To enrich the core curriculum, the Middle School offers a variety of elective classes from which students choose to study. Each MS student will be enrolled in one or two electives each semester (depending on when he/she is enrolled in P.E.) for a total of three electives each year. As a general rule, there is no homework given in elective courses, though in rare cases, minimal outside work may be required. In addition to electives, there are further opportunities to study alternative courses as part of JanTerm.

There are two classifications of electives: Fine and Performing Arts electives and General electives.

### Fine and Performing Arts Electives

The Bear Creek School highly values the fine and performing arts as part of a classical education. Through education in the arts, students develop personal expression, creative thinking, imaginative communication, and intellectual curiosity. An effective and challenging arts curriculum provides students with opportunities to perform and create in art, music, and drama; perceive and respond to each of the arts disciplines; understand the role of the arts in our world; and make connections between the arts and other educational disciplines. **Students in the Middle School are required to choose at least one semester each year from the following four electives:**

**Art (one semester only)**
Do you love to draw and paint? Do you enjoy being creative? If so, Art is the class for you! Students focus on creativity, originality, effort, and perseverance while exploring various media such as drawing, painting, photography, collage, mixed media, and three dimensional art. Students develop craftsmanship, skill, consistency, and correct terminology, while learning the basic elements and principles of art. Art students must purchase a 9x12 90lb. paper sketchbook. Maximum enrollment: 16 students.

**Band (one or both semesters)**
In Middle School Band, students continue to build skills on their instruments, with emphasis on learning new concert music. Development happens more quickly than in Lower School since students play their instruments in class every day. In addition to a Christmas Concert and a Spring Concert, the band participates in at least one event outside of school. Middle School Band is open to any student who participated in Grade 6 Band. Students who did not play in grade 6 should contact the band director for information about how they may still be eligible to participate.

**Choir (one or both semesters)**
Choir is a place where students can be creative in an environment full of encouragement. Students learn and practice basic choral techniques and are exposed to different types of music. Though there is certainly an independent element to singing, much of what is accomplished in Choir is done as a team. **Middle School Choir performs at a Christmas Concert and a Spring Concert and also participates in other local performances.**

**Drama (one or both semesters)**
Do you have a flair for the dramatic? Do you have an active imagination? Do you like to pretend to be someone you're not? If you answered yes to any of these questions, then Drama class is for you. If you answered yes to all of these questions, then this class is definitely for you. In Drama students explore the various skills and techniques utilized in putting together dramatic presentations. Both fall and spring semester casts will participate in an evening production for family, friends, and the school community.
General Electives

Students may choose additional electives from the following, if needed to complete the three semester requirement.

**Stained Glass (one semester only)**
This class offers students an opportunity to explore and show their creative side by exposing students to the art of stained glass using a copper foil technique. Students create at least five pieces of stained glass in the class, ranging from flat panels into three-dimensional works (boxes, lamp shades, and sun catchers). Students are also introduced to glass fusing.
Maximum enrollment: 12 students.

**Strength Training (one semester only)**
This introduces students to strength training with weights. Proper technique and methods are emphasized. Since they are still in the early stages of adolescence, students use less weight and more repetitions. Emphasis is on improved knowledge and body strength over the course of the semester. Students learn about the muscular system and names of several muscle groups.
Maximum enrollment: 15 students.

**Introductory Computer Programming (one semester only):** This course provides an introduction to computer science using a common programming language. Students plan, code, and debug programs using common computational problem solving techniques. No prior programming experience is necessary.
Maximum enrollment: 16 students.

**Creation, Innovation, and Invention (one semester only):** Do you like working with your hands? Do you like finding creative ways to solve real-world problems? Are you self-directed and self-motivated? Do you like collaborating with others? In this class, you will use creativity, ingenuity, initiative, and teamwork as you utilize the tools in the Innovation Lab to design, test, build, and display projects that bring truth, beauty, and goodness to the world around you.
Maximum enrollment: 16 students.

**Study Hall (one semester only, permission needed to repeat)**
Study Hall provides a quiet, independent time for students to read, complete homework, and study. Students may bring a reading book in case they have no homework to complete. Students are not given time for computer work, peer studying, or group work. Study Hall may be a good option for students who are heavily involved with athletics or other extra-curricular activities.

For students who desire to take Study Hall while playing an after school sport, the approximate dates for the Bear Creek Middle School sports seasons are given below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall Season</th>
<th>Winter I Season</th>
<th>Winter II Season</th>
<th>Spring Season</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Boys Soccer</td>
<td>Boys Basketball</td>
<td>Girls Basketball</td>
<td>Boys Lacrosse</td>
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<tr>
<td>Girls Soccer</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Golf (co-ed)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Girls Volleyball</td>
<td></td>
<td>Track &amp; Field</td>
<td>Girls Volleyball</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cross Country (co-ed)</td>
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