

HUGHES ACADEMY

OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



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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.

Hughes Academy

Academic Levels

Welcome to Hughes Academy!

Each student's current teachers select the academic level in which that student will be placed.

Several factors are considered when making this decision:

current progress, test scores, and grades.

If you feel that your child has been inappropriately placed, please contact his/her current teacher.

Challenge/Gifted and Talented (GT)

Criteria: Identified GT students in Grades 6-8 are currently served through the special class model. Qualified GT students are served via GT English Language Arts classes. English 6 GT, English 7 GT, and Grade 8 English 1 Honors* are designed to accelerate and enrich ELA content via deeper content connections, conversations, and critical thinking.

This model of gifted instruction is supported by the SC Department of Education. A curriculum overview is linked at the end of this page.

**NOTE: To enroll in English 6 GT, English 7 GT, and Grade 8 English 1 Honors, students must meet the SC Gifted Criteria. Non-GT qualified students may request enrollment in Grade 8 English 1 Honors but their enrollment is pending prerequisite grades, achievement scores, teacher recommendation, and space availability in the course sections.*

Advanced math classes are also offered in middle school but require prerequisite grades and test scores as well as teacher recommendation.

Math Recommendation Criteria:

7th Grade Math Recommendations:

- A student who took Math 6 should take Math 7 in 7th grade.
- A student who took Advanced Math 6/7 should be placed in the Accelerated Math 7 class if the following criteria are met:

***Students that are currently in Advanced Math 6/7 and not meeting the above criteria need to be placed in Math 7 next school year instead of Accelerated Math 7 class.*

8th Grade Math Recommendations:

- A student who took Math 7 should take Math 8 in 8th grade.
- A student who took Advanced Math 7/8 should be placed in the 8th Grade/Geometry with Statistics math class if the following criteria are met:
 - Scored at least an exceeds on SCReady their 6th grade year (or in 7th grade) ***The above criteria will be higher once those who were already on the accelerated pathway track before the new criteria was established have made it through the 'grandfathering period'.*
 - Maintains an average of 80 or above in math class
 - Maintains a good work ethic/self-motivation
 - Strong work ethic
 - Motivation
 - Affinity for mathematical reasoning and problem-solving
 - Computational proficiency
 - Ability to work at an accelerated pace.

*** Students in Advanced Math 7/8 and not meeting the above criteria need to be placed in Math 8 next school year instead of the 8th grade/Geometry with Statistics class.*

Other Considerations:

- Each year there are students who get misplaced in classes for varying reasons. We encourage ALL math teachers at the beginning of each school year to check the scores of all students in their math classes. If a teacher believes a student to be misplaced then they need to bring the appropriate criteria to admin/guidance to see about changing the student if appropriate. This process needs to occur as soon as possible as the student will have learning gaps to make up. The school should make sure those gaps are addressed with that student.

Parent Overrides: Parent overrides will not be accepted as students must meet the given criteria to receive advanced placement in middle school.

Teams

At Hughes Academy, we operate in a school-within-a-school framework. We have an administrator and a school counselor on each hall, and we have several teams in each grade level. A team is a group of teachers who work together. Teams are composed of teachers who specialize in different areas. Generally, there will be one teacher from each of the following fields: English, Math, Science, and Social Studies. Each student is strategically

placed in a team. Placement does not depend on ability level or performance. Teaming helps form a cohesive bond between students and teachers. During the year, your child's team will discuss his/her progress and implement a variety of strategies to ensure success. The team is also readily available to discuss issues as they arise.

Advisory

Every day, students will participate in an advisory period. They will use this time to engage in a collaborative environment focusing on Social Emotional learning, career exploration and executive functioning skills. They also will have time to plan and organize their week by checking grades and Google classroom assignments and work with teachers for extra help. Students will be encouraged to analyze their academic data and reflect on what they are doing well and what they need to work on.

Magnet Focus

We are a magnet school for Science, Technology, and Partial Spanish Immersion. We implement a STEAM curriculum and offer tracks of study in both technology and Spanish Immersion as part of our magnet program.

The **Tech Matrix for the 2025-2026 academic year** outlines a suggested track of study tailored to the technology interests of individual students. Importantly, there are no prerequisites for any courses, except for the 8th grade Auto Robotics course. For students interested in enrolling in 8th grade Auto Robotics, it is recommended that they have previously completed either the 6th or 7th grade Auto Robotics course. It is also noted that all courses will be offered depending on teacher staffing availability.

Multimedia:

- Broadcast Journalism
- Electronic Music

Computer Science:

- Video Gaming
- Web Publishing

Engineering:

- GTT Design and Modeling
- GTT Auto Robotics
- GTT Science of Technology
- GTT Medical Detectives
- GTT Flight and Space
- PLTW Engineering Essentials
- GTT Energy and the Environment

Graphics:

- Graphic Design
- Yearbook
- Intro to Graphic Communications

2025 – 2026 Hughes Academy Spanish Partial Immersion Program

This program is for Blythe Academy students, students from Spanish partial/full immersion schools, or native speakers. Students that did not attend the Blythe Academy of Languages Partial Immersion Program will be asked to take a brief target language screening to determine acceptance.

6th Graders will take:

- Advisory
- Social Studies in English
- English GT or Literature Studies
- Science
- Math
- Essential #1 Spanish Language Arts
- Essential #2
- Option A: PE and 1 Essential course
- Option B: Band/Strings and virtual PE

7th Graders will take:

- Advisory
- Social Studies in Spanish
- English GT or Literature Studies
- Science
- Math
- Essential #1 Honors Spanish Language Arts (Honors Elective high school credit)
- Essential #2
- Option A: PE and 1 Essential course
- Option B: Band/Strings and virtual PE

8th Graders will take:

- Advisory
- Social Studies in Spanish
- English I Honors or Lit/Lang Arts
- Science
- Math
- Essential #1 Honors Spanish Language Arts (Honors Elective high school credit)
- Essential #2
- Option A: PE and 1 Essential course
- Option B: Band/Strings and virtual PE*

Language Partial Immersion Goals for Greenville County:

1. Bilingualism and Bi-Literacy: Students develop a high level of oral and written proficiency in the target language and English.
2. Academic Excellence: Students achieve academic excellence in all subjects.
3. Interculturality: Students demonstrate the ability to behave in culturally appropriate ways when interacting with people and within the cultures of the languages studied.

Program Model for Middle School Partial Immersion in Greenville County

Blythe Academy currently employs a 50/50 model in which students spend 50% of the school day learning math, science, and skills in the second language. The target language is used 50% of the school day. At the middle school level, this partial immersion model will continue with two courses: Spanish Language Arts and Social Studies in Spanish. **In order to maintain program integrity, 6th grade students must be enrolled in Spanish Language Arts for an extended period of time and our 7th and 8th graders must take both Honors Spanish Language Arts and Social Studies in Spanish.** To be a part of the Partial Immersion Program, your child must be enrolled in both classes at the 7th and 8th grade levels.

The following courses are available at Hughes for 6th graders to take during essentials time (related arts)

Full Year Courses:

Band
Strings

Semester Courses:

Art
Beginner's Spanish
Computer Apps
Drama
Graphic Art and Design
GTT Design & Modeling
GTT Auto Robotics
Media Center/Guidance Aide

Course Descriptions

English

Title: English Studies 6
Unit Credit: 0
Grade Level: 6

Course Number: 10013100

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.

Title: English GT 6
Unit Credit: 0
Grade Level: 6

Course Number: 10013200

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)

Title: Reading Assistance 6th
Unit Credit: 0
Grade Level: 6

Course Number: 10240000

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

Title: Speech and Drama 6th
Unit Credit: 0
Grade Level: 6

Course Number: 10991000

This course is for students who are interested in improving their interpersonal communication skills and who wish to increase their confidence in delivering oral presentations. Instruction will encompass dramatic skills required for oral interpretation of standards-based literature. PREREQUISITE: None

Math

Title: Math 6th
Unit Credit: 0
Grade Level: 6

Course Number: 11100600

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

Title: Math 6th/7th
Unit Credit: 0
Grade Level: 6

Course Number: 11100700

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

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: 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: 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: Graphic Arts & Design 6th

Course Number: 1599A100

Unit Credit: 0

Grade Level: 6

This course will give the students an introduction to, and teaches the fundamentals, technology, skills and industry procedures used in graphic design industry. The students will be taught the theories behind successful graphic design and then be asked to apply them to real world projects. All students will use the same software found in the graphics business world

Title: Electronic Music

Course Number: 25999600

Unit Credit: 0

Grade Level: 6 - 8

This semester class will focus on using digital audio workstations (DAWs), along with virtual instruments and effects, for producing music and designing sounds to be used in various applications. There will be heavy focus on production techniques using pre-made instrument samples and arrangements or using the student's own compositions. The class will use computer-based automation software equipped with midi controllers for real-time interactivity and external controlling of production parameters. Students will get a feel for what it would be like to produce music, score film, compose with computers, and work in sound design. PREREQUISITE: None

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

Title: Spanish Language Arts 6th

Course Number: 16500600

Unit Credit: 0

Grade Level: 6

This course integrates authentic literature, grammar, vocabulary practice; culture and how it relates to today's world, and Pre-Advanced Placement support and practice. Students develop the ability to think critically about the language and cultures across a broad range of subjects. Students are expected to achieve a proficiency range of intermediate mid-high. This course is conducted entirely in Spanish. This course is a continuation of the partial immersion language program at Blythe Academy. It integrates authentic literature, grammar, vocabular practice; culture and how it relates to today's world, and Pre-Advanced Placement support and practice. Students develop the ability to think critically about the language and cultures across a broad range of subjects. Students are expected to acheive a proficiency range of intermediate mid-high. This course is conducted entirely in Spanish.

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.

Title: GTT6 Automation & Robotics

Course Number: 17810000

Unit Credit: 0

Grade Level: 6

Students trace the history and development of automation and robotics. They learn about structures, energy transfer, machine automation, and computer control systems. Students acquire knowledge and skills in engineering problem solving and explore requirements for careers in engineering.

Title: GTT6 Science of Technology

Course Number: 17860000

Unit Credit: 0

Grade Level: 6

Science impacts the technology of yesterday, today, and the future. In this unit, students apply the concepts of physics, chemistry, and nanotechnology to activities and projects, including making ice cream, cleaning up an oil spill, and discovering the properties of nano-materials.

Miscellaneous

Title: Exploratory PE 6th

Course Number: 14990000

Unit Credit: 0

Grade Level: 6

This course provides students with the opportunity to explore and learn information and skills in the area of physical education. 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