

# Banning Lewis Preparatory Academy - Middle School Electives

At Banning Lewis Preparatory Academy, middle school students have three class periods designated for electives and can select from a variety of semester and yearlong courses. **Note students are required to take a semester of the following electives:**

6 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Technology Literacy, Foreign Language, 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Art, Physical Education
7 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Physical Education
8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Physical Education

## **ELECTIVE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

### **FINE ARTS**

*6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade students must take at least one fine arts class (semester or yearlong)*

#### **6<sup>th</sup> GRADE ART (required)**

*Grades 6*

*Semester*

Students will explore the Foundations of Art through observation, design, creation, and reflection. Students will learn how to complete the design process throughout a series of projects, artwork analysis, and reflection on personal growth.

#### **2D ART**

*Grades 7-8*

*Semester*

Students will exploration of Art Foundations, with an emphasis on the Elements of Art. Students will continue to use the design process to create 2D works of art using multiple 2D media and project concepts. Artwork analysis and reflection will have a focus on the Elements of Art, and personal growth.

#### **3D ART**

*Grades 7-8*

*Semester*

Students will explorations of Art Foundations, with an emphasis on the Principles of Design. Students will continue to use the design process to create 3D works of art using multiple 3D media and project concepts. Artwork analysis and reflection will have a focus on the Principles of design, and personal growth.

#### **INTRO TO THEATRE**

*Grades 6-8*

*Semester*

Intro to Theatre is designed for students interested in developing basic level acting skills as well as those who simply want to build confidence before an audience. Students will gain experience in stage movement, projection, pantomime, improvisation, theatre games and dialogue. Public speaking skills are emphasized, and students use these skills as they make presentations in other classes.

#### **THEATRE PRODUCTION**

*Grades 6-8*

*Semester*

This course provides an opportunity for students to gain proficiency in all aspects of theatre performance including acting, directing, and stage management skills. Students will apply these skills in a performance given at the end of the semester on the BLRA stage. Cost \$10.00 to cover scripts, props and royalties.

#### **GUITAR COMPOSITION**

*Grades 6-8*

*Semester*

Students will learn a basic set of chords, learn a cover piece of their choice, write an original composition which can be simply instrumental or accompanied with singing, and write a collaborative composition as a team which may be instrumental or accompanied with singing.

#### **BEGINNING BAND**

*Grades 6-8*

*Yearlong*

Students enrolled in beginning band will have the option of choosing between flute, clarinet, trumpet, trombone, or percussion. Students will give one concert per semester with extra opportunities to perform in school or at other events. By the end of the year we will have developed basic musicianship and playing music with mixed parts.

#### **CONCERT BAND**

*Grades 6-8*

*Yearlong*

Students enrolled in concert band should have at least one year of band experience either in school or through private

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lessons. Students will give one concert per semester with extra opportunities to perform in school or at other events.

## **BEGINNING CHOIR (Maroon)**

*Grades 6-8*

*Yearlong*

Maroon Choir is an introductory choir where students will learn the fundamentals of singing in a fun atmosphere. Basics include note reading, solfège, vocal, technique, and contributing your voice to a group. There will be multiple opportunities to perform including our two end of the semester concerts.

## **CHOIR (Gold) – Audition Required**

*Grades 6-8*

*Yearlong*

Gold Choir members will be introduced to choral music, both single melody and mixed parts. We will discuss and explore different singing parts: soprano, tenor, bass; different genres of choral music, both historical and popular; and begin to explore the world of music theory through singing. Students will also learn how to sing solfege using hand signs. Students will give a concert performance for each semester.

## **GENERAL MUSIC**

*Grades 6-8*

*Semester*

This class will cover a wide range of topics including music history, theory, and technology in music. Students will learn how to read music and perform some 'junkyard' rhythms.

## **GENERAL ELECTIVES**

### **BOOK STUDIES**

*Grades 6-8*

*Semester*

If you are looking for an opportunity to explore new books with other adventurous readers, this is the elective for you! The group will choose a book to read and have fun conversation that inspires further reading.

### **CSI-FORENSIC SCIENCE**

*Grades 6-8*

*Semester*

In this introductory course, students will learn the types of evidence left at a crime scene and classroom appropriate forensic methods of identification. Students will apply scientific equations, scientific method, powers of observation and inference skills as they learn fingerprinting, powder and ink analyses and correlation of foot size to height to solve a "mystery" at Banning Lewis Preparatory Academy.

### **TEEN LEADERSHIP**

*Grades 6-8*

*Semester*

In the Teen Leadership program, students will gain new confidence through developing organizational and leadership skills. We explore the importance of developing strong Emotional Intelligence (EQ) and the lifetime benefits of establishing strong self-awareness, self-control, healthy relationships, motivation, and effective social skills.

### **STRATEGIC STUDIES**

*Grades 6-8*

*Semester*

This course will cover the history of warfare, the branches of the US Military and their primary function, current geopolitical conflict, cyber warfare/security, military physical fitness and survival training for military members and civilians. Students will study the cause and effect of conflict and the why nations go to war. In addition, students will engage in military strategic exercises/games and study strategies for joint warfare operations. Students will learn skills such as map reading and land navigation, building a shelter, fire-starting, finding potable water and foraging for food for survival. Other topics include geocaching and GPS, cloud formations, characteristics of wild animals and plants, and geology. Stallion students will learn how to march in formation, pass physical training test, and compete in warfare games. Lastly, students will learn about career options in the US Military, the National Forestry Service, and Search and Rescue.

### **MOCK TRIAL**

*Grades 6-8*

*Semester*

Students will learn about the Constitution, and current events. Students will learn to prepare an actual trial using materials from the National High School Mock Trial competition, although the instructor may adjust them for the middle school level. The class is designed to become the foundation for future BLPA high school mock trial teams. In addition, the class will engage in a more in-depth study of the Constitution, including the study of important cases in United States history. The class will be taught by a retired attorney.

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## **GT ELECTIVES**

*Students with a gifted and talented identification are encouraged to take both*

### **RESEARCH & ANALYSIS (Fall)**

*Grades 6-8*

*Semester*

This class is for identified gifted and serious students seeking in depth knowledge about an historical event of the student's choice. Students will learn critical thinking skills, research techniques and strategies, information analysis, citations, and bibliography preparation. Students will engage in a project-based learning experience designed to prepare them for advanced research projects required in high school and college. *Students will be required to prepare a project for entry into the regional National History Competition, held each year in February or March.*

### **CREATIVITY & EXPERIMENTATION**

*Grades 6-8*

*Semester*

This class is for identified gifted and serious students seeking to prepare students to enter a project in the Odyssey of the Mind competition, held each year in February. With instructor approval, other identified gifted and serious students preparing for other academic competitions may also use the course for contest preparation. In addition, students will learn steps in the creative process and engage in project-based learning experiences, based largely on Odyssey of the Mind exercises, the latter of which will be designed to stimulate creativity and brainstorming.

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

*At least one PE class per year is required for All Middle Students.*

### **6<sup>th</sup> PE (Required)**

*Semester*

Students learn components of wellness. Students are given the opportunity to participate in a variety of sports and fitness activities. Focus will be on learning the history, key basic skills, and lead up games for each sport/activity. (Participation in the Fitnessgram Assessment is required.)

### **7<sup>th</sup> PE (Required)**

Students learn components of wellness. Students are given the opportunity to participate in a variety of sports and fitness activities. Focus will be on mastering basic skills, lead up games, strategy, and game play for each sport/activity. (Participation in the Fitnessgram Assessment is required.) \*Please note that 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade may be combined classes

### **8<sup>th</sup> PE (Required)**

Students learn the components of wellness. Students are given the opportunity to participate in a variety of sports and fitness activities. Focus will be on game play, advanced strategy, and tournament play for each activity. (Participation in the Fitnessgram Assessment is required.) \* Please note that 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade PE may be combined classes

## **TECHNOLOGY**

### **Technology Literacy (required for all 6<sup>th</sup> grade students)**

*Grades 6-8*

*Semester*

In Technology Literacy, students will focus on touch typing, typing speed, accuracy, and word processing. Learn how to effectively use common software applications like Microsoft Office Suite and Google Suite among others. We will also cover concepts such as computer safety and security and netiquette. This is a terrific opportunity to learn and practice with applications that you will use throughout your education and future jobs. After the course students will be fast and accurate keyboardists which will enable them to complete assignments and assessments with greater efficiency.

### **DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY**

*Grades 6-8*

*Semester*

Learn to take quality pictures with your own camera and then learn how to modify, layer, transform, etc. those pictures. Students must provide their own digital, non-cell phone cameras for use in this class.

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## **GATEWAY to TECHNOLOGY**

*Grades 6-8*

*Semester*

Through explorations of coding and robotics, flight and space, and DNA and crime scene analysis, PLTW Gateway fuels students' passion for discovery. As they engage in hands-on, collaborative problem solving focused on real-world challenges, students use and stretch their imaginations in brand-new ways and connect their learning to life. All the while, students step into roles spanning the career landscape – a critical experience during this transitional time in their lives.

## **PROGRAMMING**

*Grades 7-8*

*Semester*

Web technology is an integral part of our everyday lives and so is the demand for skilled designers and developers. This course is a study of how websites are coded. The course is for students wanting to learn the basic language of the Internet. To this end, students will get an overview of what goes into designing and developing effective, user-friendly websites along with hands-on experience with basic web design. We study problem-solving, Hypertext Markup Language (HTML), and Cascading Style Sheets (CSS) as well as explore various platforms for creating online web experiences and real-life applications of web technologies.

## **WORLD LANGUAGE**

*6<sup>th</sup> Grades Students are required to take a World Language*

### **EXPLORATORY FRENCH 1**

*Grades 6 - 8*

*Semester*

Exploratory French is designed to aid students in preparing for the next level course in French. Each unit in this course consists of 6 important components in learning French: vocabulary, grammar, pronunciation, conversation, literature, and culture. We will be covering everyday language topics in French such as describing ourselves and others, feelings, family, classroom, food, sports, etc. Students will build on previously developed skills and knowledge with increasing emphasis on verb conjugation, reading comprehension and more complex conversations.

### **EXPLORATORY FRENCH 2**

*Grades 6 - 8*

*Semester*

Exploratory French 2 is designed to aid students in preparing for the next level course in French. This class will build on what students learned in Exploratory French 1. The course will be split into two categories: Language and Culture. The language will have an increasing focus on vocabulary, grammar, and pronunciation. In the Culture portion we will focus on the Francophone Province of Quebec in Canada, examining its history, food, sports, and current issues.

### **EXPLORATORY FRENCH 3**

*Grades 8*

*Semester*

Exploratory French 3 is designed to aid students in preparing for studying French in high school. Students will have completed Exploratory French 1 & 2. Throughout the course students will communicate with a higher proficiency in French. We will be covering several topics including vocabulary, grammar, pronunciation, conversation, literature, and culture. Throughout the year we will develop increasing skills and knowledge on verb conjugation and complex conversations and topics. The Culture Unit for MS French will be focusing on the nation of France, its culture, its history and everyday occurrences in France.

### **EXPLORATORY SPANISH 1**

*Grades 6 - 8*

*Semester*

Exploratory Spanish is designed for students who have had no or little previous Spanish instruction. It is designed for preparing students for the next level of Spanish. This course will consist of 6 important components in learning Spanish: vocabulary, grammar, pronunciation, conversation, literature, and culture. We will be covering everyday language topics such as greetings, numbers 0-20, colors, weather, dates, expressing time, and other basic phrases. feelings, family, classroom, food, sports, and the conjugation of basic regular and irregular verbs. Student will gain knowledge and understanding of Spanish-speaking cultures.

### **EXPLORATORY SPANISH 2**

*Grade 6 - 8*

*Semester*

This class is designed to aid students to continue their development of basic vocabulary and prepare them for the next level course in Spanish. This course will consist of 6 important components in learning Spanish: vocabulary, grammar, pronunciation, conversation, literature, and culture. We will be covering everyday language topics in Spanish such as

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describing ourselves and others, feelings, family, classroom, food, sports, and the conjugation of basic regular and irregular verbs. Students will gain knowledge and understanding of Spanish-speaking cultures. Some literature is introduced as it fits the curriculum and class readiness.

## **EXPLORATORY SPANISH 3**

*Grade 8*

*Semester*

Students in Exploratory Spanish 3 will be expected to perform at the Novice-Mid-High proficiency level throughout the school year. In this course students will acquire the Spanish language learning approach by engaging in conversations, developing and interpreting written and spoke language on a variety of everyday life topics. They will continue their studies of Spanish-speaking cultures and develop an intercultural awareness.

## **EXPLORATORY GERMAN 1**

*Grade 6-8*

*Semester*

This course is designed to provide an introduction to the German language and German-speaking cultures. Students in this level will attain Novice-Mid proficiency. Learning a language requires exposure to comprehensible input, therefore students will have many different types of activities that allow them to understand communication in German and produce mastery of high-frequency vocabulary. Students will develop proficiency in all three modes of communication (interpretive, interpersonal, and presentational) and will be able to communicate on familiar topics, talk about themselves and their families, and respond to basic questions. They will also be able to use verbs in the present tense and ask simple questions in the target language. Students will also be introduced to several nations of the German-speaking world and be able to label major countries in German.

## **EXPLORATORY GERMAN 2**

*Grade 6-8*

*Semester*

This course is designed to provide an introduction to the German language and German-speaking cultures. Students in this level will attain Novice-Mid to Novice-High proficiency. Learning a language requires exposure to comprehensible input, therefore students will have many different types of activities that allow them to understand communication in German and produce mastery of high-frequency vocabulary. Students will develop proficiency in all three modes of communication (interpretive, interpersonal, and presentational) and will expand their vocabulary and interactions. Students will be able to write short paragraphs and present on a variety of subjects in class. They will also read 1-2 short novels in class, building their reading comprehension and summative abilities. They will also be able to use verbs in the present tense and ask simple questions in the target language. Students will explore aspects of German history and culture as well as traditions of other German-speaking countries.

## **EXPLORATORY GERMAN 3**

*Grade 8*

*Semester*

This course is designed to provide an introduction to the German language and German-speaking cultures. Students in this level will attain Novice-High proficiency. Students will develop proficiency in all three modes of communication (interpretive, interpersonal, and presentational) and will expand their vocabulary and interactions. This course continues to develop the student's ability to communicate on everyday topics, often less rehearsed and practiced in class, in German through a continued emphasis on the three modes of communication (interpretive, interpersonal, and presentational). Students will continue their inquiry into the German language and culture by presenting a few projects and writing more often in class in several verb tenses. Students will also be reading two higher-level novels in class, using these as a base for original short stories and role-playing. They will also be interacting with global issues, such as environment and climate change, in the target language.