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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.

Riverside Middle School Registration

Rising 6th Graders

Welcome to Riverside Middle School! We are excited that you and your family will be joining us next year and we look forward to working together in the years to come. The transition to middle school is an exciting time when students begin to experience more opportunities and independence. The first step toward a positive middle school experience is successfully completing student registration. We are committed to working with you to make this transition as smooth as possible. This course catalog is intended to provide you with important information regarding the registration process. Registration for rising sixth graders is facilitated through all Greenville County elementary schools the week of February 24th.

All rising 6th grade students are required to take English, math, science, social studies, and PE/health. Placement in English and math courses is determined by district criteria and completed by 5th grade teachers. Parents will have the opportunity to review all academic course recommendations and assist their children with the requests of their related arts courses. In addition to these required courses, students will request a combination of three semesters of essential arts courses; 3 semester-long essential arts courses **OR** 1 year-long essential arts course **and** 1 semester-long essential arts course.

Essential arts courses are scheduled based on student requests, enrollment numbers, teacher allocations, and class sizes. The essential arts course offerings listed in the following pages are tentative and may change due to decisions made about the budget at the state and district level. As your student completes the registration process, please choose essential arts course requests wisely as **any requested essential arts courses may be used to complete student schedules.**

Riverside Middle School Registration Important Dates and Information

Rising 6th Grade Curriculum and Registration Resources

We are excited to be able to share some of the great things happening at RMS through our curriculum and registration slide show. A curriculum overview slide show can be found on the RMS website. This includes information about course offerings, registration details, a tour of our building, and video clips from our teachers and administrators.

February 24th-February 28th: 5th Grade Student Registration

Registration will be completed through Greenville County elementary schools.

NOTE: Each individual elementary school will set deadlines for required registration paperwork to be turned in by students. Please be sure you are aware of the deadline for turning in registration paperwork.

Academic Course Placement Policy

Students are recommended for their academic courses by their current teachers using district mandated criteria. The Greenville County School District develops course placement criteria based on student's grades and standardized test scores using many years of research and experience. These criteria are created with student success as the highest priority.

Riverside Middle School

6th Grade Academic Courses

All rising 6th grade students are required to take English, math, science, social studies, and physical education/health. Placement in English and math classes is determined by district criteria. Elementary school teachers are responsible for completing recommendations for their students. These recommendations will be visible to students and parents during the on-line registration process. Parents will have the opportunity to review all academic course recommendations and assist their children with their essential arts course requests and alternate requests. In addition to required courses, students will request 3 semester-long essential arts courses **OR** 1 year-long essential arts course and 1 semester-long essential arts course.

LANGUAGE ARTS REQUIREMENT (1 Required)

English Studies 6

English GT 6 - Student must meet district criteria for placement.

MATH REQUIREMENT (1 Required)

Math 6

Advanced Math 6 - Student must meet district criteria for placement.

SCIENCE REQUIREMENT (1 Required)

Science 6

SOCIAL STUDIES REQUIREMENT (1 Required)

Social Studies 6

YEAR-LONG ACADEMIC SUPPORT CLASS (1 Required)

Exploratory 6 - Students not taking a Literacy Lab or ESOL class will take Exploratory 6.

Literacy Lab (R180) - Student must be recommended by special education teacher.

Intensive Literacy Lab (CODE) - Student must be recommended by special education teacher.

ESOL 6 - Student must be recommended by ESOL teacher.

NOTE:

Any concerns regarding academic placement must be addressed with the current 5th grade teacher. This process must be completed at the student's elementary school during the registration window.

Riverside Middle School

6th Grade Essential Arts Courses

Students have the opportunity to take a variety of essential arts courses and explore different interests during their three years at Riverside Middle. In addition to the four core academic classes and one semester of PE/Health, students will request 3 semester-long essential arts courses **OR** 1 year-long essential arts course and 1 semester-long essential arts course. You will have the opportunity to review all academic course recommendations and assist your student with his/her essential arts requests and alternate requests.

NOTE: Essential arts classes are scheduled based on course requests, enrollment numbers, teacher allocations, and class size.

REQUIRED ESSENTIAL ARTS COURSE

PE/Health 6 (semester)

YEAR LONG ESSENTIAL ARTS COURSES

Band 6

Strings 6

NOTE: Band and Strings students will need to rent their own instruments. Information regarding instrument selection and rental will be provided the first week of class. In order to participate in middle school band or strings, students must begin in 6th grade.

SEMESTER-LONG ESSENTIAL ARTS COURSES

Art 6

Career Education 6

Chorus 6

Foundational Teen Leadership

Graphic Arts and Design

GTT 6 Automation & Robotics

Guitar 6

Keyboarding 6

Spanish 6 Beginner

Theatre 6

Course Descriptions

English

Title: English Studies 6

Course Number: 10013100

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.

Title: English GT 6

Course Number: 10013200

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)

Math

Title: Math 6th

Course Number: 11100600

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

Title: Math 6th/7th

Course Number: 11100700

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

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: 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: Guitar 6th

Course Number: 15995200

Unit Credit: 0

Grade Level: 6

This course provides beginning-level instruction in guitar. 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 of 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: 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

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 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: Career Education 6th

Course Number: 18300000

Unit Credit: 0

Grade Level: 6

This course introduces the students to the careers that are available to them after their education. Students are given a chance to research and explore various careers as well as learn about the skills that are needed for a particular occupation. During this time, the students are also introduced to the career clusters that are used in the district. **PREREQUISITE:** None

Title: Keyboarding 6

Course Number: 18510000

Unit Credit: 0

Grade Level: 6

This course is designed to provide an opportunity for students to master the skill of entering alphabetic, numeric, and symbolic information on a keyboard and a ten-key pad using the touch method of keystroking. Emphasis is placed on development of accuracy and speed, proper techniques, and correct fingering. Formatting of basic documents will be introduced. **PREREQUISITE:** None

Miscellaneous

Title: Exploratory 6
Unit Credit: 0
Grade Level: 6

Course Number: 17010100

This course provides students with the opportunity to explore and learn information and skills that will enhance their academic and personal lives in middle school. PREREQUISITE: None

Title: Study Topics 6th
Unit Credit: 0
Grade Level: 6

Course Number: 17990400

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: Visionary Teen Leadership
Unit Credit: 0
Grade Level: 6 - 8

Course Number: 27991300

Teen Leadership begins with a review of concepts learned in Foundational Teen Leadership, so that trust and safety can be established in a new setting, with new classmates. The course continues with Chapters 8 and 9 of the Teen Leadership Curriculum, covering: the importance of affirmation and listening skills; making meaningful relationships; understanding family types; the influence of vision on the future; developing a vision; how one's approach to life determines how one accepts responsibility, and how it affects reaction to people and events; balancing dreams with reality; and, having a sense of purpose. With each chapter, students continue to develop confidence and build skills in delivering speeches. Each instructor will have Capturing Kids' Hearts training and be curriculum certified by the Flippen Group.

Title: Responsible Teen Leadership
Unit Credit: 0
Grade Level: 6 - 8

Course Number: 27991400

Responsible Teen Leadership begins with a review of concepts learned in Foundational Teen Leadership, so that trust and safety can be established in a new setting, with new classmates. The course continues with Chapters 5, 6, and 7 of the Teen Leadership Curriculum, covering: the connections between choices and consequences; taking responsibility for their one's own actions; what it means to live a principled life; examination and practice of concepts of effective communication; positive and negative peer pressure; and, defending and rescuing skills. With each chapter, students continue to develop confidence and build skills in delivering speeches. Each instructor will have Capturing Kids' Hearts training and be curriculum certified by the Flippen Group.

Title: Foundational Teen Leadership
Unit Credit: 0
Grade Level: 6 - 8

Course Number: 27998200

Foundational Teen Leadership is composed of the first four chapters of the Teen Leadership curriculum created by the Flippen Group, and is designed to produce quality leaders. The course covers: goals and relationships; the importance of first impressions; the process of reframing; internal and external qualities of leaders; emotional intelligence; the difference between image and self-concept; the relationship between public self and private self; the importance of values to leaders; and, community service. With each chapter, students develop confidence and build skills in delivering speeches. Each instructor will have Capturing Kids' Hearts training and be curriculum certified by the Flippen Group.