

SIXTH GRADE
REGISTRATION
HANDBOOK
2022 - 2023



Brentwood Middle School
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BRENTWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL

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Dear Students and Parents,

This booklet is intended to help provide you with an overview of the middle school courses offered during the school year. Please take time to read it over with your child and make your course selections together. We are proud of the diversified exploratory courses offered to our students that create opportunities for them to participate in a wide variety of experiences.

I know you will find our course offerings to be engaging and motivational for students. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to speak with our counselor or call the school office. Thank you for your continued involvement and support.

Dr. Andrew Loiterstein
Principal

Mrs. Anne Bosche
Counselor

Mission Statement

Our daily mission at Brentwood Middle School is to achieve excellence in both academics and character.

Enrichment Opportunities

Sixth grade students may be selected to participate in Challenge English and Challenge Mathematics. These classes accelerate the regular curricula and focus on cross-curricular projects that enhance and strengthen critical thinking, problem solving, and writing skills. These students will be identified using standardized test scores grades and effort. Parent permission will be required. Notifications will be mailed home in May.

Further, enrichment activities will be offered in all core subjects. Teachers regularly provide for students of varying abilities within each class through enrichment activities. Some teachers and departments may temporarily group students for various activities or projects. With the small class size, it is easy for staff to create individual plans for students to meet their varying needs and learning styles.

Remediation Opportunities

For students who need extra help or skill strengthening, BMS has several options. Special School District Resource classes are offered for identified students. Literacy Workshop and Math Workshop are offered to those sixth grade students to further strengthen their reading and/or math skills. In addition, all grades offer after school help sessions. Check with your child's team teacher for such services.

SIXTH GRADE COURSE OFFERINGS

Required Courses

- English
- Social Studies
- Mathematics
- Science
- Physical Education

Exploratory Classes

All sixth grade students will have a combination of exploratory classes. Examples of exploratory classes include:

- Art
- Family & Consumer Science
- Health
- Project Lead the Way
- Spanish
- Speech/Drama

Elective Courses

Most sixth grade students will have two of the following courses:

- Art Workshop
- Band
- Wellness Workshop

Additional Courses

Staff recommendation required.

- Challenge English
- Challenge Math
- Literacy Workshop
- Math Workshop
- Learning Strategies (Special School District)

SIXTH GRADE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

ENGLISH

This course offers instruction in several areas of communication. Areas of emphasis include studying literature, writing, grammar, vocabulary, and public speaking. Students will grow as readers by studying selections from various authors and by applying strategies to their own autonomous reading through modeling with mentor texts. After reading and analyzing texts, students will develop claims and craft writing in response to their reading. Students will also work both individually and collaboratively to deepen their understanding of literary concepts, as well as digital literacy. This course aims to introduce middle school students to a lifelong love for reading and writing by understanding how to find and produce credible, relevant information in order to be thoughtful and productive contributors to their communities.

SCIENCE

This general science course integrates life, earth, and physical sciences in a hands-on, inquiry based approach. Students learn about using the scientific method to approach problems in class and everyday life and develop critical thinking skills. Content area reading is a focus, along with scientific writing skills. Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) are emphasized. Units include *Structure and Function of Living Organisms*, *Interdependence in Ecosystems*, and *Changes Over Time*.

MATHEMATICS

The sixth grade mathematics course continues the development of skills, concepts, and applications taught at the elementary level. It is designed to provide students with a strong foundation of computation skills and conceptual understanding in real-life problem solving. This course will focus on the following key concepts: ratios and proportional relationships, working with fractions, decimals, and percents, introduction to negative integers, working on the coordinate plane, writing and evaluating algebraic expressions, solving one-step algebraic equations, calculating surface area and volume of rectangular prisms and summarizing data using visual models and measures of center. The Connected Mathematics Program will help students develop a better understanding of the connections between mathematics and its applications in the real world.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Ancient Civilizations is a course focused on the study of ancient cultures where students will gain a great self-awareness and connection of the impact on global perspectives and society today. Geographical, historical, and political and social insights will be examined through literacy, both reading and writing, critical thinking and creative projects.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical Education focuses on physical and cognitive skills, character building, and development of positive attitudes toward lifetime physical activity. A variety of individual, dual and team activities, as well as physical fitness and wellness are offered throughout the year. Skill building and sportsmanship are the focus, not the actual

“game.” Personal fitness is assessed in the fall and spring and is emphasized throughout the year. Team building activities are integrated into the curriculum throughout the year.

ART

Sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students will use Art Elements and Principles of Design to promote visual awareness. Projects are based on cultural, historical and contemporary art and artists. Self-reflection and critique becomes an integral part of the creative process.

HEALTH

The Health curriculum is taught in sixth and seventh grade as a stand-alone class, and will be part of the exploratory wheel program. In eighth grade, the Health curriculum will be taught in conjunction with the Physical Education class. Each year, the emphasis will be on the following topics with greater depth and detail given each successive year: Wellness Concepts, Consumer Health and Safety, Health promotion and Disease Prevention, AIDS Prevention, Tobacco, Alcohol, and Other Drug Use/Abuse, Nutrition & Fitness, interrelationships between Body Systems, Life Managements Skills, and Environmental Health.

PROJECT LEAD THE WAY

This pre-engineering course will utilize technology, engineering, and problem solving skills to create and build innovative projects. Students will complete two units, Design and Modeling and Energy and the Environment.

- Design and Modeling – In Design and Modeling, students learn to apply a design process to create a solution. During the first activity, students are presented with the end of unit problem: designing a toy to be used by a young child with cerebral palsy during occupational therapy. This will give students the opportunity to put everything they will learn in this unit in the context of the unit problem. Students will recognize that to solve a real world problem pertaining to the biomedical field will require them to use knowledge and skills from multiple disciplines, including engineering and computer science.
- Energy and the Environment – Students are challenged to think big and toward the future as they explore sustainable solutions to our energy needs and investigate the impact of energy on our lives and the world. They design and model alternative energy sources and evaluate options for reducing energy consumption.

SPANISH

This class follows the Spanish foundation laid in elementary school, exploring concepts such as greetings, numbers, calendar dates, time, clothing, family, and descriptions. Students will compare the Spanish language and cultural celebrations with their native language and customs.

SPEECH/DRAMA

This class focuses on public speaking and basic theatre skills, with students learning both content and delivery methods and basic theatre terminology. Emphasis in drama will be on learning some theatre history, to work cooperatively with others, have fun with improvisation and theatre games, and discover inner and outer resources, relaxation and concentration techniques and ways to memorize. Students will present two or three speeches, all extemporaneously. They will present a short scene or monologue at the end of the quarter.

FACS (Family and Consumer Science)

FACS 6 is an introductory sewing & cooking experience. Students will learn the basics of hand sewing (equipment & techniques) and cooking (kitchen safety, equipment, measurement, and terms). Students should be able to apply these principles in a practical setting.

ELECTIVE COURSES

ART WORKSHOP

Art Workshop is a year-long program for students who have a particular aptitude or interest in Art. The class extends into a deeper exploration of artistic themes and media than is possible in the quarterly Exploratory Art. Past projects have included such topics as drawing, comic storytelling, advertising art, sculpture, fiber arts, and photo editing.

BAND

Band at the sixth grade level is a study of basic fundamentals on the student's instrument with the focus on playing in an ensemble that will perform a variety of styles of music in different settings. Band at the sixth grade level allows students to explore a variety of styles of music, participate in some performances with larger groups, and build a broader base of skills for future advancement in music. **Instruments included in sixth grade band: clarinet, flute, saxophone, trombone, trumpet, and mallets (percussion).**

WELLNESS WORKSHOP

This course will focus on healthy living in all aspects of life. Students will develop skills such as leadership, teambuilding, stress management, organization, physical activity, goal-setting, and effective decision-making. Units of study also include kindness, environmental health and body systems. Students will work individually and in groups to discover how they can actively and deliberately make positive choices for middle school, high school, and beyond.

ADDITIONAL COURSES

Placement based on staff recommendation

CHALLENGE ENGLISH

Identified students participate in this class which focuses on topics that enhance and strengthen students' critical thinking skills, problem-solving skills, and reinforce their reading and writing skills. Students in this class will participate in collaborative lessons that engage students as leaders in their reading and writing studies. Students are invited to enroll in this class based upon their MAP scores, NWEA scores, grades, effort, and attitude towards learning. Parent permission and teacher recommendation are required.

CHALLENGE MATHEMATICS

The challenge sixth grade mathematics course provides an enriched and accelerated course for students with exceptional mathematical and analytical skills. This course moves at a faster pace than the regular course, and requires students to solve more challenging problems that demand higher-level thinking skills. This course will focus on the following key concepts: ratios and proportional relationships, working with fractions, decimals, and percents, introduction to negative integers, working on the coordinate plane, writing and evaluating algebraic expressions, solving one-step algebraic equations, calculating surface area and volume of rectangular prisms, and summarizing data using visual models and measures of center. The Connected Mathematics Program will help students develop a better understanding of the connections between mathematics and its applications in the real world.

LITERACY WORKSHOP

Students will work to further strengthen their reading comprehension and fluency scores and gain tools for increased success both in and out of class. Students will read short stories, current events, and high interest articles that relate to content area classes and individual interests. Additionally, students will spend a portion of each class period working on *Reading Plus* which is a web-based reading program that helps increase individual reading fluency and comprehension.

MATH WORKSHOP

This course is designed to meet the varying needs of students in math. Math Workshop will provide opportunities for students to strengthen and reinforce math skills in order to help them be more successful academically.

LEARNING STRATEGIES

Learning Strategy courses are provided by Special School District. A student must have a current educational diagnosis, an Individual Education Plan (IEP), and demonstrate a need for direct instruction in order to be eligible. These classes include instruction in: written expression, basic reading and reading comprehension, math reasoning and calculation, task related skills, and social/emotional needs. The curriculum is individualized and driven by each student's individual goals.

SIXTH GRADE REGISTRATION FORM

2022-2023

~ Complete the information below and then return it to the school office ~

Name

Parent/Guardian Phone

Address/City/State/Zip

Elementary school attended in fifth grade

Required Courses

English, Mathematics, Science, Exploratory Classes, Social Studies, Physical Education

Elective Courses

Please rank all of the choices below. Please put a "1" by your top choice, a "2" by your second choice, and so on. You will receive two elective classes on your schedule. Every effort will be made to honor your first choices, but this may not always be possible.

_____ Band / Instrument Choice _____

_____ Art Workshop

_____ Wellness Workshop

I would like my child to be considered for: **Reading support** and/or **Math support**
(Please check all that apply)

Student Signature _____

Parent Signature _____