

DR. DANIEL L. JOYCE
MIDDLE SCHOOL

COURSE OF
STUDIES
GUIDE

Grade 6

Core Courses:

English, Math, Science, Social Studies, Reading, Foreign language
These core courses meet 5 days per week for the entire year.

English Language Arts

I. Language: Grammar

- **Parts of Speech** (nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, pronouns, prepositions, conjunctions, interjections)
- **Parts of a sentence** (simple subject/predicate, complete subject/predicate, compound subject/predicate,
- **Types of sentences** (declarative, interrogative, exclamatory, imperative)
- **Punctuation** (periods, question marks, commas, quotations, apostrophe, semicolon, colon)
- **Combining sentences** (simple, compound, complex)

II. Language: Vocabulary

- Determine meaning using context clues, prefixes and suffixes
- Determine pronunciation meanings, synonyms, parts of speech using dictionaries and thesauruses.
- Tests- matching, synonyms, antonyms
- Using the vocabulary in writing activities such as stories, letters, and essays.

III. Reading and Literature

- Understanding Text, Making Connections
- Genres-poetry, fiction, nonfiction, drama, short story
- Theme, Style and Language, Myths, Dramatic Literature, Dramatic Reading and Performance
- Role playing, comprehension checks, characterization, using dialogue, comic strips, compare/contrast

IV. Composition

- Writing with a clear focus, coherent organization, sufficient detail
- Types of writing (expository, persuasive, narrative, drama, poetry)
- (KEY 3)

Reading

Chapter books are read over the year with different projects, such as book reports, character sketches, posters, etc. The majority of these books will be read together in class. There will be nights where students will need to finish certain chapters for homework. There are discussion questions and vocabulary that go along with each book that will be done for homework. Quizzes are given after every few chapters and are based on questions that were given for homework. Some of the books we read include: **Surviving the Applewhites by Stephanie Tolan, Walk Two Moons by Sharon Creech, Under the Blood Red Sun by Graham Salisbury, Where the Red Fern Grows by Wilson Rawls, The Clay Marble by Minfong Ho, The Watson's Go to Birmingham by Christopher Paul Curtis, Tuck Everlasting by Natalie Babbitt, and many other chapter books.**

Students will also have a vocabulary book. Each week a new lesson consisting of 10 words will be introduced. They generally will have vocabulary exercises each night for homework and a vocabulary test once a week.

Math

- Numbers, Operations and Statistics - Patterns, functions, statistics, graphs, Cartesian Plane
- Number and Operations - add, subtract, multiply and divide with decimals and fractions.
- Patterns, Relationships, Algebraic Thinking
- Ratios, proportions, percent, probability, expressions, equations
- Systems of measurement- standard and metric
- Geometry - Angles, polygons, perimeter, area and volume
- Integers – adding & subtracting

Science

Dynamic Earth

Crust movements
 Earthquakes, Volcanoes, Plate Tectonics
 Rocks, Minerals and Soil
 Rock Cycle, Mineral Formation, Weathering, Erosion

Weather

Heat Transfer, Atmospheric Pressures, Winds

Exploring the Universe

Exploring Space
 Sun, Earth, Moon, Systems
 Solar System
 Stars and Galaxies

Social Studies

The sixth grade curriculum focuses on the five themes of geography (Location, Place, Region, Human-Environment Interaction and Movement) and learning the countries within each of the following continents: Europe, Asia, Africa, and Antarctica

Along with learning the countries and continents, students will have a variety of projects connected to the particular continent being studied throughout the school year. The students also learn about using map skills and about the United States Constitution and Constitution Day.

Foreign language

Spanish

The sixth grade Spanish program is a full-time program covering all aspects of the first half of a traditional Spanish I program. Students will be able to use the skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing to communicate on a variety of topics including introducing yourself, responding to requests, expressing likes and dislikes, talking about school and home and leisure activities. They also learn about culture, such as El Día de los Muertos and Cinco de Mayo, and the geography of the Hispanic world

French

Sixth grade students will be able to use skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing, introduce themselves, respond to requests and express likes and dislikes. They also learn about culture, and costumes such as clothes, foods, currencies, games, songs, and music from different French speaking countries. We also learn about the different types of weather, seasons, months, and days of the week, and how to tell time.

Grade 7

Core Courses:

English, Math, Science, Social Studies, Foreign language
These core courses meet 5 days per week for the entire year.

English Language Arts

The seventh grade English Language Arts curriculum includes the principles of writing open responses and expository essays. A focus on grammar is incorporated throughout the writing process. Also, vocabulary building is provided through the use of context clues, etymology, and vocabulary textbooks. In addition, there is an emphasis on all genres of literature, including myths, fables, folk tales, short stories, novels, poetry, and drama.

Math

Pre- Algebra

This course covers selected topics from Algebra 1 as well as topics from geometry, statistics, and data analysis. Problem solving techniques, reasoning, and measurements are also explored. There is 1 Pre-Algebra class on each team. Students qualify for this class based on: 6th grade Math grades, MCAS scores, teacher recommendation, and performance on a Math placement test.

Connected Math 2

This course covers selected topics from Algebra 1, numbers and operations, measurement, geometry, problem solving, and data analysis. There are 4 sections of grade 7 Math on each team.

Social Studies

This is a survey course that covers pre-history, the development of man, and development of western civilization from beginnings in ancient Near East through the fall of Rome. Students will study the history and development of major civilizations, events, and leaders of this time period. The causes and consequences of military, political, social, economic, cultural and intellectual movements in various cultures will be discussed. Through a wide variety of lectures, map work, readings, and projects students will gain mastery of those standards listed in the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks.

Science

The science curriculum in seventh grade focuses primarily on life science. Students begin by learning about their place within an ecosystem. They explore the roles and relationships of organisms and examine the transfer of energy within different environments. The study of cells and their role in genetics leads to an examination of the diversity of life with the study of classification and the theory of evolution. Scientific method and thought are also important themes that are reinforced throughout the school year.

Spanish

The seventh grade Spanish program is a continuation of 6th grade Spanish. The program covers the second half of a traditional Spanish I program. Students will be able to use the skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing to communicate on a variety of topics including the family, weather, clothing, and foods. They also learn about culture, such as Christmas in the Spanish-speaking world, la quinceañera, and the countries of Ecuador and Puerto Rico.

French

The seventh grade French is a continuation of the 6th grade French. We have a brief review of last year's lessons. The students will learn more grammar including irregular verbs such as prendre, faire, vouloir, aller, avoir and être. They also learn how to interact with each other. How to order in a restaurant, how to invite someone to go somewhere, accept and decline an invitation, and members of the family. They will learn to identify and describe members of their family.

Grade 8

Core Courses:

English, Math, Science, Social Studies, Foreign language
These core courses meet 5 days per week for the entire year.

English

English 8 encourages students to “read as writers and write as readers.” The skills we learn in one area directly carry over to the other. Students practice writing in various genres with an emphasis on drafting and experimenting with different writing techniques. Grammar conventions are taught within the writing process. Students analyze models of good writing and maintain a cumulative writing folder. In addition to formal writing, there are weekly or daily reflective writing assignments. Using their understanding of strong writing techniques, students also analyze these in the literature that we read. Students build upon their reading comprehension strategies and question development using Bloom’s Taxonomy. Although teams study various titles, elements of literature, literary terms and devices, and vocabulary taught in context are equally emphasized. Both teams take pride in our study of the Holocaust through Elie Wiesel’s memoir *Night*. By the end of the year, students will have explored central questions in life including identity, prejudice, and choices and will have found their voice amongst the plethora of voices in the literary world.

Math

7th grade students took placement tests that are part of our Math series. These placement tests as well as Math teacher feedback, MCAS scores, and student Math grades are used to place students into an appropriate math class for next year.

In the 8th grade we offer the following Math classes on **EACH** team.

Algebra 1 Accelerated – This class is the same as the Woburn Memorial High School Algebra 1 class. It is considered accelerated because the High school class has approximately 170 classes of 47 minutes to teach the class. At the Middle school we have approximately 150 classes of 41 minutes to teach the class. This difference is due to the fact that we have missed classes due to MCAS testing as well as other missed classes that are needed to teach other Math material that is on the 8th grade Math MCAS test but not considered Algebra.

Students in this class generally move to Honors Geometry in grade 9 as long as they perform well and meet the pre requisite minimum grade.

Introductory Algebra – This class is a Pre-Algebra/Algebra mixed class. Students begin the year with Pre-Algebra review and then move on to Algebra concepts for the remainder of the year.

Students in this class generally take Honors Algebra 1 in the ninth grade. However, students with an A average may be given an opportunity to attempt Geometry with the ability to move down if they are not successful.

Connected Math 3 – This class is the regular grade 8 Math class. It is taught at a Co-Taught lower level class as well as a mid level Math class. This class covers mostly Pre-Algebra as well as some introductory Algebra. Students in this class generally take Algebra 1 Academic Level in the ninth grade.

Each 8th Grade team offers:

- 1 – Accelerated Algebra 1 class
- 1 – Introductory Algebra class
- 3 – Connected Math 3 classes.

Science

Students learn well and become more actively engaged in learning through scientific inquiry so we incorporate lab work and other hands-on activities into the curriculum wherever possible throughout the year. Students begin in September by reviewing the scientific method and the metric system since they will use these throughout 8th grade. They devote the next several months to basic chemistry and physics. In chemistry, together we examine the properties of matter, changes in state, physical/ chemical changes and mixtures, solutions, elements, and compounds. In physics, we explore energy, heat transfer and motion. Upon completing work in physical science, we begin preparing for the May MCAS. Students need to be exposed to concepts more than once for retention. Given that, we review as much content as time allows across the Massachusetts framework strands for the middle school years in the subject area, often integrating this content with what students have just learned in physical science. In addition to students working with the on-line program Study Island, they practice for the actual test using questions from previous years' MCAS. Finally, in term 4, we begin preparation for the end of year science fair which occurs in June as well as in class studying miscellaneous topics in science.

Social Studies

The eighth grade history program marks the beginning of a three year study of American History. The study of American History and the documents on which our country was founded continues through grade nine and ten at Woburn Memorial High School. Grade 8 students will be introduced to the historical, cultural, geographical, economic, political, and social trends from the settlement of the first English colonies to the end of the Civil War. Students will read primary source material related to the American Revolution, founding of American democracy, the Industrial Revolution, the Westward Movement, and Civil War.

Spanish

In this course, students will take their elementary Spanish skills to the next level. Students will build on their vocabulary and be able to speak about the past as well as the present. This class is conducted in Spanish and the students are expected to participate mostly in Spanish. By the end of this course, students will be able to easily have a conversation in Spanish, write a five-paragraph essay, and present a project in the target language in front of the class. In addition, we will continue to explore the cultures of the Hispanic world.

French

In this course, students will take their elementary French skills to the next level. Students will build on their vocabulary and be able to speak about the past as well as the present. This class is mostly conducted in French and students are expected to participate in French. By the end of this course, students will easily be able to ask and answer questions in French, have a French conversation, and prepare and make presentations in front of the class in the target language. Many French culture topics will be explored, such as the iconic city of Paris, French art, French castles and French customs and traditions.

Unified Arts Program:

Study Skills

Study Skills class is for 7th & 8th grade students and it meets twice a week during terms 1 & 2. Study Skills encompasses test taking strategies, mnemonics, listening skills, interpreting charts and graphs, vocabulary development, and reading skills. Writing skills—teaching, illustrating and practicing written expression through open response questions utilizing proofreading skills—will be threaded throughout the curriculum.

Reading

Reading class is for 7th & 8th grade students and it meets twice a week during terms 3 & 4. The reading program engages students in both oral and silent reading exercises, centering on stimulating fiction and nonfiction stories. Instructional lessons focus on reading, comprehension, and retention skills through identifying main ideas, understanding inferences, critical thinking skills, locating skills, literary terms, practicing a variety of open response questions, expanding vocabulary, and the acquisition of essential knowledge.

Physical Education

All students at the Joyce Middle School have Physical Education two times each week for the entire school year. In Physical Education the following is a list of activities/sports that is part of our curriculum.

Team Sports	Lifetime Activities/Games	Fitness
Field Hockey	Tennis	Target Heart Rate (jump ropes)
Flag Football	Badminton	Resistance Training(weights)
Wiffleball	Ice Skating	Fitness Testing (4 components)
Volleyball	Track & Field	
Lacrosse	Dodgeball	
Basketball	Capture the Flag	
Team Handball	Project Adventure	

Every student is required to have the proper attire, cooperate with each other, and a positive attitude.

Computers

All sixth, seventh and eighth grade students will take computers twice a week for about 13 weeks. In computer class the students will explore a wide variety of software programs including; word processing, spreadsheet, presentation, publishing, photo editing, paint and draw. The students will use these applications as well as Internet resources to complete classroom projects. Discussions will include Internet safety, technology past, present and the future. Students will learn about file management, computer networking, internal hardware devices and how to use different peripheral devices such as; a printer, digital camera, scanner, video camera, webcam, flash drives and memory cards).

Family and Consumer Science

Students have Family and Consumer Science twice a week for about 13 weeks. Nutrition addresses the development of a healthy body by balancing food and physical activity. Nutrition includes many concepts, including food choices and growth, nutrition guidelines, health needs, disease, food availability, cultural influences and healthy lifestyles.

An adequate and healthy intake of food and nutrients is essential for students to take full advantage of the school's learning environment. Students of all ages need the knowledge and skills to make wise food choices throughout their lives. Instruction in Foods and Nutrition includes social influences and food advertising, consumer and nutrition skills needed to make appropriate food choices, components of nutrition labels, food and kitchen safety, reading and following a recipe, and food preparation.

As part of this course students will also receive some basic sewing lessons.

Art

Sixth grade Students have art once a week for half of the year. In this limited time they have the opportunity to explore basic elements of design in both two and three dimensional art forms, from drawing and painting, to construction and sculpture.

Seventh grade students have class two times a week for half the year. Art is created in multiple mediums in both two and three dimensional formats. Individual works, large scale group projects, and competitive artworks are created.

Eighth grade students have class two times a week for half the year. Art is created in multiple mediums in both two and three dimensional formats. Individual works, large scale group projects, and competitive artworks are created.

In each grade level, famous artist's works, and trends in Art History, are viewed and discussed to go along with the genre they are learning to work in.

Music

6th grade general music meets once a week for the half of the year. During this time, students will learn to sing various folk dances and songs, rounds and partner songs. Students sight read simple rhythms and melodies. Students learn glockenspiel, keyboard and drumming skills. Students learn about Medieval and Renaissance music history.

7th grade general music meets twice a week for half of the year. During this time, students learn keyboards skills, chord and chord progressions, and how to compose simple melodies. Students learn about American musical theater and Baroque and Classical music history.

8th grade general music meets twice a week for half of the year. During this time, students learn more advanced keyboard skills, chord and chord progressions, and how to compose using chords. Students learn more complex rhythms and create percussion pieces. Students learn about jazz and blues history, including writing their own 12-bar blues.

Library

The library media specialist and classroom teacher collaboratively design lessons that engage students in using print, multi-media and electronic resources to build knowledge, solve problems, and share findings. Through a multi-step problem solving model, students learn skills needed for high school and beyond. Students examine multiple resources; analyzing, synthesizing, evaluating and selecting the information that is most accurate and relevant to the completion of their work. Focus is placed on integrating technology into all phases of the research process.

Copyright, plagiarism and proper citation of resources are addressed as part of each research project. Appreciation and enjoyment of literature remain an important part of the middle school library program and are promoted through book talks and literature-related activities.

Health

6th grade Health classes meet once a week for half of the year. We work on self esteem building, building healthy friendships and, body growth and changes..

7th grade Health classes meet twice a week for half the year. In the 7th grade we concentrate on both the Axial and Appendicular skeletal systems. The 7th grade will use both interactive and individual work to promote an understanding on the human body in general.

8th grade class classes meet twice a week for half the year. In 8th grade we will look at a variety of subjects to help to get ready for high school. Grade 8 will cover such concepts as alcohol awareness, drug resistance and forming healthy relationships.

Technology/Wood Shop

Students have Technology & Wood Shop twice a week for about 13 weeks. The Science/Technology MCAS test your child will take in the eighth grade is comprised of the science your child learns in Science class as well as the technology that is learned in my classroom. During the course of three years, your child will be prepared to handle the world of Pre-Engineering at the Middle School Level.

6th Grade students will learn the “Eight Steps of the Engineering Design Process”

1. Identify the need
2. Research the need
3. Develop possible solutions
4. Choose best possible solution
5. Construct a prototype
6. Test and evaluate
7. Communicate test results
8. Redesign

Your child will use these eight steps throughout life, they not only pertain to engineering but they are also a guide for doing research papers, projects, and reports.

Students are introduced to hand tools and 3 projects are made, a top using a Gatorade cap and a dowel where the student must design a tip and redesign if needed. They make a small project of their choice using the coping saw and finally the construct a main project utilizing a series of hand tools.

7th grade students learn about using Orthographic Projection to draw a set of plans. They are introduced to the drafting tools and get to use a drawing board, t-square, and a triangle to draft a series of objects showing the front, side, and top views. They are also introduced to all power tools (except for the table saw) and create a project using the knowledge they acquired. Several detailed projects have left the wood shop over the years including clocks, benches, and stools.

8th grade students are introduced to the different types of bridges. They each construct a truss bridge using $\frac{3}{4}$ "by $\frac{3}{4}$ "stock and it is told 100 lbs. Rockets are made and the students fire them off in the parking, they test different lengths and different fins to see which of their rockets will travel the furthest. The students are also prepared for the MCAS in May with a review of 6th and 7th grade technology.

Geography

6th grade students have Geography once per week for half of the school year. Students will learn the definition of geography and all the different parts of geography. Students will also learn about the major political and physical features of South America.

7th grade students have Geography twice per week for half of the school year. Students will learn about geography as it relates to ancient history. Students will study ancient civilizations of Mesopotamia, ancient Egypt, Greece, and Rome.

8th grade students have Geography twice per week for half of the school year. Students will learn about the different regions of the world. Students will also review geography skills.

Support Programs

School Psychologist

The school psychologist has a variety of roles and responsibilities. Most time is spent conducting social skills groups, usually in conjunction with the speech/language pathologist. Social skills groups are tailored to meet the needs of the particular group and individual students within the groups. Popular topics include reading nonverbal communication, recognizing and responding to bullying, hygiene, group decision making, and conversation skills. Other responsibilities of the school psychologist include individual counseling, Special Education assessment, consultation with teachers, faculty and parents, and developing and implementing functional behavior assessments and behavior intervention plans

Guidance

The role of the guidance counselor is to support students who may be experiencing emotional; social; behavioral; educational or home issues. Identified students are provided with 1:1 counseling support. Small group counseling is also offered for various topics, including but not limited to social skills, lunch bunches, grief and loss and new student groups. At times, guidance counselors also conduct lessons in the classroom. The ACT program deals with depression awareness and suicide prevention taught in 8th grade health class. Bullying curriculum is also taught in all grades. When necessary, students are identified and referred for additional community supports. Guidance assists with referrals and maintains contact with community providers for ongoing support.

Guidance counselors participate in various meetings including: 504 meetings, IEP meetings, parent/teacher meetings, student/parent/teacher meetings, and collateral meetings with community providers. We also manage the school based counseling program, which allows outside agencies to provide counseling services to identified students in school.

Guidance counselors are responsible for registering new students, assisting with students transferring to a new school, maintaining student records, 8th grade course selection process for Woburn high school, assisting students applying to private or vocational school and identifying/notifying students who need to attend summer school. The role of a guidance counselor is part of a team approach, including: school, home and community, at the center of this being the student.

Speech/Language Therapy Services

These services are provided based on a student's assessment, IEP, and individualized goals and objectives. Overall, speech/language therapy develops and supports communication skills using curriculum-based skills, strategies, and topics throughout the year. Goals may address comprehension and expression of curriculum vocabulary and concepts, answering factual and more complex inferential questions, development of oral expression strategies, or development of social pragmatics skills such as conversational skills and decision making strategies.

Math Skills

Math Skills class services select sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students. Held in a small group setting, the class is designed to provide students with the tools, practice, and skills needed to excel in their main math classes, as well as to maximize performance on the state math MCAS exam. The first half of the year is devoted to reinforcing and providing supplementary lessons for the material that is covered in the students' main math classes. Strategies and techniques used include pre-teaching subject matter, one-on-one instruction and assessment, and differentiated instruction for individual students. The second half of the year is mainly focused on preparing students for the MCAS exam, with an emphasis on important test-taking strategies—such as process of elimination, guess and check, logical reasoning—with specific focus on how to answer math open response questions in the most efficient and successful way possible. As always, frequent student check-ins and reinforcement of math concepts being taught in the students' regular math classes are still utilized throughout the second half of the year.

School Resource Officer, Woburn Police Dept.

A sworn member of the City of Woburn Police Department assigned to provide law enforcement expertise and resources to assist school staff in maintaining safety, order and discipline within the school. The School Resource Officer assumes primary responsibility for handling all calls for police service and coordinates the response of other police resources to the school's buildings, grounds and surrounding areas. The School Resource Officer teaches an anti-bullying/cyber safety, alcohol & drug awareness/prevention class to middle school students. The School Resource Officer meets with and mentors selected students in conjunction with the Guidance Office. The School Resource Officer plans special lectures and events with the School Principal's and P.T.O.'s regarding juvenile and school safety issues. The School Resource also performs other related duties as necessary per request the School Principal.

Special Education Programs

Language Based Program Grades 6-8

Within the Language Based Program students receive ELA instruction in a small group, pull out setting. In the English class students work on comprehension, fluency, and written language skills. Students are asked to read several novels and short stories throughout the year. In addition, students are asked to compose various written assignments, including single paragraphs and essays. Explicit instruction of foundational comprehension and written language skills is provided paired with research based, multi sensory strategies that will aid the students in their acquisition of said skills.

In addition to ELA instruction, students in the Language Based Program have a learning center period within their schedule. During this period, skills are reviewed and re-taught from the general education classes. Students are able to ask questions or voice troubles that they are having in their other classes. Test preparation is also done during this time.

Some students, based on their profile, may receive pull-out mathematics services. In this setting, the students will be given more tailored research based-multi sensory strategies which will aid in their development of mathematics skills, with special attention directed towards word problems and textbook access skills.

Resource Room Grades 6 - 8

The Resource Room at the Joyce Middle School services students in grades six through eight who present with a learning disability in one or more of the following areas: comprehension, math, written language, or organization. The identified students receive support in the classroom and/or in the resource room several times a week. In the resource room individual needs are addressed, new concepts are reinforced, and study skills and organizational strategies are taught. Students are fully mainstreamed and take a foreign language as part of their academic program.

Learning Center grades 6 – 8

The 7th and 8th grade learning center is designed for those identified with learning disability in one or more of the following areas: comprehension, math, and/or written language. These students receive additional instruction, support and guidance in order to achieve success in their academic work. In addition to academic guidance there is also an emphasis on increasing basic academic skills. Individual goals and needs are addressed during the learning center period.

Social Communication Classroom Grades 6-8

The Social Communication Classroom for students in grades 6-8 services those students who have been identified with challenges surrounding social skills and pragmatic language. All students receive English and Reading instruction in a small group, as well as explicit instruction in social skills which is a weekly class Co-taught by the Speech Language Pathologist and School Psychologist and a daily study skills period. Students may receive pull out math services dependent upon their profile and level of need. Skills class is used for pre-teaching and re-teaching of skills in addition to test preparation and time to work on projects and work from other classes. Students are generally included for science and social studies with support, but this may change based on the individual needs of each student. Individual student goals are focused on across the curriculum and throughout the school day.

Special Activities

Chorus

The chorus is mixed of about fifty 6, 7 and 8th students. These students rehearse two to three times per week and have several performances throughout the year. Traditionally, the chorus performs at the Veteran's Day assembly, a winter concert, a spring concert and 42-year traditional concert called the Green and Blue. In chorus students learn about vocal technique, reading music, and how to sing canons, partner songs and two-part harmony.

Concert Band

Concert band at the middle school is designed to build on the skills that students began on during the Fifth Grade Instrumental Lesson Program. We work on learning to play together in larger groups and improve the level of difficulty of our music. A greater number of instruments are present in the Middle School Band. All students participate in the two annual concerts. Beginners are welcome.

Best Buddies

Best Buddies pairs students who have disabilities with students who do not have disabilities. Students meet on Wednesdays and Fridays during Activity period with their buddy in school. Best Buddies do crafts, have scavenger hunts, kickball games, wiffle ball games, fly kites, play games, simply hang out and chat, and much, much more. Students also have lunch with their buddies on Thursdays in the cafeteria.

In addition to the activities in school, Best Buddies have several times where we get together outside of regular school hours, such as a movie night, attending the Green and Blue Revue with our buddy and attending the drop off night. Another important part of Best Buddies is service. Best Buddies collects items to send to our local troops at the holidays. In the past, we raised money for the victims of the Haiti and Japan earthquakes, raised money for a service dog, etc. Every year we do some community service projects.

The ultimate goal of our middle school Best Buddies program is to help students get acquainted with their buddies, form strong friendships and hopefully begin to meet and talk outside of school. It is a good transition for them as they go on to the high school Best Buddies Program.

Yearbook

The yearbook activity is a group of 10 – 20 eighth grade students who produce the annual yearbook. They take photographs of various activities and events that take place at the Joyce during the course of the year. These students then prepare the layout of the yearbook and select photographs for the yearbook.

Builders Club

The Builders Club is a junior service club, sponsored by the Woburn Kiwanis. Membership in the Builders Club is open to all Middle School students in 7th and 8th grade. It is the youngest member of the Kiwanis family which also includes the Key Club at Woburn High School. The purpose of the Builders Club is based on the same principles of the Key Club which are: to help develop academic success, and to promote school citizenship and community involvement, based upon the same high ideals of fellowship and future leadership within the community.

Throughout the school year the Joyce Middle School sect of the Builders Club meets during activity period to plan and run activities and fundraisers for both our school and community. Members of the Builders Club should be dedicated to the club and plan on attending all events both in school and out.