

ALICE BUFFETT
MAGNET MIDDLE
SCHOOL

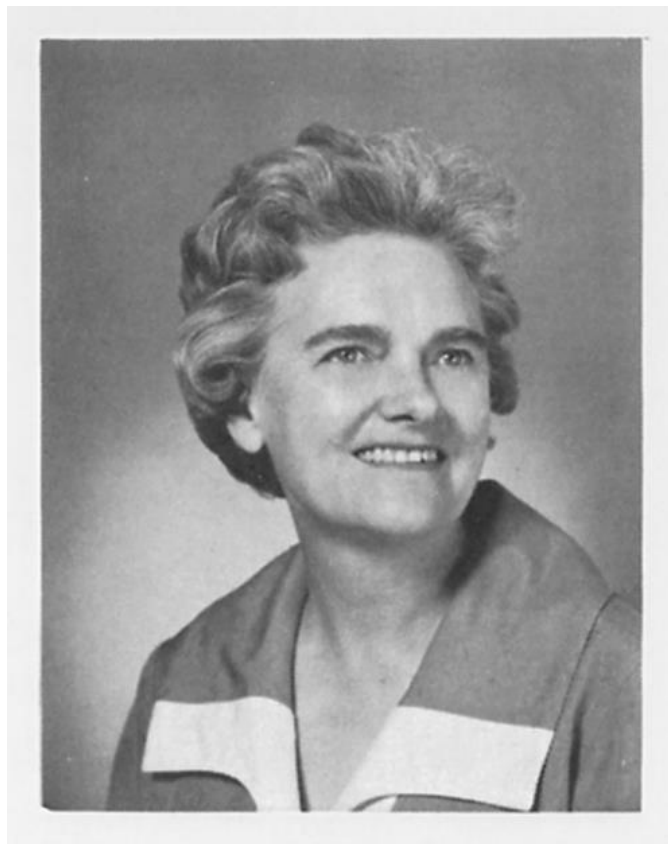


COURSE DIRECTORY
2020-2021

ALICE BUFFETT

Our school has been named in honor of an exceptional Omaha Public Schools teacher, Alice Buffett. Her dedication to students was evident during her 34-year tenure. Ms. Buffett taught family and consumer sciences at both Benson High School and Central High School 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.”

Alice Buffett, in addition to having a love for her students had a love for adventure. During her life, Ms. Buffett traveled extensively in the summer, throughout Europe, Asia and South America. She taught until 1969 and passed away in 1970.



In honor of his favorite aunt, Omaha’s favorite son and international financier Warren Buffett has used the Buffett foundation to give 15 OPS teachers annually since 1988 the Alice Buffett Outstanding Teacher Award, which includes a \$10,000 gift. Warren Buffett said he was “delighted” that his aunt was honored, “just because of who she was and what she did.” “She was a terrific teacher,” he said. “Every student was an individual to her.”

Warren Buffett said he has run into his aunt’s former students all across the country. “As near as I can tell,” he said, “every student she had remembered her and remembered her interest in them specifically.”

“You remember those outstanding teachers,” Warren Buffett said, “and there’s probably nobody aside from your parents, that has a greater impact on you.”

The school family takes great pride in carrying the namesake of one of Omaha’s own outstanding teachers and at the same time honoring a family that has given so much to the school district. Warren, his daughter Susie, and the entire Buffett family have demonstrated not only their philanthropy but more over their staunch and committed support of the Omaha Public Schools.

Dear Students and Parent/Guardians,

Welcome to Alice Buffett Magnet Middle School, where there is high performing teachers and students in every classroom! Our high performing teachers and staff are ready to make the 2021-2022 school year a positive and successful one. We are looking forward to seeing all of our new and returning students.

Since its opening in 2004, Buffett students have accomplished excellence in academics, athletics, and activities. The tradition is strong and continues as we begin our eighteenth year. Buffett's leadership, teachers, and staff take pride in providing a safe and vibrant learning environment where each student can thrive. At Buffett Magnet, we support teachers, staff, families, and the community as we hold our students to ambitious standards and help them succeed in reaching them. Students at Alice Buffett Magnet Middle School are engaged in reading, writing, listening, and speaking opportunities in every classroom. Academic excellence is emphasized and supported by every member of the high performing staff. Additionally, we offer a distinctive communication skills and electronic media focus through our magnet program. Buffett Magnet has a unique curriculum that supports curriculum offerings in digital media, journalism, television broadcasting, iDesign, and speech. In addition to a set of strong core curriculum classes, students can explore individual strengths and talents through our gifted and talented program, cooperative arts classes, and an extensive selection of enrichment clubs.

Our Vision: High performing teachers and students in every classroom!

Our Mission: Alice Buffett Magnet Middle School provides rigorous academic experiences based upon research and best practices that enable all students to achieve their highest potential.

#WeAreBuffett

Anthony "CK" Clark-Kaczmarek, Principal

Dear Students and Families:

Another year of academic growth is upon us, and as a student at Alice Buffett Magnet Middle School, the opportunities available to you are numerous!

Buffett offers unique curriculum offerings in the areas of digital media, journalism, television broadcasting, speech, and iDesign. As part of these classes, students have the opportunity to contribute to a school newspaper, yearbook, produce and deliver a daily broadcast news program and morning announcements, compose, and edit digital photography and designs, produce video games, and short animations, and publish their own web pages. Our magnet classes continually update curriculum to stay current with modern journalism trends and innovative digital production. We are pleased that our magnet themes embrace the heart of learning through communication and electronic media.

To further differentiate our curriculum, extra value standards in advanced written communication, oral communication and technology are embedded in every classroom. Our staff work diligently to engage all learners and empower them with crucial 21st century skills like collaboration, creativity, communication, and critical thinking. We are a state-of-the-art learning center that offers a rigorous core curriculum enhanced by our innovative magnet offerings.

Rigorous opportunities are apparent throughout our building. Advanced classes are available in math, reading, language arts and science. In addition to core classes, students have the opportunity to investigate individual strengths and talents through cooperative arts courses and our gifted and talented program. Buffett students participate in academic competitions throughout the school year. Over 30 enrichment clubs and activities extend learning beyond our classroom walls.

As you plan for your next school year, I encourage you to explore the many unique options available to you here at Buffett!

Mrs. Rachel Howe
Magnet Facilitator, Gifted Facilitator

Omaha Public Schools Graduation & College Entrance Requirements

	OPS GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS	COLLEGE ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS*
SUBJECT	CREDITS	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	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:

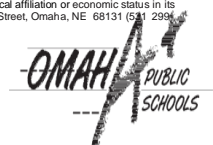
Metro Community College and other Nebraska Community Colleges – Only requirement: Proof of graduation from an accredited high school.

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





Alice Buffett Magnet Middle School

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Alice Buffett Magnet Middle School

*“Where academic excellence is the standard
and communication is an art!”*

14101 Larimore Avenue – Omaha, Nebraska 68164

(531) 299-2320

www.ops.org/middle/buffett

MISSION STATEMENT

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

VISION

High performing teachers and students in every classroom.

Our magnet program promises are:

- To create a student-centered learning community in which students’ needs, interests, and readiness levels are the focus of teaching and learning.
- To capitalize on using communication skills and electronic media with students to provide unique and enriching learning opportunities.

ADMINISTRATION

Mr. Anthony Clark-Kaczmarek
Principal

Mrs. Deidre Schukei
Assistant Principal

Ms. Tracy Wernsman
Assistant Principal

Ms. Amye Aggen
Dean of Students

Mrs. Hoa Lavender
Dean of Students

INSTRUCTIONAL AND MAGNET SUPPORT

Mrs. Rachel Howe
Gifted/Magnet Facilitator

Ms. Kristi Tolliver
Instructional Facilitator

COUNSELORS

Ms. Lisa Bade

Ms. Maraleigh Lewandowski

Ms. Kathy Janata

Mr. Bryce Thull



General Information

SCHOOL HOURS

Buffett Magnet Middle School will run on the OPS middle school time schedule. All students, grades fifth 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 7:05 a.m. to 7:30 a.m. Any student not eating breakfast may come into the school as early as 7:05 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 7:00 a.m.

After school clubs, intramurals and activities will run from 3:15 p.m. to approximately 5:00 p.m. Buffett Magnet Middle School offers over forty after school clubs and intramural activities (see last section of this Course Directory). 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 a basic alternating day 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. Because of the alternate day schedule students may take eight classes at a time. Four classes are on even days and the other four classes are on odd days. Mathematics for Math 5, Math 6, and Math 7 meets every day and English language arts classes at grades five through eight meet every 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 orientations 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, review course schedules, and to enhance familiarity with new processes (e.g. location of lockers and practice with their combination lock). All students will receive a summer mailing to provide them their schedule and orientation information prior to the start of the school year. In April, our new 5th graders will receive: Sneak a Peak Tours (visits during the school day) and a Welcome to Middle School Night with parents invited. In addition, Buffett holds a transition to middle school camp called Bobcat Camp. Bobcat Camp is filled with fun activities to orientate students to the middle school setting. Camp Bobcat is for incoming fifth graders, and new to Buffett 6th and 7th graders.

TEAM CONCEPT

Buffett Magnet Middle School program is designed to promote success. Each fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth grade student is assigned to an academic team (for example Team 5A, 6B, 7B, 8A) composed of six teachers. Each academic team is comprised of approximately 150 students. The team serves several purposes. Team teachers are responsible for teaching reading, language arts, social studies, mathematics, and science. Team teachers can develop interdisciplinary thematic units of study. Team teachers incorporate magnet themes, communication, and electronic media into the core subjects. The team affords 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. Students loop with the majority of teachers from fifth to sixth grade, and seventh to eighth grade.

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 a time to conference with parents and/or resource personnel regarding special 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 Magnet Middle School staff will work to provide each student with opportunities to grow in knowledge of the academic subjects, performance of life skills, and ability to follow-through with responsibilities. Our teamwork is focused on helping each student develop his/her sense of personal responsibility and reach his/her highest academic potential.

COOPERATIVE ARTS

While the core classes are important, students will also receive valuable experience in other subjects. Students will gain knowledge from classes in art, tech and living, human growth and development, international language (8th grade), physical education, speech, computer applications, music, as well as grade level specific magnet courses. Our magnet courses are 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 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). 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.

EXTRA VALUE STANDARDS - *Framework*

The teamed courses (reading, math, social studies, language arts, and science) will embed the three extra value standards:

- Advanced oral communication.
- Advanced written communications; and
- Advanced communication technologies.

The cooperative arts courses (art, music, physical education, tech and living, human growth and development, international languages, information technology, and magnet courses) will embed the extra value standard in advanced written communication. In addition, these subjects will also embed an extra value standard in either advanced oral communication or advanced communication technologies.

All three of the extra value standards will be banded at grades 5-6 and 7-8. These sets of standards will have separate elements for each grade level. Each element will have increasing levels of difficulty for each grade level dependent upon the curriculum content and the corresponding scoring guides' increased level of rigor for each element.

MAGNET THEMES

The magnet themes of communications skills and electronic media are evident at all grades. Students in their regular core classes will receive extra value magnet standards in advanced oral communication, advanced written communications, and advanced communications technologies. The communication skills theme will provide opportunities for students to participate in:

- Speech and public speaking
- Yearbook development
- Literature circles
- Literature magazine
- Speech and writing competitions.

The electronic media theme will include coursework in digital media and computer technology. Students will have opportunities to:

- Broadcast daily announcements.
- Create television productions.
- Create video productions.
- Create curricular projects using Power Point, animation, digital photography, and sound.

MAGNET CLASSES

In addition, in the fifth and sixth grades, students will participate in quarter classes (tech and living) that use activity-based units called modules to study communication and look at careers in the fields of communication and technology. (e.g., broadcasting, digital video, computer graphics and animation etc.). A quarter class of speech with tech and living is a part of the fifth/sixth grade curriculum. During grade seven, students select from quarter classes of journalism, digital media, TV broadcasting, and iDesign. In grade eight, students select from courses including journalism, digital media, TV broadcasting, and iDesign. We are pleased that our magnet themes embrace the heart of learning through communication.

BOBCAT DEN ADVISORY PROGRAM (HOMEROOM) AND CLUBS

Fifth through eighth grade students will undergo rapid physical and emotional growth and are faced with new social pressures and increasing academic rigor. Students have important decisions to make about working with others, completing schoolwork, planning for the future, and connecting to the world around them. Bobcat Den, or homeroom activities give students a chance to focus attention on character development, decision making, and life skills. The teacher-advisor will be sensitive to the interests of the students, listen to their concerns, and encourage students to develop student responsibilities and academic organizational skills. Monday lessons focus on our Buffett High Five and help students learn and practice good behavior skills. Tuesday BCD focuses on technology, digital citizenship, and grade checks. Wednesday is dedicated to D.E.A.R. time. Thursday BCD looks at Current Events for middle school students, and Friday we do mindfulness and team building activities.

D.E.A.R. – DROP EVERYTHING AND READ

All students and staff at Buffett Magnet Middle School will participate in D.E.A.R. – Drop Everything and Read. D.E.A.R. is an additional, structured time devoted to reading self-selected books. During Bobcat den each week, everyone will enjoy literature that is at his or her comfort level. The more students read; the more students learn to love reading.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Special education programs and services are provided to students as outlined in Individual Education Programs (IEPs). A range of programs and services are available at Buffett Magnet Middle School 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. In addition, an alternate curriculum self-contained program is available. The special education teacher assigned as a student's IEP (Individual Education Plans) manager works with the school staff and parents to coordinate all services.

HIGH ABILITY PROGRAM

This program for gifted and talented students recognizes that students with academic proficiency have educational needs that differ from those of their same age peers. 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.

Initially, students entering Buffett Magnet Middle School are identified by standardized test scores in reading, language, or math, and by a 4th or 6th grade teacher nomination and classroom performance. As the year progresses, additional students may be nominated for specific programs based on proficiency demonstrated in the regular classroom. High Ability program works to provide academically challenging opportunities for our high ability learners every day in the classroom.

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.

Occasionally non-graded pullouts are scheduled that are weekly or biweekly mini courses to prepare students for various academic competitions (History Day, Academic Pentathlon.). Students are pulled from different classes, so no class is missed more than once or twice a month. Membership on academic teams is based on proficiency.

Buffett Magnet Middle School's High Ability program also sponsors various all-school enrichment activities that are offered to anyone who wishes to participate. All High Ability 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 Magnet Middle School 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 5th and 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 in grade 5-8 receive library instruction via their social studies classes on the Big 6 research process.

GUIDANCE AND COUNSELING

The Pre-K through 12th grade Omaha Public Schools Guidance and Counseling Program is both proactive and responsive to the unique needs of your individual child. There are four components of the guidance program. The main component is our Guidance Curriculum that is 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.

Each of the four Buffett counselors' loops with a grade level as the counselor assigned to that grade for all four years at Buffett.

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. We believe *"it takes a village."* In our case, a "Bobcat" village!



5th Grade Courses

FIFTH GRADE COURSES AND MODEL SCHEDULE

The fifth-grade curriculum at Buffett Magnet Middle School 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 fifth-grade students are enrolled in reading, language arts, mathematics, social studies, science, physical education, and music. English language arts and math meet every day and all other courses meet on alternate days. Students at Buffett Magnet Middle School will also participate in quarter classes of art, information technology (computer applications), speech/broadcasting, and tech and living. Most fifth-grade courses are required in order to ensure a rigorous high standard foundation. For a year-long music course, students may select among beginning band, a continuation of strings, general/vocal music, or chorus. The extra value magnet standards of advanced oral and written communication and advanced communication technology are interwoven throughout the curricular offerings. Students are able to apply new knowledge and demonstrate mastery of skills through the rigorous and cutting-edge magnet standards.

An Example of a Fifth Grade Class Schedule

The sample schedule below is a model. Actual schedules may vary slightly dependent 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	PE/Music	1/2	Quarter classes (Art, Speech, Tech and Living, Computer Applications)
3/4	Math 5	3/4	Math 5
5/6	Social Studies 5	5/6	Science
7/8	English Language Arts 5	7/8	English Language Arts 5
HR	Bobcat Den (Advisory Program)	HR	Bobcat Den (Advisory Program)

FIFTH GRADE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Fifth 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 student's needs.

ART

ART 5

This course examines the chronology of American art from the vantage point of societal influences on art and art's influence on culture. This course places an emphasis on creating art that expresses ideas from American styles or schools of art.

Meets: Alternating days

Duration: 1 quarter

Credits: .50

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 5

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES / INDUSTRIAL TECH

INTRO TO TECH and LIVING 1

This introductory course is a unique exploratory course for students. A blend of innovative units from both the Industrial Technology and Family and Consumer Science curriculum are taught by staff from either discipline. Students are provided an opportunity to investigate several activities based on learning units in a state-of-the-art laboratory. Pairs of students work cooperatively through a seven-day Technology and Living Unit. Students independently choose from areas such as computer-aided design (CAD), clothing, structures, foods, lasers, housing, electricity/electronics, consumerism, robotics, childcare, research and design, and family.

Meets: Alternating days

Duration: 1 quarter

Credits: .50

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

COMPUTER APPLICATIONS I

This course is usually taken at the seventh-grade level in traditional 7-8 middle schools. In middle schools consisting of grades 5-8, this class would be at the introductory fifth grade level. This course includes proper techniques for the effective and efficient operation of the keyboard at 15 wpm with 90% accuracy minimum, word processing, spreadsheets, and data bases are explored and created. Desktop publishing, presentations, and proper use of the Internet and e-mail are introduced.

Meets: Alternating days

Duration: 1 quarter

Credits: .50

LANGUAGE ARTS

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 5

This course supports student mastery of fifth 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: Daily

Duration: 2 semesters

Credits: 4.00

MATHEMATICS

MATHEMATICS 5

This course covers the 5th grade mathematics content standards. Students will work with whole numbers, decimals, and fractions, study metric and standard measurement systems, learn geometric concepts, interpret, and analyze data, and develop and solve equations and real-life problems.

Meets: Daily

Duration: 2 semesters

Credits: 4.00

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 5

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

Meets: Alternating days **Duration:** 2 semesters **Credits:** 1.00

CHORUS 5

In this course fifth grade students will learn to read and sing two-part octavo music. The emphasis is on vocal ensemble performance. There will be required performances.

Meets: Alternating days **Duration:** 2 semesters **Credits:** 1.00

BAND 5

This course is a beginning band ensemble for fifth grade students who are interested in learning to play a brass, woodwind, or percussion instrument. Basic music concepts will be applied 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.

Meets: Alternating days **Duration:** 2 semesters **Credits:** 1.00

STRINGS 5

This course is a string ensemble for fifth 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: one-year previous instruction (4th grade).

Meets: Alternating days **Duration:** 2 semesters **Credits:** 1.00

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

PHYSICAL EDUCATION 5

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

SCIENCE

SCIENCE 5

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 focused on energy in Earth's systems, force and motion, energy, heredity, and flow of matter and energy in ecosystems. Students will be taught in a fully equipped science lab.

Meets: Alternating days **Duration:** 2 semesters **Credits:** 2.00

SOCIAL STUDIES

SOCIAL STUDIES 5

This course will include the study of the historic period of early people in the United States to the Constitution. The course will integrate the following content standards throughout the school year: culture, history and geography, economics, citizenship, and government. This course shares a block with Language Arts 5.

Meets: Alternating days **Duration:** 2 semesters **Credits:** 2.00

SPEECH

SPEECH 5

This course introduces students to the fundamentals of speech and debate. Focusing on research and presentation skills, students will be provided with hands-on experiences to polish their verbal presentation and listening skills. Students will create a speech book for future reference and present a demonstration speech. Students will interpret published poems and short stories. 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



6th Grade Courses

SIXTH GRADE COURSES AND MODEL SCHEDULE

The sixth-grade curriculum at Buffett Magnet Middle School 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 reading, language arts, mathematics, social studies, science, physical education, and music. English language arts and math meet every day and all other courses meet on alternate days. Students at Buffett Magnet Middle School will also participate in quarter classes of art, information technology (computer applications), speech, and Tech and Living. All sixth-grade courses are required, in order to ensure a rigorous high standard foundation. For a year-long music course, students may select among band, strings, vocal music, or chorus. The extra value magnet standards of advanced oral and written communication and advanced communication technology are interwoven throughout the curricular offerings. Students are able to apply new knowledge and demonstrate mastery of skills through the rigorous and cutting-edge magnet standards.

An 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	Science 6	1/2	Social Studies 6
3/4	English Language Arts 6	3/4	English Language Arts 6
5/6	Quarter classes (Art, Speech, Tech and Living, Computer Applications)	5/6	PE/Music Students select one music course: (Chorus, Band, Strings, or General Music)
7/8	Math 6 or Adv Math 6	7/8	Math 6 or Adv Math 6
HR	Bobcat Den	HR	Bobcat Den

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 quarter

Credits: .50

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES / TECH & LIVING

INTRO TO TECH AND LIVING 2

This introductory course is a unique exploratory course for students. A blend of innovative units from both the Industrial Technology and Family and Consumer Science curriculum are taught by staff from either discipline. Students are provided an opportunity to investigate several activities based on learning units in a state-of-the-art laboratory. Pairs of students work cooperatively through a seven-day Technology and Living Unit. Students independently choose from areas such as computer-aided design (CAD), clothing, structures, foods, lasers, housing, electricity/electronics, consumerism, robotics, childcare, research and design, and family.

Meets: Alternating days

Duration: 1 quarter

Credits: .50

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

COMPUTER APPLICATIONS II

This course is usually taken at the seventh-grade level in traditional 7-8 middle schools. In middle schools consisting of grades 5-8, this class would be at the introductory fifth grade level. This course includes proper techniques for the effective and efficient operation of the keyboard at 15 wpm with 90% accuracy minimum, word processing, spreadsheets, and data bases are explored and created. Desktop publishing, presentations, and proper use of the Internet and e-mail are introduced.

Meets: Alternating days

Duration: 1 quarter

Credits: .50

LANGUAGE ARTS

ENGLISH 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: Daily

Duration: 2 semesters

Credits: 4.0

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: Daily

Duration: 2 semesters

Credits: 4.00

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: Daily

Duration: 2 semesters

Credit: 4.00

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 difficulty 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 builds on the fundamentals of speech and debate that students were originally exposed to in Speech 5. This course continues to focus on higher level research and presentation skills and 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 a 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



7th Grade Courses

SEVENTH GRADE COURSES AND MODEL SCHEDULE

The seventh-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 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 classes meet on alternate days except English language arts and Math 7 which meet daily. Math 7 students will not take Honors Special Projects. All courses will integrate oral and written communication skills and communications through advanced technologies.

In addition, starting in seventh grade, students take magnet 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 yearlong version of one of the courses.

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.

Seventh Grade Model Class Schedule

The sample schedule below is a model. Actual schedules may vary slightly dependent 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	Social Studies 7	1/2	Science 7 (or Honors Science 7)
3/4	Cooperative Arts –Magnet Classes (Quarter Classes of Art, Computer Apps., Tech and Living, Broadcasting, iDesign, Journalism, Digital Media) - Pick 4	3/4	PE/Music (Students select one music course: Chorus, Intermediate Band, Intermediate Strings, or General Music)
5/6	Math 7 (Honors PreAlgebra)	5/6	Math 7 (Honors PreAlgebra takes Honors Special Projects)
7/8	English Language Arts 7 or Honors English Language Art 7)	7/8	English Language Arts 7 or Honors English Language Art 7)
HR	Bobcat Den (Advisory Program)	HR	Bobcat Den (Advisory Program)

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. As they do so, they will be creating their own artwork about personal identity.

Meets: Alternating days

Duration: 1 quarter

Credits: .50

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES / INDUSTRIAL TECH

TECH AND LIVING 7

This course is a unique exploratory course for 7th students. A blend of innovative units from both the Industrial Technology and Family and Consumer Science curriculum are taught by staff from either discipline. Students are provided an opportunity to investigate a number of activities based on learning units in a state-of-the-art laboratory. Pairs of students work cooperatively through a seven-day Technology and Living Unit. Students independently choose from areas such as computer-aided design (CAD), clothing, structures, foods, lasers, housing, electricity/electronics, consumerism, robotics, childcare, research and design, and family.

Meets: Alternating day

Duration: 1 Quarter

Credits: .50

HUMAN GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT 7

This course helps seventh grade students acquire responsible decision-making skills related to personal maturation, human sexuality, and family life. All students are required to enroll, but a parent/guardian may choose to opt out his/her student. Parents may discuss their options with their students' teacher or counselor.

Meets: Alternating days

Duration: 1 quarter

Credits: .50

GIFTED AND TALENTED EDUCATION

HONORS SPECIAL PROJECTS

This course offers a wide variety of experiences that align with gifted and talented programming standards. Learning opportunities meet grade level objectives in problem-solving, critical thinking, creative thinking, inquiry, cultural proficiency, metacognition, and affective skills.

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

Meets: Alternating days

Duration: 2 Semesters

Credits: 2.00

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

COMPUTER APPLICATIONS 7

This course is usually taken after students show proficiency in Levels 1 and 2. In traditional 7-8 middle schools, this class might not be taught for several years. In magnet schools, student will need to be exposed to the knowledge statements and given the CRT's before leaving the eighth grade. In middle schools consisting of grades 5-8, this class would be at the seventh-grade level. This course includes continued practice on improving keyboarding skills. Students will key at 25 wpm with 90% accuracy. 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 stressed. 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 quarter

Credits: .50

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: Daily

Duration: 2 semesters

Credits: 4.00

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: Daily

Duration: 2 semester

Credits: 4.00

MAGNET

Seventh graders at Buffett Magnet Middle School 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.

DIGITAL MEDIA 7

In this one semester magnet course the students engage in the process of designing, developing, and coding HTML based websites. Students will explore the principles of design and incorporate them into the creative process. Additionally, students will learn to use various software packages for creating desktop publishing documents, and will explore the use of various media, such as graphics, sound, and movies. Students will explore the various career options within the field of Digital Media.

Meets: Alternating days

Duration: 1 quarter

Credits: .50

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 quarter

Credits: .50

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 quarter

Credits: .50

JOURNALISM 7

This course focuses on introducing students to the aspects of print journalism. Students will study the First Amendment, ethics, the function, and role of the media in society, slant and bias, news writing, and interviewing. Students will also learn hands-on with digital photography as it applies to photojournalism.

Meets: Alternating days

Duration: 1 quarter

Credits: .50

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: Every day

Duration: 2 semesters

Credits: 2.00

HONORS PRE-ALGEBRA 1-2

This honors section of Pre-Algebra 1-2 is designed for students in middle school 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: 2.00

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

Meets: Alternating days

Duration: 2 semesters

Credits: 2.00

MUSIC

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

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: 1.00

GENERAL/VOCAL MUSIC 7

General/Vocal Music 7 extends the sequential development of musical concepts and skills introduced in the 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: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.00

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: 1.00

INTERMEDIATE STRINGS

This course is offered to seventh grade students who have successfully completed several years 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: 1.00

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. Showers are available for student use but not required. Appropriate attire (tennis shoes, shorts, T-shirts etc.) and dressing for PE is required.

Meets: Daily

Duration: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.00

READING

READING SKILLS 7A

This course is designed for readers who have a foundation in decoding skills but experience difficulty 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: 2.0

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: 2.0

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: 2.00

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: 2.00

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: 2.00



8th 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 may have the option of 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 dependent upon course enrollment and teacher availability.

<u>Block</u>	<u>A Day Class Period Days</u>	<u>B Day Class Period Days</u>
1/2	Science 8 or Honors Physical Science 8	1/2 Social Studies 8
3/4	Pre-Algebra 1-2 or Honors Algebra 1-2 or Honors Geometry 1-2	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. Magnet Course (Students choose one course: Journalism, Broadcasting, Digital Media, or iDesign)
5/6	English Language Arts 8 or Honors English Language Arts 8	5/6 English Language Arts 8 or Honors English Language Arts 8
7/8	Cooperative Arts –Magnet Classes (Quarter Classes of Art, Computer Apps., Tech and Living, Broadcasting, iDesign, Journalism, Digital Media) - Pick 4	7/8 PE/Music (Students select one music course: Chorus, Advanced Band, Advanced Strings, or General Music)
HR	Bobcat Den (Advisory Program)	HR Bobcat Den (Advisory Program)

EIGHTH GRADE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Eighth grade courses listed below and on the following pages (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 quarter

Credits: .50

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES / INDUSTRIAL TECH

TECH AND LIVING 8

This course is a unique exploratory course for 8th students. A blend of innovative units from both the Industrial Technology and Family and Consumer Science curriculum are taught by staff from either discipline. Students are provided an opportunity to investigate a number of activities based on learning units in a state-of-the-art laboratory. Pairs of students work cooperatively through a seven-day Technology and Living Unit. Students independently choose from areas such as computer-aided design (CAD), clothing, structures, foods, lasers, housing, electricity/electronics, consumerism, robotics, childcare, research and design, and family.

Meets: Alternating days

Duration: 1 Quarter

Credits: .50

HUMAN GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT 8

This course helps 8th grade students acquire responsible decision-making skills related to personal maturation, peer pressure, communication skills, goal setting, human sexuality, teen pregnancy, and chemical usage. All students are required to enroll in this class, but a parent/guardian may choose to opt out his/her student.

Meets: Alternating days

Duration: 1 quarter

Credits: .50

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

COMPUTER APPLICATIONS IV

This course is usually taken after students show proficiency in Levels 1 and 2. In traditional 7-8 middle schools, this class might not be taught for several years. In magnet schools, students will need to be exposed to the knowledge statements and given the CRT's before leaving the eighth grade. In middle schools consisting of grades 5-8, this class would be at the eighth-grade level. This course includes continued practice on improving keyboarding skills. Students will key at 30 wpm with 90% accuracy. Students will create databases and spreadsheets and present information to others using queries and searches. Students create refined multimedia projects using backgrounds, graphics, sounds, animations, transitions, and hyperlinks. Where possible, students will create and edit a movie adding sounds, transitions, text, and special effects using movie software. They will present a final multimedia project to a targeted audience. A web page in HTML is created, designed, and published by students. Students evaluate web pages and Internet sources. Students understand copyright issues, plagiarism, and viruses. Citing sources of copyrighted materials and Internet searches in presentations and projects are stressed. E-mail continues to be refined by using attachments and creating an address book to store group e-mail lists.

Meets: Alternating days

Duration: 1 quarter

Credits: .50

INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGES*

**Offerings will be based on student interest and teacher availability.*

FRENCH 1-2 SPANISH 1-2

This course in World Languages at the first-year level stresses interpretive, presentational, and interpersonal communication abilities to develop survival 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.

Students who take Reading Skills will not take an International Language course.

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

MAGNET

Eighth graders at Buffett Magnet Middle School will have the option to select a one-year long course as a continuation of magnet courses started in Grade 7. Due to course availability, student placement in a specific course is not guaranteed.

DIGITAL MEDIA PRODUCTION 8

In this year-long course students will enhance their understanding of digital media related concepts and skills through the creation of websites and other media products. Various software packages such as Adobe Photoshop, and Macromedia DreamWeaver and Flash will be used in the design and development of graphics, computer animation, and web-based documents. Students will explore the impact of digital media in today's society and research careers related to the field.

Prerequisite: Passing grade in Digital Media 7.

Meets: Alternating days

Duration: 2 semesters

Credits: 2.00

iDESIGN PRODUCTION 8

In this year-long 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: 2 semesters

Credits: 2.00

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 a 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: 2.00

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: 2.00

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: 2.00

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: 2.00

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: 2.00

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: 1.00

GENERAL/VOCAL MUSIC 8

General/Vocal Music 8 continues the development of musical concepts and skills. Greater knowledge and appreciation of musical periods and styles are encouraged through appropriate studies. Vocal emphasis is placed on the introduction of the male changing voice and greater extension of all voice ranges.

Meets: Alternating days

Duration: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.00

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: 1.00

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 understandings. 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: 1.00

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. Showers are available for student use but not required. Appropriate attire (tennis shoes, shorts, T-shirts etc.) and dressing for PE is required.

Meets: Daily

Duration: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.00

READING

READING SKILLS 8A

This course is designed for readers who have a foundation in decoding skills but experience difficulty 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: 2.00

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: 2.00

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: 2.00

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: 2.00

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: 2.00



Special Education and ESL

SPECIAL EDUCATION

CO-TAUGHT COURSES

The Special Education curriculum is designed to interface with the instructional program at each grade level. Buffett Magnet Middle School will be using the best practice of co-teaching for the delivery of instruction. That means identified Special Education students take regular education courses co-taught by regular education teachers and special education teachers. Emphasis is placed on the development of academic and functional aspects of the curriculum with particular emphasis on the development of a student's particular skills. Study skill techniques are emphasized and integrated into the daily instructional program. Programming is based on the individual needs of the student. Students' schedules will be designed after consultation with their teachers.

ALTERNATE CURRICULUM PROGRAM: SELF-CONTAINED

This course serves students with cognitive disabilities who require a functional life skill curriculum. Comprehensive instruction is provided in the environments of the self-contained classroom, and community, to maximize each student's potential for becoming productive and contributing members of the community as adults. Opportunities are also provided for students to participate in appropriate activities with regular education peers. The following domains are emphasized in the functional life skill curriculum: Basic Skills, Functional Academics, Communications, Community, Domestic, Social/Emotional, Recreation/Leisure, and Vocational.

Prerequisite: Student placement in this course is based upon teacher recommendation, assessment results, and the student's individual education plan.

SPEECH/LANGUAGE RESOURCE

A speech language pathologist is on staff full-time at Buffett to provide language and articulation support to youngsters with verified speech disabilities.

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: Alternating days

Duration: 2 semesters

Credits: 2.00

ESL B

This course is designed for the intermediate ESL student. 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: Alternating days

Duration: 2 semesters

Credits: 2.00

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: 2.00

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: 2.00



Athletics and Activities

ATHLETICS

All seventh and eighth grade students are eligible to try out for the competitive athletic teams. Students in fifth and 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 Magnet Middle School 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 Magnet Middle School 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 Block. 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 Magnet Middle School 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 Magnet Middle School offers nearly forty after school clubs and activities. The activity and athletic bus will depart at 5:15 p.m. Students will also participate in clubs offered during Bobcat Den. The lists of clubs/organizations vary year to year and during the year based on sponsor availability. Some of the clubs include but are not limited to:

Book Blasters
Buffett Bravo
Buffett In The Groove
Drama Club 1st Semester
Drama Club 2nd Semester

Jazz Club
MATHCOUNTS
National Junior Honor Society
No Place For Hate
Percussion Club

Quiz Bowl/Science Bowl
Robotics
Speech Club
Student Council

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

