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Planning Your Education

Your school provides this course curriculum guide as a means of assisting students and parents in understanding and planning their course of study. Students are encouraged to carefully select related arts courses during the registration process. Your school's guidance counselors and teachers stand ready to assist them. Parents are invited and encouraged to actively participate by assisting their student.

Related arts classes are scheduled based upon student requests. However, due to schedule conflicts and changes in course offerings, the staff cannot guarantee that students will be scheduled for all courses they request. In addition, be aware that the school builds a master schedule and employs teachers based on students' requests; therefore, schedule changes will only be considered on a very limited basis.

Online Registration

Online Registration was implemented in 2004. It allows parents and students to request related arts courses for the next school year from home via the Internet. Families who do not have access to the Internet will be given opportunities to use school computers to register online. Parents and students should understand that requesting a related arts course through online registration does not guarantee that the student is placed in the course the next school year. Final placement in a course is dependent upon enrollment, scheduling feasibility, and teacher allocation. Parents without Internet access at home will receive a printed copy of the course curriculum guide by request. The window for students to select related arts courses online is posted by the school on the school's website and in parent newsletters. Schools will provide instructions on accessing the online registration tool.

Promotion Criteria for Grades Six, Seven, and Eight

Criterion 1: Students in grades six through eight are expected to learn, at a minimum, curriculum standards in English language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies, and meet attendance requirements.

Criterion 2: The student earned a minimum average grade of 60% in English language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies (if language arts is taught as a separate subject in grades 6-8, the English language arts grade will be determined by the mean of the yearly average of reading and language arts.)

End of Year Promotion Status

The following are summary designation and descriptors for end-of-year promotion status of students in grades six-eight.

Promoted – The student met all promotion criteria. The one exception is that students who fail a high school credit bearing course in middle school are promoted but must retake the course. Enrollment in these credit bearing courses will be determined by the district criteria.

Promoted - Summer School Required - The student failed to meet the criteria for one or two core academic areas, but successful performance in summer school for any deficient area was met.

Hillcrest Middle School Online Course Registration

Parents and Students,

Course registration is well underway at Hillcrest Middle School! This is an important time for teachers, parents, and students to choose courses for the upcoming school year to help plan for the future.

In early February, teachers began the process of recommending academic courses for students to take next year. Students will begin selecting related arts classes from Feb. 18-20. Parents and students can make any necessary changes to student-related arts choices and review academic recommendations at home through the Parent Portal. Final course recommendations and requests letters will be sent home mid-April. Parents will be asked to sign and return this form to their child's elementary school.

We want this to be a smooth and productive experience for everyone. Our goal is to work with each student to select the courses best suited for their individual needs. We ask that you follow the important deadlines and take note of all important dates below.

Rising 5th Grader Important 6th Grade Course Information

Hillcrest Middle School students will take 4 academic courses.

*Contact your student's

current subject teacher at the elementary school

with questions or concerns about recommendations made by the subject teacher.

Rising 5th Grader Important 6th Grade Related Art/Electives Information

6th Grade Hillcrest Middle School students will take up to 7 different related arts/electives. Most 6th grade electives will be 1 quarter each. Chorus & GTT are each 1 semester. All students will be required to take 1 semester of PE. Band and strings are year long electives.

*Contact your student's **school counselor at the elementary school** about related arts questions and concerns.

All courses are offered based on course enrollment, teacher allocation, and scheduling feasibility.

Here at Hillcrest Middle, our mission is to foster a community where we are all "Caring, committed, and connected."

As a collaborative learning community, we will partner with students, parents, staff, and community members to provide rigorous academics, technology-enhanced learning, and arts/literacy integration to prepare our students for college and career success," our staff will work to help students make appropriate choices for his/her future. We look forward to working with you as we prepare students for a great school year.

HMS Counseling Department Contacts

6th grade Counselor Kim Groome 864-355-6115 kgroome@greenville.k12.sc.us
7th Grade Counselor Lillian Johnson 864-355-6119 lrjohnson@greenville.k12.sc.us
8th grade Counselor Kaia Sawyer-DeForest 864-355-6112 kdeforest@greenville.k12.sc.us
ML & Special Education Counselor Bessie Skenteris 864-355-6150 bskenteris@greenville.k12.sc.us

Course Descriptions

English

Title: English Studies 6

Unit Credit: 0

Grade Level: 6

English Studies 6 is designed to prepare students for College and Career readiness as required by the South Carolina State Standards. The curriculum exposes students to a variety of genres, both literary and informational. Placement Recommendation - Successful completion of grade 5.

Course Number: 10013100

Title: English GT 6

Unit Credit: 0

Grade Level: 6

This course is designed to meet the needs of academically gifted and talented students who were identified through the standard measures implemented by The School District of Greenville County. The curriculum designed specifically for this course meets the guidelines set forth by the South Carolina State Department of Education as criteria for Gifted and Talented instruction. Students should expect to find the curriculum challenging in a number of ways: text complexity, analytical writing, problem solving, creative endeavors, and accelerated pace.

Prerequisite: Identified as GTA (Gifted and Talented Academic)

Course Number: 10013200

Title: Reading Assistance 6th

Unit Credit: 0

Grade Level: 6

This course offers students remediation and additional assistance in reading skills in support of on grade level instruction in the regular Language Arts and/or Literature classroom. PREREQUISITE: Guidance Placement

Course Number: 10240000

Title: Communication

Unit Credit: 0

Grade Level: 6 - 8

This course is for students who are interested in improving their interpersonal communication skills. The course includes instruction in one-on-one communication and group discussion. PREREQUISITE: None

Course Number: 20990200

Math

Title: Math 6th

Unit Credit: 0

Grade Level: 6

This standards-based sixth-grade course is designed to help students begin the transition from arithmetic to algebraic thinking. It includes concepts, operations, and problems solving with decimals, fractions, and percents in addition to an introduction to integers and ratios. Students will develop algebraic thinking through the investigation of patterns, the use of simple equations and inequalities to represent relationships, and the use of tables and graphs to solve problems. Throughout the course there is an emphasis on the process standards of problem-solving, communication, reasoning, representations, and connections. PREREQUISITE: Teacher recommendation

Course Number: 11100600

Title: Math 6th/7th

Unit Credit: 0

Grade Level: 6

This standards-based course is designed to help students begin the transition from arithmetic to algebraic thinking. It includes all of the grade 6 standards and half of the grade 7 standards. Topics include operations and problem-solving with decimals, fractions, integers, ratios, proportions, and percents. Students will develop algebraic thinking through the investigation of patterns, the use of one-and two-step equations and inequalities to represent relationships, and the use of tables and graphs to solve problems. Throughout the course there is an emphasis on the process standards of problem-solving, communication, reasoning, representations, and connections. PREREQUISITE: Must meet district criteria including Teacher recommendation

Course Number: 11100700

Science

Title: Science 6th

Course Number: 12010000

Unit Credit: 0

Grade Level: 6

The focus for science in sixth grade is to provide students with inquiry based experiences that develop science concepts in the following areas: Structures, Processes and Response of Plants-structure and function of plants; Structures, Processes and Responses of Animals-structure and function of animals; Earths Atmosphere and Weather-atmospheric properties and processes; and, Conservation of Energy-properties of energy, work, and conservation of energy. PREREQUISITE: None

Social Studies

Title: Social Studies 6th

Course Number: 13010000

Unit Credit: 0

Grade Level: 6

Sixth grade social studies expands students' understanding of history through the study of people, places, and events to the era of European exploration and settlement. Students focus not only on facts about various cultures but also on the significance of geography in history, their everyday lives, problems, and accomplishments of people, and their roles in developing the social, economic, and political structures of major civilizations. Instruction should emphasize the elements of social studies literacy, the tools, strategies, and perspectives necessary for understanding how history, geography, economics and government are interwoven. PREREQUISITE: None

Arts

Title: Art 6

Course Number: 15010000

Unit Credit: 0

Grade Level: 6

The purpose of this course is to enable students to communicate ideas and concepts through a variety of artwork, including drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture, arts, and crafts. A study of artists and their work will help students understand the techniques, skills, and diverse intentions of artists from many cultures and times. Students will focus on developing creative problem-solving skills, visual literacy, and personal expression. PREREQUISITE: None

Title: Theatre 6th

Course Number: 15210000

Unit Credit: 0

Grade Level: 6

This course explores theater arts through the use of creative dramatics, diction, vocal expression, improvisation, dramatization, technical theatre, audience etiquette, and theatre appreciation. Performances will be an outgrowth of study. PREREQUISITE: None

Title: Band 6

Course Number: 15310000

Unit Credit: 0

Grade Level: 6

This course provides beginning-level instruction on brass, woodwind, and percussion instruments. No previous musical experience is required. The curriculum includes the development of fundamental skills, concepts, composition, cooperative learning, music as it relates to history and culture, and band techniques. The class will include an expectation for the purchase or rental of an instrument and individual practice at home. Concert performances will be an outgrowth of the study of musical concepts. PREREQUISITE: None

Title: Band 6 Percussion

Course Number: 15311000

Unit Credit: 0

Grade Level: 6

This course provides beginning-level instruction for all of the percussion instruments. The curriculum will focus on the techniques required to perform on the melodic instruments, membranophones, and auxiliary instruments. The curriculum includes the development of fundamental skills, concepts, composition, cooperative learning, music as it relates to history and culture, and band techniques. The class will include an expectation for the purchase or rental of an instrument and individual practice at home. Concert performances will be an outgrowth of the study of musical concepts. PREREQUISITE: None

Title: Band 6 Brass

Course Number: 15311600

Unit Credit: 0

Grade Level: 6

This course provides beginning-level instruction for trumpet, French horn, trombone, euphonium and tuba. The curriculum includes the development of fundamental skills, concepts, composition, cooperative learning, music as it relates to history and culture, and band techniques. The class will include an expectation for the purchase or rental of an instrument and individual practice at home. Concert performances will be an outgrowth of the study of musical concepts. PREREQUISITE: None

Title: Band 6 Woodwinds

Course Number: 15311700

Unit Credit: 0

Grade Level: 6

This course is a beginning-level course for Woodwind instruments. Middle school literature will be studied. The curriculum includes the development of fundamental skills, concepts, composition, cooperative learning, music as it relates to history and culture, and band techniques. The class will include an expectation for the purchase or rental of an instrument and individual practice at home. Concert performances will be an outgrowth of the study of musical concepts. PREREQUISITE: None

Title: Chorus 6

Course Number: 15410000

Unit Credit: 0

Grade Level: 6

The purpose of this course is to enable students to develop fundamental vocal musicianship, technical skills, and aesthetic awareness through the study and performance of varied middle school choral literature. The curriculum for Chorus 6 includes vocal technique, part singing, music fundamentals, and singing music of various historical and world styles through large and small group participation. Concert performances will be an outgrowth of the study of the musical concepts. PREREQUISITE: None

Title: Strings 6

Course Number: 15510000

Unit Credit: 0

Grade Level: 6

This course provides beginning-level instruction on violin, viola, cello, and string bass. No previous musical experience is required. The curriculum includes the development of fundamental skills, concepts, composition, cooperative learning, music as it relates to history and culture, and string techniques. The class will include an expectation for the purchase or rental of an instrument and individual practice at home. Some larger instruments are available at the school, and parents should coordinate with the director for their use. Concert performances will be an outgrowth of the study of musical concepts. PREREQUISITE: None

Title: General Music 6th

Course Number: 15610000

Unit Credit: 0

Grade Level: 6

This is a course providing students with the opportunity to explore musical concepts and further their understanding of music through listening, singing, playing instruments, and engaging in creative activities. PREREQUISITE: None

Title: Singers Chorus

Course Number: 25993000

Unit Credit: 0

Grade Level: 6 - 8

This course is for students with advanced vocal talents. Students study either early music literature, vocal jazz, or popular music. They learn the elements of music, proper tone quality production, music reading, and vocal flexibility as it relates to style. The direction and emphasis of the course are determined by the instructor. PREREQUISITE: Instructor approval

Foreign Language

Title: Spanish 6 Beginner Level

Course Number: 16500000

Unit Credit: 0

Grade Level: 6

Aligned with the district's vision, philosophy, and goals for world language education, this beginner course introduces students to the second language through high-quality learning experiences. Not only do students gain an understanding of what it means to learn a new language, they also experience progress over time and are likely to be motivated to continue language study. Students learn enough language to ensure that they will not be total beginners when they take another course in the same language. The goal of this course is to develop some language competence. PREREQUISITE: None

Physical Education

Title: PE / Health 6

Course Number: 14401200

Unit Credit: 0

Grade Level: 6

Enrollment in this course fulfills the regulation that all students will complete one quarter of physical education each year in grades 6 - 8 and all students will complete one quarter of health each year in grades 6 - 8. The content of the course will consist of both health and PE standards-based instruction. PREREQUISITE: None

Career and Technology

Title: GTT6 Design & Modeling

Course Number: 17800000

Unit Credit: 0

Grade Level: 6

This unit uses solid modeling (a very sophisticated mathematical technique for representing solid objects) to introduce students to the design process. Utilizing this design approach, students understand how solid modeling has influenced their lives. Students also learn sketching techniques, and use descriptive geometry as a component of design, measurement, and computer modeling. Using design briefs or abstracts, students create models and documentation to solve problems.

Miscellaneous

Title: Peer Exploratory 6th

Course Number: 17010200

Unit Credit: 0

Grade Level: 6

This course provides 6th grade students the opportunity to pair with other students in order to provide cooperative learning in the exploratory setting.

Title: Character Ed 6th

Course Number: 17990200

Unit Credit: 0

Grade Level: 6

Character Education is a related arts class where students participate in activity based on universal virtues such as, integrity, cooperation, respect, and responsibility in order to make healthy and caring decisions and to develop self discipline that leads to a lifetime of success in all areas of life. PREREQUISITE: None

Title: ESOL 6th

Course Number: 17990300

Unit Credit: 0

Grade Level: 6

This course is designed for the student who has a primary language other than English, and is not proficient in listening, speaking, reading, writing, or comprehension in the English speaking classroom. Instruction will be provided in the areas of listening, speaking, reading, writing, and comprehension to assist students in classrooms where English is the language of instruction. Students will receive skills to aid in the transition to all academic areas, as well as help in the preparation for middle school formal tests. Limited English proficiency should be determined by an approved language assessment instrument. PREREQUISITE: Guidance Placement

Title: Study Topics 6th

Course Number: 17990400

Unit Credit: 0

Grade Level: 6

This course focuses on skills that students need to make better and more efficient use of study time. Students will actively engage in learning time management skills, study techniques, organizational skills, and test-taking strategies to strengthen their performance in the classroom. PREREQUISITE: None

Title: Broadcast Journ 6th

Course Number: 17992100

Unit Credit: 0

Grade Level: 6

In this course, students study journalism in a television broadcast setting. Study includes review of principles of journalism, writing, camera technique, research and interviewing, culminating in regular production of actual programming for in-school television and community viewing. PREREQUISITE: Teacher Recommendation