



Blue Ridge Middle School

Reaching, Teaching, Inspiring!

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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.

Related Arts Information

During the two semesters students will take up to four related arts classes. Classes are set up as semester or year long classes. The length of the class will determine how many related arts students have during the year.

6th Grade

Students who are taking Band, Strings or Chorus will choose this related arts first. (Year long class)
Each student must choose PE and or Health. (Semester class) These students will then choose one from the following list:

- Art
- GTT Computer Science for Innovators
- GTT Magic of Electrons
- Creative Writing
- GTT Design Model
- General Music
- Skill Building (students who need extra academic help)

Students who are not taking Band, Strings or Chorus: You will choose PE and or Health. A student may choose both PE and Health but must choose at least one. Then you will choose two or three of the following: Art, GTT Computer Science for Innovators, GTT Magic of Electrons, Creative Writing , GTT DesignModel, General Music or Skill Building (students who need extra academic help.).

These are only requests. Sometimes changes have to be made in a student's schedule due to the number of students that have requested a related art. Our teacher allocation is based on numbers and frequently there are changes that have to be made due to teacher allocations.

The Dilemma of the Adolescent

There is something I don't know that I am supposed to know.
I don't know what it is I don't know, and yet am supposed to know
and I feel I look stupid if I seem both not to know it and not know what it is I don't know.
Therefore, I pretend I know it.
This is nerve-racking since I don't know what I must pretend to know.
Therefore I pretend to know everything.
I feel you know what I am supposed to know, but you can't tell me what it is because you don't know that I don't know what it is.
You may know what I don't know, but not that I don't know it, and I can't tell you. So you will have to tell me everything.

R.D. Laing

The Typical Middle School Child

- Wants to belong to a group and may conform to peer group values and authority.
- May change friends often.
- Is very interested in social group interactions and may overreact to any form of rejection.
- Is very sensitive to the criticism of others, but may be self-critical.
- Is preoccupied with physical appearance.
- May be restless or anxious.
- Will likely procrastinate.
- Will be responsive to fads.
- May cry or anger easily.
- Needs authority and guidance from parents, although he or she may openly reject it

Criteria for Gifted and Talented Placement

The School District of Greenville County provides programs for Gifted and Talented Students to challenge them with rigorous, complex class work and research. Gifted students may demonstrate high performance ability or potential in academic areas. Administrators, parents, teachers, and students may make referrals for students to be screened.

However, students must meet the state criteria before being placed in the Challenge program. Identification in academic areas will be made using multiple criteria. Students who meet the criteria in two of the three dimensions are eligible for placement. All students currently in the program will continue to be served.

Students may qualify automatically with an extremely high aptitude or IQ score at 96th percentile or higher for their age group. If students do not qualify solely on aptitude, this process will be used for screening:

- **In Dimension A - Reasoning Abilities** Students must demonstrate high aptitude (93rd national age percentile or above) in one or more of these areas: verbal, nonverbal, quantitative and/or a composite of the three.
- **In Dimension B - Academic Achievement** Students must demonstrate high achievement (94th national percentile and above or advanced status) in reading and/or math as measured by a nationally normed or South Carolina statewide assessment instruments.
- **In Dimension C - Intellectual/Academic Performance** Students must demonstrate a high degree of interest in and commitment to academic and/or intellectual pursuits, or demonstrate intellectual characteristics such as curiosity/inquiry, reflection, persistence/tenacity in the face of challenge and creative, productive thinking. Rising third, fourth, fifth, and sixth grade students may be eligible to take the Performance Task Test in March if they have already met the criteria in Dimension A or Dimension B. Beginning with grade 7, students must have a 3.75 GPA on a 4.0 scale to meet the criteria in Dimension C.

Students must meet the criteria in two of these three dimensions to participate in the Gifted and Talented Program.

Results of private testing will not be accepted for placing students in the Challenge program.

Contact

Program Coordinator: Jane Snyder

Phone: (864) 355-4820 or (864) 355-4821

Fax: (864) 355-4884

6th Grade Courses

Science and Social Studies-6th grade level

Math 6

Math 6/7 (Advanced math)

English Studies

English GT- Challenge

School Information

Karen Bullard, Principal
Sandra Taylor, Assistant Principal
Jay Grady, Assistant Principal
Ross Pruitt, Administrative Assistant

Guidance Counselors

Lisa Loftis - 355-1904
Sara Broome - 355-1913
Emily Holtzclaw - 355-1957

Career Facilitator

Beverly Wilbanks- 355-1994

Guidance Clerk

Cindy Batson - 355-1903

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: Creative Writing 6th

Unit Credit: 0

Grade Level: 6

This course, designed for students interested in written expression, includes a study of the various forms of poetry, fiction, and nonfiction. Students will create portfolios of their own creative writing and experiment with various forms of expression. PREREQUISITE: None

Course Number: 10992200

Math

Title: Math 6

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 6/7

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 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: Band 6 Percussion
Unit Credit: 0
Grade Level: 6

Course Number: 15311000

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
Unit Credit: 0
Grade Level: 6

Course Number: 15311600

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: Guitar 6th

Course Number: 1538A100

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: 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

Physical Education

Title: Health 6

Course Number: 14010000

Unit Credit: 0

Grade Level: 6

Enrollment in this course fulfills the state law requiring 9 weeks of health education every year for all students in grades 6 - 8. Course content focuses on teaching students the information and the skills needed to become health literate, maintain and improve personal health, prevent disease, and reduce health-related risk behaviors as outlined in the SC Health and Safety Curriculum Standards. The course also focuses on evaluating, advocating, and coordinating valid resources and services to meet the needs of students, families, and communities. Course content areas include Personal Health and Wellness, Nutritional Choices, Mental Health, Preventing Injuries, Family Living, and Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs. PREREQUISITE: None

Title: Phys Education 6

Course Number: 14400000

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. Course content focuses on teaching students the four SC Middle School PE Student Performance criteria as mandated by the SC Department of Education. Students will demonstrate the abilities, concepts, knowledge, and skills required to:1) demonstrate competence in modified versions of activities in three movement forms as identified in the SCPEAP standards;2) demonstrate knowledge of the five components of fitness and the F.I.T.T. principle on a written test;3) participate regularly in health-enhancing physical activity outside the physical education class;4) meet the gender and age group health-related physical fitness standard as described by the National Association for Sport and Physical Education. 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 Comp Science for Innovators

Course Number: 17850000

Unit Credit: 0

Grade Level: 6

Throughout the unit, students will learn about programming for the physical world by blending hardware design and software development, allowing students to discover computer science concepts and skills by creating personally relevant, tangible, and shareable projects.

Title: GTT6 Magic of Electrons

Course Number: 17870000

Unit Credit: 0

Grade Level: 6

In this unit, students examine the behavior and parts of atoms as well as the impact of electricity on the world around them. They learn skills in basic circuitry design and use what they know to propose designs such as a burglar alarm for an art museum.

Miscellaneous

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: 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: 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

Title: Service Learning

Course Number: 27993900

Unit Credit: 0

Grade Level: 6 - 8

Service Learning is designed for participants to learn and develop through active participation in thoughtfully organized service experiences that meet community needs through a collaboration between the school and community. It provides students with opportunities to use newly acquired skills and knowledge in real-life situations in their own communities. The course emphasizes essential life skills such as effective communication, problem solving, goal setting, and teamwork. Students will address real-life problems and make meaningful contributions to the school and community. The emphasis will be on planning, serving, and evaluating. PREREQUISITE: None