

Mill Creek Middle School



Curriculum Guide 2024-2025

Justin Sanderson
Principal

Table of Contents

Section 1: Introduction

Overview	3
Late Work Policy	3
Grading Policies	3
Milestones	4

Section 2: [6th Grade](#)

ELA Course Offerings	6
Math Course Offerings	8
Science Course Offerings	10
Social Studies Course Offerings	11
Connections Course Offerings	12
Resources for Students and Parents	13

Section 3: [7th Grade](#)

ELA Course Offerings	15
Math Course Offerings	17
Science Course Offerings	19
Social Studies Course Offerings	20
Connections Course Offerings	22
Resources for Students and Parents	23

Section 4: [8th Grade](#)

Spanish	25
ELA Course Offerings	26
Math Course Offerings	28
Science Course Offerings	30
Social Studies Course Offerings	32
Connections Course Offerings	34
Resources for Students and Parents	35

Section 5: Connections Courses

Connections Course Descriptions	36
Connections Course Pathways	42

Section 6: [CCSD Academic Core Sequencing](#)

Section 7: [Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Overview

The Mill Creek Middle School Curriculum Guide provides an overview of the courses that are offered at each grade level. This resource for parents and students should answer many questions and provide assistance throughout the course of the school year.

Late Work Policy

Standards define *what* a student must master, not *when*. Therefore, students should have the flexibility to turn in assignments and demonstrate mastery of a learning target beyond a determined due date as long as it falls within the same unit of study.

The following criteria will be used when late work is submitted:

Excused Absence	No penalty will be assigned if the work is submitted on the day the student returns from an excused absence.
1 day late	Maximum credit allowed is 90%
2 days late	Maximum credit allowed is 80%
3 days late or more	Maximum credit allowed is 70%

The classroom teacher will have discretion in determining the grade for an assignment. If you have concerns about a grade, please discuss with your teacher.

Grades of Zero: Students should receive a grade of 0 only when they demonstrate zero evidence of learning or mastery of standards. For work not submitted or completed, grade codes should be used according to the chart below:

Grade/Code	What it Means
EX	Excused, assignment does not need to be completed.
0	Student turned in the assignment and demonstrated no evidence of learning or mastery of standards
.1	Student was present but did not submit the assignment. It is late but can still be turned in for a grade.
.2	The assignment is incomplete and cannot be graded as is. It needs to be completed and resubmitted.
.3	Student was absent and will get full credit when the assignment is turned in.

Grading Policies

Within the Cherokee County School District, class grades are based upon student performance on two types of assignments – summative and formative.

Formative assignments help teachers identify concepts where students are struggling to understand. These can include assignments such as homework, classwork, quizzes, or other activities that are completed in the classroom where students are in the process of learning a concept.

Summative assignments are a more formal measure to evaluate student learning. These are usually conducted at the end of a unit or topic of study. These can include assignments such as tests, projects, or culminating writing assignments.

Milestones

Students in grades 6-8 will complete a Milestone end of grade assessment each spring. This assessment measures how well students have learned the content standards for their grade level. Students in 6th and 7th grades will take an assessment in English Language Arts and Math. Students in 8th grade will take an assessment in English Language Arts, Math, Science, and Georgia Studies. 8th grade students enrolled in high school credit math and/or science courses will take a Milestone end of course assessment for that subject area.

6th Grade Academic Courses

6th Grade Sample Schedule

Period	Course
1 st	Math 6 or Advanced Math 6*
2 nd	English Lit/Comp 6 or Advanced English Lit/Comp 6*
3 rd	Science 6 or Advanced Science 6*
4 th	Social Studies 6 or Advanced Social Studies 6*
5 th	Connection 1
6 th	Connection 2

*Enrollment in these courses is determined by a placement team.

For more information on academic courses, see pages 6 - 12.

Students will take a Milestone end of grade assessment in ELA and Math.

ELA Course Offerings

English Lit/Comp 6:

Course Overview:

6th Grade English Lit/Comp combines reading, grammar, and writing into an integrated course. Students will complete six engaging scenarios to apply reading, grammar, and writing to real-life situations. Through these engaging scenarios, students will learn about narrative, informative, and argumentative writing and respond to both fiction and non-fiction texts. Students will engage in individual and collaborative experiences throughout the tasks assigned each unit. Teachers will utilize both formal and informal assessments and activities to provide feedback to students on their progress through the course and the development of their writing skills.

Units Overview:

The six units of study will have the following focus:

Unit 1: Cite Evidence/Literary Analysis

Unit 2: Argumentative/Informational

Unit 3: Informational/Explanatory

Unit 4: Narrative

Unit 5: Compare and Contrast

Unit 6: Culminating Task/Enrichment and Remediation as needed

Standards:

Standards for this course are the Georgia Standards of Excellence which can be accessed [here](#). It incorporates both the reading and the language arts standards for 6th grade.

Course Grading:

Category	Percentage of grade
Graded Formative (Includes Tasks 1 and 2 from each unit)	60%
Summative (Includes Tasks 3 and 4 and Post-Assessment from each unit)	40%

Advanced English Lit/Comp 6:

The 6th grade Advanced English Lit/Comp course incorporates the same standards as the English Lit/Comp 6 class but provides students with more rigorous opportunities to build upon their reading and writing skills. Students may have the opportunity to participate in debate, experience an in-depth analysis of texts, interact with primary sources, and produce comprehensive writing assignments. Placement in the Advanced course is based upon Milestones scores, achievement in elementary school reading and language arts courses and teacher recommendations.

Math Course Offerings

Math 6:

Course Overview:

The purpose of the math 6 course is to build upon math concepts learned in elementary school. Instructional time in this course focuses on 5 Big Ideas:

1. Mathematical Practices and Modeling
2. Data and Statistical Reasoning
3. Numerical Reasoning
4. Patterning and Algebraic Reasoning
5. Geometric and Spatial Reasoning

The Standards of Mathematical Practice apply throughout this course to help students make sense of real-life problem situations.

Units Overview:

Unit 1: Exploring Real-Life Phenomena through Statistics

Unit 2: Making Relevant Connections through Number System Fluency

Unit 3: Investigating Rate, Ratio, and Proportional Reasoning

Unit 4: Building a Conceptual Understanding of Expressions

Unit 5: Exploring Real-life Phenomena through One-Step Equations and Inequalities

Unit 6: Exploring Area and Volume

Unit 7: Rational Exploration: Numbers and their Opposites

Unit 8: Graphing Rational Numbers

Unit 9: Culminating Capstone Unit

Standards:

Standards for this course are Georgia's K-12 Mathematics Standards that can be found [here](#).

Course Grading:

Category	Percentage of Grade
Graded Formative	60%
Summative	40%

Additional Resources:

The GA Department of Education also has resources for each unit (tasks, vocabulary, additional support) located [here](#).

Advanced Math 6:

The 6th grade Advanced Math course incorporates the same standards as the Math 6 class but provides students with more rigorous opportunities to build upon their math skills. Students may have the opportunity to complete real-world math tasks and explain their thinking orally. Placement in the advanced course is based upon Milestones scores, achievement in elementary school math and teacher recommendations.

Science Course Offerings

Science 6:

Course Overview:

Science 6 is a hands-on, student-centered, and inquiry-based approach to science instruction. In this course, students will focus on earth science, which covers topics like meteorology, geology, astronomy, and oceanography. Students will study weather patterns, construct explanations on the role of water in Earth processes and use models to represent systems like the solar system and Earth/Moon/Sun system.

Unit Overview:

Unit 1: Solar System and Beyond

Unit 2: Earth, Moon, and Sun

Unit 3: Earth's Changing Landscape (3A: Plate Tectonics, 3B: Rocks and Minerals, 3C: Weathering, Erosion, Deposition, and Soil)

Unit 4: Water in Earth's Processes (4A: The Water Cycle, 4B: The Ocean in Motion)

Unit 5: Climate and Weather

Unit 6: Human and Energy Needs

Standards:

The standards for this course are the Georgia Standards of Excellence which can be found [here](#).

Course Grading:

Category	Percentage of Grade
Graded Formative	60%
Summative	40%

Advanced Science 6:

The 6th grade Advanced Science course incorporates the same standards as the Science 6 class but provides students with more rigorous opportunities to build upon their science and math skills. Students may have the opportunity to design solutions to real-world science phenomena and explain their product in a presentation. Placement in the advanced course is based upon Milestones scores, achievement in elementary school science and teacher recommendations.

Social Studies Course Offerings

Social Studies 6:

Course Overview:

This is the first course in a two-year World Area Studies course. Students will focus on Latin America, Canada, Europe and Australia. They will study the geography, government/civics, economics, and history of these areas. The purpose of the course is to acquaint students with the world in which they live.

Unit Overview:

Unit 1: Geography Skills

Unit 2: Europe's Geography

Unit 3: Europe's History

Unit 4: Europe's Government/Economics

Unit 5: Latin America (5A: Geography, 5B: History, 5C: Government/Economics)

Unit 6: Canada (5A: Geography, 5B: History, 5C: Government/Economics)

Unit 7: Australia (5A: Geography, 5B: History, 5C: Government/Economics)

Unit 8: Personal Finance

Standards:

The standards for this course are the Georgia Standards of Excellence which can be found [here](#).

Course Grading:

Category	Percentage of Grade
Graded Formative	60%
Summative	40%

Advanced Social Studies 6:

The 6th grade Advanced Social Studies course incorporates the same standards as the Social Studies 6 class but provides students with more rigorous opportunities to build upon their social studies and ELA skills. Students may have the opportunity to interact and analyze primary source documents and present their responses to the class. Placement in the advanced course is based upon Milestones scores, achievement in elementary school social studies and teacher recommendations.

Connections Courses

6th grade students will be enrolled in two Connections courses each quarter. If students are enrolled in year-long Connections courses, then their Connections will not change each quarter. Please reference the chart below for quarter and year-long offerings.

Year-Long Courses	Quarter-Long Courses
Beginning Band*	Art
Beginning Chorus*	Basic Skills of Marketing
Beginning Orchestra*	Broadcast and Graphic Communications
	Computer Science
	Drama 6
	Exploring Engineering and Technology
	Family and Consumer Science
	Healthcare Diagnostics/Support Services
	Physical Education
	STEM Exploratory

*While this course is open to all students, registration is required prior to enrollment.

See [Connections Course Descriptions](#) for overview of each course.

Resources for Parents and Students

[Milestones Study Guide](#): Resource for preparing for the End of Grade Milestones in ELA and Math

[Georgia Standards](#): Resources for standards, tasks, and supplemental clarification of standards

7th Grade Academic Courses

7th Grade Sample Schedule

Period	Course
1 st	Connection 1
2 nd	Connection 2
3 rd	Science 7 or Advanced Science 7*
4 th	Social Studies 7 or Advanced Social Studies 7*
5 th	Math 7 or Advanced Math 7*
6 th	English Lit/Comp 7 or Advanced English Lit/Comp 7*

*Enrollment in these courses is determined by a placement team.

For more information on academic courses, see pages 16 – 22.

Students will take a Milestone end of grade assessment in ELA and Math.

ELA Course Offerings

English Lit/Comp 7

Course Overview:

7th Grade English Lit/Comp combines reading, grammar and writing into an integrated course. Students will complete six engaging scenarios to apply reading, grammar, and writing to real-life situations. Through these engaging scenarios, students will learn about narrative, informative, and argumentative writing and respond to both fiction and non-fiction texts. Students will engage in individual and collaborative experiences throughout the tasks assigned each unit. Teachers will utilize both formal and informal assessments and activities to provide feedback to students on their progress through the course and the development of their writing skills.

This course builds on skills learned in the English Lit/Comp 6 course.

Unit Overview:

The six units of study will have the following area of focus:

Unit 1: Textual Evidence/Informational

Unit 2: Analyze and Evaluate/Argumentative

Unit 3: Theme/Central Idea/Narrative

Unit 4: Point of View/Narrative

Unit 5: Compare and Contrast/Informational

Unit 6: Culminating/Research

Standards:

This course uses the Georgia Standards of Excellence which can be found [here](#).

Course Grading:

Category	Percentage of grade
Graded Formative (Includes Tasks 1 and 2 from each unit)	60%
Summative (Includes Tasks 3 and 4 and Post-Assessment from each unit)	40%

Advanced English Lit/Comp 7:

The 7th grade Advanced English Lit/Comp course incorporates the same standards as the English Lit/Comp 7 class but provides students with more rigorous opportunities to build upon their reading and writing skills. Students may have the opportunity to participate in debate, experience an in-depth analysis of texts, interact with primary sources, and produce comprehensive writing assignments. Placement in the Advanced course is based upon Milestones scores, achievement in 6th grade English Lit/Comp and teacher recommendations.

Math Course Offerings

Math 7:

Course Overview:

The purpose of seventh grade math is to formalize and extend the mathematics that students learned in the previous grades. Instructional time in this course focuses on 5 Big Ideas:

1. Mathematical Practices and Modeling
2. Numerical Reasoning
3. Patterning and Algebraic Reasoning
4. Geometric and Spatial Reasoning
5. Probability Reasoning

The Standards of Mathematical Practice apply throughout this course to help students make sense of real-life problem situations.

Unit Overview:

Unit 1: Making Relevant Connections within the Number System

Unit 2: Reasoning with Expressions, Equations, and Inequalities

Unit 3: Exploring Ratios and Proportional Relationships

Unit 4: Making Relevant Connections with Geometry

Unit 5: Investigating Probability

Unit 6: Culminating Capstone Unit

Standards:

This course uses Georgia's K-12 Mathematics Standards which can be accessed [here](#).

Course Grading:

Category	Percentage of Grade
Graded Formative	60%
Summative	40%

Advanced Math 7:

The 7th grade Advanced Math course incorporates the same standards as the Math 7 class but provides students with more rigorous opportunities to build upon their math skills. Students may have the opportunity to complete real-world math tasks and explain their thinking orally. Placement in the advanced course is based upon Milestones scores, achievement in Math 6 and teacher recommendations.

Science Course Offerings

Science 7:

Course Overview:

Science 7 is a hands-on, student-centered, and inquiry-based approach to science instruction. In this course, students will focus on life science to create a smooth transition from elementary school life science standards to high school biology. Students will study topics like diversity of living organisms, structure and function of cells, heredity, ecosystems, and biological evolution.

Unit Overview:

Unit 1: Diversity of Organisms: Characteristics of Life

Unit 2: Molecules to Organisms: Cell Structures and Processes

Unit 3: Molecules to Organisms: Organization and Body Systems

Unit 4: Heredity: Inheritance of Traits

Unit 5: Biological Evolution: Natural Selection

Unit 6: Ecosystems: Interactions, Energy, and Biodiversity

Standards:

This course utilizes the Georgia Standards of Excellence which can be found [here](#).

Course Grading:

Category	Percentage of Grade
Graded Formative	60%
Summative	40%

Advanced Science 7:

The 7th grade Advanced Science course incorporates the same standards as the Science 7 class but provides students with more rigorous opportunities to build upon their science and math skills. Students may have the opportunity to design solutions to real-world science phenomena and explain their product in a presentation. Placement in the advanced course is based upon Milestones scores, achievement in Science 6 and teacher recommendations.

Social Studies Course Offerings

Social Studies 7:

Course Overview:

This is the second course in a two-year World Area Studies course. Students will focus on Africa, Southwest Asia (Middle East), Southern and Eastern Asia. They will study the geography, government/civics, economics, and history of these areas. The purpose of the course is to acquaint students with the world they live.

Unit Overview:

Unit 1: Map Skills, Government, and Economics Overview

Unit 2: SW Asia Geographic Understandings

Unit 3: SW Asia Historical Understandings

Unit 4: SW Asia Government/Economic Understandings

Unit 5: SE Asia Geographic Understandings

Unit 6: SE Asia Historical Understandings

Unit 7: SE Asia Government/Economic Understandings

Unit 8: Africa Geographic Understandings

Unit 9: Africa Historical Understandings

Unit 10: Africa Government/Economic Understandings

Unit 11: Personal Finance

Standards:

The standards for this course are the Georgia Standards of Excellence which can be found [here](#).

Course Grading:

Category	Percentage of Grade
Graded Formative	60%
Summative	40%

Advanced Social Studies 7:

The 7th grade Advanced Social Studies course incorporates the same standards as the Social Studies 7 class but provides students with more rigorous opportunities to build upon their social studies and ELA skills. Students may have the opportunity to interact and analyze primary source documents and present their responses to the class. Placement in the advanced course is based upon Milestones scores, achievement in Social Studies 6 and teacher recommendations.

Connections Courses

7th grade students will be enrolled in two Connections courses each quarter. If students are enrolled in year-long Connections courses, then their Connections will not change each quarter. Please reference the chart below for quarter and year-long offerings.

Year-Long Courses	Quarter-Long Courses
Intermediate Band*	Art
Intermediate Chorus*	Drama 7
Intermediate Orchestra*	Exploring Marketing Education
	Family and Consumer Science
	Foundations of Computer Programming (Computer Science)
	Healthcare IT and Biotechnology
	Introduction to Communications
	Invention and Innovation
	Physical Education
	STEM Exploratory

*Registration is required prior to enrollment in this course.

See [Connections Course Descriptions](#) for class overview.

Resources for Students and Parents

[Milestones Study Guide](#) – Resource to prepare for the End of Grade Assessment in ELA and Math

[Georgia Standards](#): Resources for standards, tasks, and supplemental clarification of standards

8th Grade Academic Courses

8th Grade Sample Schedule

Period	Course
1 st	Connection 1
2 nd	Connection 2
3 rd	Math 8 or Advanced Math 8* or Enhanced Algebra: Concepts and Connections**
4 th	English Lit/Comp 8 or Advanced English Lit/Comp 8*
5 th	Science 8 or Advanced Science 8* or <i>Physical Science</i> **
6 th	Georgia Studies 8 or Advanced Georgia Studies 8*

*Enrollment in these courses is determined by a placement team.

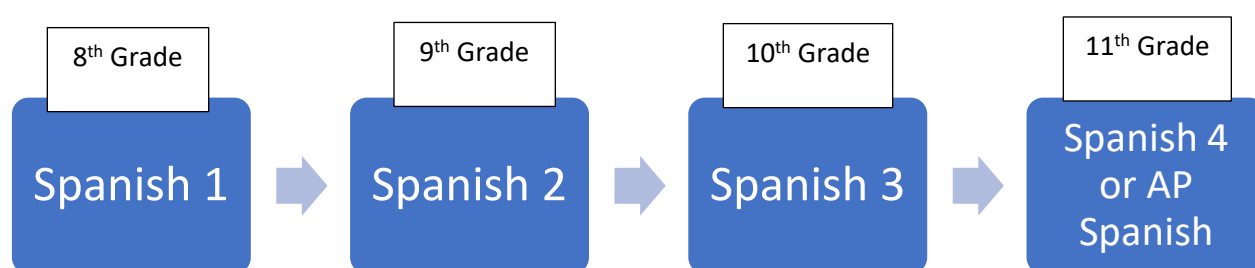
**These are high school credit courses. Students must complete prerequisites in order to be enrolled in these courses.

For more information about academic courses, see pages 28 – 36

Students will take a Milestone end of grade assessment in English Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies.

Spanish:

Select 8th grade students may have the opportunity to enroll in Spanish. Seating in this course is limited; therefore, selection criteria must be met prior to enrollment. Students wishing to enroll in this course should be committed to pursuing an AP Spanish pathway in high school. This course will take the place of one connections course.



ELA Course Offerings

English Lit/Comp 8:

Course Overview:

8th Grade English Lit/Comp combines reading, grammar and writing into an integrated course. Students will complete six engaging scenarios to apply reading, grammar, and writing to real-life situations. Through these engaging scenarios, students will learn about narrative, informative, and argumentative writing and respond to both fiction and non-fiction texts. Students will engage in individual and collaborative experiences throughout the tasks assigned each unit. Teachers will utilize both formal and informal assessments and activities to provide feedback to students on their progress through the course and the development of their writing skills.

This course builds on skills learned in the English Lit/Comp 7 course.

Unit Overview:

The six units of study will have the following area of focus:

Unit 1: Theme/POV/Narrative

Unit 2: Evidence/Argumentative

Unit 3: Text Structure/Informational/Organization

Unit 4: Rhetoric/Informational

Unit 5: Paired Passages/Compare and Contrast/Narrative

Unit 6: Culmination/Argumentative

Standards:

This course uses the Georgia Standards of Excellence which can be found [here](#).

Course Grading:

Category	Percentage of grade
Graded Formative (Includes Tasks 1 and 2 from each unit)	60%
Summative (Includes Tasks 3 and 4 and Post-Assessment from each unit)	40%

Advanced English Lit/Comp 8:

The 8th grade Advanced English Lit/Comp course incorporates the same standards as the English Lit/Comp 8 class but provides students with more rigorous opportunities to build upon their reading and writing skills. Students may have the opportunity to participate in debate, experience an in-depth analysis of texts, interact with primary sources, and produce comprehensive writing assignments. Placement in the Advanced course is based upon Milestones scores, achievement in 7th grade English Lit/Comp and teacher recommendations.

Math Course Offerings

Math 8:

Course Overview:

The eighth-grade standards are designed to prepare students to bridge from middle grades mathematics to high school courses that will ensure all students are college and career ready by the conclusion of their fourth high school course. The Standards for Mathematical Practice are a key component as they are applied in each course to equip students in making sense of problems and building a set of tools they can use in real-world situations. Much of the eighth-grade mathematics curriculum focuses on functions and linear relationships as building blocks to algebra and geometry.

Unit Overview:

Unit 1: Investigating Linear Expression, Equations, and Inequalities in One Variable

Unit 2: Modelling Linear Relationships and Functions

Unit 3: Investigating Data and Statistical Reasoning

Unit 4: Real-Life Phenomena Explored through Systems of Linear Equations

Unit 5: Irrationals, Integer Exponents, and Scientific Notation

Unit 6: Exploring Geometric Relationships

Unit 7: Culminating Capstone Unit

Standards:

The standards for this course are Georgia's K-12 Mathematics Standards which can be found [here](#).

Course Grading:

Category	Percentage of Grade
Graded Formative	60%
Summative	40%

Advanced Math 8:

The 8th grade Advanced Math course incorporates the same standards as the Math 8 class but provides students with more rigorous opportunities to build upon their math skills. Students may have the opportunity to complete real-world math tasks and explain their thinking orally. Placement in the advanced course is based upon Milestones scores, achievement in Math 7 and teacher recommendations.

Enhanced Algebra: Concepts and Connections - *Accelerated Math 7 is a prerequisite for this course*

Course Overview:

Enhanced Algebra: Concepts and Connections is a course option that thoughtfully blends Grade 8 content standards with Algebra: Concepts and Connections standards. This course awards high school credit for middle school students. In the Enhanced Algebra: Concepts & Connections course, instructional time should regularly incorporate the 8 Mathematical Practices, the Framework for Statistical Reasoning and the Mathematical Modeling Framework through six big ideas of content: (1) mathematical modeling, (2) numerical reasoning, (3) functional & graphical reasoning, (4) patterning and algebraic reasoning, (5) data and statistical reasoning and (6) geometric and spatial reasoning. In this course, students will create, interpret, solve and graph linear equations and inequalities in one variable and nonlinear (quadratic and exponential) equations and functions. Students will interpret quadratic and exponential expressions. Students will continue to enhance their algebraic reasoning skills when analyzing and applying a deep understanding of systems of linear inequalities and sums and products of rational and irrational numbers. Students will apply their algebraic and geometric reasoning skills to make sense of problems involving distance, midpoint, slope, area, perimeter and statistical reasoning.

Unit Overview:

Unit 1: Modeling Linear Relationships and Functions

Unit 2: Analyzing Systems of Linear Equations and Inequalities

Unit 3: Investigating Rational and Irrational Numbers

Unit 4: Modeling and Analyzing Quadratic Functions

Unit 5: Modeling and Analyzing Exponential Expressions, Equations, and Functions

Unit 6: Investigating Data and Statistical Reasoning

Unit 7: Algebraic Connections to Geometric Concepts

Unit 8: Culminating Capstone Unit

Standards:

The standards for this course are Georgia's K-12 Mathematics Standards which can be found [here](#).

Course Grading:

Category	Percentage of Grade
Graded Formative	40%
Summative	60%

***Students will take an end of course assessment in Semester 2 that will count for 20% of the semester 2 grade.**

Science Course Offerings

Science 8:

Course Overview:

Science 8 is a hands-on, student-centered, and inquiry-based approach to science instruction. In this course, students will focus on physical science to create a smooth transition from elementary school physical science standards to high school physical science. Students will study topics like energy, nature of matter, conservation of energy and dynamics.

Unit Overview:

Unit 1: Properties of Matter

Unit 2: Structure of Matter (2A: Atomic Model, 2B: Elements, Compounds, and Mixtures)

Unit 3: Principles of Energy and Matter

Unit 4: Waves: Motion of Energy:

Unit 5: Forces and Motion (5A: Speed, Velocity, Acceleration; 5B: Forces and Newton's Laws; and 5C: Forces in Nature)

Standards:

The standards for this course are the Georgia Standards of Excellence and can be found [here](#).

Course Grading:

Category	Percentage of Grade
Graded Formative	60%
Summative	40%

Advanced Science 8:

The 8th grade Advanced Science course incorporates the same standards as the Science 8 class but provides students with more rigorous opportunities to build upon their science and math skills. Students may have the opportunity to design solutions to real-world science phenomena and explain their product in a presentation. Placement in the advanced course is based upon Milestones scores, achievement in Science 7 and teacher recommendations.

Physical Science:

Advanced Science 7 is a prerequisite for this course.

Students must be enrolled in Enhanced Algebra.

Course Overview:

Physical Science is a high school credit course that can be taken at the middle school level. Students are placed in this course based upon grades in 7th grade math and science courses. This course is designed to be hands-on, student-centered, and inquiry-based and builds upon physical science concepts that have been taught in previous grade levels. This course focuses on the core ideas of physical science that will be studied more in-depth in chemistry and physics. Core ideas that will be studied include nature and structure of matter, conservation and transformation of energy, motion, forces, and the relationship between electricity and magnetism.

Unit Overview:

Unit 1: Atomic Structure and the Periodic Table

Unit 2: Reactions (2A: Bonding, 2B: Reactions)

Unit 3: Properties of Matter (3A: Acids/Bases Solutions, 3B: States and Gas Laws)

Unit 4: Nuclear Energy

Unit 5: Energy

Unit 6: Waves

Unit 7: Kinematics

Unit 8: Force and Motion

Unit 9: Electricity and Magnetism

Standards:

The standards for this course are the Georgia Standards of Excellence which can be found [here](#).

Course Grading:

Category	Percentage of Grade
Graded Formative	40%
Summative	60%

Social Studies Course Offerings

Georgia Studies 8:

Course Overview:

Georgia Studies 8 allows students to study Georgia geography, history, government and economics. All four strands are interwoven, but time is provided for students to study in-depth the geography and government of Georgia. In addition, U.S. historical events are also studied specifically looking at the role that Georgia played in that event.

Unit Overview:

Unit 1: Georgia Geography

Unit 2: Native Americans and European Exploration

Unit 3: Georgia Colonization

Unit 4: American Revolution

Unit 5: Government

Unit 6: Westward Expansion and Indian Removal

Unit 7: Civil War and Reconstruction

Unit 8: New South

Unit 9: Early 20th Century

Unit 10: Post WWII and Civil Rights

Unit 11: Modern Georgia

Unit 12: Local Government and Finance

Standards:

The standards for this course come from the Georgia Standards of Excellence and can be found [here](#).

Course Grading:

Category	Percentage of Grade
Graded Formative	60%
Summative	40%

Advanced Georgia Studies 8:

The 8th grade Advanced Georgia Studies course incorporates the same standards as the Georgia Studies 8 class but provides students with more rigorous opportunities to build upon their social studies and ELA skills. Students may have the opportunity to interact and analyze primary source documents and present their responses to the class. Placement in the advanced course is based upon Milestones scores, achievement in Social Studies 7 and teacher recommendations.

Connections Courses

8th grade students will be enrolled in two Connections courses each quarter. If students are enrolled in year-long Connections courses, then their Connections will not change each quarter. Please reference the chart below for quarter and year-long offerings.

Year-Long Courses	Quarter-Long Courses
Applications of Communications	Art
Beginning Band 1*	Drama
Beginning Chorus 1*	Family and Consumer Science
Beginning Orchestra 1*	Foundations of Interactive Design (Computer Literacy)
Journalism	Healthcare Science
Marketing Principles*	Pathways in Marketing
Spanish 1*	Physical Education
Theatre Arts/Fundamentals*	STEM Exploratory
Visual Arts 1*	Technological Systems

*These courses are for High School credit. Students must apply or be invited to participate in these courses.

See [Connections Course Descriptions](#) for class overview.

Resources for Students and Parents

[Milestones Study Guide](#) – Resource to prepare for the End of Grade Assessment in ELA, Math, Science, and Social Studies

EOC Milestone Study Guide – Resource to prepare for the End of Course Assessment in [Algebra](#) and [Physical Science](#)

[Georgia Standards](#): Resources for standards, tasks, and supplemental clarification of standards

Connections Course Descriptions

All Grade Levels	
Course	Description
Art	This course is designed as an introduction to art. Students will focus on problem-solving and using the elements and principles of design to create expressive and well-organized works of art. Students will be exposed to a broad spectrum of media and art techniques, both in two-dimensional and three-dimensional assignments. Students will have the opportunity to discuss and write about their own works, peer works, as well as famous artists and their works of art.
Family and Consumer Science	This course covers a broad field of learning life-skills that are applicable to careers such as culinary arts, hospitality, education, nutrition, housing, finance and apparel. Through cooking labs and career modules, students will explore these topics throughout the middle school courses. In 6 th grade, there is a focus on horticulture and childcare specializations.
Physical Education	Students will have the opportunity to be physically active through participation in a wide variety of activities. Students will start at a basic skill level in 6 th grade and will systematically increase through the middle school years.
STEM Exploratory	Students will be exploring science and math concepts using the Engineering Design process and technology. Students will participate in a problem-based learning environment that will allow them to develop their creativity and teamwork skills. Standards for this course are a collection of Science Georgia Standards of Excellence, Math Georgia Standards of Excellence and Middle School Standards of Engineering Design. Each grade level will share common challenges as well as grade-specific projects based on math and science standards from that grade.

6 th Grade Specific	
Course	Description
Basic Skills of Marketing	This course is the foundational course in the Middle School Marketing Program. Students will gain an understanding of the connection between marketing and entrepreneurship. Students will construct portfolios, practice social and technical skills, and learn leadership skills through tasks and presentations.
Beginning Band	The beginning band course is the first course in middle school for students aspiring to play an instrument. Students will be introduced to reading music and will begin to learn an instrument (percussion, woodwind, or brass). Students will participate and perform in concerts to showcase what they are learning in class.
Beginning Chorus	The beginning chorus course is the first course in middle school for students aspiring to sing or take chorus in high school. Students will be introduced to reading music and will study melody, harmony,

	rhythm, expression, and vocal technique. Students will participate and perform in concerts to showcase what they are learning in class.
Beginning Orchestra	The beginning orchestra course is the first course in middle school for students aspiring to play an instrument. Students will be introduced to reading music and will begin to learn an instrument (string). Students will participate and perform in concerts to showcase what they are learning in class.
Broadcast and Graphic Communications	This course introduces students to the basic concepts and careers in Communications. Students will create basic level broadcast and video productions. Topics of study may include basic equipment, script writing, storyboarding, writing, directing, recording, and editing a student-created production.
Drama 6	This course allows students to explore acting and improvisation. Students will learn the basic techniques of acting, character and voice development, presentation skills, and scriptwriting. Students will also focus on engaging as an audience member and evaluating theatrical productions.
Exploring Engineering and Technology	Students will engage in engineering and technology activities throughout the quarter. Students will have access to hands-on experiences that explore topics such as Lego design, robotics, coding, and bridge designing. Students will have the opportunity to choose which topics are of interest to them to create their own experience in this Connections course.
Foundations of Interactive Design (Computer Science)	This course will provide an exploratory foundation in design and development of websites and games. Through integrated instructional activities, students will have opportunities to apply employability skills and to learn about career options in the information technology area. Students will complete many hands-on activities to build a strong foundation in designing interactive programs.
Healthcare Diagnostics/Support Services	As an introductory course to healthcare science, students will explore various healthcare skills. With a focus on anatomy terms, safety practices and infection control procedures, students will discover different aspects of the healthcare field. While learning soft employment skills, students will understand why the healthcare workplace is centered around teamwork and leadership.

7 th Grade Specific	
Course	Description
Drama 7	In this course, students will have the opportunity to create, perform, respond, and connect to various works of dramatic art. Students will begin to incorporate sensory and emotional experiences and observation techniques into presentational theatre activities. They will further apply vocal and movement techniques appropriate to theatre activities and presentations. The students learn beginning technical

	theatre skills such as lighting and staging, and they will continue to engage actively and appropriately as audience members.
Exploring Marketing Education	In this course, students will review the basic concepts of marketing and explore the seven functions of marketing (finance, information management, distribution, product management, pricing, promotion, and selling). Students will develop portfolios, complete projects, and demonstrate leadership skills through this exploratory course.
Foundations of Computer Programming (Computer Science)	This course will provide an exploratory foundation in computer programming. Students will have the opportunity to apply employability skills and to learn about career options in the information technology area. Through hands-on activities, students will build a strong foundation in computer coding.
Healthcare IT & Biotechnology	This course provides students with an introduction to healthcare careers, safety procedures and interpersonal communication skills. Through the use of project-based learning, students will be given the opportunity to develop teamwork and leadership skills that are necessary for the healthcare field.
Intermediate Band	The intermediate band course is the second course in middle school for students aspiring to play an instrument. Students will build upon what they learned in 6 th grade as it pertains to reading music and learning an instrument (percussion, woodwind, or brass). Students will participate and perform in concerts to showcase what they are learning in class.
Intermediate Chorus	The intermediate chorus course is the second course in middle school for students aspiring to sing or take chorus in high school. Students will build upon what they learned in 6 th grade as it pertains to reading music and will continue their study of melody, harmony, rhythm, expression, and vocal technique. Students will participate and perform in concerts to showcase what they are learning in class.
Intermediate Orchestra	The intermediate orchestra course is the second course in middle school for students aspiring to play an instrument. Students will build upon what they learned in 6 th grade as it pertains to reading music and learning an instrument (string). Students will participate and perform in concerts to showcase what they are learning in class.
Introduction to Communications	This course introduces students to the basic concepts and careers in Communications. Students will create basic level broadcast and video productions. Topics of study may include basic equipment, script writing, storyboarding, writing, directing, recording, and editing a student-created production. Additionally, students will develop an understanding of the graphic communications and design industry, focusing on topics such as creating pleasing designs and working with consumers. Students will also explore careers in the communications field and use graphic communications software.
Invention and Innovation (Engineering)	Students will engage in engineering and technology activities throughout the quarter. Students will have access to hands-on experiences that explore topics such as Lego design, robotics, coding, and architectural drawing. Students will have the opportunity to choose

	which topics are of interest to them to create their own experience in this Connections course.
--	---

8 th Grade Specific	
Course	Description
Applications of Communications	This course builds on the basic concepts and careers introduced in previous Communications courses. Students will create basic level broadcast and video productions. Topics of study may include basic equipment, script writing, storyboarding, writing, directing, recording, and editing a student-created production. Additionally, students will develop an understanding of the graphic communications and design industry, focusing on topics such as creating pleasing designs and working with consumers. Students will also explore careers in the communications field and use graphic communications software.
Drama 8	In this course, students continue to apply ensemble skills through pantomime, improvisation, and acting. They design and create simple scenery, costumes, props, lighting, sound, music, and/or makeup for dramatic presentations, using research skills as needed to gather resources. Students begin to create original scripts and adapt appropriate literature into scripted material for presentation.
Foundations of Secure Information Systems (Comp. Science)	This course provides an exploratory foundation in information systems, networking, and cybersecurity. Through integrated activities, students will have the opportunity to apply employability skills and learn about possible career options in the information technology area. Students will complete hands-on activities to build a strong foundation in computer hardware and connectivity.
Healthcare Science	This course provides students with an introduction to healthcare careers, safety procedures and interpersonal communication skills. This course will build upon the leadership and teamwork skills that students developed during the 6 th and/or 7 th grade course. Taking this course in 6 th and 7 th grade is not a prerequisite for taking the course in 8 th grade.
Journalism	Students must apply for this year-long course that creates and designs the school's yearbook. Students will complete all components for the yearbook (conduct staff and student interviews, take pictures, write captions and proofread all elements) and as a group will design it.
Pathways in Marketing	In this course, students will explore high school marketing and career cluster pathways and be familiarized with concepts from a variety of industries. Students will engage in marketing presentations, leadership opportunities, and portfolio creation.
Technological Systems (Engineering)	Students will engage in engineering and technology activities throughout the quarter. Students will have access to hands-on experiences that explore topics such as Lego design, robotics, and coding. Students will have the opportunity to choose which topics are of interest to them to create their own experience in this Connections course.

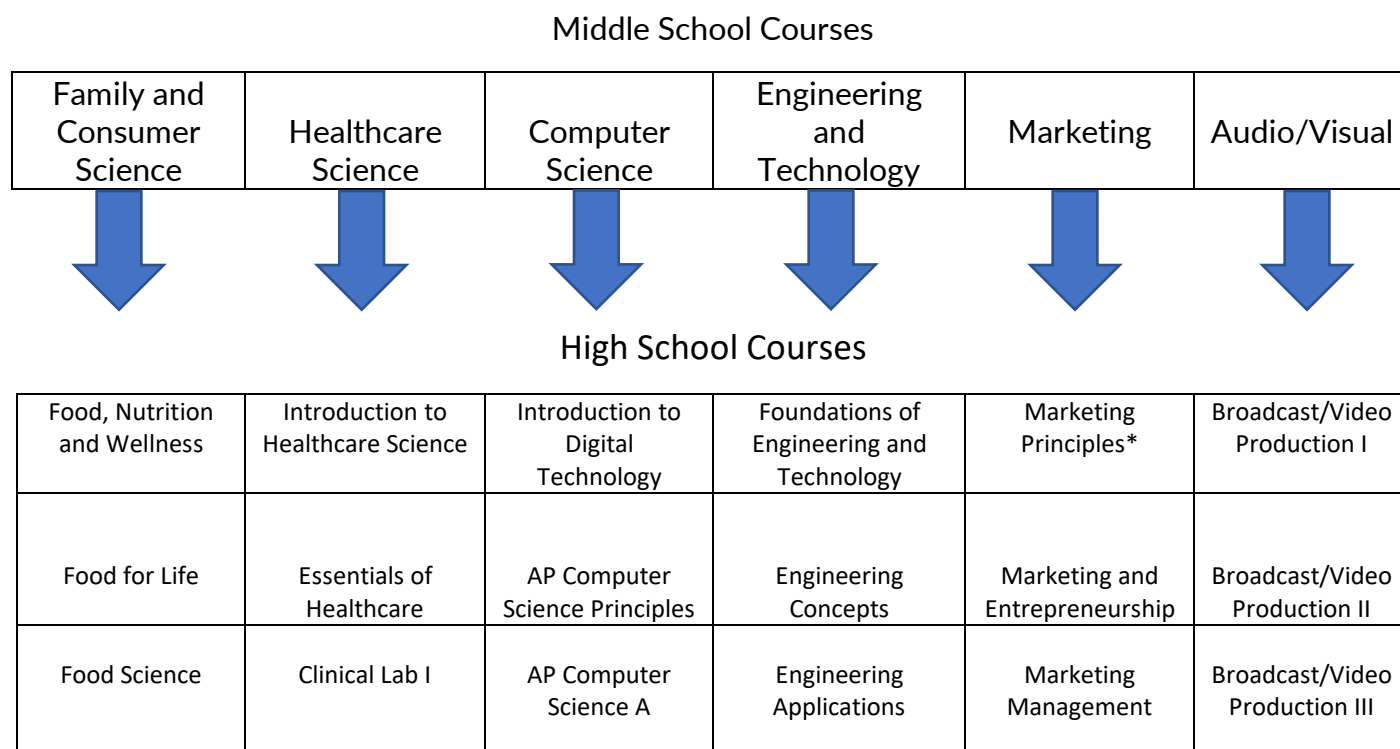
High School Credit Connections Courses

Course	Description
Beginning Band 1	A year-long high school credit course, Beginning Band 1 allows students to further develop their musical interests. Students will learn to independently read and play music, study music from different time periods, and participate in concerts.
Beginning Chorus 1	A year-long high school credit course, Beginning Chorus 1 allows students to further develop their musical interests. Students will learn to independently read and play music, study music from different time periods, and participate in concerts.
Beginning Orchestra 1	A year-long high school credit course, Beginning Orchestra 1 allows students to further develop their musical interests. Students will learn to independently read and play music, study music from different time periods, and participate in concerts.
Introduction to Healthcare Science	Introduction to Healthcare Science is the foundational course for all Health Science pathways. In this course, students will receive initial exposure to Healthcare Science careers. Students will learn and develop skills in the healthcare field, including microbiology and first aid.
Marketing Principles	In this course, students gain a foundation for marketing management, fashion merchandising and buying, and marketing communications. Students will develop an understanding of the way in which marketing satisfies consumer and business needs for goods and services. The course will immerse students in business projects and work-based learning activities.
Spanish 1	In this course, students begin developing proficiency in the four basic skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing Spanish. It is a vocabulary-rich environment where survival skills are taught along with cultural information about the many Spanish speaking countries. Activities include dialogue, role-playing, celebrations, films, videos, recordings, games, food study and other activities which provide an overview of the language.
Theatre Arts/ Fundamentals	This course serves as an introduction to theatre arts. Students investigate theatre by exploring the techniques and origins of a wide variety of theatre arts. Students will engage with theatrical techniques by organizing and designing scripts, performing various roles in differing environments, engaging as an audience member, critiquing aspects of theatre, and examining the role of theatre in society, culture, and history.
Visual Arts 1	Visual Art introduces art history, art criticism, aesthetic judgment, and studio production. The course will focus on problem-solving, using the elements and principles of design, to create expressive and well-organized works of art. Students will be exposed to a broad spectrum of media and art techniques, both in two-dimensional and three-dimensional assignments.

Connections Course Pathways

How does a middle school Connections course relate to a high school pathway?

Many of Mill Creek's connection courses relate to a CTAE pathway that students can complete at the high school level. For a student to graduate with pathway completion, they must complete three units in a pathway. If a student enjoyed one of the following courses, they could continue that pathway at the high school level.

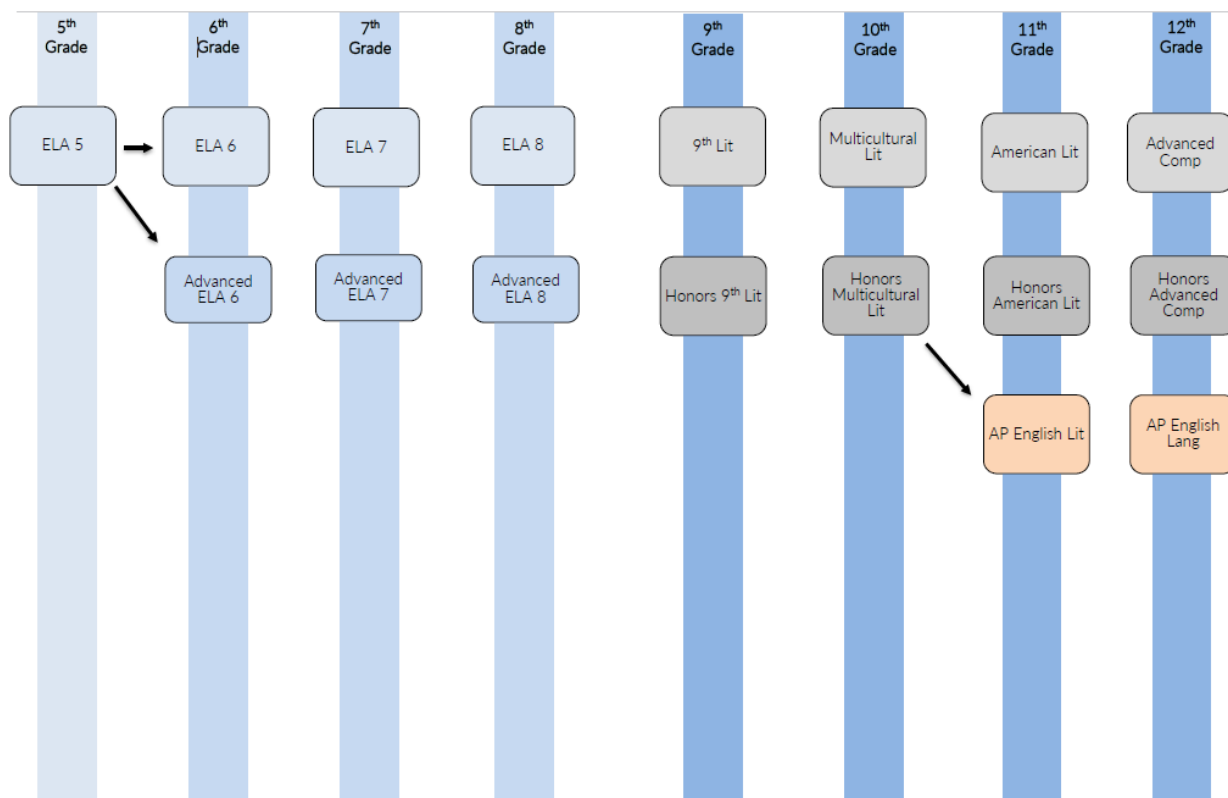


Additionally, Mill Creek offers HS Band*, Chorus*, Art*, Drama*, and Orchestra*. While these courses do not align to a CTAE pathway, students can continue a fine arts progression during their high school experience and achieve a Fine Arts Diploma Seal.

*These courses are offered at Mill Creek for HS credit in the 8th grade.

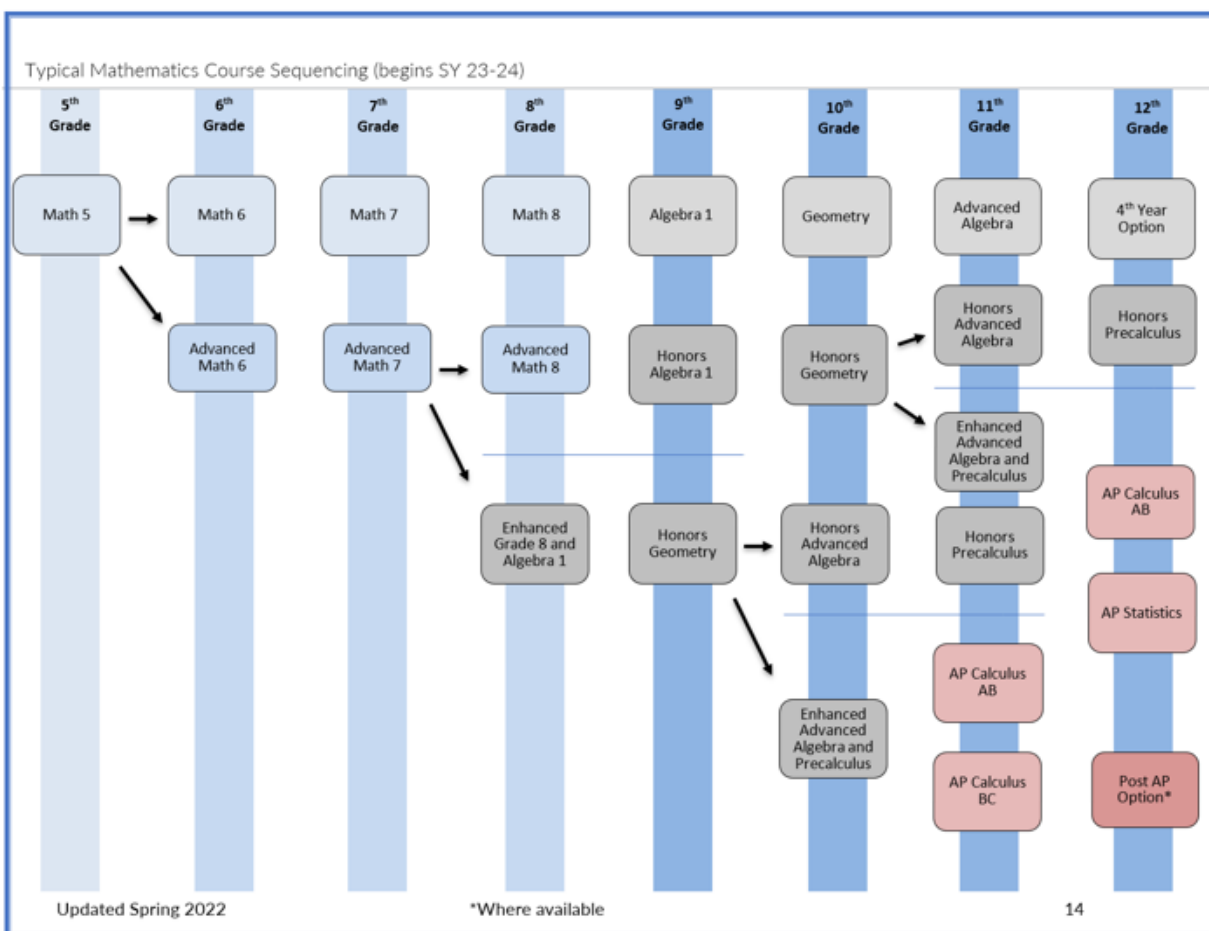
CCSD Academic Core Sequencing

Cherokee County Standard Core English Language Arts Sequencing

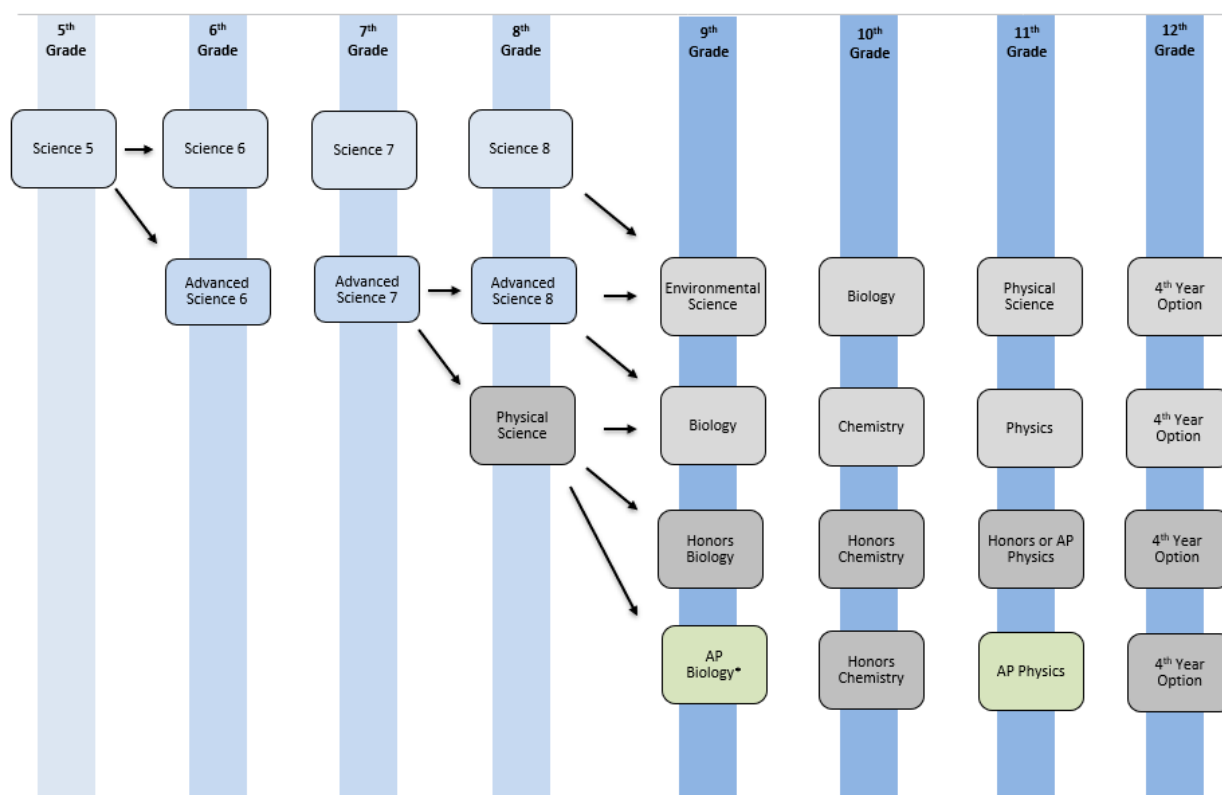


Updated Summer 2020

Cherokee County Standard Core Math Sequencing (23-24 SY and beyond)



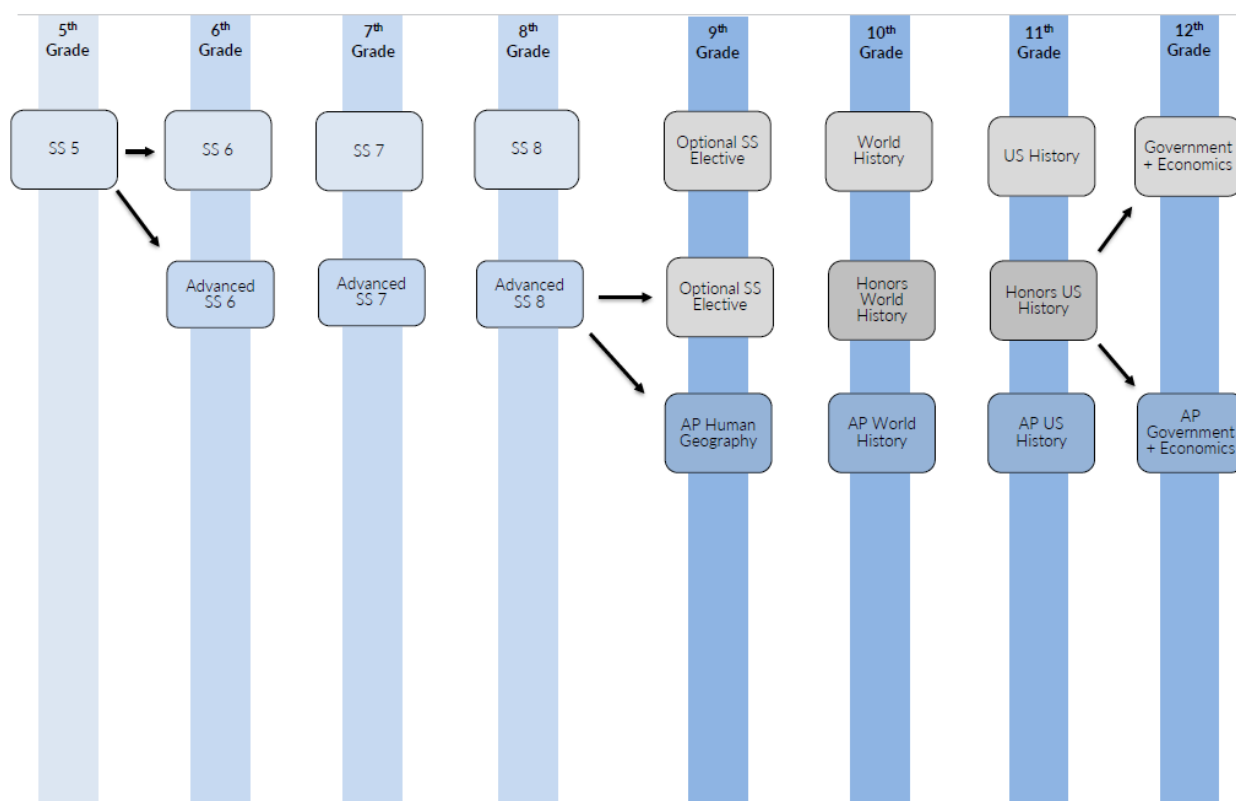
Cherokee County Standard Core Science Sequencing



*Where available

Updated Fall 2020

Cherokee County Standard Core Social Studies Sequencing



Updated Summer 2020

Frequently Asked Questions

How are students placed in courses?

Students are placed in courses based upon the previous year's grades, Milestones scores (if available) and teacher recommendation.

How do I change my student's course placement?

If you would like your student's course placement reviewed, please reach out to the grade level administrator for your student.

How can my student take high school credit courses in 8th grade?

Math, Science, and Spanish high school credit courses are based upon prerequisites from 7th grade. This is due to the content and sequencing of courses to ensure that students are not missing skills that would hinder their success in the high school credit course.

Other high school credit courses (music, business, visual arts) determine their enrollment based upon teacher recommendation or an application process. 7th grade students should be aware and listen for opportunities to apply for these courses (typically in February/March).

What if my student would like to be in a different Connections course?

While we are unable to take requests for specific Connections courses, we strive to allow students the opportunity to experience each offering prior to high school. If you have questions or concerns, please speak with your grade level counselor.

Where can I find more information about each class?

Each teacher should be able to provide you with more information regarding their class and answer any specific questions you may have. You may also refer to www.georgiastandards.org for the standards that each teacher is following for their class.

References

Math, Science and Social Studies course overviews come from the Comprehensive Course Guides found on <https://www.georgiastandards.org/Georgia-Standards/Pages/default.aspx>.

Academic Core Sequencing Charts come from the CCSD Course Selection Guide found [here](#).