

Middle school students who are interested in taking courses for high school credit or learning more about accelerated graduation should see their school counselor.

SIXTH GRADE

English Language Arts

The Common Core State Standards (CCSS) expect students to build on strengths and prior skills to prepare for a 21st Century global society. Within this course, key features include reading, writing, speaking and listening, and language development. A major component is the integration of literacy through history, social studies, science and technology. Using a thematic approach, students will gain knowledge through information and fictional texts to master skills. Students will take a statewide End-of-Grade (EOG) test to determine their proficiency and growth.

Mathematics

Based on the common Core State Standards (CCSS), the sixth grade math course builds upon students' elementary knowledge by providing opportunities to

discover relationships among area, surface area and volume. Major emphasis will be placed on areas of triangles and parallelograms to help students extend formulas to include fractional lengths as well as surface area and volume of right rectangular prisms. Students will expand the scope of problems for which they can use multiplication and division to foster problem-solving and to connect fractions and ratios. Students will develop an understanding of statistical thinking with an emphasis on analyzing data through graphs, tables and other visual representations. Students will use properties of operations and the idea of maintaining equality of both sides of an equation to solve one-step equations. Students will take a statewide EOG test to determine their proficiency and growth.

Science

Students will use scientific reasoning, logical reasoning, and explanations to make sense and collect evidence of earth's structures, the solar system, the structure and process of plants, ecosystems and the flow of energy, properties of matter, properties of waves,

and energy conservation and transfer.

Social Studies

This course takes a chronological, global approach as opposed to a regional approach. The course will include the emergence, expansion, and decline of civilizations and societies from the beginning of human existence to the Age of Exploration. Students will examine the development of economic, political, and social systems on every continent through the lens of change and continuity.

Band

Students are introduced to basic music principles in this year-long course. Students will choose an instrument, learn the techniques necessary to produce a good tone, learn to count simple rhythms, identify pitches and basic music symbols, and develop a respect and appreciation for different genres of music.

Chorus

Emphasis is placed on introducing fundamental vocal skills and performing as a vocal ensemble. Students learn to develop steady tone and accurate pitch placement, sing rounds, partner songs and 2-

part harmony, read musical notation, rhythm and melody, and interpret the gestures of a conductor.

Dramatic Arts

Course available as staffing permits.

Students will use physical movement, voice elements and the effectiveness of using these for the stage. They will distinguish dialogue, stage directions and plot in scripts. They will understand the elements of spectacle and its contribution to a production. Students will know the beginnings of theatre, as well as various cultural differences, audience etiquette, and the production process, with emphasis on the director's responsibilities.

Visual Arts

Students will be able to use appropriate vocabulary to describe art, using the elements of art and principles of design, types of media, various processes and styles. They will understand the elements to aid in planning and creation of personal art. They will be able to identify artists' styles and recognize how artists use elements and principles in creation of their art. Students will be able to generate solutions to artistic problems, as well as observe the environment to

create original imagery as a means of self-expression. Students will use tools and media appropriately to maintain a safe and orderly workspace and create art using a variety of 2-D and 3-D media and techniques. Students will analyze art from various historical periods and how geographical location and physical environment effect subject matter, specifically South American and European art.

SEVENTH GRADE

English Language Arts

This is a theme-based course based on the Common Core State Standards (CCSS), with emphasis on both literature and informational text. The units are supplemented with side topics and excursions into related subjects. Students write responses to literature, reflective essays, and stories. They also create multimedia presentations. By the end of 7th grade, they are ready to begin studying complex aspects of literature. Students will take a statewide End-of-Grade (EOG) test to determine their proficiency and growth.

Mathematics

Students will develop understanding of proportional relationships in real world problems that involve percentages and unit rates. Students will also develop understanding of mathematical operations with decimals, fractions, and positive and negative numbers and use them in algebraic equations and expressions. Students will solve problems involving scale drawings and measurements of 2-dimensional and 3-dimensional shapes, including area, surface area, and volume. Students will collect data, analyze it, and make predictions based on patterns found in the data. Students will investigate probability of events.

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Middle school students taking high school courses should demonstrate greater independence and responsibility. Course content, pace and academic rigor place higher expectations on the student. The courses provide credit toward a high school diploma and the final

grade will appear on the student's high school transcript. Students in Algebra I must take the required End-of-Course (EOC) test, with the exam counting 25% of the final grade.

Science

Students will use scientific reasoning, logical reasoning, and explanations to make sense and collect evidence of forces and motion, conservation and transfer of energy, earth systems, structures and processes specific to the earth's atmosphere, weather, climate, and the structures and functions of living organisms to carry out basic functions of life and genetics.

Social Studies

This course resumes and expands upon the chronological and historical foundations that were presented in the 6th grade standards. Seventh grade students will be investigating the progression of human events from the Age of Exploration to present day. Through this historical prism, concepts and events such as The Reformation, The Renaissance, revolutions, world conflicts, and the development of modern

political and economic systems will be illuminated. Although this course of study may appear to reflect a classic Western civilization course, the influence will always be on how these events influenced today's world. Additionally, the impact of geography, migrations, and environmental factors on these events will be explored.

At the end of this course, the learner will be able to use geographic tools, apply historical thinking to interpret modern events, describe world economic systems and develop personal financial literacy skills.

7th & 8th Grade Band

Students will continue to develop music skills in this year-long course. Students will learn to count more complex rhythms, extend their pitch range on the instrument, and identify more advanced music symbols and notation. Students will study time periods in music history and basic music theory concepts. Students will have the opportunity to perform regularly in large ensembles.

Chorus

Emphasis is placed on developing fundamental

vocal and choral techniques and the acquisition of skills essential to accurate interpretation of a musical score. Students learn about the expressive interpretation of music, including dynamics, phrasing, and articulation. Students are exposed to beginner/intermediate level vocal literature and are provided an opportunity to explore and develop their abilities in music.

Participation in concert performances outside of class hours is required.

Dramatic Arts

Course available as staffing permits. Students will write, rehearse, and perform scenes, becoming someone other than who they are including using voice elements and characterization. Students will continue to break down a script to define elements of a play. They will use spectacle to contribute to formal and informal acting. They will understand and create scenes based on history and culture from Africa, Asia and Australia. Students will continue to use collect audience etiquette. They will focus on the playwright's role.

Graphics

Course available as staffing permits. In this exploratory course, students will study

Proper Technology Lab behavior and safety, measuring, basic computer networking, desktop publishing software, Microsoft Paint, PowerPoint, advertising, Inspiration software, digital photography basics, computer animation, Photo Story 3, calligraphy, and an introduction to Hypertext Markup Language. These skills will allow students to produce excellent products for their classes throughout their school careers. Students will be able to make the best of the digital photography units if they have access to a digital camera they can bring to class. Technology-based career opportunities associated with the skills learned during this class continue to grow throughout the world.

Visual Arts

Students will use the language of visual arts to communicate effectively. Students will apply creative and critical thinking skills to artistic expression. Students will create art using a variety of tools, media and processes safely. Students will understand the global, historical, societal, and cultural contexts of the visual arts. They will be able to understand relationships to geography, history and culture of

modern society from the first global age to the present, with an emphasis on African, Asian, and Australian art. Students will understand life applications. They will analyze careers in art, select skills and information needed from other disciplines, implement collaborative planning, and interpret visual images from media sources and the environment.

Computer Skills & Applications

This course is designed to provide hands-on instruction in basic keyboarding skills, computer concepts, and software applications. The software applications include word processing, desktop publishing, spreadsheets, databases, and multimedia presentation. English language arts and mathematics are reinforced. The course content includes activities which are geared toward workplace readiness.

EIGHTH GRADE

English Language Arts

This course will reflect the movement towards 21st Century skills that are represented throughout the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). Through reading, writing, speaking, listening, language and

media/technology, students will build on previously learned literacy skills in order to successfully transition to high school. Students will read and analyze diverse, challenging literary and informational text to meet the demands of higher education and future careers. Students will demonstrate knowledge gained from reading by producing logical, clear, coherent writing that utilizes research practices and critical thinking skills. Presentations generated through the research process will develop and enhance student communication with emphasis on vocabulary development and language skills, including grammar, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling. The use of technology and media will support and advance student growth. Students will take a statewide End-of-Grade (EOG) test to determine their proficiency and growth.

Mathematics

Students will distinguish between rational and irrational numbers and be able to order them. Students will investigate square roots and exponents using positive and negative numbers. They will understand the connections between two quantities,

predict relationships, and solve linear equations and pairs of linear equations. Students will analyze tables and graphs to determine which function/equation rule applies. By looking at geometric figures, students will determine if they are similar or congruent and find missing measures. They will manipulate three dimensional figures to determine the effect it will have on surface area and volume. By the end of the course, students will be able to investigate, collect, and interpret real-world data to find patterns. Students will take a statewide EOG test to determine their proficiency and growth.

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Algebra I must take the required End-of-Course (EOC) test, with the exam counting 25% of the final grade.

Science

Students will use scientific reasoning, logical reasoning, and explanations to make sense and collect evidence of the properties of matter, the hydrosphere including water quality and water distribution, the structure and function of cells, management and use of resources within ecosystems, and earth's geological history. Students will take a statewide EOG test to determine their proficiency and growth.

Social Studies

This course offers a historical overview of North Carolina and the United States from the Revolutionary Era to contemporary times. The events that shaped our nation and state will be explored through history, geography, economics, government and culture. A study of primary source documents will be featured.

7th & 8th Grade Band

Students will continue to develop music skills in this year-long course. Students will learn to count more complex rhythms, extend

their pitch range on the instrument, and identify more advanced music symbols and notation. Students will study time periods in music history and basic music theory concepts. Students will have the opportunity to perform regularly in large ensembles.

Chorus

Emphasis is placed on developing fundamental vocal and choral techniques and the acquisition of skills essential to accurate interpretation of a musical score. Students are exposed to a wide variety of vocal literature and are provided an opportunity to explore and develop their abilities in music. Chorus also offers opportunities for students to develop team building and leadership skills. This is a performance-based class. Participation in concert performances outside of class hours is required.

Dramatic Arts

Course available as staffing permits. Students will write plays using Celtx. They will act in and direct student-written plays using characterization. They will critique plays and use spectacle and technical elements to enhance student productions. Students will write and act

scenes with an emphasis on North Carolina, the United States, and North America. Students will continue to use appropriate audience etiquette.

Exploring Technology Systems

This course allows students to explore basic technological concepts and principles and related career fields. Topics include design and problem solving, technology assessment, technology systems, technical sketching, CAD, graphic design, modeling skills, computer systems, electronics, and audio/visual production. Activities are structured to integrate physical and social sciences, mathematics, English, and fine arts.

Publications

This course provides students with the opportunity to demonstrate their communication skills in a variety of ways. With a significant portion of the course dedicated to producing the school yearbook, students work to enhance their written and graphic design skills using numerous technological applications to create a meaningful depiction of the school year. Additionally,

class participants are expected to perform the multiple functions needed to run the morning news show, including script writing, segment development, and public speaking. In many ways, course activities require student communication with local business owners, educational professionals, and other students, which will help to prepare them for postsecondary schooling as well as future employment.

Visual Arts

Students will use the language of visual arts to communicate effectively. Students will apply creative and critical thinking skills to create art that uses the best solution to identify problems, apply observation skills and personal experiences while conveying one or more ideas or feelings. Students will create art using a variety of tools, media and processes safely and be able to evaluate techniques and processes for selecting appropriate methods. Students will understand the role of visual arts in North Carolina and the United States in relation to history and geography. Students will continue to make interdisciplinary connections and life applications.

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6TH-8TH GRADE

AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination)

This course provides intensive support for academically average students who may be among the first in their family to attend college. These students benefit from learning skills that will prepare them for success in honors and college level courses in high school. Students apply and interview for selection into this year-long course.

Attendance, behavior, grades and attitude are included in criteria. Students are encouraged to take this course in subsequent years and may be eligible to be recognized as AVID Scholars upon graduation.

Healthful Living

The goal of middle school health and physical education is to provide students the platform to develop and establish meaningful, lifelong healthy living practices. Students will learn how to improve and maintain all aspects of their health, including sound decision-making in physical, mental, and social health. The year-long healthful living curriculum provides the knowledge, skills, and foundation towards acquiring fit minds and bodies which will lead to a lifetime of wellness and learning. The use of technology to assist students in developing and maintaining healthy habits is embedded in both instruction and assessment.

Strings Orchestra

Two levels of instruction are offered before school for any 6th-8th grade student interested in learning to play a string instrument (violin, viola, cello, bass) and performing with an ensemble. For the Beginner

group, emphasis is placed on introducing fundamental skills and performing as an ensemble. For the Intermediate group, emphasis is placed on developing fundamental vocal and choral techniques and the acquisition of skills essential to accurate interpretation of a musical score. Students are exposed to beginner/intermediate vocal literature and are provided the opportunity to explore and develop their abilities in music. Participation in concert performances outside of class hours is required.