



**BLUE OAK SCHOOL**

Middle School Transition Night

# Middle School

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- How children and expectations change
- Research on the success of students who complete Waldorf & K-8 schools
- Personal responsibility
- The final step toward high school
- Curricular changes
- Schedule
- Highschool Transition experiences



# Curriculum at a Glance

6 <sup>TH</sup> GRADE	7 <sup>TH</sup> GRADE	8 <sup>TH</sup> GRADE
<b>LANGUAGE ARTS</b> Expand writing skills Research papers Business letters Reading Non-fiction & fiction Poetry	<b>LANGUAGE ARTS</b> Creative Writing Classical Literature Spelling & Grammar	<b>LANGUAGE ARTS</b> Composition Short stories Letters Spelling & Grammar
<b>SOCIAL STUDIES</b> Ancient History: Rome The Middle Ages Geography: Central & South America	<b>SOCIAL STUDIES</b> The Renaissance, Scientific Revolution, Age of Exploration, The Enlightenment, Geography: Africa	<b>SOCIAL STUDIES</b> American History Civil War The Modern Era Geography: Asia
<b>MATHEMATICS</b> Geometry Ratio Fractions, Decimals, Percentages Statistics with Geom. Form Drawing	<b>MATHEMATICS</b> Mathematical theory Intro. to Algebra Geometry Perspective Drawing, Geom. Form Drawing	<b>MATHEMATICS</b> Infernal, Algebra Geometry Practical applications of Arithmetic Geom. Form Drawing (The Rhetoric Series)
<b>SCIENCES</b> Physics (Acoustics, Optics, and Electromagnetism) Weather Astronomy	<b>SCIENCES</b> Physics (Mechanics), Inorganic chemistry (Combustion & Glass) Cycles Physiology (Health & Sex Ed.)	<b>SCIENCES</b> Physics (Hydraulics & Aerodynamics), Organic Chemistry (Nutritional Science), Physiology (Anatomy), Meteorology
<b>FOREIGN LANGUAGE</b> Spanish	<b>FOREIGN LANGUAGE</b> Spanish	<b>FOREIGN LANGUAGE</b> Spanish
<b>MUSICAL ARTS</b> Recorder Violin or other string instrument Singing Band	<b>MUSICAL ARTS</b> Recorder Violin or other string instrument Singing Band	<b>MUSICAL ARTS</b> Recorder Violin or other string instrument Singing Band
<b>CRAFT &amp; VISUAL ARTS</b> Drama Painting Hand Sewing Text	<b>CRAFT &amp; VISUAL ARTS</b> Drama Painting Hand Sewing Text	<b>CRAFT &amp; VISUAL ARTS</b> Drama Painting Machine sewing Text
<b>PHYSICAL ACTIVITY</b> Games (PE) Recess	<b>PHYSICAL ACTIVITY</b> Games (PE) Recess	<b>PHYSICAL ACTIVITY</b> Games (PE) Recess

# Electives

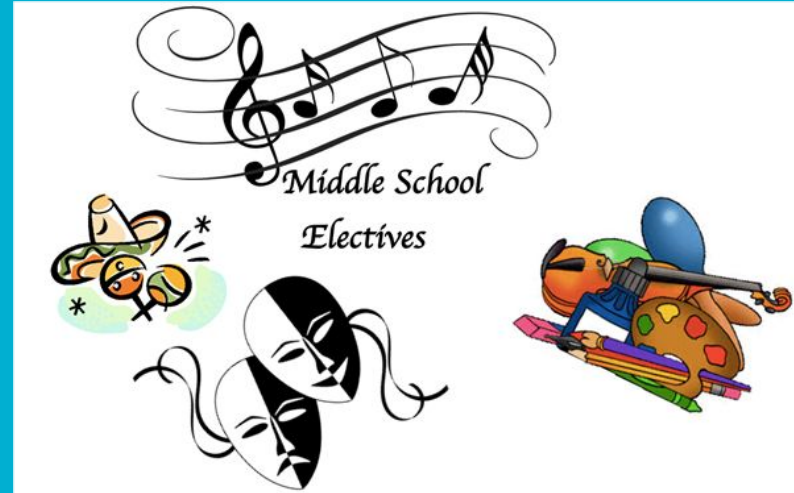
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Electives are provided in 9 week sessions by upper grades and specialty teachers. They have varied from exploring different artistic mediums to swing dancing to French culture.

Electives are currently offered first period every Wednesday & Friday.

Electives over the years:

Yearbook, Fiesta Latina, French , Basketball, Swing Dance, Choir, Piano, Painting on Canvas, Fencing, Chess



# Band / Orchestra

Ensembles	Notes	Opportunities (for all ensembles)	Responsibilities & Expectations
6th Strings & 6th Band	6th grade will split into band or strings ensembles	<p><u>Required</u></p> <p>Fall Concert (December)</p> <p>Spring Concert (May)</p>	<p>The expectation students will take their instrument home and practice weekly, so we can explore interesting and challenging music</p>
7/8th Beginning Band 7/8th Beginning Strings	Students who are still developing fundamental techniques and understanding of music theory	<p>Additional group instruction with university level musicians when available</p> <p><u>Optional</u></p> <p>Harvest Festival (Early Fall)</p> <p>May Faire Festival (Spring)</p>	<p>Learn to care for and maintain your instruments</p> <p>Give respect to guest educators who come in to work with students in small groups</p>
7/8th Int. Band 7/8th Int. Strings	Hard working students who want to advance their knowledge and skill. The expectation is that these students will practice, in order for us to succeed!	<p>CMEA Regional Solo &amp; Ensemble Festival (Early Spring - Dependent on # of students able to attend)</p> <p>Additional Events as scheduleable</p>	<p>Wind &amp; Brass instruments: Using provided instrument bags &amp; masks to ensure minimal risk</p>

# Instrument Availability

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- Blue Oak will have an instrument demo to give students the opportunity to try out various instruments before deciding
- Form at beginning of year - who can / can't afford instruments, priority for those who can't
- Renting your own band / orchestral string instrument? Your choice, just let me know!



# Band/Strings (Cont.) – CMEA Regional Solo & Ensemble Festival

- Usually at Chico State or Butte College in the early spring
- Ensemble (Full class), or solo & small ensembles (duets, trios, quartets)
- The festival is about a school day long
- Both middle & high school groups will be there
- Warm-up, Perform for an Audience, Work with a adjudicator to develop skills
- 10 minute mini-workshop with a veteran musician & educator
- Not a competition, just to celebrate your growth!



# Handwork

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**What is Handwork?** Handwork is the art of forming and shaping soft, raw materials. In my handwork class, I focus on the planning process, exploring creativity, and learning basic skills that will be useful in daily life (ironing, sewing on a button, repairing a favorite hoodie, upcycling clothing)

**How does Middle School Handwork differ from Handwork in the lower grades?** You will attend Handwork with only half of your class at a time, lowering the ratio of students to teacher and allowing us to try more challenging projects. In 7th and 8th grade, you will help decide on what skills you'd like to learn and help plan projects.

**What if I am new to Blue Oak and have never done Handwork before?** Some of my most enthusiastic students are students who are new to handwork. We always start with the basics before any project, and your new classmates will be happy to help you if I don't get to you first.

**What projects will I make?** In 6th grade, I have a few projects that teach basic sewing and embroidery. In 7th and 8th, we decide as a class. Popular projects this year have been little felt characters, embroidered fall leaves, felt food, soap carving, basic clay, needle felted animals, and sewing machine skills.

**What about Ms. Claire?** You can still do handwork with Ms. Claire! She runs the after school Handwork Club and would LOVE to see you. She and I share the Handwork room, and sometimes she comes in early to say hello!



# Handwork (continued)

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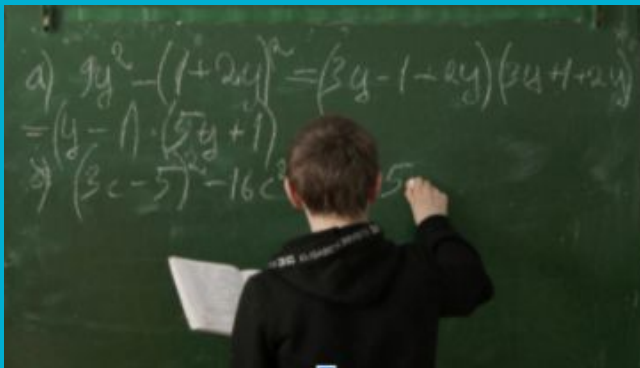
Here are some past and current projects we've done in Middle School Handwork. All projects start with the planning process - we use critical thinking to decide on the best tools, materials, and methods to reach our finished project. (shown in picture - felt friends, RAK hearts, felt food, crochet hacky sack, embroidery sampler)



# Accelerated Math

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Upon successful completion of 6th grade math, 7th grade students have the option to test into the accelerated math program. The first year of the program consists of a blended 7th and 8th grade math curriculum. The following year, 8th graders can take 9th grade math. This allows them to take 10th grade math as a freshman in high school. Ultimately, the goal of this program is to give students a head start on college admission through allowing them to complete calculus as a senior in high school.



# Spanish

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**In sixth grade**, students will develop a basic level of Spanish by listening, speaking, reading, and writing in the language. Students will study some of the Hispanic countries and their cultures to become aware of the current global and historical significance of Spanish.

**Spanish classes for grades 7th and 8<sup>th</sup> grades** will be divided into 3 groups according to their ability and understanding of Spanish. All students will be focusing on the four key areas of foreign language study: listening, speaking, reading, and writing.

**The levels will be:**

**Basic, Intermediate, Advanced**

# Spanish

## - Basic:

The focus of this level is for students to understand and use the following verbs to write and talk about themselves and others: Ser (*to be*) Estar (*to be*) ir (*to go*) tener (*to have*) Gustar (*to like*)



Students will be able to:

- talk about themselves. Describing what they are like physically, and what they like and dislike.
- ask and answer common greeting questions.
- say where they are and where they are going.
- write a short paragraph about themselves using the following verbs: ser / estar / ir / tener.
- recognize location of the Spanish speaking countries.
- describe some traditions for Hispanic Holidays.

# Spanish

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## - *Intermediate:*

The focus for this level is to expand on Spanish learned in previous years while adding to their knowledge of the Spanish language and culture.

Students will be able to:

- use a variety of verbs to talk and write about themselves and others.
- read short paragraphs in Spanish.
- write short paragraphs in Spanish.



# Spanish

## - *Advanced:*

Students will expand on their use of present tense verbs, focusing on those that have spelling changes.

Students will be able to:

- expand their ability to read and write in Spanish.
- self-explore the Spanish culture based on common holidays
- use knowledge acquired in previous years while expanding their understanding the Spanish language and culture.

The main objective of this level is to prepare students to enter Spanish 2 in high school. The classes will be focused on the practice and use of vocabulary and verbs learned in previous grades and that students acquire more confidence and communication skills in Spanish.





# Spanish

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## What is new?

- ❖ Students will have homework every day
- ❖ Students will have quizzes periodically to verify if they are understanding the ideas or meaning of the topics studied.
- ❖ The general expectation is that students have more oral practice in daily life situations.



# Student Leadership Options

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- An opportunity for students to be involved in leadership and decision making at Blue Oak!
- Help plan various events and activities around the school such as the dance and book fair events. Committees will be formed for different events!
- Join the Community Schools team spearheaded by Caren Lehe

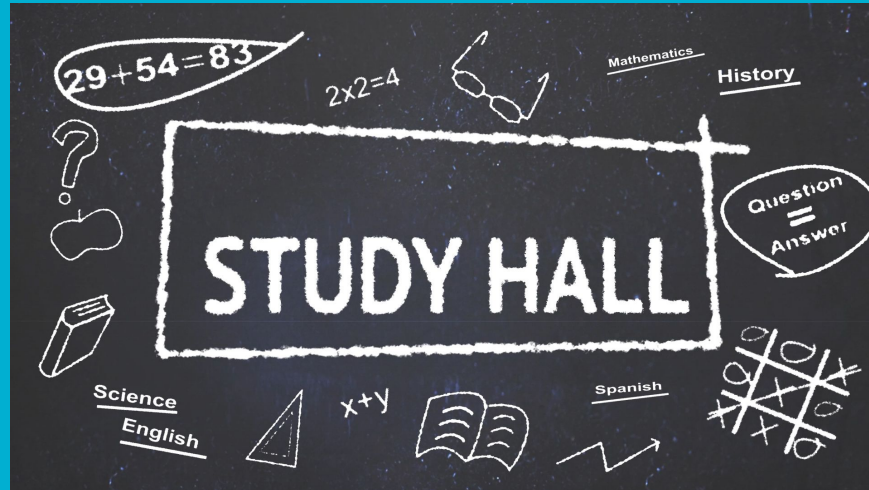




# Study Hall

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Study Hall is a time when students work on homework and projects.



# Special Education

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Our special education students attend often use study hall time to work in the resource room. Here students get support from special education staffteacher to receive intervention and work on IEP goals.



Our Mission: To provide a safe, inclusive, consistent, and nurturing learning environment in every classroom where all students learn to appreciate and respect the diversity of others, achieve their individual potential, and become knowledgeable productive citizens in an ever-changing world using a full-inclusion model.

# Parent Handbook

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Check out our Parent Handbook for other details about Middle School!

Click here for [Parent Handbook 2023-24](#)

