



January 23, 2026

Dear Seventh Grade Parent,

With over half the year completed at Buffalo Community Middle School, it's time to begin scheduling for the 2026-2027 school year. On the next page of this letter, you will find brief descriptions of the elective courses we intend to offer eighth grade students next year.

The core subjects for 8th grade include Math, English, Geography, and Science. In addition to the core classes listed above, students will rotate through *Health 8*, *Technology Education 8*, and *College and Career Prep 8*. Students will either be in the music performance track or the elective track.

Eighth grade students may choose to be in a music performance group (band, choir or orchestra). On days opposite of their music performance class, students will have physical education. Students will have one additional elective of their choice.

We encourage students to continue in music, but we offer elective course options for eighth grade students who do not wish to continue in band, orchestra or choir. Students in the elective track will participate in physical education every other day throughout the entire year. They will take Health 8 on alternating days during half the year, and during the other half, they will have study hall every other day. Students will have two additional electives of their choice.

This year, students will receive the registration materials and register online with their Primetime teacher on January 26th and 27th. If you have questions, please feel free to contact Kim Young, Scheduling Assistant, at 763-682-8207 or Principal Matt Lubben at 763-682-8203.

Sincerely,

Matt Lubben, Principal
Buffalo Community Middle School

GRADE 8 ELECTIVE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Art 2-D:

Artists will explore the process of creating two-dimensional artworks. Artistic media may include drawing, painting, collage, and digital artwork. Art students will be given the opportunity to make independent choices while finding their own hands-on learning path in creating individual and collaborative artwork.

Art 3-D:

Artists will explore the process of creating three-dimensional artworks. Artistic media may include clay on pottery wheels, hand-building clay, and metals. Art students will be given the opportunity to make independent choices while finding their own hands-on learning path in creating individual and collaborative artwork.

Foods 101:

This course builds on cooking skills introduced in 7th grade along with exploring the major food groups and their role in a balanced diet. Students learn about each food category and the main nutrients they provide. Hands-on cooking labs allow students to prepare recipes connected to each food group while building nutrition knowledge, kitchen skills, and confidence in food preparation.

Unified PE:

Student mentors will participate alongside students with special needs who have DAPE services in recreation, leisure, and fitness while increasing their understanding of inclusion, social justice, and advocacy. Student mentors and their peers will have opportunities to participate in community based education outings. Student mentors will also be given opportunities to teach their peers activities to increase their leadership skills.

Intro to World Language:

Students will have the opportunity to explore language and learn some German, French, and Spanish before deciding which one to study in high school. High school students will assist with the instruction and provide a preview of what BHS offers.

Special Education Mentorship:

This course is designed to provide students with an opportunity to be a peer mentor to students with disabilities. Students will work alongside a student or several students with disabilities to model social skills and develop academic skills. Students will work closely with the special education teacher to communicate student progress and problem solve. Students have the opportunity to be a role model, develop leadership skills, but most importantly, have fun!

Transportation Technology:

This technology elective will provide an overview of transportation systems. Students will design and manufacture a CO₂ dragster and a model rocket. Principles of design will be utilized to plan and draw the project.

Sewing 101:

This course builds on sewing skills introduced in 7th grade and allows students to further develop their sewing knowledge. Students learn to work with a variety of fibers and textiles while practicing different sewing techniques. Through hands-on projects completed throughout the quarter, students strengthen accuracy, creativity, and confidence in sewing.

Woods:

Students will learn about drafting and scaling, calculating board feet, and producing a bill of materials for a woods project. Safety is taught before students can begin working with the machinery. Students will design and build a woods project from options the instructor develops.