



BRENTWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL

6th Grade Course Catalog (2024-2025)

Language Arts

Students in sixth 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 organize 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

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

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.

*****Academic Classes Note: INDIVIDUAL TEACHER REQUESTS WILL NOT BE GRANTED *****

Mathematics

6th Grade Math*

During the first semester, students will deepen their understanding of 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 the second semester. Word problems are deeply embedded within the course. 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.

7th Grade Math*

Prerequisites: Students are placed in 7th Grade math using data from TCAP mathematics (3-year average), STAR scores, teacher recommendations, and both the WCS and BMS placement tests.

Students will use problem-solving strategies and technology to master Tennessee state standards for the 7th grade. These skills include working with rational numbers, negative numbers, and percentages, solving equations, working with proportions, understanding geometric figures, and using techniques of statistics and probability. Word problems are deeply embedded within the course. Students will also begin applying linear relationships 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 state standards, in preparation for the 7th grade TNReady test.

8th Grade Math*

Prerequisites: 95th percentile (3-year average) or above on TCAP mathematics; 98% or above (average) on STAR/aimswestPlus; 80% or above on both WCS and BMS placement test.

8th Grade math is a pre-algebra course that students take prior to the year they take Algebra 1. This course uses problem solving situations, physical models and appropriate technology to extend algebraic thinking and engage student reasoning. This course will focus on 8th grade state of Tennessee math standards which includes 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.

**Scientific (non-graphing) calculators are required. We recommend the TI-30XS MultiView calculator, or any other calculator in the TI-30 family. A Texas Instruments brand calculator is not required but it is highly recommended to maximize use in the classroom.*