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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.



NORTHWEST MIDDLE SCHOOL

1606 Geer Highway

Travelers Rest, South Carolina 29690

(864) 355-6900

www.greenville.k12.sc.us/northwst

SIXTH GRADE COURSE CATALOG

ADMINISTRATION

Principal	Dr. Patrick Jarrett
Assistant Principal	Mr. Daniel Greene
Administrative Assistants	Ms. Tasha Brockman Ms. Melissa Grimsley
Instructional Specialist	Dr. Heather Gordon
Instructional Coach	Ms. Angela Bruce

GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT

Counselors	Ms. Naila Ray-6th Grade Ms. Hannah Rogers-7th Grade Ms. Jamie Burgs-8th Grade
Student Records	Mrs. Sharon Smith

Welcome to Northwest Middle School!!!

At Northwest Middle School we are always striving to offer our students a variety of learning experiences that help students grow academically and personally. To that end we offer a wealth of opportunities within academics, arts, and athletics that enable students to develop and thrive. We hope that you will use the course catalog to help you determine what opportunities will help position your child for success. We are always here to help, so please let us know do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns. Together we will help your child succeed and have a great year!

Patrick Jarrett
Principal
Northwest Middle School

The Northwest Middle School community unites to achieve academic excellence and personal success!

Planning Your Education

Northwest Middle School provides this course curriculum guide as a means of assisting students and parents in understanding and planning their student's course of study. Students are encouraged to carefully select related arts courses during the registration process. School counselors and teachers will assist and answer any questions that may arise. Parents are encouraged to actively participate by assisting their student.

The information included in this curriculum guide provides the different types of classes that will be offered to your child at Northwest Middle. Northwest is already working with the 5th grade teachers and counselors to ensure that your student is placed in the appropriate academic courses.

Related arts classes are scheduled based upon student requests. Although Northwest will strive to honor student requests, we cannot guarantee that all students will receive all of their course requests due to scheduling conflicts and changes in course offerings. Please be aware, the school builds a master schedule and employs teachers based upon students' course requests; therefore, schedule changes will only be considered on a very limited basis.

Teaming

Currently, the 6th grade is comprised of three separate teams. Your child will be assigned to one of these teams. It is this team that will provide your student with all academic courses of English, Math, Science and Social Studies, as well as homeroom. Related Arts courses are not teamed. Students from all three teams will be merged together for related arts courses.

The teaming concept allows a core group of teachers the opportunity to provide a more student centered approach to learning by allowing them to focus on a fewer number of students. Northwest has found that building that relationship component with the students and families has had a direct impact on student achievement.

Courses for 6th Graders:

All 6th grade students will take the following core classes:

1. English 6 Studies or English 6 GT (Must qualify as Gifted and Talented as defined by GCS)
2. Math 6 or Math 6/7 (determined by standardized test scores, math grades, and teacher recommendation)
3. Science 6
4. Social Studies 6

Related Arts Courses:

All students are required to complete one semester of P.E./Health 6 by state law. This course will automatically be scheduled. There are two options on how the remaining related arts can be selected:

Option 1: Three (3) semester courses.

OR

Option 2: One (1) semester course and one (1) year long course.

YOU DO NOT HAVE TO SELECT A YEAR LONG COURSE. If you choose to select a year long course, you may only select one.

Additionally, all students will be scheduled into a homeroom.

RELATED ARTS INFORMATION

Semester Long Courses

PE (Required)

General Music

Art

Piano

Student Assistant

Math Assistance

Academic Literacy

Computer Tech

Video Gaming

Year Long Courses

Band

Chorus

Academic Support

Academic Literacy and Math Assistance are semester courses that are designed to provide students with additional support and academic services in English/Language Arts and Math. Placement is determined by Spring SC Ready scores. Any parent interested in their student enrolling in these classes should contact the grade level counselor.

Academic Standards

For academic areas, state standards guide both curriculum and classroom instruction. Each teacher outlines his/her projected plans both academically and procedurally in a course syllabus available online and by request in print form. South Carolina standards are located at www.ed.sc.gov.

Athletics

Students are eligible to try-out for various sports beginning in seventh grade. Students will be held to the same guidelines for try-outs and conditioning as high school students. Announcements and information will be sent out at various times during the year regarding different activities.

Currently we have football, cheerleading, basketball, volleyball, softball, baseball, and soccer. If a sport is not offered at NWMS, students in 7th and 8th grade may try-out for a team through Travelers Rest High School. For athletic related information, please contact the Athletic Director, Tariq Caudle, at the school.

Clubs and Organizations

Students are encouraged to join clubs and organizations. Throughout the year, sponsors for various activities will announce meetings and projects. Being involved in our school will help create a more positive experience and will help our school be more successful. Clubs can be started with an approved advisor and approval from the Principal.

We have the following clubs/organizations at Northwest Middle: Beta, Yearbook, Pep Squad, and Student Council.

School Counseling Services

Students are encouraged to visit our counseling department. Some of the services provided include: basic counseling, career counseling, student/student conflicts, schedule planning, time-management and study skills.

If an appointment is needed, students and/or parents should contact the grade level counselor. If there is an emergency, please report directly to the guidance or administrative offices.

Parent Conferences

Parents are strongly encouraged to stay in contact with their child's teacher. Parent conferences can be scheduled during the teacher's planning time, before school, or after school. In order to provide the best supervision and instruction to all students, parents are asked not to interrupt classes. The office staff will be glad to have the teacher contact you to schedule a conference. When questions or concerns arise, parents may contact the teacher by e-mail, a note with your student or in the student agenda or by leaving a message with the front office. Administrators will be happy to meet with parents as needed after a conference has occurred with the teacher.

Parent Portal

The Greenville County School District offers a Parent Portal, an on-line grading system. Please refer to www.greenville.k12.sc.us to access your student's grades. Contact the school office to obtain password information.

Parent/Teacher Organization (PTA)

Regular meetings will be held during the school year. Our PTA organizes and supports a number of events and programs in our school. Get involved and join the PTA today! We expect all parents to join and support the work of the PTA.

School Improvement Council

Northwest Middle School has developed a School Improvement Council (SIC) consisting of community members, students, parents, and staff members. This group works in conjunction with the principal and the school to develop a mission for the Northwest Middle School SIC. For more information on becoming a member of the SIC, please contact the principal.

Strategies to Help You Handle Potential Academic Problems

The primary goal of Northwest Middle School is the education of our students. We have established a variety of systems to help students with academic problems.

- Make certain you understand assignments.
- Use the handbook/agenda to write down your assignments.
- Complete all assignments at school or at home.
- Ask for extra help when needed – free tutoring is available!
- Ask the teacher for extra assignments to increase your understanding.
- Seek help from the guidance department to improve your study skills.

Proven Study Skills!

- Make and keep a study schedule that works for you.
- Study in a quiet place – the same place each day.
- Gather materials needed before you begin.
- Maintain a well-kept notebook for each class.
- Study in spurts of 30 minutes with 5 minute breaks.
- You should study approximately 2 hours per night.
- Take good notes.
- Frequently review your notes, quizzes, tests and related materials.
- Read for meaning and put it into your own words.
- Research shows that studying is good for you!

Textbooks

Students will be assigned textbooks for some subjects. It is the student's responsibility to take care of and keep up with textbooks. If a textbook is lost or damaged, the student will be responsible for making payments as deemed necessary. Students who tamper with or remove the barcode from their book will be assessed a fine.

Tutoring Time

Every NWMS teacher provides on-going tutoring times and tutoring is open to all students.

Specific tutoring times for all teachers will be made available at the beginning of the school year and posted on the school website as well as each teacher's website.

Volunteers

Volunteers are welcome and appreciated at Northwest Middle School. All volunteers must complete annual paperwork required by the Greenville County School District before volunteering in any Northwest activity or project. This policy is designed with the safety and security of all students in mind. Volunteers are needed for a variety of reasons. Please contact the PTA or the school for further details.

Website & Social Media

Our website and social media (Facebook) are important communication tools for our school. Not only do they showcase life at NWMS, they also contain announcements, upcoming events, and important dates that are of interest to school stakeholders. Additionally, the link to the parent portal is on the website. Please consult the school should you have any questions about any information contained on the website or social media.

Students should experience success if they:

- Come to school each day prepared and ready to learn.
- Accept responsibility for their learning and behavior.

- Use appropriate organizational skills including recording assignments.
- Complete all assignments on time.
- Reflect on their learning each day.
- Communicate with their parents about school.
- Are willing to ask questions and ask for help.

Course Descriptions

English

Title: English Studies 6

Course Number: 10013100

Unit Credit: 0

Grade Level: 6

This course is designed to meet the needs of those students whose reading and language arts skills are sufficient to allow them to read more difficult texts, analyze what they have read more deeply, and respond without difficulty to the text in writing. The students in this course do not require foundational instruction in reading strategies; however, they will continue to receive instruction in more sophisticated reading practices that prepare the student for literary analysis. All writing instruction, vocabulary development, and research opportunities will be in response to a text read. Students can expect instruction to move at an accelerated pace. Placement recommendations: Students should meet two or more of the following criteria: Teacher recommendation; ACT Aspire Reading score of 416-424 in 5th grade; 5th grade MAP RIT scores 213-236 in Reading

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. Placement recommendations: Identified as GTA (Gifted and Talented Academic)

Title: Journalism 6th

Course Number: 10990200

Unit Credit: 0

Grade Level: 6

In this class, students plan, write, and publish the student newspaper. Students understand, practice, and learn strategies necessary to generate ideas, report, and write stories. They conduct research, interview, prioritize information, and master editing and proofreading skills. In addition, students analyze the journalism Code of Ethics and identify common photojournalism practices. PREREQUISITE: None

Math

Title: Math Assistance 6th

Course Number: 11010000

Unit Credit: 0

Grade Level: 6

This course offers students remediation and additional assistance in math skills in support of on grade level instruction in the regular math classroom. PREREQUISITE: Guidance Placement

Title: Math 6

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 6/7

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 6
Unit Credit: 0
Grade Level: 6

Course Number: 12010000

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 6
Unit Credit: 0
Grade Level: 6

Course Number: 13010000

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
Unit Credit: 0
Grade Level: 6

Course Number: 15010000

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
Unit Credit: 0
Grade Level: 6

Course Number: 15310000

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
Unit Credit: 0
Grade Level: 6

Course Number: 15410000

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: General Music 6th
Unit Credit: 0
Grade Level: 6

Course Number: 15610000

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: Piano Keyboarding 6th
Unit Credit: 0
Grade Level: 6

Course Number: 15990200

This class is an opportunity for students to learn the fundamentals of piano keyboarding. Students will learn the skill of reading music and will work on eye-hand coordination. Simple musical compositions will be practiced and performed. 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

Miscellaneous

Title: Computer Tech 6

Course Number: 17010000

Unit Credit: 0

Grade Level: 6

This course provides the student an opportunity to work with word processing, spreadsheets, and PowerPoint presentations. PREREQUISITE:

Keyboarding skills

Title: Exploratory 6

Course Number: 17010100

Unit Credit: 0

Grade Level: 6

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: Skill Building 6th

Course Number: 17990100

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: 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: Research Skills 6th

Course Number: 17991200

Unit Credit: 0

Grade Level: 6

This course provides students with training in the methodology and techniques of primary and secondary research in both print and non-print media, including electronic. PREREQUISITE: None

Title: Academic Literacy 6th

Course Number: 17992800

Unit Credit: 0

Grade Level: 6

This class will teach strategies and support textbook and print literacy across the curriculum, to include strengthening skills to break down linguistically represented prompts. PREREQUISITE: Teacher Recommendation