



BRENTWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL

6th Grade Course Catalog (2019-2020)

LANGUAGE ARTS

6th Grade Language Arts

Students in 6th grade language arts will engage in a rigorous curriculum which focuses on the standard areas of reading, writing and communication. Students will read a variety of literary genres such as poetry, novels, short stories, and non-fiction. As a complement to the reading instruction, students will be required to write in a variety of modes which involve text-based evidence for student responses. Students will learn to prepare and write narrative, informational, and argumentative types of writing pieces in the form of stories, reflections, essays, letters, and reports. Teachers will also provide vocabulary instruction to enhance students' skills in reading and writing. Equally as important, students will continue to sharpen their grammatical skills so that they can become effective writers and speakers.

SCIENCE

6th Grade Science

Scientific inquiry skills and the application of technology and engineering are embedded as grade level expectations in the science curriculum. In the life science study of interdependence, students will explore the world's major biomes, how living things interact with one another and the non-living elements of their environments, cycles in nature and how matter and energy are transferred through ecosystems. Also included is the study of Earth's atmosphere, currents, weather, and interpretation of meteorological data. Physical science content includes a study of energy and the transformations that occur between different forms of energy. Students will be engaging in expository writing to explain scientific principles.

SOCIAL STUDIES

6th Grade Social Studies

Sixth grade students will study the beginning of early civilizations through the fall of the Roman Empire. Students will study the geographical, social, economic, and political foundations for the following early civilizations: Mesopotamia, Egypt, India, China, Ancient Israel, Greece, and Rome. The study of these civilizations will include the impact of geography, early history, cultural development, and economic change. This course will be the first concentrated study of world history and geography and will utilize appropriate informational texts and primary sources.

MATHEMATICS

6th Grade Math (Level 1)

Prerequisites: Successful completion of 5th grade math

During the first semester, students will learn real number operations, including whole numbers, decimals and fractions. Students will also strengthen their knowledge as they analyze data and probability and evaluate and solve one-step equations during second semester. Throughout the year students learn the relationship between ratios and percentages and apply their skills to real-world scenarios. They are also introduced to the fundamentals of geometry and integers. Students will be expected to persevere in problem solving, reason abstractly and quantitatively, construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others as outlined by the Tennessee State Standards in preparation of the 6th grade TNReady test.

6th Grade Math (Level 2)

Prerequisites: 80th percentile (3 year average) or above on TCAP mathematics; 70% or above on placement test.

In Level 2 Math, students will use problem solving strategies and technology to master TNReady skills and state standards for the 7th grade. These skills include working with rational numbers and percentages, solving equations, working with proportions, understanding geometric figures, and using techniques of statistics and probability. Students will also begin to look at linear and nonlinear functions and how those apply to real world scenarios. Students will be expected to persevere in problem solving, reason abstractly and quantitatively, construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others as outlined by the Tennessee State Standards in preparation of the 7th grade TNReady test.

6th Grade Math (Level 3)

Prerequisites: 95th percentile (3 year average) or above on TCAP mathematics; 80% or above on placement test.

Level 3 Math is the first portion of a high school level math course that uses problem solving situations and physical models to extend algebraic thinking and engage student reasoning. This course will focus on 8th grade state of Tennessee math standards and begin with a study of the real number system as well as solving multi-step equations. Word problems are deeply embedded within the course, and students use algebraic concepts in order to solve them. In addition to solving equations, students will explore functions, writing equations, graphing linear equations, solving and graphing systems of equations, geometry and statistics. Students will be expected to persevere in problem solving, reason abstractly and quantitatively, construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others as outlined by the Tennessee State Standards in preparation of the 8th grade TNReady test.

Academic Classes Note: INDIVIDUAL TEACHER REQUESTS WILL NOT BE GRANTED

6TH GRADE RELATED ARTS COURSES (2019-2020)

The Building Blocks of Art (Art)

Make art, talk art, learn art and show your art. Emphasis is on skill building and the creative process, using drawing, print-making, painting, sculpting and a limited introduction to I-pad apps for visual arts. (9 weeks)

Theatre Beginnings (Drama)

Sixth grade Drama is an introductory course designed to build confidence in speaking and performing in front of peers. This class is focused primarily on theatre terminology, basic performance techniques, scriptwriting, and the origins of drama. (9 weeks)

Chorus

Students will learn proper vocal production techniques, music literacy, and methods of expression that will further their individual musicianship. While students are developing their own vocal abilities, they will be practicing the art of unified music-making in creating balance and blend. We will explore choral literature from varied time periods, styles, and cultures. Performance opportunities include mass chorus concerts, honors choir and festivals. (Semester)

Band

The band program offers instrumental instruction to all interested sixth grade students. The students begin to learn music notation, ear training, dictation, as well as the basics of their instrument(s). These objectives are strengthened as students continue through the band program. Many opportunities exist for these young musicians including private lessons, mid-state honor bands, travel to national concert band competitions, and pep band. (Year)

Orchestra

The 6th Grade Orchestra class is open to students with or without prior experience. Students will learn the fundamentals of music and string instrument-playing, including basic technique, music notation, and ear-training skills. Students have the opportunity to learn the violin, viola, cello, or double bass and will experience performing in large and small ensembles. (Students with prior experience may choose to learn a secondary instrument.) This class is a pre-requisite for future participation in the BMS orchestra program. The 6th grade Orchestra has at least two large concerts each year, participates in the WCS String Fling, and takes an annual field trip to the Nashville Symphony. (Year)

Fundamentals of Music (Music)

Students will be introduced to the building blocks of music. Throughout the nine weeks, students will grow their knowledge of music theory and analysis through composition and performance. (9 weeks)

Introduction to Media Concepts and Google Apps (Media)

As part of this class, students will study the history of communication and media and create a presentation highlighting one of many topics. Photography and video creation will be covered as students create a biographical digital story of their favorite things. Each week students will work to improve their keyboarding techniques and to increase their keying speed and accuracy. Students will participate in a multi-week collaborative learning unit that focuses on planning a vacation. As part of this unit students will research and organize information, create various documents, spreadsheets and visual presentations using Google Apps. (9 weeks)

Keyboarding and Document Creation (Keyboarding)

Students will review the proper keyboarding techniques and develop speed and accuracy while completing a variety of touch typing exercises including the number and symbol keys. In addition, students will learn the correct formatting methods for reports, letters, outlines, and tables. An introduction to basic desktop publishing, spreadsheet, and presentation software will also be included as they complete a thematic unit. (9 weeks)

Computer Coding (Coding)

Students begin by studying the origins of the Internet and the World Wide Web. Students will work on developing a primary understanding of two key website programming and design languages: HTML and CSS. They will also become familiar with some of the tools and technologies needed to develop web pages and other programming projects. Toward the end of the nine weeks, the class will be introduced to JavaScript as well. Students enrolling in coding need to be detailed-oriented and be ready for higher-level thinking challenges. (9 weeks)

Robotics

This course introduces students to Robotics. Students work in pairs to program Vex IQ robots using RobotC software. This course uses the Engineering Design Process to develop students' critical thinking and problem-solving skills, as well as develop their ability to communicate and work with other students. Throughout the course, students program their robots to complete a variety of tasks, using simple commands and input from the robot's sensors. No Robotics experience is necessary (9 weeks)

Life-Long Wellness and Physical Education (PE)

This nine week class will include participation in games such as volleyball, basketball, kickball, ping pong, team handball, soccer, flag football, spike ball, ultimate Frisbee, and Frisbee golf. Students will also take the fitness test. Health and wellness, mental and emotional problems, and conflict resolution will also be studied. Students will use technology to create a poster board presentation on the negative effects of using tobacco. (9 weeks)

Life-Long Wellness and Physical Education II (Semester PE)

This semester course will include participation in games such as volleyball, basketball, kickball, ping pong, team handball, soccer, flag football, spike ball, ultimate Frisbee, and Frisbee golf. Fitness testing and re-testing will be completed to evaluate student progress. Health and wellness, mental and emotional problems and conflict resolution will also be studied. (Semester)

Spanish

Students will explore cultures and traditions of 21 countries that have Spanish as their official language. They will explore geography, history, holidays, and other parts of each country while also taking time to compare some of those traditions with ones here in the United States. There will be several in-class research/presentation projects to follow along with our class discussions including a group project on a chosen country, a famous Hispanic person, and a holiday from the Spanish-speaking world. Students will also be exposed to limited vocabulary that will aid in cultural discussions. This class is intended to prepare students for Spanish 1 in either 7th or 8th grade, but is NOT a prerequisite to those courses. (9 weeks)

Study & Life Skills

The study skills course focuses on improving and empowering students in many areas. Students will learn organizational techniques, study skills, various life skills, problem-solving, and business and personal finance and budgeting. The text that is provided for this course is The Seven Habits of Highly Successful Teens. (9 weeks)

Math and/or Reading RTI (Response to Intervention)

RTI is a state mandated, tiered intervention program available to all students that qualify. All students are screened in both Math and Reading three times a year to aid in monitoring student progress through the curriculum. Screening results are used to help students reach their greatest potential in both Math and Reading, by providing needed intervention. Tier I provides interventions to all students within their core classes. Tier II provides 3 days of intervention to students scoring between the 15th and 30th percentiles on the universal screener. Tier III provides 5 days of intervention to students scoring at or below the 15th percentile on the universal screener. At BMS, Tier II and Tier III are provided during the Related Arts block and students are placed in the classes based on their screening results.