER ARTS**

*These two courses will be taken as semester courses to meet a Fine Art requirement. The two courses will be taken during opposite semesters.*

### **BEGINNING ART**

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, 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 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. Students will also begin to develop the self confidence and self discipline required to accomplish long and short term goals in life.

### **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. Dance performances outside of the school day are required. Information regarding the purchase of required dance costumes for performances will be addressed by the instructor. **Each student must have a physical on file and complete Rank 1 on the computer.**

### **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 participate at selected outside of school events (i.e. football, basketball, volleyball). **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.**

### **BRENADIERS**

**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.**



# ELECTIVE COURSES

Students will choose one elective course

## 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!

## **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.**

## **BEGINNING CULINARY ARTS AND FLORAL DESIGN**

*These two courses, **Beginning Culinary Arts** and **Beginning Floral Design**, will each be taken as semester courses to meet an elective requirement.*

### **BEGINNING CULINARY ARTS**

In this class students will learn the basics of nutrition, food safety, sanitation, and other skills. Class themes can include: kitchen safety, proper food handling, utensil safety, food allergies, baking, and foods in history.

### **BEGINNING FLORAL DESIGN**

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, and make informed judgments about personal designs and the designs of others.

# **PUBLIC EDUCATION IN TEXAS CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS CONT.**

## **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** subjects.

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 any failed 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 all 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 make 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 2023-2024 school year will be announced on the BISD website.*

## **STATE OF TEXAS ASSESSMENT OF ACADEMIC READINESS (STAAR)**

STAAR annual assessments are taken for grade 7 in Reading Language Arts and Mathematics.

Districts are required to provide accelerated instruction to any student who fails a STAAR assessment through an intervention course. If the required accelerated instruction is not completed in summer school, students may be placed in a Math and/or Reading accelerated instruction intervention course during the school year in order to fulfill the state requirements.

## ADVANCED CLASSES

Brenham ISD acknowledges that student participation in advanced coursework is valuable. As such, Brenham Junior High encourages all willing and/or academically prepared students to participate in advanced courses. Students who participate in advanced coursework are exposed to rigorous curriculum that requires diligent study and time management skills. By building these critical foundational skills, students will establish competency and capability for success in a post-secondary education path as well as the workforce.

## CHOOSING ADVANCED ACADEMICS:

Advanced courses in Brenham Independent School District are designed to challenge students with a rigorous curriculum that extends learning opportunities for all students. 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

## BJH ADVANCED CLASS COMMITMENT

If your student takes on the responsibility of enrolling in an advanced course, he or she will agree to the rigorous expectations of that course. Dedication to staying on top of assignments, projects, studying, and other class commitments will be necessary for success in an advanced course. If your student decides to move from an advanced course to an on-level course, the following documentation will be required prior to unenrollment consideration:

- At least 2 forms of parent - teacher contact
- A parent - teacher conference
- Documented attendance of tutorials

Unenrollment from an advanced course will only be honored at the end of the 1st 9 week grading period and/or at the end of the 1st semester.

### Honor Code:

This class will be conducted under an honor code. Students will be given work that must be completed outside of class. **All students are required to do their own work and MUST show their work to receive credit.**

- Violation will result in a parent, teacher, student meeting, and the student will receive a zero on the assignment.

# SCHEDULE CHANGES

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

- Student is scheduled for a class for which he/she already has credit
- Student is enrolled in a course that requires an audition for which they were not selected
- 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 and/or Reading accelerated instruction

## Procedures to request a schedule change:

Students must complete and submit the Schedule Change Request Form, which will be made available online, no later than 10 days after the first day of school. Until your concern is addressed, **students 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.

# BJHS NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY

The National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) is 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, Character, and Citizenship.

NJHS is a distinction 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 90 in their core subjects (Math, Reading, Language Arts, Science and History) through the end of the 1st semester meet the scholarship requirement for membership in NJHS. These students are then eligible for consideration on the basis of service, leadership, character, and citizenship.
- **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, and dependable. 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 who transfer in from another district may be enrolled in Brenham Junior High's NJHS if they were inducted at their previous school at the end of their 7th grade year.***

***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.***