Middle School Related Arts
Course Selection Guide
2019-2020
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Purpose:
To ignite the power of learning

Mission:
Clayton-Bradley Academy is dedicated to creating a student-centered, positive, and challenging environment where all students excel through:
● Critical thinking,
● problem-solving,
● collaboration,
● and the Lifelong Guidelines and LIFESKILLS.

Vision:
Reimagining Education

Beliefs:
Clayton-Bradley Academy is committed to the following:
● A clear and shared focus on student learning
● A rigorous and integrated curriculum
● High expectations for learning
● Effective school leadership
● Aligned instructional and assessment practices
● Focused professional development
● Safe and supportive learning environment
● Family involvement
● Respect for diversity

Lifelong Guidelines:
Trustworthiness; Truthfulness; Active Listening;
No Put Downs; Personal Best

LIFESKILLS:
CARING; COMMON SENSE; COOPERATION; COURAGE; CURIOSITY; EFFORT; FLEXIBILITY;
FRIENDSHIP; INITIATIVE; INTEGRITY; ORGANIZATION; PATIENCE; PERSEVERANCE; PRIDE; PROBLEM SOLVING;
RESOURCEFULNESS; RESPONSIBILITY; SENSE OF HUMOR
Welcome to the Clayton-Bradley Academy Middle School! Students and teachers in grades sixth through eighth grade comprise the Middle School community. Together, teachers and students pursue learning opportunities that develop critical thinking skills and provide opportunities to engage in immersive learning. Middle school is an exciting time for students as they expand horizons, acquire independent thinking skills, and explore novel experiences to help secure identity. Our goal is to help students navigate their expanding world with supportive relationships, a focused emphasis on healthy community, and an empowering curriculum that offers many options for exploration.

**Related Arts Diversity**

Brain research indicates that exploration is crucial at this age. We know that the middle schoolers are experiencing a crucial period of brain development. “Teenagers’ brains are growing and changing by adding gray matter and pruning old synapses” (Feinstein, 2013, p. 4). This pruning and rebuilding process creates an opportunity for crucial brain development through new and novel experiences. This is the last great pruning the brain undergoes on its way to full development and the more new synapses and neural networks we can create in the structure of the brain, the more those networks can be used in the future. Therefore, our model of related arts at the middle school level is built around exploration of many facets of learning. We hope that students gain valuable experiences and that through exposure to many disciplines, their brains are poised for optimal development.


**Integrated Curriculum**

We have structured the middle school related arts offerings to be aligned with grade levels so that core and related arts teachers can integrate. Related arts teachers work hard to make the content from their classes overlap and interact with content from core classes. The benefits of integrated curriculum include a holistic view of learning, increased application of learning to real-world ideas, stimulated critical thinking, and increased opportunity for novel and creative expression. Many of the projects initiated in the classroom will involve several content areas. Integration encourages unique relationships, increases the context of learning, and unifies the learning community to foster student and faculty growth.
Related Arts Schedule

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<td>10:30 - 11:15am</td>
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Related Arts Classes:
1. Meet 2 times per week for a semester.
   a. Except Strings: meet 4 times per week for the entire year.
   b. Except Chorus: meets 2 times per week for the entire year.
2. Students have 4 different related arts classes each semester in a variety of disciplines (see table below) with the exceptions of Strings and Chorus students.
3. Students take 2 related arts classes each day and classes are 45 minutes long.
4. Related arts classes do not meet on Wednesday because students participate in family gathering and bobcat buddies.
5. Related arts classes rotate each semester (except Strings and Chorus that are year long classes).

Middle School Related Arts Courses

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2019/2020 Middle School Related Arts Course Offerings

**Fine Arts**

**Creative Music 6**  
*Semester*  
*Prerequisites: None*  
*Grades: 6*  
This class is intended to expose students to a variety of musical experiences. They will work on projects that will allow them to perform, compose and create on instruments such as ukuleles, African drums, and keyboards. Students will also learn to use music technology to compose and create various projects and discover how technology is used in music production today.

**Creative Music 7**  
*Semester*  
*Prerequisites: None*  
*Grades: 7*  
This class is intended to expose students to a variety of musical experiences. They will work on projects that will allow them to perform, compose and create on instruments such as ukuleles, African drums, and keyboards. Students will also learn to use music technology to compose and create various projects and discover how technology is used in music production today.

**Creative Music 8**  
*Semester*  
*Prerequisites: None*  
*Grades: 8*  
This class is intended to expose students to a variety of musical experiences. They will work on projects that will allow them to perform, compose and create on instruments such as ukuleles, African drums, and keyboards. Students will also learn to use music technology to compose and create various projects and discover how technology is used in music production today.

**Middle School Chorus (Blazer Beat)**  
*Year*  
*Prerequisites: None*  
*Grades: 6, 7, 8*  
This course is designed to provide students with a fun, performing choral experience. Students will focus on music reading skills, performance and vocal skills. The course will include introductions to artistic interpretation, analyzing context, and expressive techniques used to present a polished performance. Students will also have opportunities to learn the selection process for performance music.
It is highly recommended that students intending to join CBA Singers in High School participate in chorus during their middle school years.

**CBA Philharmonia (Strings)**
*Year*
*Grade: 6, 7*
*Prerequisite: one year of string instruction*
Philharmonia strings is the continuation of the student’s instruction on the violin, viola, cello or bass. Emphasis continues on proper playing techniques with expanded playing ranges and more advanced key signatures. Consistent rhythmic reading and improved tone are points of focus. Public performance is one of the rewards!

**CBA Sinfonia (Strings)**
*Year*
*Grade: 7, 8*
*Prerequisite: at least one year of string instruction*
Seventh and eighth grade strings builds on the techniques and skills the students have already begun on violin, viola, cello or bass. In addition to the introduction of more difficult key signatures and rhythms, a primary focus for this class is the development of vibrato and the use of shifting to expand the range and expression. Students will work on a combination of materials including scales, sight reading, and prepared pieces. Public performance will showcase the students’ developing musicianship.

**Theatre Arts 6**
*Semester*
*Prerequisites: None*
*Grades: 6*
This course is an overview of theatre arts including improv, acting, playwriting and character development. Students work together to perform various projects. Emphasis is placed on team building through games and exercises.

**Theatre Arts 7**
*Semester*
*Prerequisites: None*
*Grades: 7*
This is an elective class that is designed to explore different aspects of theatre arts. Students will participate in improv games, acting exercises, writing exercises and several small-group performance projects.
Theatre Arts 8  Semester
Prerequisites: None
Grades: 8
This is an elective class that is designed to explore different aspects of theatre arts. Students will participate in improv games, acting exercises, writing exercises and several small-group performance projects. 8th Grade theatre also has a playwriting component where students get to write and produce their own 10 minute play.

Visual Arts 6  Semester
Prerequisites: None
Grades: 6
This class is designed to give students an opportunity to experience many different types of art making and to strengthen their foundational art skills. Students will use various art media which may include clay, painting, drawing, collage, printmaking, etc. This is mainly a hands on experience, but students will also be introduced to art history as well as successful modern artists. During the 6th grade year students will learn beginning throwing on the pottery wheel.

Visual Arts 7  Semester
Prerequisites: None
Grades: 7
This class is designed to give students an opportunity to experience many different types of art making and to strengthen their foundational art skills. Students will use various art media which may include clay, painting, drawing, collage, printmaking, etc. This is mainly a hands on experience, but students will also be introduced to art history as well as successful modern artists.

Visual Arts 8  Semester
Prerequisites: None
Grades: 8
This class is designed to give students an opportunity to experience many different types of art making and to strengthen their foundational art skills. Students will use various art media which may include clay, painting, drawing, collage, printmaking, etc. This is mainly a hands on experience, but students will also be introduced to art history as well as successful modern artists.
World Language Studies

Spanish 6 Semester
Prerequisites: None
Grades: 6
This is an interactive class where language skills are taught through hearing, speaking, and listening to Spanish. Interaction with the language will happen through cultural studies, music, and history as well as learning foundational vocabulary and conversational skills. 6th grade Spanish is all about becoming familiar with the sounds, sights, and excitement of the Spanish language and culture.

Spanish 7 Semester
Prerequisites: None
Grades: 7
An extension into the Spanish language with a focus on all four language learning skills; reading, writing, listening, speaking. Students will learn to communicate in a language other than English, to gain knowledge and understanding of other cultures, to connect with other disciplines and acquire information, to develop insight into the nature of language, and to participate in multicultural communities and global societies. The purpose of this class is to give students an overview of the people and cultures associated with the concepts that build the Spanish language. Students will study Spanish speaking communities from North, Central, and South America, as well as Spain.

Spanish 8 Semester
Prerequisites: None
Grades: 8
An extension into the Spanish language with a focus on all four language learning skills; reading, writing, listening, speaking. Students will learn to communicate in a language other than English, to gain knowledge and understanding of other cultures, to connect with other disciplines and acquire information, to develop insight into the nature of language, and to participate in multicultural communities and global societies. The purpose of this class is to give students an overview of the people and cultures associated with the concepts that build the Spanish language and prepare students for their first high school credit Spanish class in ninth grade. Students will study Spanish speaking communities from North, Central, and South America, as well as Spain.
Middle School engineering is a grade-banded, project-based course where students learn the fundamentals of engineering design through individual and/or group work. The course is based on the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) for Middle School Engineering. Projects will involve aspects of mechanical design, microelectronics, and coding and will use a variety of platforms including Parrot Mamba drones, autonomous vehicles, 3D printing, and other really FUN tools. Students will work toward mastery of the following concepts based on a variety of instructor chosen projects:

- Define the criteria and constraints of a design problem with sufficient precision to ensure a successful solution, taking into account relevant scientific principles and potential impacts on people and the natural environment that may limit possible solutions.
- Evaluate competing design solutions based on jointly developed and agreed-upon design criteria using a systematic process to determine how well they meet the criteria and constraints of the problem.
- Analyze data from tests to determine similarities and differences among several design solutions to identify the best characteristics of each that can be combined into a new solution to better meet the criteria for success.
- Develop a model to generate data for iterative testing and modification of a proposed object, tool, or process such that an optimal design can be achieved.
Define the criteria and constraints of a design problem with sufficient precision to ensure a successful solution, taking into account relevant scientific principles and potential impacts on people and the natural environment that may limit possible solutions.

Evaluate competing design solutions based on jointly developed and agreed-upon design criteria using a systematic process to determine how well they meet the criteria and constraints of the problem.

Analyze data from tests to determine similarities and differences among several design solutions to identify the best characteristics of each that can be combined into a new solution to better meet the criteria for success.

Develop a model to generate data for iterative testing and modification of a proposed object, tool, or process such that an optimal design can be achieved.

Engineering Design 8
Prerequisites: None
Grades: 8

Middle school engineering is a grade-banded, project-based course where students learn the fundamentals of engineering design through individual and/or group work. Projects will involve aspects of mechanical design, microelectronics, and coding and will use a variety of platforms including Parrot Mamba drones, autonomous vehicles, 3D printing, and other really FUN tools. The course is based on the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) for Middle School Engineering. Students will work toward mastery of the following concepts based on a variety of student chosen projects:

- Define the criteria and constraints of a design problem with sufficient precision to ensure a successful solution, taking into account relevant scientific principles and potential impacts on people and the natural environment that may limit possible solutions.
- Evaluate competing design solutions based on jointly developed and agreed-upon design criteria using a systematic process to determine how well they meet the criteria and constraints of the problem.
- Analyze data from tests to determine similarities and differences among several design solutions to identify the best characteristics of each that can be combined into a new solution to better meet the criteria for success.
- Develop a model to generate data for iterative testing and modification of a proposed object, tool, or process such that an optimal design can be achieved.
LEGO Robotics 6 (Introduction to LEGO Robotics)  
Prerequisites: None  
Grades: 6  
This course will prepare students to compete in the Lego Robotics Competition by introducing them to the fundamentals of engineering design using the Lego Robotics EV3 Platform. The class will follow the structure of the competitive program but will be limited to in-class work time with no competitive component. Students will employ the engineering design process to work through challenge board activities based on criteria and constraints, use of sensors for navigation, use of motors for actuation, and programming on the Lego Mindstorms EV3 platform. Students will also participate in a research and design project related to the topical theme of the current year’s program.

LEGO Robotics 7/8 (Competitive)  
Prerequisites: None  
Grades: 7, 8  
Lego Robotics is a project-based competition course where students learn the fundamentals of engineering design using the Lego Robotics EV3 Platform. The competition consists of three major components:

1. Teams design, build, and program a LEGO®MINDSTORMS® robot, then compete on a themed table-top playing field.
2. Teams work together to complete a research and design project based on the year’s theme. During this process, team members will navigate the engineering design process - Learn about a topic, Identify a Problem, Create an Innovative Solution, Share Your Research with Others, Present your Solution at the Tournament.
3. Teams work together along the way based on the FIRST Lego League Core Values and develop a teamwork presentation for competition day highlighting their camaraderie.

Course Requirements  
The competition requirements cannot be completed in the limited in-school class times. To ensure the success of the competition, students will be required to complete some work and to collaborate with classmates out of class, specifically regarding the research and design project. On average, students must be prepared to meet at least one Saturday afternoon per month during the first quarter and up to two Saturday afternoons per month during second quarter. Second quarter students must stay after school at least once a week as well as participate in weekend workdays. Other out of class work times may be scheduled based on availability and interest.

* This course will have limited registration.
STEAM Lab 6  
Semester  
Prerequisites: None  
Grade: 6  
Expression, creativity, and experiential learning are the backbone of this innovative course. The maker’s lab consists of a variety of workstations including woodworking, circuitry, 3D printing and more. The Lab allows students to get an introduction to a variety of engineering and design techniques while simultaneously learning the basic functions of their Macbooks and Google Suite products. Students will mainly work in teams using the engineering design process to complete teacher assigned projects.

STEAM Lab 7  
Semester  
Prerequisites: None  
Grade: 7  
This maker’s lab serves as both a creative outlet for innovative minds and an introduction to a variety of engineering and design techniques. The variety of workstations include woodworking, electronics, sewing, Raspberry Pi, 3D printing and more. Students will mainly work in teams using the engineering design process to complete projects. Students will have both student choice and teacher assigned projects.

STEAM Lab 8  
Semester  
Prerequisites: None  
Grade: 8  
This maker’s lab serves as both a creative outlet for innovative minds and an introduction to a variety of engineering and design techniques. The variety of workstations include woodworking, electronics, sewing, Raspberry Pi, 3D printing and more. Students will work both in teams and independently using the engineering design process to complete projects. Students will have both student choice and teacher assigned projects.
Future City: Civil Engineering 6 (Introduction to Future City)  Semester
Prerequisites: None  Grades: 6
This course prepares students to participate in the Future City competition. Students will learn the fundamentals of civil engineering; including structural, environmental and architectural design. In addition, students are introduced to the competition criteria. Students will work in teams to manage their project within a timeline and budget. The students will go through the steps of an actual competition and create a miniature version of a city model.

Future City: Civil Engineering (Competitive)  Semester
Prerequisites: None  Grades: 7, 8
Future City is a project-based competition course where students learn the fundamentals of civil engineering. Students will design a city based on the competition challenge description. The competition requires student teams to produce an essay, virtual city, project plan and physical model. The competition culminates in a presentation at the UT Tickle College of Engineering. This competition class is open to 7th and 8th grade students.

Course Requirements
The competition requirements cannot be completed in our limited in-school class times. Students will be required to complete some work and collaborate with classmates from home. In addition, students will be required to participate in after-school work sessions when needed. On average, students must stay after school once every two weeks in the first quarter. Second quarter students must stay after school at least once a week and participate in a weekend workday, if needed.
* This course will have limited registration.

Wellness  Semester

PE 6  Semester
Prerequisites: None  Grades: 6
This is an entry level PE course where students will participate in a variety of organized sports as well as group activities designed to get students moving and engaged. There is a researched connection between movement, exercise, and academic success. Using strategies from brain research, students will not only get their heart rates up, but will use technology to track vital signs and chart progress. Through fun, fitness oriented activities, students will learn how lifelong fitness can yield amazing results for overall health and happiness.
PE 7

Prerequisites: None

Grades: 7

This is a continuation of middle school PE, students will participate in a variety of organized sports as well as group activities designed to get students moving and engaged. There is a researched connection between movement, exercise, and academic success. Using strategies from brain research, students will not only get their heart rates up, but will use technology to track vital signs and chart progress. Through fun, fitness oriented activities, students will learn how lifelong fitness can yield amazing results for overall health and happiness.

PE 8

Prerequisites: None

Grades: 8

This is a continuation of middle school PE, students will participate in a variety of organized sports as well as group activities designed to get students moving and engaged. There is a researched connection between movement, exercise, and academic success. Using strategies from brain research, students will not only get their heart rates up, but will use technology to track vital signs and chart progress. Through fun, fitness oriented activities, students will learn how lifelong fitness can yield amazing results for overall health and happiness.

Lifetime Wellness

Prerequisites: none

Grades: 6, 7, & 8

In this section of PE we will learn about the importance of creating healthy exercise habits. Healthy eating and exercise habits are the best way to live a happy and healthy life. Students will learn exercises, sports, and activities that can be carried into adult life to maintain an active and healthy lifestyle.