

MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE GUIDE



**BROWNELL
TALBOT**

Middle School Course Guide

The Brownell Talbot Middle School curriculum permits choice within a rigorous program. Students have a broad scope of required core classes each year supplemented by a rich curriculum of elective classes and student activities.

THE MIDDLE SCHOOL SCHEDULE

Currently Middle School operates on a five-day rotating schedule. This is different from a Monday-Friday schedule in that classes meet on the scheduled “rotation day” instead of Monday, Tuesday, etc. Because not all Middle School classes meet every day, the rotation prevents classes that may typically fall on a Monday or Friday from missing significant instructional time when a school holiday falls on Monday or Friday. Some of the instructional blocks also tumble to allow students and teachers to interact at different times of the instructional day. Students who learn better in the morning have the opportunity to learn from teachers of all content areas during their peak learning times, and vice versa. For example, period A meets from 8:00-8:40 on Day 1, 12:45-2:10 on Day 2, and 10:10-11:35 on Day 4. If a student is not a “morning person” they would have two days in the rotation where they may have better physical/emotional engagement.

The block schedule consists of one day of “short” periods (40-45 minutes) when students attend all eight class periods and two days of “long” periods (85 minutes) when students have an extended class period for one-half of their classes. Periods A-D meet on Days 1, 2, and 4. Periods E-H meet on Days 1, 3, and 5.

ENGLISH

The English program offers a framework in which students can master the spoken and written word. Great works of literature present the values and traditions of various societies and provide a model for the efficient and effective use of the English language.

Vocabulary and grammar receive special attention. Several major compositions are assigned each year, and required summer reading is part of the curriculum. Four years of English are required.

English/Language Arts 5

(Fifth grade required)

3 periods per rotation

The overarching focus of the fifth grade ELA curriculum is designed to build students’ literacy skills as they develop knowledge about the world. Students develop their ability to read and understand complex text as they consider essential questions, such as - what are grit and perseverance and how do they contribute to success; how do geographical locations and time influence human responses; what

is the relationship between decisions and outcomes; how do we affect change within our communities and societies; and what is cultural diffusion? They will conduct authentic research to build their own knowledge and teach others through writing. Students study how an author develops point of view and how an author’s perspective, based on their geographic location, is evident in the writing. Students consider point of view as they learn about World War II and the impact of human activity. Students will be involved in a study of how an author develops point of view and how an author’s perspective, based on their culture, is evident in the writing. Through close reading, students will learn multiple strategies for acquiring and using academic vocabulary.

English/Language Arts 6

(Sixth grade required)

3 periods per rotation

The sixth grade English/Language Arts program provides learning opportunities to develop and strengthen language arts skills. Units of study include oral and silent reading, word study, and writing. Oral and

written expression through critical and creative thinking is an integral part of each novel study.

First Semester

Close Reading of Complex Texts: *Save Me a Seat*, *A Diamond in the Desert*, and *The Crossover* studies

Weekly Grammar through Daily Language Review and NoRedInk

Second Semester

Close Reading of Complex Texts: *One Last Word*, *Woods Runner*, and *The Road to Paris*

Weekly Grammar through Daily Language Review and NoRedInk

English 7

(Seventh grade required)

3 periods per rotation

This course is designed to offer a balanced approach to literacy in order to ensure success in reading, writing, listening, and speaking. This approach includes vocabulary and reading skills, comprehension strategies in fiction and non-fiction, and important moves writers make in academic writing. Students will read authentic literature and write for meaningful purposes then demonstrate application of skills and strategies through activities that enable them to use their knowledge.

The goal of the seventh grade English program is to provide instruction that will enable students to become strategic readers, writers, and independent learners.

- Students will read, respond, cite, summarize, analyze, synthesize, and evaluate a variety of fiction and nonfiction texts to build an understanding of diverse reading material and make connections to themselves and the world.
- In Middle School, students demonstrate an understanding of critical reading and thinking as they begin to read between the lines and gain understanding beyond the text through a variety of teaching methods such as small group discussions, partner activities, and independent practice.

- They learn to connect and compare a variety of texts focusing on informational text and close reading strategies to form opinions and thoughts about new information.

- They will compare and contrast novels by analyzing the characters, settings, and plot structure.

- Students begin to hone in on essential skills and strategies through explicit instruction and opportunities so students can develop, practice, and master specific comprehension skills.

Literature selections include summer reading of *The Giver* by Lois Lowry, *A Long Walk to Water* by Linda Sue Park, *The Omnivore's Dilemma* by Michael Pollen, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* by William Shakespeare, *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak, and a variety of informational sources such as TedTalk, articles, videos, infographics, and more.

English 8

(Eighth grade required)

3 periods per rotation

The eighth grade English program provides learning opportunities that develop language arts skills and prepare students for success in Upper School. Units of study include grammar, spelling, vocabulary, various literary genres (short story, novel, drama), and oral and written expression. The program emphasizes both critical and creative thinking through building on the central components of the seventh grade curriculum.

Students demonstrate their level of mastery of the material by way of daily homework, quizzes, tests, participation in class discussions, class essays, and long-term projects.

Course Material: *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee, Bantam Classic, 1989; *Elements of Literature, 3rd Course*, Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 2005; *Romeo and Juliet* included in (*Elements of Literature*); *A Tale of Two Cities* by Charles Dickens. Summer reading also includes *Animal Farm* by George Orwell and *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton

FINE ARTS

The Brownell Talbot Fine Arts Department enables students to understand, appreciate, and create exemplary works of art. Through authentic, innovative experiences across multiple disciplines, we foster resilient artists who collaborate, communicate, create, and think critically. Our department aligns with the National Core Arts Standards, guided by the four anchor standards of creating art, performing/presenting/producing art, responding to art, and connecting arts to each other.

Music/Chorus

(Fifth and sixth grade required)

2 periods per rotation

The Music portion of these courses teach the fundamentals of music through composition with technology. Students will compose several pieces of music, conforming to specific guidelines, using GarageBand for iPad. Students will spend part of each class composing music and learning about melody, harmony, rhythm, timbre, and form. Students will also become familiar with common music editing and mixing techniques. Students also engage in a curriculum of written work in music theory and literacy that will continue through eighth grade, building musicianship skills for application in ensemble performance classes now and in the future.

The Chorus portion of these courses provides an opportunity for a practical application of the musical concepts described above. All BT Middle School students study choral singing in order to learn music-making, teamwork, stage presence and confidence, as well as to be coached through the adolescent voice-change. Emphasis is placed on healthy phonation, choral vowel modification, clear and rhythmic consonants, reading music, following a conductor, and singing in two-part harmony.

Music/Chorus

(Seventh and eighth grade required)

2 periods per rotation

The Music portion of these classes is a unique and engaging course in analytical listening using modern popular music and film score orchestration as age-appropriate

frames of reference for learning. The students listen to, evaluate, respond to, create, and draw connections among music examples of varying genres as well as connections between music and other arts, giving them the tools to appreciate music as part of a greater cultural experience. They also continue the curriculum of written work in music theory and literacy they began in fifth grade, building musicianship skills for application in ensemble performance classes now and in the future.

The Chorus portion of these courses provides an opportunity for a practical application of the musical concepts described above. All BT Middle School students study choral singing in order to learn music-making, teamwork, stage presence and confidence, as well as to be coached through the adolescent voice change. Emphasis is placed on creating an environment of mutual support, coping with the changing voice, self-confidence, singing within age-appropriate ranges, reading music, and singing in three- to four-part harmony.

Beginning Band

(Fifth grade elective)

3 periods per rotation

This course is designed to teach students the fundamentals of music through performance in band. The course has a strong emphasis on playing technique, reading music, and playing music by ear. Students will also learn music theory, form, composition, and history. Instruments taught: Saxophone, trumpet, trombone, percussion, and electric bass.

Intermediate Band

(Sixth and seventh grade elective)

3 periods per rotation

This course is designed to continue the development of instrumental technique introduced in beginning band. There will be a greater focus on jazz style and improvisation, along with a greater focus on jazz scales and chords. Instruments taught: Saxophone, trumpet, trombone, percussion, and electric bass. Keyboard players and electric guitar players must have the instructor's permission to register.

Intermediate Band

(Eighth grade elective)

3 periods per rotation

This is an elective course for students who wish to continue learning to make music on a traditional American jazz instrument: saxophone, trumpet, trombone, vibraphone, drum set, piano, bass, or electric guitar. Other instruments enroll by instructor permission only. The course is taught primarily through the rehearsal and performance of authentic literature in the jazz idiom with a focus on improvisation. Students must have passed at least three years of Middle School band instruction, or display equivalent competency level.

Beginning Strings

(Fifth grade elective)

3 periods per rotation

This course is designed to teach students the fundamentals of music through performance in strings. The course has a strong emphasis on playing technique, reading music, and playing music by ear. Students will also learn music theory, form, composition, and history. Instruments taught: violin, viola, cello, and bass.

Intermediate Strings

(Sixth through eighth grade elective)

3 periods per rotation

This course is designed to continue the study of music through performance in strings. The course has a strong emphasis on playing technique, reading music, and playing music by ear. Students will also learn music theory, form, composition, and history. Instruments taught: violin, viola, cello, and bass.

Speech

(Seventh and eighth grade required)

1.5 periods per rotation

Speech classes cover the fundamentals of speech communication. Instruction in creative and critical thinking, organization, rhetoric, composition, and speech delivery techniques are incorporated into the course of study. Units of study include declamation, inspirational, and impromptu speaking. The focus of the course is to produce competent, confident, and self possessed speakers.

Students participate in speech competitions throughout the spring.

Theatre Arts

(Fifth through eighth grade required)

2 days per rotation for 1 semester

Introduction to Theatre Arts will provide an overview of all aspects of production as well as preparing students to be successful as actors and technicians. In this foundational course, students are asked to demonstrate critical thinking skills while analyzing theatrical movements from various times in history and all over the world. By using a variety of scripts and activities students will gain experience in many aspects of theatre. We will focus on collaborative skills while enhancing communication skills and creative expression. Each level will focus on a different aspect of theatrical performance and visual storytelling. These may include, for example, Greek Theatre, Pantomime, Adaptation, Collaboration, and Playwriting.

Art

(Fifth and sixth grade required)

2 periods per rotation for 1 semester

Fifth and sixth grade Art focuses on how art can influence, communicate about the past and present, and connect humanity as a whole. This course allows students to explore many cultures, art history, a variety of art techniques, and a vast array of art mediums. The Elements of Art and Principles of Design are utilized in every project.

In fifth grade Art students study glass installation artist Dale Chihuly, Assemblage artists, Vik Muniz and Surrealist artist Louise Nevelson, and create their own Assemblage piece. This course studies Pablo Picasso and Georges Braque, and the Cubist art movement. Students practice blind contour and contour drawing along Still Life drawing while referencing Paul Cezanne. In addition, they explore drawing, shading, and one-point perspective while exploring the work of Kent Bellows.

In sixth grade Art students look into the history of war and peace, explore symbolism and the tradition of creating peace flags.

They learn about Navajo Native American Sand paintings and Mandalas from India. Each student studies a Holocaust victim and draws their portrait, which covers realism, proportion, and value, for an art exhibit at the Jewish Community Center. This course allows students to continue the perspective unit and practice two-point perspective.

Art 7

(Seventh grade required)

2 periods per rotation for 1 semester

Art 7 serves as an introduction to successful visual design. Students will focus on developing a full understanding of the elements of design and how to apply them effectively in visual art. This course is a prerequisite to Art 8, which expands on a student's knowledge of the elements and moves into the principles of successful design.

Art 8

(Eighth grade required)

2 periods per rotation for 1 semester

Art 8 builds on fundamental concepts of design covered in Art 7. Whereas the focus in Art 7 was on the individual elements of design, Art 8 focuses on how those elements come together to create a successful visual design. Completing this course will prepare students for the Upper School art program, which focuses more on skill execution and conceptual development.

WORLD LANGUAGES

The World Languages curriculum, which includes courses of study in French, Latin, and Spanish, provides students with the means to explore various cultures and to master other languages.

French Grade 5

(Fifth grade elective)

2 periods per rotation

This course is an introduction to the language and culture of the French-speaking world. We will focus on vocabulary and phonetic pronunciation for oral expression as we begin the course and advance toward reading and writing activities as the year

progresses. Cultural topics relating to the francophone world will be explored through research and tasting events. Students will plan and prepare for Le Marché Français (the French Market) where they are shopkeepers for a store. They will become familiar with the Euro currency and practice interacting socially in French.

French Grade 6

(Sixth grade elective)

2 periods per rotation

This course continues the study of the French language, history, and culture begun in fifth grade. We will reinforce vocabulary and speaking skills learned in the previous course and continue to build reading and writing skills. Cultural topics relating to the Francophone world will be explored through research as they prepare a second semester presentation on a French-speaking country of their choice.

French 1A

(Seventh grade elective)

3 periods per rotation

The level 1A course resumes the study of the French language with continued emphasis on vocabulary acquisition through input and oral expression. In addition, we will continue to develop skills in reading and writing in the target language, and we will explore the culture of the French-speaking world.

Class work will focus on growing comprehension and oral production skills in French, and instruction will take place in French. Student engagement and active participation in speaking the target language plays a necessary role in acquisition. Students will verbalize the vocabulary and structures addressed in the course, and employ them in conversation. Grammar topics will be covered with direct instruction, practiced with written homework and assessed through a variety of methods. Understanding grammar is important. However, grammar will be taught with a goal of exposure and observing the use of structure in a communicative context rather than perfect mastery. Students will develop reading comprehension skills

through exposure to level-appropriate texts. Students will build upon a collection of active vocabulary with thematic presentation of new words in a context-rich environment. Students will be asked to generate simple pieces of writing that employ the vocabulary and structures used in the course.

The textbooks for this class are *Vocabulaire Progressif du Français* niveau débutant and *Grammaire Progressive du Français* niveau débutant.

French 1B

(Eighth grade elective)

Prerequisite: French 1A

3 periods per rotation

This course is a continued exploration of the French language from seventh grade (French 1A). Using the same textbooks from the prior course, this course continues to focus on growing both comprehension and oral production skills in French along with listening and writing in the target language. Students are exposed to vocabulary, grammar, and culture of the French-speaking world through music, a novel, and authentic texts. Successful completion of French 1B enables students to enter a level 2 class in Upper School and advance through the sequence of classes that culminates with AP French and college-level French work.

Latin 1A

(Seventh grade elective)

3 periods per rotation

Latin 1 introduces the basics of grammar and vocabulary. Students should hope to have a working vocabulary of around 250 words by year's end. Emphasis is on translating primarily from Latin to English as well as developing good reading comprehension skills. The stories are based on the childhood and education of the poet Horace. Selections pertaining to *the Iliad*, *the Odyssey*, and *the Aeneid* are also read in adapted Latin, which students will then render into good idiomatic English. Proper pronunciation, some composition in Latin, and basic oral conversation are emphasized along with English derivatives from Latin and Roman history, culture, and mythology.

Latin 1B

(Eighth grade elective)

Prerequisite: Latin 1A

3 periods per rotation

Latin 1B continues the level 1 Latin program with more advanced grammar and syntax. As in Latin 1A, translating primarily from Latin to English is emphasized with developing good reading comprehension skills. Derivatives, proper pronunciation, composition, mythology, and Roman history and culture continue to be emphasized.

Spanish Grade 5

(Fifth grade elective)

2 periods per rotation

This course is a more formal study of the Spanish language than in Lower School. The emphasis is on basic vocabulary acquisition and comprehension of fundamental grammar and structure of the language. Students reinforce grammar and vocabulary through comprehensible input and oral expression and development of rudimentary skills in reading, writing, listening, and speaking in the target language. In addition, students explore the Spanish speaking world through readings, class discussions, and other supplementary materials.

Spanish Grade 6

(Sixth grade elective)

2 periods per rotation

This course continues the study of the Spanish language begun in fifth grade with an emphasis on basic vocabulary acquisition and comprehension of fundamental grammar and structure of the language. Students reinforce grammar and vocabulary through comprehensible input and oral expression and development of rudimentary skills in reading, writing, listening, and speaking in the target language. In addition, students explore the Spanish speaking world through readings, class discussions, and other supplementary materials.

Spanish 1A

(Seventh grade elective)

3 periods per rotation

Spanish 1A represents the first half of secondary Spanish level 1 and emphasizes

vocabulary, pronunciation, basic grammar, and practical usage of the language. Instruction is presented primarily in the target language with the emphasis on active learning through contextual usage of basic Spanish. The textbook is accompanied by audio exercises and a video series; it is supplemented with other resources/learning activities that complement and enhance learning objectives for the units of study. This secondary level 1 course includes basic practical expression and conjugations as well as other grammatical structures as a foundation for proceeding toward secondary level 2. The practical usage of vocabulary and grammar is accompanied by periodic study and discussions of history, culture, art and gastronomy.

Spanish 1B

(Eighth grade elective)

Prerequisite: Spanish 1A

3 periods per rotation

Spanish 1B represents the second half of secondary Spanish level 1; it continues the study of Spanish begun in seventh grade. The students continue to develop skills in listening, reading, writing, and speaking the target language. Instruction is presented primarily in the target language with an emphasis on active learning through contextual usage of basic Spanish. Students will explore the Spanish speaking world through readings, class discussions, video clips, films, and other opportunities. The end of year Conclusion will be to read a short novel, culminating with vocabulary including cognates and other high frequency vocabulary and grammar structures learned in level 1. This secondary level 1 course includes basic practical expression and conjugations as well as other grammatical structures as a foundation for proceeding toward secondary level 2. The practical usage of vocabulary and grammar is accompanied by periodic study and discussions of history, culture, art and gastronomy.

HISTORY

Through the study of geography, history, government, and economics, students learn

the meaning of citizenship, the origin and nature of cultures and governments, and the premises upon which the United States was founded. In addition, students develop a historical perspective that makes it possible to understand the past while preparing for the future. The use of primary and secondary sources, the compilation and analysis of data, and the formulation of oral and written arguments are all part of the curriculum.

History 5: Culture and Humanity

(Fifth grade required)

3 periods per rotation

This course is a year-long, sequentially organized study through time on various cultures and geographical locations. Students will study how choices and behaviors affect human relationships and interactions with the environment around them. Students will learn how to read and interpret various types of maps and charts in cooperative groups, will be introduced to a number of historical events such as the yellow fever epidemic, the Great Depression, Mexican migration, the Dust Bowl, World War II, and change through the eyes of refugees. They will use technology to research and create representations of their learning, collaborate with people from other nations and cultures, and develop lasting learning experiences through community connections.

History 6: Stone Age to the U.S.

Constitution

(Sixth grade required)

3 periods per rotation

In sixth grade U.S. History, students will learn about the prehistory of the Americas through the American Revolutionary War. Major areas to be explored and discussed include: North American peoples, including the Aztec, Inca, and Mayan Civilizations; Exploration of the Americas by England, France, the Netherlands, Portugal, and Spain; Colonial America, including the role religion played in establishing colonies, as well as the successes and failures of colony establishment; Life in the American Colonies, focusing on resources, conditions,

and economies in the New England, Middle, and Southern Colonies; The Spirit of Independence that emerges from Britain's actions and policies set forth to control the colonies, including an in depth study of the Declaration of Independence; and the American Revolution that leads to the formation of the United States of America. Students will continuously learn, and apply new vocabulary, study timelines and chronological sequences, use geography skills, and show how the past constantly influences the modern society in which we live.

History 7: U.S. Government to the Gilded Age

(Seventh grade required)

3 periods per rotation

This is a detailed survey of United States history from the American Revolution to Reconstruction. All major eras will be explored and discussed, as will elements of civics, which includes government, law, and economics. Students will also study "history from below," to ensure American social history is covered just as thoroughly as the political, economic, and military histories of the country. Students will learn new vocabulary, study chronological sequences, use geography skills, and learn how the past constantly influences the modern society in which we live.

History 8: American Gilded Age to the Present

(Eighth grade required)

3 periods per rotation

This is a detailed survey of American history from Reconstruction to the present. All major time periods will be discussed, as well as elements of civics. Students will also study "history from below," to ensure American social history is covered just as thoroughly as the political, economic and military histories of the country. Students will learn new vocabulary, study chronological sequences, use geography skills, and learn how the past constantly influences the modern society in which we live.

MATHEMATICS

Mathematics classes form a sequential course of study and are designed to develop logical and analytical thought, build proficiency in fundamental skills, and expand the student's appreciation for mathematical systems and applications. Calculator and computer applications are integrated into the curriculum.

Math 5

(fifth grade required)

5 periods per rotation

This course is designed to involve the fifth grade student in mastering basic facts and developing a level of higher order thinking. Through real world applications, students will develop an appreciation for math and how it affects their daily activities. These real world problems will be used to teach concepts that include mathematical formulas and variables. Students will develop and refine basic math skills as well as improve tools for an understanding of graphs and statistics (mean, median, and mode), computational algorithms with whole numbers, decimals, and fractions, number patterns, and geometry. This course utilizes a sixth grade curriculum with fifth grade core concepts being presented in large and small group instruction.

Math 6

(Sixth grade required)

3 periods per rotation

This course is designed to involve the sixth grade students in mastering basic facts and developing a level of higher order thinking. Students will use these skills to enhance problem solving strategies by being introduced to both pre-algebra and pre-geometry concepts. Through real world applications, students will develop an appreciation for math and how it affects the student's daily activities. These real world problems will be used to teach concepts that include mathematical formulas and variables.

Accelerated Pre-Algebra

(Sixth grade required)

3 periods per rotation

The goal of the course is for students with a high level of math ability to broaden their experience. Students move beyond arithmetic and use the symbols and rules of algebra to represent problems and relationships, practice operations with rational numbers, and depict the graphs of functions in the real number plane. Students transition into using the language and symbolism of algebra, explore patterns and the visual representations generated by functions, deepen their understanding of geometric figures and their measurements, and expand their problem solving skills through application of the math being studied. This course will give students a firm foundation upon which to study Algebra 1.

Math 7

(Seventh grade required)

3 periods per rotation

In this course, students move beyond arithmetic and use the symbols and rules of algebra to represent problems and relationships, practice operations with rational numbers, and use probability and statistics to make predictions. The goal of our study is for students to develop an appreciation for math and its applications in the real world along with the skills to solve problems independently and as part of a cooperative group. The core content of the Pre-Algebra course will introduce students to the language and symbolism of Algebra, help the students to develop skills in operations using rational numbers, present the connection between equations and their corresponding visual representation on a graph, and allow students to use probability and statistics to make predictions.

Pre-Algebra

(Seventh grade required)

3 periods per rotation

Students move beyond arithmetic and use the symbols and rules of Algebra to represent problems and relationships,

practice operations with rational numbers, and depict the graphs of functions in the real number plane. The goal is for students with a high level of math ability to broaden their experience into the language and symbolism of Algebra, explore patterns and the visual representations generated by functions, deepen their understanding of geometric figures and their measurements, and expand their problem solving skills through application of the math being studied. This course will give students a firm foundation upon which to study Algebra 1.

Algebra 1

(Seventh grade)

3 periods per rotation

The skills and concepts introduced in Algebra I will serve as a foundation for all future studies of mathematics. Students will move beyond computation and learn the language and symbolism used to represent and solve problems algebraically. They will practice solving linear equations and systems of equations. They will be introduced to the representations of functions and equations visually through graphing. The course includes a focus on manipulating polynomials and solving quadratic equations through factoring, graphing, and the quadratic formula. There will be application and problem solving activities that continue to help students stretch and strengthen higher level and creative thinking skills while using mathematics in real world applications.

Elements of Algebra

(Eighth grade)

3 periods per rotation

Algebra 1

(Eighth grade)

3 periods per rotation

The skills and concepts introduced in Algebra I will serve as a foundation for all future studies of mathematics. Students will move beyond computation and learn the language and symbolism used to represent and solve problems algebraically. They will practice solving linear equations and systems of equations. They will be introduced

to the representations of functions and equations visually through graphing. The course includes a focus on manipulating polynomials and solving quadratic equations through factoring, graphing, and the quadratic formula. There will be application and problem solving activities that continue to help students stretch and strengthen higher level and creative thinking skills while using mathematics in real world applications.

Geometry

(Eighth grade)

3 periods per rotation

This course, which further develops logical thought patterns, places special emphasis on geometric proofs, mathematical methods, and problem solving skills. Topics include lines, angle relationships, planes, trigonometry, area, volume, coordinate geometry, and polygons. Connections to Algebra will occur by coordinating geometry and Algebra to find solutions to problems involving figures. Successful completion of Geometry will allow students to advance to Algebra II in their freshman year.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND HEALTH

PE 5 & 6

(Fifth and sixth grade required)

3 periods per rotation

Physical education courses are designed to encourage students to improve their levels of health, well-being, and fitness. These courses are designed to introduce students to a variety of team and individual sports. The focus is on skill development, learning the rules, and sportsmanship. Swimming is part of the PE curriculum and occurs one day in a rotation.

Middle School Health is taught on 80-minute block days combined with PE swim. Teachers will use identified sections of the HealthSmart curriculum, a comprehensive health program that focuses on the essential knowledge and skills students need to know and be able to do to practice

healthy behavior. Learning objectives are taken from the National Health Education Standards (see BT Standards of Excellence).

FIFTH AND SIXTH GRADE HEALTH TOPICS

Puberty and Personal Health

- Practice appropriate hygiene habits.
- Get an appropriate amount of sleep and rest.
- Prevent vision and hearing loss.
- Prevent damage from the sun.
- Practice behaviors that prevent infectious diseases.
- Practice behaviors that prevent chronic diseases.
- Seek out help for common infectious diseases and chronic diseases and conditions.

Nutrition and Physical Activity

Outcomes

- Eat the appropriate number of servings from each food group every day.
- Eat a variety of foods within each food group every day.
- Eat an abundance of fruits and vegetables every day.
- Choose to eat whole-grain products and fat-free or low-fat milk or equivalent milk products every day.
- Drink plenty of water every day.
- Limit foods and beverages high in added sugars, solid fat and sodium.
- Eat breakfast every day.
- Eat healthy snacks.
- Eat healthy foods when dining out.
- Prepare food in healthful ways.
- Balance caloric intake with caloric expenditure.
- Follow an eating plan for healthy growth and development.
- Support others to eat healthy.
- Practice behaviors that prevent food-borne illnesses.
- Prevent health problems that result from fads or trends.

- Engage in moderate to vigorous physical activity for at least 60 minutes every day.
- Regularly engage in physical activities that enhance cardiorespiratory endurance, flexibility, muscle endurance, and muscle strength.
- Engage in warm-up and cool-down activities before and after structured exercise.
- Drink plenty of water before, during and after physical activity.
- Follow a physical activity plan for healthy growth and development.
- Avoid injury during physical activity.
- Support others to be physically active.

Violence and Injury Prevention

- Risks & Unintentional Injury
- Avoiding Motor Vehicle Injuries
- Safety Gear
- Making Safe Decisions
- Preparing for School Emergencies
- Understanding Violence and Cause
- Bullying and Hazing
- Fights & Feelings
- Resolving Conflicts

PE 7 & 8

*(Seventh and eighth grade required)
3 periods per rotation*

These courses are designed to build upon the skills gained in fifth and sixth grade PE while moving the emphasis on to game tactics and strategies. Health and weight training introduces students to a variety of contemporary health issues. Topics include stress, puberty, healthy relationships, alcohol/tobacco/drug use, fitness, and mental/emotional health. Students are responsible for setting their own personal wellness goals and assessing their progress throughout the year. Swimming is part of the PE curriculum and occurs one day per rotation.

Middle School Health is taught on 80-minute block days combined with PE swim. Teachers will use identified sections of the HealthSmart curriculum, a

comprehensive health program that focuses on the essential knowledge and skills students need to know and be able to do to practice healthy behavior. Learning objectives are taken from the National Health Education Standards (see BT Standards of Excellence).

SEVENTH AND EIGHTH GRADE HEALTH TOPICS

Emotional & Mental Health

- Qualities of a Healthy Relationship
- Building Healthy Relationships Through Communication
- Expressing Feelings
- Dealing with Troublesome Feelings
- Getting Help for Yourself or a Friend
- Dealing with Grief
- Reducing Stress and Managing Stress
- Making Healthy Decisions
- Goal Setting for Emotional Health

Tobacco, Alcohol, and Other Drug Prevention

- Alcohol
- Tobacco
- Vaping
- Marijuana
- Medicines
- Experimentation and Addiction
- Consequences of Drug Use
- Influences and Self Talk for Being Drug Free
- Family, School & Community Rules About Drugs
- Ads and Counter Advertisements
- Peer Pressure
- Ways to Say No and Drug Free Pledges

SCIENCE

The Middle School science program at Brownell Talbot includes a graduated, comprehensive curriculum that builds on the Lower School experience. In Middle School, students add technical reading and

an emphasis on vocabulary and science principles to complement the experiential, hands-on approach of learning presented in lower grades. Students are exposed to the scientific method and challenged to demonstrate their understanding of it through laboratory exercises and an annual science fair project. They hone their understanding and application of this method throughout the fifth and sixth grades, each year becoming more analytical in their thinking and more complete in their documentation of results and conclusions. In grades 7 and 8, students participate in a yearlong STEAM project leading up to the STEAM Symposium in the spring in which students present their ideas to the BT community. Students spend time researching a solution to a science, math, engineering, technology, or art related, global problem.

The basic disciplines of science content, life, physical, and Earth sciences, are covered in fifth and sixth grade, then revisited and explored in more depth during seventh and eighth grade. Throughout Middle School, students are encouraged to think critically, identify variables, and apply theories and facts to analyze various scenarios. Finally, students write about their observations and analyses. By providing an appropriate balance between an investigative approach and true theoretical knowledge of science topics, Middle School science teachers are able to present a complete approach to the curriculum. Exceptional students extend their learning by “going the extra mile” on classroom projects and participating in optional contest opportunities available periodically throughout the year, such as quiz bowls and other state and local contests.

Science Grade 5

(Fifth grade required)

3 periods per rotation

This course covers a variety of topics in both life and physical sciences. While the depth of coverage in most topic areas is at an introductory level, the students are expected to begin reading and recalling

some technical terms. At this grade level, students expand their skills of investigation and gain an understanding of scientific inquiry by developing questions, designing controlled experiments, gathering evidence, and drawing conclusions. Fifth grade topics include Space (Earth, Moon, Sun, stars and galaxies, and their characteristics and interactions), Physics (Motion, forces, energy, work, and machines), Living Organisms (single cell and human physiology, classification, growth, and heredity of living things), and Environment (cycles in nature, ecosystems and biomes, and natural and manmade hazards to ecosystems).

Science Grade 6

(Sixth grade required)

3 periods per rotation

This course is designed for sixth grade students to expand their understanding of scientific inquiry and expand their skills of investigation. Students do this by developing questions, designing controlled experiments and investigations, gathering evidence, and drawing conclusions. Through this process, students will also develop explanations and predictions from the evidence they have discovered. In this course, students explore a variety of different science disciplines including earth science, physical science, and an introduction to basic chemistry and physics principles. More specifically, students will investigate plants and how they grow and reproduce. They will develop an understanding of the formation and function of vertebrates and invertebrates. Students will examine the many cycles of the earth, including the movement of the earth’s crust and seasons. Earth science will also include a study of different types of rocks and rock formations, weather, and oceans. Students will be introduced to basic chemistry by studying energy and matter, in conjunction with atoms and the elements of the Periodic Table. The student’s picture of science will also include work with the fundamental principles of physics with further examination of force and motion as they relate to rocket flight.

Science Grade 7

(Seventh grade required)

3 periods per rotation

This course covers a variety of topics in life science. The depth of coverage in most topic areas is at an intermediate level. Students are expected to continue to read and recall scientific terminology. As suggested by the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), students expand their skills of investigation and gain an understanding of scientific inquiry, modeling, and critical thinking by developing questions, designing experiments, gathering evidence, and drawing conclusions. Seventh grade topics include: the STEAM Symposium, Cells (cell structure and processes), Ocean Ecology (aquatic biomes, ecosystems, interactions, invasive species, and natural and manmade damage), Plants (plant cells and plant processes), Genetics (both plant and animal), Human Body Systems, and Waves.

Science Grade 8

(Eighth grade required)

3 periods per rotation

Science 8 is a survey course that covers a variety of earth and physical science topics. Science 8 is designed for older Middle School students to expand their understanding of scientific inquiry, critical thinking, and investigation skills. As suggested by the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), an emphasis is placed on modeling, and understanding a variety of topics through discussions and lab activities. In this course, students will explore a variety of different science topics including: the STEAM Symposium, Biological Evolution, Earth's Systems, Earth and Human Activity, and Energy.

ADVISORY

(Fifth through eighth grade required)

Daily

Advisories serve the purpose of fostering strong adult-student relationships and establishing a strong sense of community. An advisory teacher helps develop and monitor the social, academic, and emotional progress of each student in their advisory. The most

successful advisories are well-organized, meet regularly, and have specific, daily objectives focused around 3-4 major concepts. At Brownell Talbot, these concepts are: Social & Emotional Development, Academic Monitoring & Support, Service Learning, and Real-World Skill Development through the Habitudes principles curriculum.

As part of the advisory program, students will engage in learning opportunities supported by the teacher, group discussions, one on one meetings, and team building exercises. Advisory groups may collaborate on some of these concepts. Using the Habitudes curriculum, grounded in extensive research, students will utilize language, images and stories specifically designed to teach life skills, principles and leadership characteristics in a fresh and engaging way.

COLLEGE COUNSELING AND STUDENT SUPPORT

School counselors provide support and instruction within the domains of social/emotional, academic, and college and career readiness. We utilize the RULER curriculum across all grades for social/emotional learning.

Counseling 5

(Fifth grade required)

One period per rotation

Areas of focus include Study Skills, Emotional Regulation (RULER), Conflict Resolution, Career Readiness and Lifelong Learning Skills, Dealing with Emotional Crisis, Health and Safety, Dealing with Transitions.

Counseling 6

(Sixth grade required)

One period per rotation

Major topics covered include Organizational Skills, Team Building, Bullying/Cyber Bullying, Coping Skills, Emotional Regulation (RULER), Conflict Resolution, Career Readiness and Lifelong Learning Skills, Career Exploration, and Safety. We utilize Look2College from Education Quest for an introduction to college counseling.

Counseling 7

(Seventh grade required)

We utilize KnowHow2Go from Education Quest to continue building on college counseling lessons. Areas of focus include personal responsibility and reducing stress & anxiety. These classes are worked into the advisory schedule.

Counseling 8

(Eighth grade required)

This class provides an orientation to an Upper School career at Brownell Talbot, reinforcing the importance of academics and extracurricular involvement. Students will become familiar with the Upper School curriculum and the impact of cumulative and semester GPAs, academic rigor, and course selection on the college application process. Class discussions will focus on leadership and highlight extracurricular and community involvement. We also work to develop social-emotional skills that will continue to benefit students throughout their Upper School years. These classes are worked into the advisory schedule.

- Quiz Bowl (5-8)
- Band (7-8)
- Choir (7-8)
- On Deck A Capella Choir (7-8)
- Jazz Band (7-8)
- Chess (5-8)
- Speech (7-8)
- Drama (7-8)
- Fall Musical and Spring Play (varies each school year)
- Formal Dance Instruction (7-8)
- Spring Dance (7-8)
- Art Contests
- Math Competitions
- Rally for the Arts
- Science Fair (5-6)
- STEAM Symposium (7-8)
- Service Learning Project - within advisory program
- Middle School Student Council
- Science Olympiad (6-8)

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Brownell Talbot's mission to know, inspire, and challenge every student, mind, and heart is enhanced by its robust offering of extracurricular activities in which students are encouraged to explore new passions and strengthen existing ones.

- Athletics
 - Fall - Volleyball and football
 - Winter - Basketball and swim team
 - Spring - Track and Soccer
- Bottle Notes Choir (5-6)
- Destination Imagination (5-6)
- Girls on the Run (5-6)
- Golf Lessons
- Leadership Enrichment (5-6)
- Rose Theatre Production (5-6)
- Stock Market Game (5-6)
- Robotics (6-8)



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