



BUFFETT MIDDLE

COURSE DIRECTORY

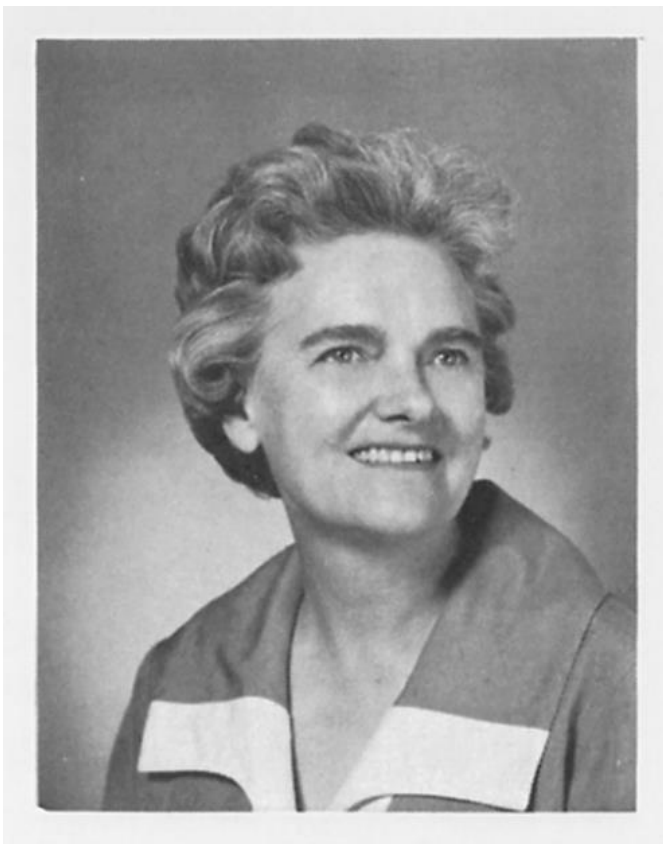
2023-2024



BUFFETT MIDDLE

Our school has been named in honor of an exceptional Omaha Public teacher, Alice Buffett. Her dedication to students was evident during her 34-year tenure at both Benson and Central High from 1935 – 1969. She was noted as a caring educator and described by one of her students, Dr. Sandra Hodges, former OPS Assistant Superintendent, as “an educator who always took care of her students and demonstrated a protective, nurturing demeanor while still setting high standards.”

We continue to honor Alice Buffett each day at our school through our course offerings, advanced instructional strategies, and high-quality teaching staff. Since we first opened our doors in 2004, we have accomplished great things in academics, athletics, and activities. The Buffett community prides itself on offering a safe, inclusive, and vibrant learning environment for all learners.



Our Vision

High performing teachers and students in every classroom.

Our Mission

Buffett Middle provides rigorous academic experiences based upon research and best practices that enable all students to achieve their highest potential.

Omaha Public Schools Graduation & College Entrance Requirements

| | OPS GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS | COLLEGE ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS* |
|---------|---|---|
| SUBJECT | CREDIT S | YEARS |
| English | 8 CREDITS Grade 9 – English 1 & 2 Grade 10 – English 3 & 4 Grade 11 – English 5 & 6 Grade 12 – English 7 & 8 | 4 years Fulfilled by OPS requirements |

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| Social Studies | 7 CREDITS Grade 9 – U.S. History 1 & 2 Grade 10 – Geography & Economics/ Financial Literacy Grade 11 – World History 1 & 2 Grade 12 – American Government Beginning Class of 2019 <i>(Incoming Freshman Fall 2015)</i> Grade 9 – U.S. History 1 & 2 Grade 10 – Human Geography & Intro to Economics Grade 11 – World History 1 & 2 Grade 12 – American Government | 3 years Fulfilled by OPS requirements |
| Mathematics | 6 CREDITS Grade 9 – Math as Recommended Grade 10 – Math as Recommended Grade 11 – Math as Recommended | 3 years Algebra 1-2, Geometry 1-2, Algebra 3-4, UNL – One additional year of math beyond Algebra 3-4 |
| Science | ** 6 CREDITS Grade 9 – Physical Science 1 & 2 Grade 10 – Biology 1 & 2 Grade 11 – Science Elective | 3 years Fulfilled by OPS requirements UNL, UNO, UNK – 2 years must be selected from Biology, Chemistry, Physics, or Earth Science |
| Physical Education | 4 CREDITS | |
| Human Growth & Development | 1 CREDIT | N/A |
| Personal Finance | 1 CREDIT <i>Beginning Class of 2019</i> <i>(Incoming Freshman Fall 2015)</i> Grade 12 – Personal Finance | |
| Electives | 17 CREDITS 16 CREDITS <i>Beginning Class of 2019</i> <i>(Incoming Freshman Fall 2015)</i> <i>Consider education plans and interests</i> | |
| World Language | N/A | 2 –3 years of the same language |
| TOTAL | 49 CREDITS REQUIRED <i>For all OPS High Schools</i> | |

RECOMMENDED ON TRACK INDICATORS

| Grade Level | 9 - Freshman | 10 - Sophomore | 11 - Junior | 12 - Senior |
|-----------------------|--------------|------------------|------------------|--|
| Credits Earned | 13 credits | 25 total credits | 37 total credits | 49 total credits in Required subjects |

Note: 49 Credits are required to graduate.

*NEBRASKA COLLEGE ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS:

Metro Community College and other Nebraska Community Colleges – Only requirement: Proof of graduation from an accredited high school.

Nebraska State College System – Chadron, Peru, Wayne – Only requirement: Proof of graduation from an accredited high school.

University of Nebraska System – UNO, UNL, UNK (in line with NCAA requirements) – *See your OPS Student Handbook*

For students attending King Science Technology Magnet who take Biology and Physical Science their sequence could look different at their respective high schools.

*** For students who have successfully completed Physical Science in 8th grade, their sequence will begin with Biology.*

Omaha Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex (including pregnancy), marital status, sexual orientation, disability, age, genetic information, gender identity, gender expression, citizenship status, veteran status, political affiliation or economic status in its programs, activities and employment and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following individual has been designated to accept allegations regarding non-discrimination policies: Superintendent of Schools, 3215 Cuming Street, Omaha, NE 68131 (531) 299-9822. The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Director for the Office of Equity and Diversity, 3215 Cuming St, Omaha, NE 68131 (531) 299-0307)

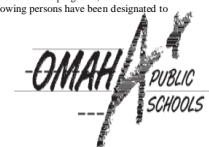


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Buffett Middle
14101 Larimore Avenue
Omaha, Nebraska 68164
(531) 299-2320
<https://www.ops.org/buffett>

Mission Statement

Buffett Middle will provide rigorous academic experiences based upon research and best practices that enable all students to achieve their highest potential.

Vision Statement

High performing teachers and students in every classroom.

ADMINISTRATION

Mrs. Julia Pick
Principal

Mrs. Deidre Schukei
Assistant Principal/DP

Ms. Amye Aggen
Assistant Principal/AD

Mr. Kyle Carruthers
Dean of Students

INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT

Mrs. Rachel Howe
*Gifted/Communication Electives
Facilitator*

Ms. Kristi Tolliver
Instructional Facilitator

COUNSELORS

Ms. Kathy Janata
8th Grade

Mr. Chad Knihal
6th Grade

Ms. Maraleigh Lewandowski
7th Grade

General Information

School Hours

Buffett Middle will run on the OPS middle school time schedule. All students, grades sixth through eighth will start at 7:40 a.m. and end at 3:05 p.m.

Before school starts, students interested in breakfast will be served in the cafeteria from 7:10 a.m. to 7:30 a.m. Any student not eating breakfast may come into the school as early as 7:10 a.m. to wait and read a book of his or her choice in the Buffett Library. Students are not permitted in the building prior to 7:10 a.m.

After school clubs, intramurals and activities will run from 3:15 p.m. to approximately 5:00 p.m. Buffett Middle offers a variety of clubs, extracurriculars, and activities. For seventh and eighth graders, after school athletic practices will conclude by 4:40 (unless there is an away game). Late buses will depart at 5:15 p.m. Any eligible transportation student may sign up for the late bus. Students are not allowed in the building after 3:15 unless they are part of a supervised school activity or athletic event.

Block Scheduling

All students follow an alternating block schedule. Rather than all classes meeting daily, classes meet every other day for extended “blocks” of time. This alternate day schedule is also referred to as “A/B”. There are four blocks or periods each day.

Some advantages of this block schedule include reduction in the number of classes students must attend and prepare for each day, and extended amounts of time for learning to apply knowledge through hands on activities, group discussions, projects and performance assessments. Block scheduling provides time for students who need more or less time to engage in learning, greater opportunities for some students to be accelerated, an increase of uninterrupted time for learning activities, extensive practice, and laboratory work, and blocks of time to allow and encourage teachers to use active teaching strategies and promote greater student involvement.

Student Orientation

Student orientation sessions will be held during July or August to provide students with knowledge about the school and programming. Students and parents will be invited to student orientation sessions to provide school tours, answer questions, and review course schedules. In addition, we host a one-week Camp Bobcat summer orientation filled with fun hands-on preparation activities for middle school. Camp Bobcat is for incoming sixth graders and new to Buffett 7th graders.

Team Concept

Buffett Middle academic and instructional programs are designed to promote success. Each sixth, seventh and eighth grade student is assigned to an academic team (for example Team 6A, 6B, 7B, 8A) composed of five teachers. Team teachers are responsible for teaching language arts, social studies, mathematics, and science. Team teachers can develop interdisciplinary thematic units of study. Team teachers incorporate communication and electronic media into the core subjects. The team offers flexibility in scheduling. Most importantly, teaming provides a smaller community of students within the school to allow for more personalized instruction and interaction between teachers and students as well as students and teammates.

The interdisciplinary team teachers, because of their common planning time, are able to work closely to plan appropriate behavioral and instructional strategies for students on their team. Planning time also provides an opportunity to conference with parents and/or student support personnel regarding the learning and behavior needs of individual students. During our daily team meetings, team teachers review and discuss curriculum, student support, professional development and score student writing.

Through a total team effort, the Buffett Middle staff will work to provide each student with opportunities to grow in knowledge of academic subjects, performance of life skills, and ability to follow-through with responsibilities. Our teamwork is focused on helping each student develop their sense of personal responsibility and reach their highest academic potential.

Enrichment Curriculum

While the core classes are important, students will also receive valuable experiences in other subjects. Students will gain knowledge from classes in art, careers, international language (8th grade), physical education, communications, computer science, music, and other courses. Other courses include journalism, TV broadcasting, digital media and iDesign.

Content Standards

All courses are based upon content standards that align with the state of Nebraska academic content standards and for those of the Omaha school district. Content standards are the backbone of our curriculum. Content standards are what a student should know and be able to do in each course. Mastery of content standards is measured through classroom assessments that are both performance and project-based and traditional selected response tests. Teachers will also know how to inform and improve instruction through the use of criterion-referenced tests. Mastery of content standards is also measured through diagnostic assessments using an information management computer system called MAP (Measures of Academic Progress). The Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment System (NSCAS) measures student proficiency. Student grades will be based in large part on the mastery of each course's content standards. Most courses have six to nine content standards that will be clearly posted in each room. Students will have multiple opportunities to master the content standards during the course through reteaching activities. In addition, students that master the content standards quickly will have opportunities for extension activities that expand learning.

Special Offerings: Communication Electives

Buffett Middle offers unique courses in communications skills and electronic media. These courses provide students with unique and enriching learning opportunities.

Students will have access to communication skills courses such as iDesign, Digital Media, TV Broadcasting, and Journalism during their 7th and 8th grade years. These courses provide opportunities for students to participate in:

- Campus student newspaper creation with the use of an online platform
- Yearbook development with the use of digital photography and online design programs
- Use of professional equipment and a studio to produce daily news broadcasts
- Computer center for coding game creations
- Access to Adobe Photoshop and other media tools for graphic and web design

We are pleased that our communication elective courses embrace the heart of learning through communication and look at careers in the field of communication and technology.

Bobcat Den (BCD) Advisory Program

Middle school students undergo rapid physical and emotional growth and are faced with new social pressures and increasing academic rigor. Bobcat Den (BCD), or advisory, gives students an opportunity to focus attention on character development, decision making, social emotional care & well-being, and build community. Teacher-Advisors follow a set advisory curriculum to ensure fidelity school-wide. Each day is assigned a focus area to ensure a broad range of lessons are taught to meet students' ever-changing needs. Included in the curriculum are grade-level specific novels that are read weekly and are chosen to align to social issues of students at a particular grade level.

Special Instruction

Special instruction programs and services are provided to students as outlined in Individual Education Programs (IEPs). A range of programs and services are available at Buffett Middle and include small group intervention, remediation, co-taught regular education classes, vision and hearing resource services, speech and language therapy, and occupational and physical therapy. The special instruction teacher assigned as a student's IEP case manager works with the school staff and parents to coordinate all services.

Gifted and Talented

The staff of Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) strives to identify gifted and talented students within the Omaha Public Schools, nurture their social and emotional development and meet their individual needs so they may reach their fullest potential. Omaha Public Schools believes that all students should be passionate about their talents, be challenged in their learning and learn something new every day. This program recognizes that students with high academic proficiency have educational needs that differ from those of their peers of the same age. While these students require the basic knowledge taught in a regular school program and need the chance to develop socially by interacting with other students, they also require differentiated learning experiences that challenge them and are appropriate to their needs. Therefore, we provide differentiated options that are integrated with the regular school program. Differentiation is a part of all courses.

Students in the gifted and talented program are identified by their standardized test scores in reading, science, or math and classroom performance. A teacher or parent then completes a referral form. Once identified, the gifted and talented program works to provide academically challenging opportunities for our high ability learners every day in the classroom and offers multiple enrichment opportunities outside of the classroom.

Moving from elementary to middle school is an exciting and challenging time. Instead of a single teacher, students now have five to eight teachers. Middle school is an opportunity for students to gain more independence but still have structure. As gifted and talented students enter middle school, they are no longer pulled from their classrooms for specialized instruction. Teachers will work with the Gifted and Talented Facilitator and/or their curriculum offerings to differentiate instruction for students. Since students spend most of their time in the classroom, we look at strategies and methods to adapt and modify the "regular" curriculum to match the abilities, needs, and interests of our students. The process, product or content of the regular curriculum is adapted. This is achieved through differentiated instruction using performance-based grouping, tiered lessons/activities, mentoring, curriculum compacting, acceleration, and independent projects. The emphasis is always on high achievement for every student.

Students can also take advanced courses at Buffett Middle. Placement is determined by a student's academic performance and class criteria. Beyond the classroom, students can participate in specific events and clubs like National History Day, Writing Club, Book Blasters, Quiz Bowl, African American History Challenge, and more.

Buffett Middle's gifted and talented program sponsors various all-school enrichment activities offered to anyone who wishes to participate. All gifted and talented activities are curriculum-related, offer opportunities that go beyond the regular classroom, promote creativity, and build on problem solving and divergent thinking skills.

Library Media Services

Buffett Middle has a resource-based, flexible-scheduling program which allows equal access to the library for all students and teachers. Teachers schedule time for the librarian to co-teach research projects, for leisure reading and check out, or for small group use. Our 6th grade students have regularly scheduled classroom library instruction with our librarian. Students have access to the library before and after school. Internet access to on-line educational resources is also provided. All students grade 6-8 receive library instruction via their social studies classes on the Big 6 research process.

Guidance and Counseling Program

The Pre-K through 12th grade Omaha Public Schools Guidance and Counseling Program is proactive and responsive to each child's unique needs. There are four components of the guidance program. The main component is our Guidance Curriculum, delivered to ALL students and emphasizes personal, social, occupational, and academic skills. At Buffett, students are taught guidance lessons monthly during their team classes as part of an interdisciplinary unit of instruction. In addition to the guidance curriculum, counselors support the school community through: Individual and Small Group Student Planning, and Response Services System Support.

The mission of the Omaha Public Schools Comprehensive Guidance and Counseling Program is to ensure student success through the combined efforts of students, staff, families, and community.

MTSS-B

Multi-Tiered Systems of Support for Behavior (MTSS-B) help to create and support a proactive and positive school climate where students and staff feel safe. The MTSS-B staff committee, leadership team, faculty, and students work together to create a Buffett-wide positive behavior plan that includes developing and teaching clear, appropriate expectations for the Buffett community. The Tier 1 committee helps to design daily Bobcat Den lessons for all students, safe seat, and buddy room training, and they meet monthly to find ways in which to respond to student, teacher, and parent needs building- wide. Tier 1 committee uses data to drive initiatives and focus on 90% of the student body. Tier 2 supports 5-10% of the student population in our Check-In/Check-Out Mentoring program that pairs a trusted and caring adult with students that benefit from additional support in behavior interventions.

Sixth Grade Course and Model Schedule

The sixth-grade curriculum at Buffett Middle provides continued development of basic skills as well as exploratory experiences. The curricular offerings are designed to promote understanding, develop interests and encourage the expression of talent in special area courses. All sixth-grade students are enrolled in English language arts, mathematics, social studies, science, physical education, and music. Students at Buffett Middle will also participate in semester classes of art, information technology (computer applications), and Careers. All sixth-grade courses are required to ensure a rigorous high-standard foundation. For a year-long music course, students may select among band, strings, or chorus.

Example of a Sixth Grade Class Schedule

The sample schedule below is a model. Actual schedules may vary slightly dependent upon course enrollment and teacher availability.

| <u>Block</u> | <u>A Day Class Period Days</u> | <u>Block</u> | <u>B Day Class Period Days</u> |
|--------------|------------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------|
| 1/2 | Language Arts | ½ | Social Studies |
| BCD | Bobcat Den | BCD | Bobcat Den |
| 3/4 | PE/Careers/Mu s | 3/4 | Art, Comp Apps, Gen Music, |
| 5/6 | Math 6 (or Advanced Math 6) | 5/6 | Lifetime Fitness/Steam |
| 7/8 | Magnet /Writing 6 | 7/8 | Science 6 |

SIXTH GRADE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Sixth grade courses listed below and on the following page(s) infuse oral and written communication and/or electronic media to enhance and extend content. At Buffett, teachers differentiate and incorporate rigor to meet students' needs.

ART

ART 6

This course examines artists' world views. Enduring understandings and ideas include Art reveals aesthetic theories; Artists create art from multiple perspectives of time, place and culture revealing aesthetic theories; Artistic forms follow function throughout time; Critical processes identify aesthetic theories; and Art reflects the values and beliefs of a civilization/society. Students will play the role of artist, philosopher, historian, and archeologist to explore world art throughout time.

Meets: Alternating days

Duration: 1 Semester

Credits: 1

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

COMPUTER APPLICATIONS I

This course is designed to emphasize digital life, use business productivity applications, and explore career opportunities in the Business, Marketing, and Management and Communication and Information Systems Career Fields. Students will continue to develop efficient keyboarding skills and production skills. Students will learn to create, compose, edit, and format word processing documents; organize data in a spreadsheet; and prepare digital presentations. An introduction to basic principles in digital media and computer science will be included.

Meets: Alternating days

Duration: 1 Semester

Credits: 1

LANGUAGE ARTS

LANGUAGE ARTS 6

This course supports student mastery of sixth grade language arts standards and focuses on development and application of skills in grade level reading, writing, speaking, listening, and multiple literacies. Students will read a variety of literary and informational texts and write in a variety of modes using numerous tools and organizational frameworks. Students will also learn appropriate and safe use of digital tools related to research.

Meets: Alternating days

Duration: 2 semesters

Credits: 2

MATHEMATICS

MATHEMATICS 6

This course covers the 6th grade mathematics content standards. Students will work with integers, fractions, decimals, and percents, study metric and standard systems of measurement, apply properties of geometry, use data analysis, and solve problems involving multiple-step equations.

Meets: Alternating days

Duration: 2 semesters

Credits: 2

ADVANCED MATH 6*

This course will extend the learning opportunities for students who are prepared for the rigorous and challenging curriculum extension through the development of the number system carried on in the earlier elementary grades. Content includes work on the fundamental operations and using these operations with the various subsets of the real number system such as whole numbers, fractions, and decimals. This course also addresses unit conversions within a system of measurement, geometry, data analysis, two-set equations and problem solving.

***Prerequisite:** *Teacher recommendation based upon past mathematics achievement and assessment results.*

Meets: Alternating days

Duration: 2 semesters

Credit: 2

MUSIC

Students will select one of the following four music electives that will alternate with physical education on an every-other-day basis.

GENERAL/VOCAL MUSIC 6

In this course sixth grade students will explore music as part of everyday life, including studying various styles, understanding musical elements and experimenting with aspects of performance.

Meets: Alternating days

Duration: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.00

CHORUS 6

In this course sixth grade students will continue to develop their skill for reading and singing two and three-part octavo music. This emphasis is on vocal ensemble performance. There will be required performances.

Meets: Alternating days

Duration: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.00

BAND 6

This course is a band ensemble for sixth grade students who are continuing instruction on a brass, woodwind, or percussion instrument. Basic music concepts will be advanced as the student learns to read music and develop skill in playing their instrument of choice. A method book is used as the lesson guide. Performances will be required. Prerequisite: one-year previous instruction.

Meets: Alternating days

Duration: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.00

STRINGS 6

This course is the string ensemble for sixth grade students who are continuing instruction on violin, viola, cello or string bass. Basic music concepts will be advanced as the student learns to read music and develop skill in playing their instrument of choice. A method book is used as the lesson guide. Performances will be required. Prerequisite: two years previous instruction (4th and 5th grade).

Meets: Alternating days

Duration: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.00

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

PHYSICAL EDUCATION 6

This course is designed to include a wide variety of sporting activities and teach the qualities of sportsmanship, competition and fitness. It includes learning the rules and regulations for the major sports of volleyball, wrestling, basketball, soccer, and track and field events. Students also participate in a variety of leisure and lifetime activities including badminton, aerobics and more. Students must wear appropriate attire for physical education courses (tennis shoes, T-shirts, sweats or shorts, etc.). Although the physical education locker rooms have showers available for students' use; students are not required to shower for class.

Meets: Daily

Duration: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.00

READING

READING SKILLS 6A

This course is designed for readers who have a foundation in decoding skills but experience challenge in comprehending grade-level material. The curriculum focuses on strengthening fluency, comprehension, and vocabulary skills. Placement is based on standardized test scores and teacher recommendation.

Meets: Alternating days

Duration: 2 semesters

Credits: 2.00

READING SKILLS 6B

Students in this course will improve reading proficiency with explicit, direct instruction in fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. Strategies for phonemic awareness and phonics will be taught as needed. Students will read leveled, high interest literature for both academic and recreational purposes. Placement is based on standardized test scores and teacher recommendation.

Meets: Alternating days

Duration: 2 semesters

Credits: 2.00

SCIENCE

SCIENCE 6

This course continues the standards of scientific inquiry as well as the integration of unifying concepts and processes in science experiences. In this course the emphasis will be placed on Earth structures and processes, Earth's history, energy, structure and function of living systems, flow of matter and energy in ecosystems, and biodiversity.

Meets: Alternating days

Duration: 2 semesters

Credits: 2.00

SOCIAL STUDIES

SOCIAL STUDIES 6

This course examines the ancient world by studying Western Europe, Egypt, Sub-Saharan Africa, and Latin America. Special attention is given to geography, history, economics, culture and the government in these regions. This course shares a block with Language Arts 6.

Meets: Alternating days

Duration: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.00

SPEECH

SPEECH 6

This course continues to build on the fundamentals of speech and focuses on higher level research and presentation skills. It allows students additional hands-on experiences to polish their verbal presentation and listening abilities. Sixth grade students will recite poetry and plays with expression, and research and develop persuasive speech. Students will also work on the writing, speaking and listening skills required for radio, including creating a radio script for a news broadcast.

Meets: Alternating days

Duration: 1 quarter

Credits: .50



Seventh Grade Course and Model Schedule

The seventh-grade curriculum at Buffett Middle provides continued development of basic skills and exploratory experiences. The curricular offerings are also designed to promote understanding, develop interest, and encourage the expression of talent in special area courses. All seventh-grade students are enrolled in English language arts, social studies, science, mathematics, information technology (computers), human growth and development, art, tech and living, music, and physical education. All courses will integrate oral and written communication skills and communications through advanced technologies.

In addition, starting in seventh grade, students take courses a quarter in length which include TV Broadcasting 7, iDesign 7, Digital Media 7, and Journalism 7. In eighth grade, students will take a year-long version of one of the courses. Buffett Middle offers a more comprehensive communications curriculum than other middle schools in the district. As a result, all subject areas will embed the extra value magnet standards of advanced oral communication, advanced written communication, and advanced communication technologies.

Example of a Seventh Grade Class Schedule

The sample schedule below is a model. Actual schedules may vary slightly depending upon course enrollment and teacher availability.

| <u>A Day Class Period Days</u> | | <u>B Day Class Period Days</u> | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <u>Block</u> | | <u>Block</u> | |
| 1/2 | Communications | 1/2 | Science 7 (or Honors Science 7) |
| BCD | Bobcat Den | BCD | Bobcat Den |
| 3/4 | Math 7 | 3/4 | Communications Elective |

(Or Honors Pre-Algebra or
Honors Algebra 1-2)

5/6 Language Arts 7 or Honors
Language Arts

5/6 Social Studies 7

7/8 PE/ Careers

7/8 Art, Music, Comp Science

SEVENTH GRADE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Seventh grade courses listed below and on the following page(s) infuse oral and written communication and/or electronic media to enhance and extend content. At Buffett, teachers differentiate and incorporate rigor to meet students' needs.

ART

ART 7

Throughout this course, students will experience a wide variety of artistic materials and examine the artistic communication and expression of identity by several artists, past and present. Aesthetic theories of Expressionism and Imitationalism will also be studied in depth. As they do so, they will be creating their own artwork about personal identity.

Meets: Alternating days

Duration: 1 semester

Credits: 1

TECHNOLOGY

COMPUTER APPLICATIONS 7

This course is usually taken after students show proficiency in Levels 1 and 2. This course includes continued practice on improving keyboarding skills. Students will present information using databases and spreadsheets to others using queries and hyperlinks. Where possible, students will create and edit a simple movie using movie software. They will present a final multimedia project to a targeted audience. A web page is created, designed and published by students. Students evaluate web pages and Internet sources. Students understand copyright issues and plagiarism. Citing sources of copyright materials and Internet searches in presentations and projects are also a part of this course. E-mail continues to be refined by using send/unsent, forwarding e-mail, creating and storing e-mail addresses, and sending work electronically to self or teacher.

This course is designed to help students master the touch method of keyboarding and begin to explore technology as a tool for productivity and research. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the ethical, cultural and societal issues related to technology and become proficient in the use of input technologies to enter and manipulate text and data.

Meets: Alternating days

Duration: 1 semester

Credits: 1

LANGUAGE ARTS

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 7

This course supports student mastery of seventh grade language arts standards and focuses on development and application of skills in grade level reading, writing, speaking, listening, and multiple literacies. Students will read a variety of literary and informational texts and write in a variety of modes using numerous tools and organizational frameworks. Students will also learn appropriate and safe use of digital tools related to research.

Meets: Alternating days

Duration: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.00

HONORS ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 7

This course supports student mastery of seventh grade language arts standards and focuses on development and application of skills in grade level reading, writing, speaking, listening, and multiple literacies. Students will read a variety of literary and informational texts and write in a variety of modes using numerous tools and organizational frameworks. Students will also learn appropriate and safe use of digital tools related to research. Tasks and/or projects will be completed that require rigorous and deep critical thinking skills as they apply to English language arts.

Meets: Alternating days

Duration: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.00

Communications Electives

Seventh graders at Buffett Middle will take a quarter of each course listed and will then take the full year advanced course of one of those courses in eighth grade. Due to course availability, student placement in a course is not guaranteed.

INTRO TO DESIGN 7

This seventh-grade course will introduce students to basic design and web development principles, as well as career opportunities in design. Learning will include basic design elements, design principles and software skill development. Students will be introduced to planning and designing processes for effective media projects including print, web pages, and presentations.

Meets: Alternating days

Duration: 1 Semester

Credits: 1

iDESIGN 7

In this one semester course students will study storytelling, animation and game layout design. Students will learn to use various software resources for creating animated stories, multimedia projects and interactive applications. Additionally, students will work on the writing process as it relates to storytelling, be able to identify the elements and principles of design, demonstrate digital citizenship and ethical behavior related to interactive media, and explore careers related to digital storytelling and interactive technology.

Meets: Alternating days

Duration: 1 Semester

Credits: 1

TV BROADCASTING 7

This course is designed to introduce students to television broadcast journalism via hands on experiences developing, producing, performing and editing and airing television and radio broadcasts. Using tried and true journalism teaching techniques coupled with the latest technology, this course will engage students from start to end. Utilizing the school community as their reporting terrain, student journalists will canvas activities, events and special projects at Buffett to report to their viewing and listening audiences.

Meets: Alternating days

Duration: 1 Semester

Credits: 1

JOURNALISM 7

This course focuses on introducing students to the print aspect of journalism. Students will take part in developing, writing, revising, editing and publishing print materials ranging from brochures to a school newspaper and yearbook. Based in the belief that the more one writes, the better one writes, this is first and foremost a lab for writing. Distinguishing between and among the different purposes one has for writing will be the primary basis for this class.

Meets: Alternating days

Duration: 1 Semester

Credits: 1

MATHEMATICS

MATHEMATICS 7

This course covers the content standards for Seventh Grade Math. Students will perform operations with whole numbers, decimals, fractions, and integers, solve proportions and percent problems, convert measurements within systems, use plane geometry, and solve equations and real-life problems.

Meets: Alternating days

Duration: 2 semesters

Credits: 2

HONORS PRE-ALGEBRA 1-2*

This honors section of Pre-Algebra 1-2 is designed for students who have been accelerated beyond their grade level in mathematics. This course will contain spiraling reinforcement of basic algebraic concepts and topics in order to prepare students for successful placement in Algebra 1-2. This course will cover the content standards for pre-algebra, including operations on real numbers, conversions among fractions, decimals and percents, solving linear equations and inequalities, graphing linear equations, working with polynomials, and using measure of central tendency to interpret data.

***Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation based upon past mathematics achievement and assessment results.**

Meets: Alternating days

Duration: 2 semesters

Credits: 2

HONORS ALGEBRA 1-2*

This course is the honors section of Algebra 1-2. It covers traditional algebra topics including operations with signed numbers and polynomials, solving first- and second-degree equations, verbal problems, systems of linear equations, graphing and writing linear equations and inequalities, and simplifying exponential expressions. As an honors class, these topics will be covered in great depth and with enrichment.

***Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation, assessment results, and successful completion of Pre-Algebra 1-2.**

Meets: Alternating days

Duration: 2 semesters

Credits: 2

MUSIC

Students will select one of the following four music electives that will meet every other day.

CHORUS 7

Chorus 7 is available to seventh grade students who have special interests and abilities in choral singing. Vocal skills are introduced through appropriate unison, two and three-part singing. Musical independence is encouraged through increasing emphasis on musical notation. Performance opportunities are an extension of the classroom experience.

Meets: Alternating days

Duration: 2 semesters

Credits: 2

MUSIC EXPLORATION 7

General/Vocal Music 7 extends the sequential development of musical concepts and skills introduced in elementary grades. This course explores all aspects of musical development including singing, listening, creating, rhythmic activities, musical notation, and playing instruments.

Meets: Alternating days

Duration: 1 semester

Credits: 1

INTERMEDIATE BAND

This course is offered to seventh grade students who began instrumental instruction in their respective elementary schools or for eighth grade students who began instrumental music in seventh grade beginning band. Instrumental technique and musical understanding focus on the second volume of standard instrumental method studies and appropriate band arrangements. Performance is included as an extension of the classroom activities. Prerequisite: Completion of Band at grades 5 / 6.

Meets: Alternating days

Duration: 2 semesters

Credits: 2

INTERMEDIATE STRINGS

This course is offered to seventh grade students who have successfully completed several years of study. Instrumental technique and musical understandings focus on standard string method studies and appropriate string orchestra selections. The instrumentation includes violin, viola, cello and string bass. Students with previous instrumental experience may begin changeover instruction on the low string instruments. Performance may be included as an extension of classroom activities.

Meets: Alternating days

Duration: 2 semesters

Credits: 2

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

PHYSICAL EDUCATION 7

This course is designed to expose students to a variety of team and individual activities with the intent of developing an appreciation for them as a spectator and/or player. The primary purpose of the course is to promote a healthy lifestyle and develop a positive attitude toward physical fitness. The program also develops fundamental skills and promotes physical activity and fitness. Students will participate in activities such as flag football, basketball, volleyball, track, soccer, softball, aerobic activities, and physical fitness tests. In addition, students will be divided into small group pull outs to allow for greater exposure of activities, smaller class sizes, and fitness testing. A strong emphasis will be placed on the use of the health and fitness profile throughout the year utilizing heart rate monitors, pedometers and computer technology to monitor student health data. Appropriate attire (tennis shoes, shorts, T-shirts etc.).

Meets: Alternating days

Duration: 2 semesters

Credits: 1

READING

READING SKILLS 7A*

This course is designed for readers who have a foundation in decoding skills but experience challenge in comprehending grade-level material. The curriculum focuses on strengthening fluency, comprehension, and vocabulary skills.

***Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation based upon previous reading achievement and assessment results.**

Meets: Alternating days

Duration: 2 semesters

Credits: 2

READING SKILLS 7B*

Students in this course will improve reading proficiency with explicit, direct instruction in fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. Strategies for phonemic awareness and phonics will be taught as needed. Students will read leveled, high interest literature for both academic and recreational purposes.

***Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation based upon previous reading achievement and assessment results.**

Meets: Alternating days

Duration: 2 semesters

Credits: 2

SCIENCE

HONORS SCIENCE 7

This course is the honors section of Grade 7 Science and encompasses the three dimensions (science practices, disciplinary core ideas, and crosscutting concepts) of learning as identified by the Nebraska College and Career Ready Standards for Science. The topics include structure and properties of matter, chemical reactions, inter-dependent relationships in ecosystems, matter and energy in ecosystems, Earth's systems, and the history of the Earth. One additional unit is included to ensure success in the middle school honors sequence, and the topics include heredity, biological evolution, and the history of Earth.

Meets: Alternating days

Duration: 2 semesters

Credits: 2

SCIENCE 7

This course integrates life science and Earth & space science. In addition, topics covering science as inquiry, science process skills, science and technology, and science in personal and social perspectives have been added to give the students the connections needed to understand current issues in the world. Students study the flow of energy in an ecosystem; the structure and function of the human body; reproduction and the transfer of genetic material; the components of our Solar System and energy within the Earth's atmosphere.

Meets: Alternating days

Duration: 2 semesters

Credits: 2

SOCIAL STUDIES

SOCIAL STUDIES 7

This course examines the world we live in by studying Africa, Asia, the Middle East, and Eastern Europe. Special attention is given to the geography, history, economics, culture, and elements of citizenship within the regions studied. Along with their texts, students use technology, novels, current events, and interdisciplinary activities to expand their understanding of the Eastern Hemisphere.

Meets: Alternating days

Duration: 2 semesters

Credits: 2



Eighth Grade Courses

EIGHTH GRADE COURSES AND MODEL SCHEDULE

The eighth-grade curriculum at Buffett Magnet Middle School provides continued development of basic skills and exploratory experiences. The curricular offerings are also designed to promote understanding, develop interest, and encourage the expression of talent in special area courses. All eighth-grade students are enrolled in language arts, social studies, mathematics, science, reading or international language, information technology (computers), physical education, human growth and development, tech and living, music, and art.

In addition, eighth grade students will complete a year-long magnet course as a continuation of a seventh-grade magnet course. Magnet courses are offered in TV Broadcasting, iDesign, Digital Media, and Journalism.

As a magnet school, Buffett Magnet Middle School offers a more comprehensive communications curriculum than other middle schools in the district. As a result, all subject areas will embed the extra value magnet standards of advanced oral communication, advanced written communication, and advanced communication technologies.

Eighth Grade Model Class Schedule

The sample schedule below is a model. Actual schedules may vary slightly depending upon course enrollment and teacher availability.

| <u>Block</u> | | <u>A Day Class Period Days</u> | <u>B Day Class Period Days</u> |
|--------------|---|--------------------------------|---|
| | <u>Block</u> | | <u>Block</u> |
| 1/2 | PE/Careers | 1/2 | Art, Comp Science, Music |
| BCD | Bobcat Den | BCD | Bobcat Den |
| 3/4 | Social Studies 8 | 3/4 | International Language or Reading Skills (Students select one: Spanish 1-2 or French 1-2). Reading Skills students will not take International Language |
| 5/6 | Math 8 or Honors Algebra 1-2 | 5/6 | English Language Arts 8 or Honors English Language Arts 8 |
| 7/8 | Science 8 or Honors Physical Science 8 | 7/8 | |
| | | 13 | |

EIGHTH GRADE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Eighth grade courses listed below and on the following page (infuse oral and written communication and/or electronic media to enhance and extend content. At Buffett, teachers differentiate and incorporate rigor to meet student's needs.

ART

ART 8

This course allows students to be innovative and reflect on their own experiences as many American artists have and do today. American artists were and are on the forefront of shaping America's identity through recording the human experience in innovative ways. Throughout this course, students will continue to develop their artistic voice and style and explore how they do and will play a part in society. Students will examine art and artists throughout American history focusing on America's diversity and influence. Aesthetic theories of Instrumentalism, Expressionism and Formalism will be studied as well.

Meets: Alternating days

Duration: 1 semester

Credits: 1

INTRO TO COMPUTER SCIENCE 8

This eighth-grade course will continue to develop knowledge and skills in computer science. Students will further develop computational thinking skills to solve problems and address real-world challenges. The course will include a focus on project creation and collaboration through technology, ethical use of technology and its impact to the community.

Meets: Alternating days

Duration: 1 semester

Credits: 1

INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGES*

*Offerings will be based on student interest and teacher availability. Students who are enrolled in a Reading Skills course will not be enrolled in an International Language course.

FRENCH 1-2

SPANISH 1-2

These courses in World Languages are at the first-year level and focus on interpretive, presentational, and interpersonal communication abilities to develop skills in the target language. Students become aware of the personal and economic opportunities that knowing a second language will bring them and how that knowledge will enable them to function better both in the United States and globally. They also begin to develop awareness and appreciation of the various cultures associated with that language as well as the impact these cultures have made on their own community, country, and world.

Meets: Alternating days

Duration: 2 semesters

Credits: 2.00

LANGUAGE ARTS

LANGUAGE ARTS 8

This course supports student mastery of eighth grade standards and focuses on developing and applying students' knowledge in language, literature, and composition and on developing student's skills in reading, writing, speaking, listening, viewing, and thinking as appropriate for this grade level. Students will write descriptive, narrative, literary, expository, persuasive, and technical pieces for various purposes and audiences using a variety of tools.

Meets: Alternating days

Duration: 2 semesters

Credits: 2.00

HONORS LANGUAGE ARTS 8

This course is the same as Language Arts 8, with even greater emphasis placed on the in-depth study of selected topics and works, additional composition alternatives, and critical and creative thinking development opportunities.

Meets: Alternating days

Duration: 2 semester

Credits: 2.00

COMMUNICATIONS ELECTIVES

Eighth graders at Buffett Middle will select courses as a continuation of courses started in Grade 7. Due to course availability, student placement in a specific course is not guaranteed.

TV BROADCASTING PRODUCTION 8*

This year-long course is an advanced survey of broadcasting, designed to provide students with additional, unique hands-on experiences developing, producing, performing and editing and airing live and pre-recorded Buffett television broadcasts. Using tried and true journalism teaching techniques coupled with the latest technology, this course will engage students from start to end. Students taking this class will be required to perform all of the roles in a television broadcast, including on-air personality, camera, director, etc. Utilizing the broader school community as their reporting terrain, student journalists will canvas activities, events and special projects occurring in and around Buffett to report to their viewing and listening audiences.

***Prerequisite:** Passing grade in TV Broadcasting 7.

Meets: Alternating days

Duration: 2 semesters

Credits: 2

BROADCASTING 8

This one-semester project-based course will produce a monthly television magazine show for Buffett. The course will provide students with the opportunity to further develop skills in video capture and editing, and all aspects of producing videos for the Buffett television network. Students will create and edit graphics, sound, and special effects to be incorporated into video productions. Students will be required to work independently and in small teams to produce commercials, public service announcements, and short features. Students will create storyboards, write and rewrite shooting scripts, record and edit projects. Prerequisite: TV Broadcasting 7

Meets: Alternating days

Duration: 1 semester

Credits: 1

JOURNALISM PRODUCTION 8*

This is first and foremost a production lab for students with advanced writing, design, and photography skills. This class will be offered in three year-long sections. One section will oversee the production of The Buffett Bugle, the school newspaper, one section will oversee the production of the school yearbook, The Beacon, and one section will be a part of Advanced Media, which includes beat reporting and supports broadcasting news segments. Students will work in a variety of capacities and jobs, as photographers, layout designers, reporters, and editors. Concomitant to the production cycle, students will study the principles of design, photojournalism, and aspects of journalistic writing. Qualities of a journalist include: responsibility, trustworthiness, organization skills, promptness, and the ability to meet deadlines.

***Prerequisite:** Passing grade in Journalism 7.

Meets: Alternating days

Duration: 2 semesters

Credits: 2

JOURNALISM 8

This one-semester project-based course will produce a monthly television magazine show for Buffett. The course will provide students with the opportunity to further develop skills in video capture and editing, and all aspects of producing videos for the Buffett television network. Students will create and edit graphics, sound, and special effects to be incorporated into video productions. Students will be required to work independently and in small teams to produce commercials, public service announcements, and short features. Students will create storyboards, write and rewrite shooting scripts, record and edit projects. Prerequisite: TV Broadcasting 7.

iDESIGN 8

In this one semester course students will study storytelling, animation and game layout design. Students will learn to use various software resources for creating animated stories, multimedia projects and interactive applications. Additionally, students will work on the writing process as it relates to storytelling, be able to identify the elements and principles of design, demonstrate digital citizenship and ethical behavior related to interactive media, and explore careers related to digital storytelling and interactive technology.

Meets: Alternating days

Duration: 1 semesters

Credits: 1

INTRO TO DESIGN 8

This eighth-grade course will continue to develop knowledge and skills in design elements and principles. Students will learn advanced skills in utilizing software for design. The course will focus on planning, creating, editing, and presenting ideas through various mediums to communicate information to multiple audiences.

Meets: Alternating days

Duration: 1 semesters

Credits: 1

MATHEMATICS

PRE-ALGEBRA 1-2*

This course is designed to meet the needs of the student who will benefit from a transition course which bridges the similarities of arithmetic and algebra. This course will contain spiraling reinforcement of basic algebraic concepts and topics in order to prepare students for successful placement in Algebra 1-2. This course will cover the content standards for pre-algebra, including operations on real numbers, conversions among fractions, decimals, and percents, solving linear equations and inequalities, graphing linear equations, working with polynomials, and using measures of central tendency to interpret data.

***Prerequisite: Placement is based on teacher recommendation, successful completion of Math 7, and assessment results.**

Meets: Alternating days

Duration: 2 semesters

Credits: 2

HONORS ALGEBRA 1-2*

This course is the honors section of Algebra 1-2. It covers traditional algebra topics including operations with signed numbers and polynomials, solving first- and second-degree equations, verbal problems, systems of linear equations, graphing and wiring linear equations and inequalities, and simplifying exponential expressions. As an honors class, these topics will be covered in great depth and with enrichment.

***Prerequisite: Placement is based on teacher recommendation, successful completion of Math 7, and assessment results.**

Meets: Alternating days

Duration: 2 semesters

Credits: 2

HONORS GEOMETRY 1-2*

This course is the honors section of Geometry 1-2. Topics include congruence and similarity of figures, parallelism and perpendicularity, right triangle relationships, formal and informal proof, coordinate geometry, properties of polygons and circles, and perimeter, area, and volume of two- and three-dimensional figures. As an honors class, each topic will be covered in greater depth and with enrichment. Students enrolling in this course should have proficient or advanced grades in both semester of Honors Algebra 1-2, or advanced grades both semester of Algebra 1-2 and teacher recommendation.

***Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation, successful completion of Algebra 1-2, and assessment results.**

Meets: Alternating days

Duration: 2 semesters

Credits: 2

MUSIC

Students will select one of the following music electives that will alternate with physical education on an every-other-day basis.

CHORUS 8

Chorus 8 is available to eighth grade students who have special interests and abilities in choral singing. Choral music is introduced in two and three parts that include bass clef participation. Vocal emphasis is placed on the introduction of the male changing voice and greater extension of all voice ranges. Performance opportunities including the All-City Music Festival are an extension of the classroom experience.

Meets: Alternating days

Duration: 2 semesters

Credits: 2

MUSIC EXPLORATION 8

This course extends the scope of previously learned musical concepts and skills. Students explore various aspects of singing, listening, creating, notating, and playing. The focus is on contemporary and popular music styles. Student performances are limited to classroom demonstrations.

Meets: Alternating days

Duration: 1 semester

Credits: 1

ADVANCED BAND 8*

This course is offered to eighth grade students with advanced abilities secured through several years of instrumental music participation. Music introduced includes technique studies and selected concert music with full instrumentation appropriate to the classes and ability. Membership is achieved by the recommendation of the instructor. Performance is included as an extension of the classroom activities.

***Prerequisite: Band 7**

Meets: Alternating days

Duration: 2 semesters

Credits: 2

ADVANCED STRING ORCHESTRA 8*

This course is offered to eighth grade students who have demonstrated advanced ability in playing a string instrument. Technique studies and selected concert music advance both technical and musical understanding. The instrumentation includes violin, viola, cello and string bass. Membership is achieved by the recommendation of the instructor or successful completion of Intermediate Strings. Performance is included as an extension of the classroom activities outside of the school day.

***Prerequisite: Orchestra 7**

Meets: Alternating days

Duration: 2 semesters

Credits: 2

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

PHYSICAL EDUCATION 8

This course is designed to expose students to a variety of team and individual activities with the intent of developing an appreciation for them as a spectator and/or player. The primary purpose of the course is to promote a healthy lifestyle and develop a positive attitude toward physical fitness. The program also develops fundamental skills and promotes physical activity and fitness. Students will participate in activities such as flag football, basketball, volleyball, track, soccer, softball, aerobic activities, and physical fitness tests. In addition, students will be divided into small group pull outs to allow for greater exposure of activities, smaller class sizes, fitness testing, and CPR training. A strong emphasis will be placed on the use of the health and fitness profile throughout the year utilizing heart rate monitors, pedometers and computer technology to monitor student health data. Appropriate attire (tennis shoes, shorts, T-shirts etc.)

Meets: Alternating days

Duration: 2 semesters

Credits: 1

READING

READING SKILLS 8A

This course is designed for readers who have a foundation in decoding skills but experience challenge in comprehending grade-level material. The curriculum focuses on strengthening fluency, comprehension, and vocabulary skills.

***Prerequisite: Placement in this course is dependent upon reading achievement, assessment results, and teacher recommendation.**

Meets: Alternating Days

Duration: 2 semesters

Credits: 2

READING SKILLS 8B

Students in this course will improve reading proficiency with explicit, direct instruction in fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. Strategies for phonemic awareness and phonics will be taught as needed. Students will read leveled, high interest literature for both academic and recreational purposes.

***Prerequisite: Placement in this course is dependent upon reading achievement, assessment results, and teacher recommendation.**

Meets: Alternating Days

Duration: 2 semesters

Credits: 2

SCIENCE

HONORS PHYSICAL SCIENCE*

Physical Science is an inquiry-based course designed to expose students to selected concepts in chemistry, physics, earth, and space science. Topics include matter, energy, forces and motion, Earth in space, and Earth structures and processes. This course provides a foundation for other science courses and meets the district requirement for physical science.

***Prerequisite: Placement in this course is dependent upon science achievement, assessment results, and teacher recommendation. Participation in Science Fair at Grade 7 is strongly encouraged.**

Meets: Alternating Days

Duration: 2 semesters

Credits: 2

SCIENCE 8

This inquiry-based course is designed to expose students to selected concepts in chemistry, physics, and energy. Students study elements, compounds and chemical reactions; the practical applications of Newton's First Law; and the transfer and movement of energy through waves. This course provides the foundations for other science coursework.

Meets: Alternating days

Duration: 2 semesters

Credits: 2

SOCIAL STUDIES

SOCIAL STUDIES 8

This course explores the life of our country during the time period between New Nation to 1914. Instruction is organized around the themes of geography, history, economics, culture, and the elements of citizenship. Students investigate the key people, events and ideas of our country using textbooks, newspapers, novels, primary sources, and technology.

Meets: Alternating days

Duration: 2 semesters

Credits: 2



ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (ESL)

ESL classes will be offered for eligible students.

ESL A*

This course is the core of the beginning level of English as a Second Language course. The focus of this course is on building vocabulary and expression in English.

***Prerequisite: Eligibility based upon assessment results and teacher recommendation.**

Meets: Daily

Duration: 2 semesters

Credits: 2

ESL B*

This course is designed for intermediate ESL students. The focus of this course will be to continue the development of basic communication skills, English language vocabulary, and more advanced grammatical structures. This course is typically for a second-year English language learner.

***Prerequisite: Eligibility based upon assessment results and teacher recommendation.**

Meets: Daily

Duration: 2 semesters

Credits: 2

ESL READING A*

This course offers students learning English as a second language beginning reading instruction in English.

***Prerequisite: Eligibility based upon assessment results and teacher recommendation.**

Meets: Alternating days

Duration: 2 semesters

Credits: 2

ESL READING B *

This course is designed for intermediate ESL students who need additional help to improve their reading skills. Emphasis is on developing fluency, summarizing and sequencing events in a reading passage, recognizing cause and effect and using systematic strategies to locate information from textbooks, charts, graphs, and tables which may be used in mainstream classes.

***Prerequisite: Eligibility based upon assessment results and teacher recommendation.**

Meets: Alternating days

Duration: 2 semesters

Credits: 2

ESL TRANSITIONS

This is the first semester of a year course. This course is designed for advanced ESL students with a focus on developing increased fluency and comprehension in reading more advanced materials and use a wide range of strategies to construct oral and written claims and support them with reasoning and evidence. Successful completion of learning goals from ESL B or demonstration of equivalent skills is required for registration in this course.

Meets: Alternating days

Duration: 2 semesters

Credits: 2



Athletics and Activities

ATHLETICS

All seventh and eighth grade students are eligible to try out for the competitive athletic teams. Students in sixth grade may participate in after school intramurals, but the number of intramural offerings will vary from year to year based on staff availability. Buffett Middle students are encouraged to participate in athletics and other co-curricular activities. It is the feeling of Buffett's teachers, coaches, and administrators that students have a primary obligation to complete their schoolwork to the best of their abilities and to behave appropriately while in school before considering athletics and co-curricular activities.

To be eligible to compete in inter-school athletic activities, a student-athlete must be passing all courses. Students who are not meeting academic expectations will be given one (1) week to improve their academic standing. If improvement is not made, the student-athlete may be required to miss practice time, competitions, and may even be removed from the team. Interested students may try out for inter-school athletic activities (a physical examination for athletics, proof of insurance, parent consent, and purchase of a Buffett Middle Student Activity Card are required).

After school athletic practices will conclude by 5:00 p.m. Late buses are provided for students that receive transportation through the school district and they will depart at 5:15 p.m. The ending time for athletic contests will vary based on the sport and the location of the contest.

Athletic Offerings

| | |
|---------------|---|
| Cross Country | 7 th and 8 th grade |
| Football | 7 th and 8 th grade |
| Volleyball | 7 th and 8 th grade |
| Basketball | 7 th and 8 th grade |
| Swimming | 7 th and 8 th grade |
| Wrestling | 7 th and 8 th grade |
| Soccer | 7 th and 8 th grade |
| Track | 7 th and 8 th grade |

Prior to the start of each athletic season an informational meeting will be held for students during Bobcat Den. These meetings occur one week before the first day of practice for each sport and will be announced in the daily bulletin.

CLUBS AND CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Students at Buffett Middle have many opportunities to become involved with co-curricular clubs and activities. Student involvement fosters self-confidence for learning and a sense of belonging. Participation in clubs and activities also offers opportunities for developing social skills while interacting with students who hold similar interests. Clubs and activities may vary slightly from year to year depending upon student interest and sponsor availability. Buffett Middle offers many

after-school clubs and activities. The activity and athletic bus will depart at 5:15 p.m. The lists of clubs/organizations vary year to year and during the year based on sponsor availability.

Club Offerings

African American History Challenge
Alliance
Book Blasters
Buffett Bravo
Drama Club
Fermi Math League
Fusion Strings Orchestra

Launch Leadership
MATHCOUNTS
National History Day
National Junior Honor Society
Quiz Bowl
Robotics
Spelling Bee

Student Council
Writing Club

Special Events and Activities

Academic Pentathlon
African American History Challenge
Camp Bobcat
French, Spanish Contest
Future City
Geography Bee
History Day Contest
Math Contests
Metropolitan Engineering and Science Fairs
Music Concerts (Winter and Spring)
Nebraska Visual Arts Competition
Newspapers in Education
Poetry Slam
Science Fair
Speech Contests
Spelling Bee (February)
Summer Science Camp
Summer Writing Camp
Think Tank (7th and 8th Grade)

