Buffalo Creek Middle School
Electives Descriptions

Course levels are based on experience NOT grade and must be taken in order (i.e. Level I is a prerequisite to Level II, etc.)

AgriScience *(Levels 1, 2 & 3, 6th, 7th and 8th grades*

Buffalo Creek has an active and productive AgriScience program and FFA chapter. These classes feature an extremely large experiential learning land lab with cattle, swine, goats, rabbits, chickens, plants, hydroponics, and earth boxes. Each year students have an animal or plant project and are encouraged to show them at the Manatee County Fair. In addition we have an annual trip to the University of Florida. Students are given the opportunity to attend leadership conferences and competitions in various agricultural areas through FFA membership.
An appropriate after school activity for students in this class is FFA (Future Farmers of America.)

Art *(Levels 1, 2 & 3)*

The purpose of these courses is to enable students to develop basic art appreciation skills through the production of two- and three-dimensional works of art. Production activities may include drawing, painting, sketching, sculpting, and assemblage. The content includes, but is not be limited to the following: use of tools and materials, two- and three-dimensional media, technology and processes, perception and observation, imagery and visual language, critical thinking and analysis, historical and cultural perspectives, connections between visual arts and other subject areas, and personal benefits and career opportunities.

Beginning Spanish
Spanish I

Beginning Spanish is for those students that have never taken Spanish. Spanish I Honors is for students who want to get a high school credit while in middle school. Students will gain a basic knowledge of the Spanish Language. The content of the class includes, but is not limited to the following topics: the alphabet, numbers, greetings & good-byes basic classroom, foods, colors vocabulary, etc. Learning Spanish is becoming an important asset to many future careers. Keep in mind that the earlier a person learns a foreign language the easier it is.

Band *(Levels 1, 2 & 3)*

The Purpose of this class is to enable students to develop instrumental skills and musical literacy. Daily rehearsals include instrumental techniques development through; scales, unison line playing, playing jazz band arrangements, coaching through performance and analysis, lessons in music theory, discussions of traditional performance styles, and improvisational techniques and opportunity to improvise frequently in class. Students are expected to participate in two concerts in the school cafeteria. In addition, other performance opportunities will arise throughout the school year.
An appropriate related activity would be private lessons with a local teacher who specializes in the same instrument as the student.

Orchestra *(Levels 1, 2 & 3)*

Orchestra class offers instruction on violin, viola, cello, and string bass instruments with a focus on the skills necessary for long-term success. As a technology component of the course, students will also be given the opportunity to use iPad minis as both a learning tool and an instrument. Fundamentals developed include: proper instrument position and posture, note- and rhythm-reading skills, right- and left-hand technique, and rehearsal/concert etiquette. The school is able to provide string instruments for class and also home use, by check out only. Classes will perform collaborative concerts with other ensembles and schools and there may be additional performance opportunities throughout the school year.

Chorus *(Levels 1, 2 & 3)*

If you love music but prefer to sing instead of playing an instrument, then Chorus is the class for you. Students will be exposed to a variety of music styles from pop, rock, traditional, and multicultural. Fundamentals developed include: proper vocal techniques, foreign language applications, music theory, & sight-reading. Classes will perform collaborative concerts with other ensembles and schools and there may be additional performance opportunities throughout the school year.

Computer Applications In Business 1 &2

This class introduces proper keyboarding skills, basic computer components, folder structure and file formats, word processing, desktop publishing, presentation software, simple animation, working with digital cameras and digital images, basic photo editing and an introduction to vector art, color theory and design principals.
Applications include:

- Microsoft Word
- Microsoft Publisher
- Microsoft PowerPoint
- Photoshop
- Illustrator

An appropriate after school activity for students in this course is: FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America.)

An appropriate after school activity for students in this class is TSA (Technology Student Association.)

Information and Communication Technology 1 &2

This class teachers how to use computer applications in a business setting. Students learn to research the Internet, create spreadsheets, make budgets, market products and much more.
Applications include:

- Advanced
- Microsoft Word
- Microsoft Publisher
- Microsoft PowerPoint
- Microsoft Excel

Engineering 1 & 2

This hands-on course includes introductory studies in areas of technology and engineering which introduce students to the development of abilities to calculate, make important observations, analyze and solve problems using manipulative skills while working cooperatively with others in team activities. Students will create innovative projects in robotics, racecar design and production, building water towers, product creation, etc.
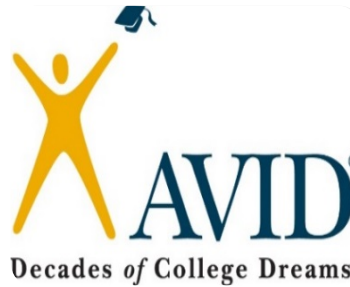Applications include:

- Photoshop
- Illustrator
- Game Maker
- Flash
- Dreamweaver

An appropriate after school activity for students in this class is TSA (Technology Student Association)

Courses by Application ONLY

The following classes are on the registration form for interest only. Students must fill out a separate application for enrollment in these classes.

AVID

AVID stands for Advancement via Individual Determination. The AVID mission is to close the achievement gap by preparing all students for college readiness and success in a global society. To be in the AVID program students must be enrolled in at least one advanced or honors course, maintain a 2.0 GPA and excellent citizenship. AVID is for 6th, 7th and 8th grade students who apply to the program and receive teacher recommendations. The AVID Elective is designed to help students reach their full potential through different lessons and activities such as teambuilding, Learning Logs, Cornell Notes, tutorials and study groups as well as celebrating our accomplishments through fun and exciting activities. The main focus in AVID is WICOR which helps students work on Writing, Inquiry and high-level questioning, Collaboration, Organization, and Reading. Students in AVID are striving toward a successful future and we help introduce the tools they need to reach their goals.

Yearbook & TV Production (Morning News)

TV Production and Yearbook classes are only offered to 7th and 8th grade students who have previously had a computer technology class. Applications are available through those teachers at the end of the year. Students will be hand-selected based on skills and characteristics as outlined on the applications.

Student Aide

Students interested in being an aide for the front office, guidance office, or a specific teacher can get an application from the front office in Mav.

Pre-AICE Global Perspectives *(8th Grade Only)*

Pre-AICE Global Perspectives is a ground-breaking course that is cross-curricular, stretching across traditional subject boundaries. It taps into the way learners of today enjoy learning, including group work, seminars, projects, and working with other learners around the world. The emphasis is on developing the ability to think critically about a range of global issues where there is always more than one point of view.

Cambridge Assessment
International Education