

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN MIDDLE SCHOOL & THE GEREAU CENTER COURSE GUIDE

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East Hall Administrators

Mr. Matt Dunbar - 6th Grade Administrator

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Mrs. Teresa Sanders – 7th Grade Administrator/504 Coordinator

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The Gereau Center

Mrs. Leanne Worley - Principal

Benjamin Franklin Middle School

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Rocky Mount, VA 24151

The Gereau Center for Applied Technology and Career Exploration

150 Technology Drive

Rocky Mount, VA 24151

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN MIDDLE SCHOOL

GUIDE TO COURSE OFFERINGS 2022-2023



FROM THE CAMPUS PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students:

Middle school is exciting for students because it is the first time you will have a voice in your course of studies. The courses students choose to take in middle school prepare them for specific pathways at the high school and beyond, so it is important that you are making informed decisions. This guide will help you make decisions that are academically challenging and that prepare you for your future course of study while enrolled at Benjamin Franklin Middle School, The Gereau Center, and later at the high school level.

Courses available to students in 2022-23 reflect an appropriate level of choice as students transition from Grade 6 through Grade 8. Please feel free to contact me or your child's school counselor at 540-483-5105 if you need further direction or clarification about the courses offered at Benjamin Franklin Middle School or The Gereau Center. Mrs. Leanne Worley is Principal of The Gereau Center. You may refer questions to her as well.

It is my hope that this guide will be informative for you so we can work together to provide relevant and engaging learning opportunities for all students at Benjamin Franklin Middle School and The Gereau Center.

Respectfully,
Dr. Jami Clements
Campus Principal



MISSION STATEMENT

All students at Benjamin Franklin Middle School will learn. The school's mission is to discover and foster the conditions under which they learn best. The school staff is committed to helping students emerge from the middle school experience with their maturity and self-esteem enhanced so they can become well-rounded and responsible individuals.

GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT

QUESTIONS about course selection and student scheduling should be directed to the guidance department or one of the administrators at BFMS or TGC.

SCHOOL COUNSELORS

Mrs. Jade Gordon	BFMS East; 6 th grade
Ms. Emily Crutchfield	BFMS East; 6 th grade
Mrs. Clanshia Cox-Gravely	BFMS West; 7 th grade
Mrs. Kristin Plunkett	BFMS West; 7 th grade
Ms. Holly Jones	BFMS West; 8 th grade
Mrs. Reba Hancock	TGC; 8 th grade

School counselors provide support to students and families as they face daily experiences of school, home, and community life. Counselors seek to guide students toward a responsibility for self, a concern for others, and a curiosity to investigate the opportunities for future careers. In addition to counseling students, school counselors also assist with monitoring attendance, academics, registration, maintenance of guidance materials and files, coordination with the Student Assistant Specialist, parental liaison, and special projects.

TEAMING

Sixth grade students are scheduled on one of six interdisciplinary teams and consists of approximately 95 students per team. Sixth grade teams consist of four teachers per grade: English, math, science, and social studies.

Seventh grade students are scheduled on one of five interdisciplinary teams and consists of approximately 115 students per team. Seventh grade teams consist of four teachers per grade: English, math, science, and social studies. Due to the leveling of classes in 7th grade, students may not have all teachers on the same team but all of activities will be coordinated through their assigned team.

Additional teachers work with teams in special areas, electives, and physical education. Each team has a name and logo which establishes an identity that fosters:

- ✓ Positive relationships among students and teachers
- ✓ Improved communication among teachers and parents
- ✓ The sense of a smaller learning community that nurtures self-esteem and academic potential.

In addition to providing academic support, each team plans special activities and field trips to enhance middle school students' experience.

Eighth grade students are scheduled on one of two teams: Franklins, with BFMS-West as the home building; and Eagles, with The Gereau Center as the home building. Group selection is determined by the administration and guidance departments of both buildings. Requests for a particular home building are not honored unless circumstances relevant to the student's success are apparent and approved by each building's principal.

Information about The Gereau Center is found in the second section of this course guide.

GRADE 8 - NEW TECH ACADEMY

In February 2022, any rising 8th grader can apply to attend New Tech at The Gereau Center, a yearlong program for the 2022-2023 school year. There will be 100 slots available. If a large number of students apply, students will be selected by a lottery by zip code method. Selection process will be completed during the

month of April 2022. Please review the Gereau section of this Course Guide for further information.

SOL TESTING

The Commonwealth of Virginia requires that students in grade 8 take SOL tests in the areas of English (writing and reading), math, science, and social studies. In addition, students in the 6th and 7th grades will take SOL tests in reading and math. It is the practice of the middle school instructional staff to prepare all students for success on the SOL tests as well as success on upcoming end-of-course SOL tests required for graduation at Franklin County High School.

SOL Testing Schedule		
Grade	Subject(s)	Time
6th	Reading & Math	May
7th	Reading & Math	May
8th	Science for Eagles at TGC Civics for Franklins at BFMS-West Science OR Civics for New Tech	December
	Writing	March
	Reading & Math	May
	Science for Eagles at BFMS-West Civics for Franklins at TGC Science OR Civics for New Tech	

SIXTH GRADE
BENJAMIN FRANKLIN MIDDLE SCHOOL
East Hall

All 6th grade students are required to take

- English
- Math
- Science
- Social Studies
- 2 electives (one each semester) from the following:
 Art, Family & Consumer Sciences, Keyboarding and Graphic Design,
 or
- Band (full year) or
- Choir (full year)
- Health and Physical Education (alternating days with electives)

Students who failed or had a marginal English or math SOL score in grade 5 may be pulled from their elective for additional academic instruction.

WIN (What I Need)

This class is designed to provide English or Math remediation and/or enrichment based on the academic needs of students. WIN occurs daily for all 6th grade students for the entire school year. Placement of students receiving remediation will be reviewed during the school year. If a student has met academic expectations in math and English, s/he may be moved to an enrichment WIN class. Students in enrichment will rotate to a different WIN class each 9 weeks.

CORE SUBJECTS: English, Math, Science, Social Studies

In English and math, students will be grouped in classes that will best match their respective abilities and challenge them appropriately to their skill and maturity levels. Decisions about the appropriate ability level for each student are made based primarily on SOL test performance the previous school year.

ENGLISH 6

English students present personal opinions, distinguish between fact and opinion, and read a variety of fiction and nonfiction, including novels, short stories, articles, and poetry. Students also plan, draft, revise, and edit narratives, descriptions, and explanations with attention to composition and style, sentence formation, and usage/mechanics.

All 6th grade students enrolled in English 6 are required to take the Reading 6 SOL Test during May of the respective school year.

MATH 6

Math standards are a transition from the emphasis placed on whole number arithmetic in the elementary grades to foundations of algebra. The standards emphasize rational numbers and proportional reasoning. Students will use ratios to compare data sets; recognize and order decimals, fractions and percents as ratios; solve single and multistep problems using rational numbers; and gain a foundation in the understanding of integers. Students will solve linear equations along with solving and graphing inequalities. Students will solve problems involving area, perimeter and surface area, work with π (pi). In addition, students will focus on applications of statistical data. While learning mathematics, students will be actively engaged, using concrete materials and appropriate technology such as online calculator(DES MOS) and computers. Problem solving has been integrated throughout the five content strands.

All 6th grade students enrolled in Math 6 are required to take the Math 6 SOL Test during May of the respective school year.

SCIENCE 6

Science teachers reinforce the study of the scientific method. They emphasize an understanding of change, including weather and watersheds, cycles, and patterns in the physical sciences. A more detailed understanding of the solar system and natural resource management become a focus of instruction.

SOCIAL STUDIES 6

Social studies students study the historical and geographical analysis of early American history. This course will relate to the history of the United States from pre-Columbian times until 1865. Students will learn the fundamental concepts in

civics, economics, and geography as they study U.S. History in chronological sequence. There will be an emphasis on documents and speeches that laid the foundation of American ideals and institutions. Students will also examine the everyday life of people at different times in the country's history through the use of primary and secondary sources. This study of history will emphasize the intellectual skills required for responsible citizenship.

ELECTIVES

HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION 6

Physical fitness, cooperative activities, and basic skill development are emphasized in the physical education component of this 6th grade course. The health portion of the class consists of various health topics including fitness, stress, nutrition, body systems, diseases, drugs, and family life. Students will have health & physical education on alternating days with their elective classes.



BAND

Band is a year long course designed to develop the basic instrumental skills of the players as well as the basic musical knowledge and understanding as related to performance. No prior musical training is necessary. Students must purchase their own instruments and the required band method books. Band rehearsals take place during the regular class period of the school day, not as an extracurricular activity.



CHOIR

Choir is a year long program designed for students who may have little or no experience with group singing. Students acquire proper singing skills, proper breathing skills, basic music theory and musical awareness. Students also develop



knowledge in music through reading and singing. At least two concerts are given during the school year, and additional performing opportunities are available.

KEYBOARDING AND GRAPHIC DESIGN

Keyboarding and Graphic Design provides hands-on learning that enables students to recognize their own potential and interests as they develop keyboarding skills and a basic understanding of graphic design. Keyboarding provides students with a method of sequential, cumulative touch typing instruction critical for building 21st Century skills. Students will be exposed to an integrated cycle of review, demonstration, typing practice, and assessment. This course emphasizes both accuracy and words per minute speed, and provides each student with individualized remediation and goals for success. Keyboarding lessons are accompanied by activities and typing games to engage all learners.

The second part of this course will enable students to identify, analyze and create various forms of visual art by utilizing design software. Students will learn to utilize the elements and principles of design, the design process, spatial relationships, typography and imagery as they apply to practical visual solutions for print, logo design, poster design, and other real work graphic design applications. Students will learn to work collaboratively on projects to enhance leadership, communication, and critical thinking skills.



ART

Art is designed to help students develop higher levels of artistic abilities while being introduced to a variety of mediums, as well as to broaden their basic knowledge of art concepts. Students will explore the basic principles and elements of design: dot, line, shape, value, texture and color. Students will also develop an appreciation for the work of master artists and study the different cultures of art.



FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCES

Family and Consumer Sciences is designed to help students assume more responsibility for self, contribute to the well-being of the family, and have a better understanding of nutrition and health. Students will learn the qualities necessary for being a responsible consumer and citizen. Practical skills are taught in meal preparation, cooking, manners, safety, and terminology used in food preparation.



7th - 8th GRADE ENGLISH AND MATH COURSE OFFERINGS

Honors English 7 and Pre-AP English 8

Honors English courses will be designed for students who have demonstrated an advanced level of interest and achievement with reading and writing. The rationale for honors courses is not to provide another way for students to enroll in classes for additional credit, but rather to offer challenging, high-level courses for students who aspire to an advanced level of learning. Enrollment in Honors and Pre-AP English will be based on multiple data points. Once enrolled, students **must** maintain an acceptable grade of 85 or higher in order to stay eligible for Honors and Pre-AP English.

English Course	Prerequisite(s)	SOL Test(s)	Credit Awarded	Course in Next Grade
English 7	Successful completion of English 6	Reading 7	Middle school English	English 8 or Pre-AP Grade 8 English if found eligible based on criteria
Honors English 7	Eligibility placement will include: successful completion of Grade 6 reading/writing class, Grade 6 teacher recommendation, spring MAP score, Grade 6 SOL score	Reading 7	Middle School English	English 8 or Pre-AP Grade 8 English if found eligible based on criteria
English 8	Successful completion of English 7	Reading 8 Writing 8	Middle School English	English 9 or AP English if found eligible based on attending high school's criteria
Pre-AP English 8	Eligibility placement will include: Standardized reading and writing assessment, spring MAP score, Grades, Grade 7 SOL score, and Grade 7 teacher recommendation	Reading 8 Writing 8	Middle School English	English 9 or AP English if found eligible based on attending high school's criteria

Honors Math 7, Pre-AP Honors Algebra, and Pre-AP Honors Geometry

Honors Math courses will be designed for students who have demonstrated an advanced level of interest and achievement in mathematics. The rationale for honors courses is not to provide another way for students to enroll in classes for additional credit, but rather to offer challenging, high level courses for students who aspire to an advanced level of learning. Enrollment in Honors Math will be based on multiple data points. Once enrolled, in order to stay eligible for Honors Math, students **must** maintain an acceptable grade of 85 or higher.

Math Course	Prerequisite(s)	SOL Test	Credit Awarded	Course in Next Grade
Math 7	Successful completion of Math 6	Math 7	Middle school math	Pre-Algebra 8 or Pre-AP Honors Algebra for qualifying students
Honors Math 7	Enrollment in Honors Math will be based on multiple components: Grade 6 SOL math score, Grade 6 math grades, Grade 6 teacher recommendation, & spring MAP score.	Math 7	Middle school math	Pre-Algebra 8 or Pre-AP Honors Algebra for qualifying students
Pre-Algebra 8	Successful completion of Math 7	Math 8	Middle school math	Algebra I at FCHS
Pre-AP Honors Algebra	Criteria for placement include: teacher recommendation, successful completion of Math 7; course grade & score on algebra readiness test (Orleans Hanna Test)	Algebra	High school credit	Geometry or Honors Geometry at FCHS
Pre-AP Honors Geometry 8 (2nd semester only)	Successful completion of Algebra, successful completion of SOL, Orleans Hanna, core grade	Geometry	Geometry	Pre-AP Algebra 2

SEVENTH GRADE
BENJAMIN FRANKLIN MIDDLE SCHOOL
West Hall

All 7th grade students are required to take

- English
- Math
- Science
- Social Studies
- Health & Physical Education (alternating days with electives)
- 2 electives* (one each semester) from the following:
 - Art, Family & Consumer Sciences, STEM, or
 - Band (full year) or
 - Choir (full year)

**Students who failed or marginally passed the Reading or Math SOL test in grade 6 may be pulled from their elective weekly for additional academic instruction.*

CORE SUBJECTS

In English and math, students will be grouped in classes that will best match their respective abilities and challenge them appropriately to their skill and maturity levels. Decisions about the appropriate ability level for each student are made based primarily on SOL test performance the previous school year. In addition, course grades and teacher recommendations may also be factors in the placement decision. BFMS offers students two English courses and two math courses in the seventh grade, depending on students' mastery of skills in Grade 6. Please refer to the chart on pages 12 and 13 for a complete listing of English and math courses, prerequisites and testing information.

ENGLISH 7

English students read and discuss a variety of literature, focusing on elements of fiction, nonfiction, drama, and poetry. In addition to reading, students will write a variety of narrative, expository, and persuasive compositions with emphasis on the writing process. Students practice skills in oral communication and continue to improve grammar, spelling, and punctuation skills. Students are expected to read

and discuss literature at a deeper level (apply critical thinking and reasoning skills across content area).

HONORS ENGLISH 7

Students will expand their learning in developing proficient communication skills through critical reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Students will read, respond, analyze, and interpret a variety of literature, including, but not limited to, works of fiction, nonfiction, drama, and poetry. Students will demonstrate their in-depth comprehension and analytical skills through a variety of written genres and oral presentations. This course will help prepare students for the more rigorous literature and writing required of students seeking placement in the 8th grade, as well as aiding in the development of creativity, critical thinking, problem-solving, academic responsibility, and initiative. Once enrolled, students **must** maintain an acceptable grade of 85 or higher in order to stay eligible for Honors English.

All 7th grade students enrolled in English 7 are required to take the Reading 7 SOL Test during May of the respective school year.

MATH 7

The emphasis is on the foundations of Algebra. Topics in Grade 7 include proportional reasoning, integer computation, solving two-step linear equations, and recognizing different representations for relationships. Students will apply the properties of real numbers in solving equations, solve inequalities, and use data analysis techniques to make inferences, conjectures, and predictions. While learning mathematics, students will be actively engaged, using concrete materials and appropriate technologies such as calculators and computers. Problem solving has been integrated throughout the six content strands.

HONORS MATH 7

Honors Math is designed for selected students who excelled in Honors Math 6 and/or pass advanced score on Math 6 SOL in addition to teacher recommendation and Math 6 grades. The course will cover all 7th grade SOL objectives with emphasis placed on depth of understanding and differentiated instruction to meet the needs of all advanced learners. Successful completion of Honors Math 7 will enable these students to qualify for Pre-AP Honors Algebra in Grade 8. Once

enrolled, in order to stay eligible for Honors Math, students **must** maintain an acceptable grade of 85 or higher.

All 7th grade students enrolled in Math 7 are required to take the Math 7 SOL Test during May of the respective school year.

LIFE SCIENCE

Life Science builds on students' previous understanding of living organisms and their relationships with the environment. The students explore the cellular organization of organisms, how living organisms are classified, the transmission of genetic information and the dynamic relationships among organisms, populations, communities, and ecosystems. Students continue to improve their inquiry skills by organizing and analyzing data, manipulating variables in an experiment, and identifying possible sources of experimental error.

PRE-AP LIFE SCIENCE

Pre-AP class in 7th grade science will be offered in 2022-2023. With a minimum grade of a "B" in Grade 6 Science as well as a strong interest in the subject, students will complete a multi-step application process. Each application will be scored using a rubric with points assigned to each component of the process. For those students who qualify, both students and parents will sign a contract prior to enrollment indicating a commitment to maintain an acceptable grade of 85 or higher and completing all extensive reading and writing assignments.

SOCIAL STUDIES 7

The study of economics, geography, and history of the United States from 1865 to the present. The standards for this course relate to the history of the U.S. from the end of Reconstruction to the present. Political, economic, and social challenges facing the nation reunited after civil war will be examined chronologically as students develop an understanding of how the American experience shaped the world's political and economic landscape. This study of history will emphasize the intellectual skills required for responsible citizenship.

PRE-AP SOCIAL STUDIES 7

Pre-AP class in Social Studies 7 will be offered in 2022-22. With a minimum grade of a “B” in Grade 6 Social Studies as well as a strong interest in the subject, students will complete a multi-step application process. Each application will be scored using a rubric with points assigned to each component of the process. For those students who qualify, both students and parents will sign a contract prior to enrollment indicating a commitment to maintain an acceptable grade of 85 or higher and completing all extensive reading and writing assignments.

HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION

In physical education, students participate in various physical activities that include individual and team sports, games, and lifetime activities. Emphasis is placed on improving physical fitness and maintaining a healthy lifestyle throughout their lifetime. Health units include nutrition, relationships, wellness, drug education, and family life.

**WIN (What I Need)**

This class is designed to provide English or Math remediation and/or enrichment based on the academic needs of students. WIN occurs daily for all 7th grade students for the entire school year. Placement of students receiving remediation will be reviewed at the end of each 9 weeks. If a student has met academic expectations in math and English, s/he will be moved to an enrichment WIN class. Students in enrichment will rotate to a different WIN class each 9 weeks.

ELECTIVES

BAND

BAND 7* is designed for students who have successfully completed one full year of beginning band in Grade 6 and have received the recommendation from their beginning band instructor to continue. Students should have acquired basic music reading skills and playing skills relating to their instruments. Band 7 further develops the students' knowledge of music, both in reading and playing skills through exercises, scales, and concert selections.

**In order for students to begin Band 7 without prior directed instruction, an audition by the band director is required, as well as obtaining an instrument. Securing private lessons may also be recommended.*



CHOIR

Choir in Grade 7 is designed for students to further develop their music skills. Students focus on learning to read music, singing in harmony, increasing their skills as musicians, and developing a blended and musical choral sound. Performances are offered periodically throughout the year, and students are expected to participate in winter and spring concerts. No audition is required for participation in Choir 7.



FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES

Family and Consumer Sciences is an introductory class for middle school students to develop everyday life skills. Students will be instructed in and work towards the development of life skills which will enhance independence in building self-sufficiency in personal and social life. Topics include nutrition, meal preparation, health, and personal finance.



ART

Art is designed to introduce the student to the elements and principles of art and their application. The student will be introduced to both two-dimensional and three-dimensional works of art. This course will encourage self-expression through different art media that is used.



STEM

STEM provides hands-on learning that enables students to recognize their interests as they develop a greater understanding of the careers associated with technology. Introduction to Computer-Based Learning is used to improve students' computer skills and introduce them to the STEM laboratory. Students work collaboratively in modules, following step-by-step instructions and working through a variety of technologies that include the four core-area subjects. Students understand authentic learning as they make connections between learning and real-life experiences in the workplace.

EIGHTH GRADE
BENJAMIN FRANKLIN MIDDLE SCHOOL
West Hall

Eighth graders will be divided into two groups, the Franklins and Eagles. The home base for Franklins is BFMS. The Eagles will have The Gereau Center* as their home base. The Franklins will be at BFMS 1st semester; the Eagles will be at The Gereau Center 1st semester. All Grade 8 students will take science at The Gereau Center and civics at BFMS. The students will have the same Math and English teacher all year long. The New Tech students will be at The Gereau Center the entire school year.

**The Gereau Center's offerings are explained in the next section of this guide.*

All Grade 8 students are required to take the following subjects at BFMS:

- English
- Math
- Civics and Economics
- Elective (Health & PE, Band, or Choir)

All Grade 8 students are required to take the following subjects at The Gereau Center:

- English
- Math
- Science
- Elective (Module, Band, or Choir)

All Grade 8 New Tech students are required to take the following:

- English/Module Combination
- Math
- Civics and Economics
- Science/Module Combination
- Elective or Module

CORE SUBJECTS

In 8th grade English and Math, students are grouped in classes that best match their respective abilities and challenge them appropriately.

ENGLISH 8

This course in writing, public speaking, literature, reading, and vocabulary development prepares students for the 8th grade SOL tests. The students will plan, draft, revise, and edit their writing, with an emphasis on persuasion. Students learn and apply interviewing techniques. Eighth grade students read a variety of fiction and nonfiction selections in which they will identify and explain a variety of literary elements.

PRE-AP ENGLISH 8

Pre-AP classes in English 8 will be offered. With a minimum grade of a “B” in Grade 7 English, as well as a strong interest in the subject, students will complete a multi-step application process. Each application will be scored using a rubric with points assigned to each component of the process. For those students who qualify, both students and parents will sign a contract prior to enrollment indicating a commitment to maintaining an acceptable grade of 85 or higher and completing all extensive reading and writing assignments.

All 8th grade students enrolled in English 8 are required to take the Writing 8 SOL and the Reading 8 SOL.

MATH

BFMS offers three math courses in Grade 8, depending on SOL test results and prior math experience. In each class, students use concrete materials, calculators, and computers as well as appropriate technologies.

PRE-ALGEBRA 8

Pre Algebra includes content that reviews or extends concepts and skills learned in previous grades. It contains new content that prepares students for more abstract concepts in algebra and geometry. The standards provide students additional instruction and time to acquire the concepts and skills necessary for success in Algebra I. Students will gain proficiency in computation with rational numbers and use proportions to solve a variety of problems. New concepts include solving

multistep equations and inequalities, graphing linear equations, visualizing three-dimensional shapes represented in two-dimensional drawings, and applying transformations to geometric shapes in the coordinate plane. Students will verify and apply the Pythagorean Theorem and represent relations and functions using tables, graphs, and rules. While learning mathematics, students will be actively engaged, using concrete materials and appropriate technologies. Problem solving has been integrated throughout the six content strands.

All Pre-Algebra students are required to take the Math 8 SOL Test.

PRE-AP HONORS ALGEBRA

Pre-AP Honors Algebra is the sequential development of concepts and skills by using concrete materials to assist students in making the transition from arithmetic to the symbolic. Students will make connections and build relationships between algebra and arithmetic, geometry, and probability and statistics. Connections will be made to other subject areas through practical applications. Using this approach helps students attach meaning to the abstract concepts of algebra. These standards require students to use algebra as a tool for representing and solving a variety of practical problems. Tables and graphs will be used to interpret algebraic expressions, equations, and inequalities and to analyze behaviors of functions. Graphing calculators, computers, and other appropriate technology tools will be used to assist in teaching and learning.

All Pre-AP Honors Algebra students are required to take the Algebra I SOL Test.

PRE-AP HONORS GEOMETRY

Pre-AP Honors Geometry includes properties of geometric figures, trigonometric relationships, and reasoning to justify conclusions. A gradual development of proof involving inductive and intuitive approaches will be used. The course includes an emphasis on two and three-dimensional reasoning skills, coordinate and transformational geometry, and the use of geometric models to solve problems. A variety of applications and some general problem-solving techniques including algebraic skills will be required. Calculators, computers, graphing utilities (graphing calculators or computer graphing simulators), dynamic geometry software, and other appropriate technology tools will be used to assist in teaching and learning.

This course will be offered during the 2nd semester of the 2022-2023 school year in conjunction with Algebra. Students who take Geometry will not have an elective class 2nd semester.

CIVICS & ECONOMICS

The 8th grade Civics and Economics incorporates the major themes of active citizenship, politics, the rights of individuals vs. the rights of society, social interaction and change, and a study of economics.

PRE-AP CIVICS AND ECONOMICS

Pre-AP Civics and Economics incorporates the curriculum of the Civics and Economics class offered to all 8th grade students. The pace and scope of the class is enhanced to meet the needs of advanced students and to provide a path for those students to AP Social Studies offered later in high school. Students will have a minimum grade of a “B” in 7th grade social studies. For those students who qualify, both students and parents will sign a contract prior to enrollment indicating a commitment to maintain an acceptable grade of 85 or higher and completing all extensive reading and writing assignments. Interested students will complete an application and go through a selection process.

All 8th Grade students will take the Civics and Economics SOL test at the end of the semester during which they were enrolled in Civics and Economics.

ELECTIVES

In addition to English, math, and civics, students in Grade 8 at Benjamin Franklin Middle School may take 8th grade health and physical education unless they are enrolled in Geometry, Band or Choir. Eighth grade students who are at The Gereau Center will be bussed to Benjamin Franklin Middle School for band or choir.

HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Health and physical education in Grade 8 is a continuation of 6th and 7th grade with an emphasis on physical fitness, lifetime activities, team sports, and games. Students will focus on improving fitness levels and developing healthy habits. Strength & conditioning will be a part of each class. Health topics will include, but

are not limited to, drug awareness, nutrition, physical fitness, boating safety, wellness, and family life.

BAND 8

This elective is designed for students who have successfully completed Band 7 and have received the recommendation from their band director to continue. Music skills are further developed through playing and reading exercises, concert selections, and performances. Band 8 is necessary for the transition to the high school band program and is a prerequisite for the Franklin County High School Band.



GENERAL CHOIR 8

Choir 8 is designed for students with basic background in the fundamentals of music. Enrollment in choir in Grades 6 or 7 is not required for this class. Students continue to develop musical skills by learning and performing a variety of musical styles including classical masterworks, jazz, modern choral compositions and popular music.



AUDITION CHOIR

Students enrolled in this 8th grade choir elective will have completed a successful audition. It is highly recommended, but not required, that students in Audition Choir 8 have successfully completed choir at the 6th or 7th grade level. Students continue to develop their musical skills at a deeper level by learning and performing a variety of musical styles including classical masterworks, jazz, modern choral compositions and popular music. Eighth graders continue to practice teamwork and cooperation within the choral group. This choral group performs in general venues outside of school at the discretion of the director.

MIDDLE SCHOOL PROMOTION/RETENTION POLICY

Students are placed in the next grade or retained after a careful review of the following criteria:

- ✓ Grades
- ✓ SOL objectives mastered and test performance
- ✓ Attendance
- ✓ Special education status (if applicable)
- ✓ ESL status (if applicable)
- ✓ 504 status (if applicable)
- ✓ Previous retention

Although the middle school experience is considered a three-year program, some students will need to remain longer. However, no student should spend more than four years in the middle school program. At the end of the four years, administrators on a case-by-case basis, will determine promotion.

Eighth grade students are expected to successfully complete the requirements of the core subjects. In addition, 8th grade students are expected to successfully complete the program of core and elective classes at The Gereau Center in order to be promoted to the 9th grade.

Any middle school student who fails three or more core-area classes must repeat the grade. Some exceptions apply and are made on a careful case-by-case review of the student's past performance, maturity level, and age. When retention appears likely, appropriate steps will be taken to inform parents or guardians that retention may be necessary.

CRITERIA FOR SUMMER SCHOOL PLACEMENT AND RETENTION

Any middle school student who fails one or two core-area subjects or is not successful in passing an SOL test in Math or English need to successfully complete the classes in summer school. Following completion of summer school, an instructional-staff committee evaluates each student's progress during the summer sessions in order to be promoted to the next grade level.

GENERAL ATHLETIC INFORMATION

Jessica Slough - Athletic Coordinator/Sports Contact
Cell Number: 540-493-6542

There are two types of athletic opportunities available at BFMS: interscholastic and off-season conditioning.

INTERSCHOLASTIC

Interscholastic sports are represented by our “school” teams. In most cases tryouts are held, cuts are made, and teams travel to compete against other middle schools. Interscholastic sports are only available for seventh and eighth graders. **A current VHSL (Virginia High School League) physical must be on file for students to participate in pre-season conditioning and tryouts.** Physical forms are located at the front office in the west hall or at the VHSL website. Sixth graders are only allowed to manage interscholastic sports.

OFF-SEASON CONDITIONING AND WORKOUTS

To participate in off-season conditioning and workouts, students must have a current physical on file. The purpose of these activities is to help our athletes get a head start for the next season. We offer fall baseball in October and football weightlifting and conditioning beginning in January. Sixth graders may participate in the football activity only.

MANDATORY PARENT MEETINGS

Before each sports’ season begins, dates will be selected for mandatory parent meetings for all middle school and high school students interested in participating in a sport. Both parents and athletes are asked to attend these meetings so that they can be informed of the concussion protocol. It is the law in Virginia that ALL parents, coaches and athletes are trained each year. Failure to attend this meeting may prevent your child from participating. Only one parent meeting is required even if a student plays in more than one sport. Students who participate in multiple sports throughout the year should make plans to attend the team part of the meeting which begins about 45 minutes after the start time. BFMS will send information about the meetings through a dial out. Dates will also be listed on the BFMS website under the athletics tab. All meetings will be held at the FCHS auditorium.

INTERSCHOLASTIC SPORTS OFFERED AT BFMS

Fall Sports	Winter Sports	Spring Sports
Football – Coach Chris Renick	Boy's Basketball – Coach Chris Tyree	Boy's Soccer – Coach Evan Saleeby
Volleyball – Coach Amy McCrickard	Girl's Basketball – Coach Brittany Moyer	Girl's Soccer – Co-Coach Kate Bridges and Co-Coach Daishi Dudley
Golf – Coach Bryan Forbes	Wrestling – Coach James Bernard	Softball – Coach Alicia Wray
Cross Country – Coach David Southall	Cheerleading - Coach Kelci Hall	Baseball – Coach Adam Millard
Tennis – Coach Stephanie Lovelace		Track – Coach Chandler Hunt
Cheerleading - Coach Kelci Hall		
Football begins at the end of July Volleyball, Cross Country, Golf and Tennis begin at the beginning of August	Generally start toward the end of October	Generally start toward the end of February

TRANSPORTATION

Students who are “in season” may ride the activity bus. (Example: Football, Volleyball, Golf, and Cross Country participants may ride the bus in the fall.) There are only 4 buses available. Each bus stops at designated areas and does not take students directly home. For safety reasons, parents must be at the designated stop or the driver will not allow the student to depart the bus. Parents should call the bus garage at 483-5541 to find out bus numbers, stops and drop off times. This information can also be found online through the Franklin County Schools Webpage under the Transportation tab. Coaches will provide passes for the athletes to ride the activity bus.

GRADES AND ELIGIBILITY

In order for an athlete to be eligible he/she must be passing 4 out of 5 classes in seventh grade and 3 out of 4 in eighth grade. Being eligible means the athlete can still be on the team. Eligibility has nothing to do with playing time. Coaches and

administration reserve the right to limit or take away playing time until all grades in all classes are satisfactory. Grades come first and if a student has to miss practice to attend tutoring or get extra help from a teacher then that is what he/she will be required to do. Eligibility is checked at the end of each semester.

BEHAVIOR

Students who participate in sports at BFMS are expected to behave in all aspects of the school setting. Students who receive consequences from teachers or administration may also receive consequences from their coach.

SPECIFIC INFORMATION ABOUT PHYSICALS

Anyone trying out or participating in off season activities must have a current VHSL physical on file. A current physical is dated after **May 1** and is valid through June of next year. There are opportunities to get physicals for a reduced fee at the high school during the month of May. These are valid for the next school year.

Pages 1, 2, and 4 must be completed by the parent. Page 3 is completed by a physician. Incomplete physicals are not valid. All signature blanks must be filled in by both the parent and the athlete. Physicals can be turned into Jessica Slough at BFMS, Sandy Coblentz at FCHS, or to the coach on the **FIRST** day of practice/conditioning. Students **WILL NOT** be allowed to participate in interscholastic sports without a completed physical. Extra paperwork must be included for inhalers and epipens.

School entrance examination forms or sandlot physicals will not be accepted.

OFF-SEASON CONDITIONING

Athletes must have a physical to participate in off season conditioning. Athletes must have their own rides. If off-season practice is located at the high school, athletes must have a bus pass from Mrs. Slough giving permission to get off the bus at FCHS.

FEES

There may be fees involved when participating in interscholastic sports. Football has a practice pack fee. The purchase of team shoes may be required in some

sports. Baseball pants are to be provided by the players. Other items may be required and purchased after tryouts.

OTHER IMPORTANT POINTS

In the summer, please read the Franklin News Post for information about fall tryouts since football begins before students return to school.

Sign up to receive dialouts from BFMS.

Encourage students to listen to announcements in the morning and afternoon. Coaches generally start announcing information weeks ahead of tryout dates.

Call BFMS at 483-5105 or Jessica Slough (Athletic Coordinator) at 493-6542 during the summer to find out additional information.

**The Leonard A. Gereau Center
for Applied Technology & Career Exploration**



**GUIDE TO COURSE OFFERINGS
2022-2023**

(540) 483-5446

Dear Parents and Students:

I want to take this opportunity to welcome you to The Leonard A. Gereau Center for Applied Technology & Career Exploration. The Gereau Center is an innovative and creative learning center whose program is student centered, combining challenging academic standards and integrating critical thinking skills in a problem-based learning approach. Our curriculum incorporates the Virginia Standards of Learning to enhance the core subjects with applied, hands-on methods. The program of studies offers students the unique experience of learning factual information about different types of careers as well as experimenting with problem based activities connected to career exploration.

Students are immersed in authentic problem solving, units of study and projects, guided toward practical solutions by instructors who function as facilitators. This opportunity to apply their knowledge and skills demonstrates to students real world applications of their studies. The school's original design layout as a corporate research center serves to enhance our current problem and project based elective courses as well as New Tech, our school within a school, and traditional course offerings.

It is the belief of the faculty and staff that what students learn at The Gereau Center should be relevant to family, community, and the workplace. To this end, the programs offered at The Gereau Center seek to be relevant and encompass new trends in education and the workforce. We strive to be performance based and work closely with other educators, parents, and representatives from business, industry, and government. We are excited to provide this experience to the students of Franklin County.

Respectfully,
Leanne H. Worley
TGC Principal

MISSION STATEMENT

The Leonard A. Gereau Center for Applied Technology and Career Exploration will enable students to explore various career options and prepare them to make knowledgeable decisions about their future educational choices while supporting all divisional goals.

It is our belief that what students learn at The Gereau Center should:

- “ Be relevant to family, workplace, and community
- “ Be student centered
- “ Be performance based
- “ Stem from mastery of curriculum objectives jointly developed by educators, parents, and representatives from business, industry, and government, and be directed toward the mastery of the Virginia Standards of Learning
- “ Create and expand a knowledge base of career information
- “ Lead clearly and effectively into secondary and post-secondary educational programs available to all students

GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT

Questions about course selection and student scheduling should be directed to the school counselor or the principal. The school counselor at The Gereau Center is Mrs. Reba Hancock and the principal is Mrs. Leanne Worley - 540-483-5446.

School counselors meet the needs of students as they face daily experiences of school, home, and community life. Counselors seek to guide students toward a responsibility for self, a concern for others, and a curiosity to investigate the opportunities for a future career. In addition to counseling students, the school counselor also assists with monitoring attendance, registration, scheduling, maintenance of up-to-date guidance materials and files, coordination of visiting teacher services, parental liaison, outside agencies, and special projects.

CORE SUBJECTS

MATHEMATICS

Franklin County Public Schools offer three math courses in grade 8, depending on SOL test results and prior math experience. In each class, students use concrete materials, calculators, and computers as well as appropriate technologies. The math classes are year long classes. At the end of the first semester, students and their Math teachers will change locations. They will either move from TGC to BFMS for the second semester of Math or vice versa.

The classes offered to 8th grade students are:

- **Pre-Algebra 8:**

At the end of the year, pre-algebra students take the grade 8 Math SOL Test.

- **Pre-AP (Honors) Algebra I:**

Qualifying Students. At the end of the year, Algebra I students take the Algebra 1 SOL Test.

- **Pre-AP Geometry**

Qualifying students. At the end of the year, Geometry students take the Geometry SOL.

Refer to the BFMS section of this course guide for complete descriptions of the mathematics courses.

ENGLISH

Franklin County Public Schools offer two English courses in grade 8, depending on SOL test results and prior English experience. The course components for English 8 are writing, public speaking, literature, reading, and vocabulary development. This course prepares students for the 8th grade SOL test. The students will plan, draft, revise, and edit their writing, with an emphasis on persuasion. Students learn and apply interviewing techniques. Eighth grade students read a variety of fiction and nonfiction selections in which they will identify and explain a variety of literary elements. The English classes are year long classes. At the end of the first semester, students and their English teachers will change locations. They will either move from TGC to BFMS for the second semester of English or vice versa.

English 8 and Pre-AP English 8

In March, English students take the grade 8 Writing SOL Test. At the end of the year, English students take the grade 8 English SOL Test.

Refer to the BFMS section of this course guide for complete descriptions of the English courses.

SCIENCE

Franklin County Public Schools offer two science courses in grade 8, depending on SOL test results and prior science experience. Students in science classes will use instructional activities, laboratory experiments, and appropriate technology to master the standards for science in Virginia. Students will also participate in ecological and environmental activities to enrich their education in science.

Physical Science 8:

Eighth grade science, Physical Science 8, is the study of physics (heat, light, sound, electricity, and magnetism) and chemistry (the atom, periodic table of elements, compounds, mixtures, formula writing, and balancing equations). This course provides the foundation for high school chemistry and physics. At the end of the semester, students will take the Standards of Learning test in Science 8.

Pre-AP Science 8

Pre-AP Physical Science 8 incorporates the curriculum of the Science 8 class offered to all 8th grade students. The pace and scope of the class is enhanced to meet the needs of the advanced student and to provide a foundation for students to apply for the AP science offerings in high school. Students and parents will sign a contract prior to enrollment indicating a commitment to maintain an acceptable grade and complete extensive reading and writing assignments. Interested students will complete an application and go through a selection process. At the end of the semester, students will take the Standards of Learning test in Science 8.

CAREER EXPLORATION MODULES & ELECTIVES

The career exploration modules are designed to help students explore careers in each field. The students will gain insight into their own interests and skills. This insight will assist them in choosing courses in high school and preparing for post-secondary options. Module classes will last for a semester.

Architecture and Energy Engineering Design

This module allows students the opportunity to explore various career options in the fields of architectural design. Specific activities include scale drawings and modeling, both by hand and digitally. Students will explore various parts of design from product development to urban planning. Participants in the architectural design module will investigate careers in the fields of product, interior, building, landscape, and urban design with projects and reflections as groups and as individuals.

Students will study the nature of energy and its flow through an ecosystem, demonstrate an understanding of the sources of energy and the conversion of these sources in a manner that can be utilized by humans, examine modalities of energy consumption for transportation, electricity and housing, and explore new architectural solutions to pressing energy and environmental problems. Students will leave the class with an understanding of human influence on the planet due to human energy usage.

Graphic & Visual Design

The Graphic and Visual Design Module provides students with the opportunity to explore their own creative, individual expression as well as study art careers using state-of-the art technology. The module's technology introduces them to the principles of graphic design, computer drawing, animation, and photography. The

course includes instruction in the following software applications: Corel Painter, Adobe Photoshop, and iMovie. Students depart the class with a digital portfolio of their creative works.

Health Science Career Exploration

Health Science Career Exploration course will provide students with exposure to a wide variety of healthcare professions including medical care, veterinary sciences, dental and vision, emergency response, radiation, oncology, mental health, administration, pharmaceuticals, and laboratory sciences. Students will understand the interrelationships between major body systems, identify factors and interventions that impact personal well-being, and discover roles and responsibilities of professionals involved in patient care. Students will conduct a personal analysis and self-reflection of skills and interests in healthcare professions to make informed decisions about future courses of study.

Computer Science Career Exploration

In the Computer Science Exploration course students will use a computational thinking approach to explore many roles and emerging trends within the computer science field. This course will provide students with an introduction to coding, game design, and app development necessary for use in the workforce or for further study. Students will investigate real-world problems and solutions related to cybersecurity, digital forensics, and the protection of information. Additionally, they will build awareness of their own digital footprint and how to protect themselves, their property, and data. Students will explore computing systems, building and repairing hardware and ways that networking and the internet facilitate the transfer of information and impact their lives. This course will foster an inclusive and collaborative culture where students explore the impact of computer science both locally and globally.

Spanish I

A traditional academic high school credited course. Students develop a vocabulary that enables them to carry on a simple Spanish conversation. Students also learn essential grammatical structures that allow them to form present tense sentences. The Spanish curriculum is supported by the use of software and Internet activities covering vocabulary and various cultural topics.

Band

Students enrolled in band will be transported to BFMS after 3rd period to participate in this course. This is a semester-long program and will typically take place during the semester that the student is at BFMS. However, band is available to New Tech students also and some eighth grade students may choose to take two semesters of band.

Choir

Choir 8 is designed for students with a basic background in the fundamentals of music. Neither enrollment in choir in grades 6 or 7 is required for this class. Students continue to develop musical skills by learning and performing a variety of musical styles including classical masterworks, jazz, modern choral compositions and popular music. Students enrolled in choir will be transported to BFMS after 3rd period to participate in this course. This is a semester-long program and will typically take place during the semester that the student is at BFMS. However, choir is available to New Tech students also.

AUDITION CHOIR 8

Students enrolled in this 8th grade choir elective will have completed a successful audition. It is highly recommended, but not required, that students in Audition Choir 8 have successfully completed choir at the 6th or 7th grade level. Students continue to develop their musical skills at a deeper level by learning and performing a variety of musical styles including classical masterworks, jazz, modern choral compositions and popular music. Eighth graders continue to practice teamwork and cooperation within the choral group. This choral group performs in general venues outside of school at the discretion of the director.

NEW TECH @ GEREAU

New Tech @ Gereau is an exciting Project-Based Learning academy where students learn and develop the skills required for success by solving complex problems through critical thinking, collaboration, and communication with their peers. Students are engaged and become masters of their own learning as they understand the relevance of the content and are successful at applying their knowledge to solve real problems. Rising 8th grade students can apply to join the fifth class of 100 students for the 2022-2023 school year.

This new program is designed in collaboration with the New Tech Network, a national organization that partners with schools and school districts to develop authentic learning environments. The New Tech concept:

- combines blended instruction
- requires student collaboration
- utilizes project-based learning
- supports learning with computer technology

The students will engage in meaningful projects which will drive their learning by discovery. In this process, students will see the application of the information they learn making this a powerful way to learn.

There will be two blended classes in New Tech @ Gereau. One blending will combine English with communications instruction that encompasses television broadcasting, print, and online media. Another blending will combine science and forensics. These blended courses will take place during second and third periods. Aligned Project-Based Civics and Problem-Based math classes will also take place at The Gereau Center to serve the students in New Tech @ Gereau.

Modules Blended Into New Tech @ Gereau

Each of the two modules described below will be blended with a core class to form a unified course of study. In other words, the blended course will have two teachers who bring the expertise in their content into the new class to provide a new learning experience. This will allow students to make academic connections which empower them to see how what they learn in one subject will have application in other subjects.

English 8/Leadership and Entrepreneurship

This course offers students a hands-on opportunity to study writing, public speaking, literature, reading, and vocabulary development. This is a yearlong course within the New Tech @ Gereau program centered in problem-based learning and blended with English 8 to develop and refine leadership qualities. Students will utilize the New Tech Learning Outcomes of Agency, Written & Oral Communication, and Collaboration to develop leadership traits which will help them succeed in life. Students will explore different leadership types and how effective they are in certain situations and will also learn how to plan and conduct meetings, motivate self and others, and develop a professional profile. The course will allow students to work with others while developing self-confidence and

public speaking skills in addition to honing their problem solving abilities. Students will have the opportunity to plan a leadership activity for the school/community.

Science/Forensics (Sci-For)

In Forensic Science, students will be introduced to the basics of criminal investigations through hands-on, problem-solving activities. Students will learn the fundamentals of collecting, processing, and analyzing evidence, and will have opportunities to analyze evidence using real scientific techniques and equipment. Students will investigate evidence such as hairs, fibers, fingerprints, blood, bones, DNA, insects, and motor vehicle collisions. Students will become familiar with the many different careers associated with forensics and learn how they all work together to solve crimes. In an effort to utilize more modern technologies and less paper, students are taught to use computer software and online tools to collect and analyze data, communicate and collaborate with peers, and present investigation findings.