Middle School Curriculum Guide

ENGLISH CURRICULUM

6th Grade:
The 6th grade English program is designed to bridge students from the self-contained elementary classroom to the world of middle school. Students continue using a literature textbook, but begin thinking more critically about reading selections. Focus is on a combination of content and analysis. Students begin learning literary terms and applying those to literary selections. Grammar skills learned in elementary school are reinforced through daily practice exercises. Writing skills are honed and improved through the practice of free writing and several formal writing assignments. Students are taught both essay and short research paper formats. Students begin building their vocabulary through the study of Greek and Latin roots to improve not only working vocabulary but word attack skills.

7th Grade:
The 7th grade English program is designed to improve and expand vocabulary, critical and analytical thinking skills, creative and analytical writing skills, and grammar and mechanics usage. Students are exposed to a variety of forms of literature (short story, non-fiction, realistic fiction, mystery, and drama) through a combination of textbooks and novels, and learn literary analysis skills and literary terms. Grammar skills learned in elementary school are reinforced through daily practice exercises and are reinforced in all writing exercises. Writing skills are honed and improved through the practice of free writing and formal writing assignments throughout the year, including analytical essays, creative writing assignments, and a formal term paper. Students are taught to edit their own work and are encouraged through class exercises to do so. Vocabulary is expanded with biweekly lessons based on an understanding of Greek and Latin roots to improve not only working vocabulary but word attack skills.

8th Grade:
The 8th grade English program is designed to move students from the middle school classroom to the analytical analysis of literature necessary at the high school level. Students reinforce critical and analytical thinking skills, creative and analytical writing skills, and grammar and mechanics usage. Students are exposed to a variety of forms of literature (realistic fiction, historic fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and science fiction) through a combination of textbooks and novels, and learn literary analysis skills and literary terms. Grammar skills learned in elementary school are reinforced through daily practice exercises and are reinforced in all writing exercises. Writing skills are honed and improved through the practice of daily free writing and formal writing assignments throughout the year, including analytical essays and a formal term paper. Students are taught to edit their own work and are encouraged through class exercises to do so. Vocabulary is expanded with biweekly lessons based on an understanding of Greek and Latin roots to improve not only working vocabulary but word attack skills.

HISTORY CURRICULUM

6th grade  World Geography:
In World Geography, students will learn about the world around them through political, physical, cultural, and historical geography. Our goal will be to help students have a better understanding of their place in the world. Students will be challenged to locate various locations around the regions of the world. They will relate cultural and social developments to historical events that have taken place in many different regions.
7th Grade  Cultural Geography:

Students examine the development and contemporary interaction of world cultures. Students will draw on prior knowledge of world geography while studying the interactions between people and the environments in which they live. The course will activate learning through class participation and research projects. Projects, travel journals, homework, quizzes, tests, and class discussions will serve as means of evaluation.

8th grade  Georgia History:

In this course, students will learn about the events that helped to shape Georgia into the state it is now. We will begin our study with a geographical look at the state followed by state history and finally an exploration of the government of Georgia today through a study of state civics. The major goal of this class is to give students an understanding of the people, places, and events which helped shape the state we live in now.

MATHEMATICS CURRICULUM

Intro to Pre-Algebra:

This course focuses on the repetition of general mathematic concepts such as fractions, decimals, problem solving, word problems, ratios, and rate problems while introducing pre-algebraic concepts. Concepts of geometry, such as volume and surface area of prisms, pyramids, and cylinders, symmetry, and scale are introduced. Statistical concepts include predicting probability, experimental versus theoretical probability, and random samples.

Pre-Algebra:

Prerequisite: Completion of Intro to Pre-Algebra (or its equivalent) or teacher recommendation required for students in Grade 6

Pre-algebra builds upon general mathematic concepts, emphasizing algebraic concepts and skills including proportions, one and two-step equations, and multiple term equations Geometric concepts that are introduced include, congruency, scale factor, coordinate plane, translations, dilation, rotation, reflection, and construction of segments, angles, bisectors, and parallel lines. Concepts of probability and statistics that are introduced and built upon include data collection, as well as graphing and analysis of data using measure of tendency.

Algebra I:

Prerequisite: Pre-Algebra, Grade of A or B

Algebra I is intended for students who have demonstrated a proficiency in Pre-Algebra. This course will cover all topics explored in Algebra I B, and the additional topics of radical numbers, Pythagorean Theorem, distance formula, and quadratic equations.

Geometry

Prerequisite: Algebra I, Grade of A or B

In Geometry students will explore geometric relationships with a wide variety of tools, including compasses, computers, and graphing calculators. Instead of simply memorizing rules and definitions, students perform constructions, measure figures, observe patterns, discuss their findings, write their own definitions, and formulate their own geometric conjectures. Deductive and inductive reasoning as well as investigative strategies in drawing conclusions are stressed. Properties and relationships of geometric objects include the study of: (1) points, lines, angles and planes; (2) polygons, with a special focus on quadrilaterals, triangles, right triangles; (3) circles; and (4) polyhedra and other solids. An understanding of proof and logic is developed. In addition, use of graphing calculators and computer drawing programs is encouraged.
SCIENCE CURRICULUM

6th Grade  Earth Science:

Students will be introduced to the broad study of Planet Earth, with an overview of the history and structure of Earth, geology, oceanography, meteorology and astronomy. Environmental influences of nature and man are also addressed; which are aimed towards the development of stewardship for the planet.

7th Grade  Life Science:

Life science will serve as an introduction to the biological world. This course will include the classification of living things, life cycles and physiological and anatomical studies. It will also explore the interrelationships of organisms with their environment and the interdependencies of all living things. Students will examine a variety of specimen, prepare visual presentations of common diseases, and explore endangered species, intro to botany and various arthropods through various lab activities.

8th Grade  Physical Science:

This course is designed to set the foundation for physics, while implementing some elements of chemistry. Students will be introduced to topics such as forces and motion, Newton’s Laws, mechanics, light, sound, electricity and magnetism, and heat. Elements of chemistry include atomic theory, bonding and chemical reactions. This course is lab-oriented, where lab activities reinforce classroom activities.

SPANISH CURRICULUM

6th and 7th Grade Spanish A/B:

Spanish A & Spanish B are designed to provide students with an elementary knowledge of the Spanish culture and language with an emphasis on the development of all four language skills: speaking, listening, reading, and writing. Students are expected to learn to use Spanish for communication in real, meaningful situations. Each chapter in the student textbook focuses on a cultural theme such as friendship, school, sports and leisure activities, food, family, clothing, leisure and vacation time, home, health, community, movies and T.V. shows, restaurants, and the environment to introduce material. Classroom time will be devoted almost entirely to practicing the skills of understanding and interacting in Spanish.