

BURNET MIDDLE SCHOOL

In accordance with the adoption by the state of content standards in all of the areas of instruction, the various disciplines are proceeding with a variety of initiatives. These are delineated below. The standards aim to develop citizens who are both health literate and physically educated.

ART - Students will become familiar with art media, tools, and appropriate techniques. They will experience the challenges art can provide; in problem solving, decision making, spatial judgements, coordination and motor abilities. Socially the students will gain an appreciation of art from historical and cultural perspectives. Through their art productions including drawing, painting, ceramics, sculptures and fiber art, the students will be allowed to communicate their thoughts and feelings creatively.

SEVENTH GRADE COMPUTER CYCLE - A six-week course designed to introduce the students to the various uses of a computer. Within this course, the major emphasis is on word processing. Students are provided the opportunity to explore the software applications included in Microsoft Office.

EIGHTH GRADE COMPUTER LITERACY (SEMESTER) - This half year course expands upon the seventh grade cycle. Incorporated into the course are segments using Microsoft Office. These include word processing, database, spreadsheet, and multimedia applications. Students are also learning the basic components of the Internet use. This course provides the student with a solid basis for entering a work place in which computers are becoming an integral part of daily life.

BUSINESS EDUCATION (WORK PROCESSING) - This course provides an excellent introduction to formal computer based word processing. Students will demonstrate mastery by typing accurately straight copy from specified materials such as letters, envelopes, reports, title pages, and bibliographies. Correct word processing techniques and skills are emphasized.

ENGLISH - Grammar skills are being taught and reinforced by student involvement in the writing process. The essentials of the research paper are introduced. Use of literature texts provides opportunity for students to improve their reading and comprehension skills as well as to become familiar with literary genres.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE (WORLD LANGUAGE CURRICULUM) - Seventh graders are introduced to each of the modern languages (French, German, Spanish) for a six week cycle. They develop simple conversational skills through oral exercises, group activities and a cultural awareness through discussions. Eighth graders develop proficiency in five core areas (listening, speaking, reading, writing, and culture) through a year long course coordinated and articulated with the high school World Language Program. Communicative skills are stressed through student centered activities.

GIFTED AND TALENTED - Students are provided educational challenges in a variety of scholastic areas to improve individual skills in creative thinking, problem solving, research and leadership skills. Some of the activities are Student Intervention through education, independent research, and to plan and implement schoolwide activities.

HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION - This program considers the whole child, his or her intellectual capacity, physical and emotional health, and social adjustment.

HOME ECONOMICS - Reading, writing, and math skills are put to practical use in our Home Economics labs. Individual and group planning, preparing and serving of nutritious foods, or planning for or constructing a garment or craft item are some of the learning activities taking place. The goal is to better prepare students for their daily lives as well as for the future by allowing them to make decisions, follow directions, and work individually and in a group to produce a product.

INDUSTRIAL ARTS/CAREER EDUCATION - Students are introduced to hands-on experience which provide opportunities to apply academic skills such as reading, computing, problem solving, and critical thinking in a nonacademic setting. Drawing, printing, woodworking and the use of tools and equipment both individually and in small groups allow students to explore new and emerging technology. Due to the necessity to assure that students work injury-free, potential hazards are identified, and strict safety standards are established and enforced.

MATHEMATICS - Greater emphasis is placed on the use of calculators, problem solving techniques, communications in mathematical terms, logical reasoning and responding to open-ended questions. Family math workshops are held over a six-week period to increase parental involvement and awareness in the mathematics program.

VOCAL MUSIC - Students will become familiar with all technical and social aspects of music. Activities will include the basic rudiments of reading music, development of pitch and rhythmic accuracy, sight-singing, ear training, continual training of the voice and the exposure to a variety of choral literature. Along with the technical aspects, students will learn proper performance etiquette. The members of chorus will gain both insight and experience in working together to achieve the ultimate goal of performing.

SCIENCE - Students are provided with a wide range of experiences that help students develop and apply critical thinking skills. Students work in cooperative learning groups solving problems through hands on activities and "mini labs" which deal with the opportunity to reflect on issues related to technology. Students use various techniques and correlated materials to facilitate learning activities. Equipment, such as videodisc technology, Lego kits, and computer-generated materials are all employed.

SOCIAL STUDIES - Students become familiar with social studies: history, geography, political science, and sociology through critical thinking activities. Some of these activities are comparison and contrast, sequencing, and justifying an opinion. Also taught

are map reading skills, relating current events to historical events, and study of the election process.

SPECIAL EDUCATION - Programs have been designed to meet student needs in all academic areas. Reinforcement is provided in basic skills (reading, writing, and mathematics) through the use of computers, work books, text books, and instruction from special education teachers.

EXTRACURRICULAR PURSUITS - Extracurricular pursuits enhance the school day of the Burnet Middle School student. The variety of activities available give each student, no matter how varied his/her interests, a chance to participate. Participation in these activities provides an opportunity for the development of self-help, cooperative and leadership skills. We at Burnet take pride in our students and their commitment to our school and community.

SERVICE: BUILDERS CLUB - The members serve the school and community by ushering at all school events, raising money for charities, entertaining children at holiday times, and conducting various food and clothing drives throughout the year.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE CLUBS - The purpose of the French, German, and Spanish Clubs is to enrich the student's understanding of the foreign language studied in middle school. At the monthly meetings, the students learn about the culture and customs while enjoying the music, dance, foods and spoken language through films and conversations.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS - This is a volunteer service group. Students work with the handicapped students from the Center for Educational Opportunities within our school. Members also raise money by selling items made by the handicapped students.

STUDENT COUNCIL - This group focuses on representing the student body in school, philanthropic, and social activities. They organize food and clothing drives and raise money for charities. They work together to make Burnet a family.

HOLIDAY ANNOUNCEMENT CLUB - The club's purpose is to make both students and faculty aware of ethnic, multicultural, and religious events, in addition to all the major national and state holidays celebrated among our diverse population. Students research and prepare announcements for the school's public address system.

HOMEWORK ALLIANCE - This after school program assists students in completing school projects and homework assignments

WILDLIFE CLUB - This organization's goal is to instill a greater concern for problems inherent in our preservation of wildlife groups.

ENVIRONMENTAL/PRESERVATION CLUB - This club's aim is to instill a greater concern for problems within the environment. They coordinate a weekly paper-recycling program.

FINE ARTS: ART CLUB - Art club activities include making seasonal decorations, painting scenery for the school play, and group mural work. Individual art interests are also pursued. Students painted the conclusion of an art mural that depicts the beginning of time until today. It was designed, drawn, and painted by the students themselves. It can be viewed on the walls of the school cafeteria.

JAZZ ENSEMBLE - This group of talented musicians is composed of students who are interested in studying, rehearsing, and performing Big Band Jazz of all styles. Members meet twice per week and are selected by audition only.

DRAMA CLUB - Our performances of *Schoolhouse Rock* (spring 1998), *Pal Joey* (spring 1997), *Free to Be You and Me* (spring 1996), *Willie Wonka and the Chocolate Factory* (spring 1995), and *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown* (spring 1994) played to sold out audiences. Our annual school play involves a cast and a crew of over a hundred hard working actors, actresses, singers, dancers, artists, and backstage technicians. Auditions begin in December.

THEATER CLUB - Members of this group have the opportunity to go to New York City to see one or two Broadway shows.

LITERARY: BURNET GAZETTE - The school newspaper is written, typed, and printed within the school by its forty member student staff. It showcases school events, teachers, club activities, and student creative writing samples.

YEARBOOK STAFF - "The Colonel" - The staff provides input in the selection and development of the yearbook theme, solicits advertisements, and identifies photographs, writes photograph captions and promotes yearbook sales.