EIGHTH GRADE EXPLORATORY and WORLD LANGUAGES CLASSES 2019-20

**The Parent Portal will be open January 18 – February 1 to enter exploratory courses. Please read the information below before entering exploratory choices in the Parent Portal.**

Eighth graders can take EITHER *one* every day OR *two* every other day exploratory courses.

**Every Day EXPLORATORY COURSES (ONE may be taken)
Symphonic** **Band** - is the most challenging concert band at Burley.  Students need to have two years’ experience and will perform in several concerts, including Virginia Music Educators Association events.  Attendance at after school concerts is part of course and grade requirements. Students will have the opportunity to attend the spring trip. Extracurricular ensembles, such as Jazz Band, are by audition and are optional. Students wishing to take band who have not completed two years of experience may see Mr. LaPrade about joining.

**Strings** - is for students who have successfully completed two years of strings. Attendance at after school concerts is considered part of course and grade requirements. Students wishing to take strings who have not completed two years of experience may see Mr. Escobar about joining.

**Chorus** - Students must demonstrate a mature desire to explore vocal music. Students will perform selections representative of various musical periods and styles. Participation in all choral concerts, both during and after school, is required.

**AVID (Advancement via Individual Determination)**: AVID is a college prep class that teaches students how to be organized, take notes and get ready for rigorous academic classes.  Students go on field trips to area universities to learn more about college and the application process.  You must apply to be in the AVID class.

**Every Other Day EXPLORATORY COURSES (TWO may be taken)**

**Art** – Students will focus more on the Principles of Design (rhythm, balance, unity, proportion, variety and emphasis) and how they relate to the Elements of Design in this blast of creative opportunities. There will be individual and collaborative artworks made of paint, clay, textiles, recycled materials and much more. This course will enhance creative thinking skills, help build positive social relationships and reinforce confidence levels within students as individuals and artists.

**Drama** - Students will continue to build on and explore the basics of communication and performance including body language, expression, movement, and memorization. Projects include skit work, script writing, silent movies and in class performances. Students are expected to attend occasional evening rehearsals and perform at the end of the semester.

**Engineering, Design, and Build** – Students make models of significant inventions that have advanced society. After studying these developments, they explore contemporary technological problems facing them, their community, or the world and apply systematic procedures to invent new products or innovations as solutions. Students will use shop tools, 3D design apps, and laser cutting apps to design/make prototypes, inventions, and innovative products. Basic soldering, woodworking, and electrical skills will be taught and used in the making of these products.

**WORLD LANGUAGES COURSES** **(ONE may be taken *in addition to* exploratories.)**

**In 8th grade, French and Spanish classes offered are high** **school French I and Spanish I**.

***PLEASE NOTE***: To be prepared for either French I or Spanish I, students should have successfully completed the world language exploratory class (Spanish or French) in 7th grade. The pace of this high school class is quite fast in order to complete the curriculum. Students lacking the language arts and world language readiness skills should wait until ninth grade to begin their high school world language.

**High School Spanish I or French I**

Strong emphasis is given to speaking, listening, reading and writing the language, as well as studying national culture. Basic vocabulary and essential grammar are taught to enable students to communicate in simple sentences in directed activities and survival settings. Students demonstrate understanding of words and expressions in varied contexts. They read for functional purposes and write paragraphs.

High school credit may be granted for successful completion. Final grades and credit are transferred to the high school and computed into the student’s high school grade point average.

***PLEASE NOTE:***

**Students referred for reading/math remediation take that class in place of an exploratory. If**

**students complete the remediation program, they are moved into available exploratory classes.**

**Unavailability of staff or insufficient enrollment may result in some classes not being offered.**

**Students who do not enter courses will be assigned to available exploratories.**