

Course Registration

Rising 6th grade

2026-27

Meet our Team

Mrs. Duff
Principal

Mr. Brown
Assistant Principal

Mrs. Noell
School Counseling
Coordinator

Mrs. Pope
Counseling Secretary

Registration Guide

- Every 5th grade student receives a paper copy (can also be found online)
  - Updated Registration Guide available online: https://www.rcps.us/parents-students/course-registration-guide
- Promotion Policy (pg 6)
- Schedule Change Policy (pg 6)
- Advanced Classes (pg 8)
- Description of courses (begins pg 17)

Registration Timeline

- November – Teacher Course Recommendations provided to GMS by elementary teachers.
- December – AMP letters go home from elementary schools (return to elementary school)
  - Forms need to be returned to elementary schools (accept or decline)
  - Some students were put in both AMP and PreAlgebra 6 – that will be adjusted during the "clean up" window
- January 7 & 9 – Registration Presentations at GES, MCES, FLES
  - Students will take home recommended courses and choose an elective for 6th grade
  - Get form signed and return to homeroom teacher
- January 12 – deadline to return Registration Form to homeroom teacher
- Jan TBD – Course Request Verifications will be sent home for final review
  - You are reviewing that the correct classes were entered and no changes need to be made
- April – elementary tours of GMS
- July – Schedules will be made available to students and parents in StudentVue/ ParentVue
  - No schedule changes can be made until two weeks after school starts
- 6th Grade Orientation – before school begins – date/time emailed

Sample Schedule

Block	A Day	Block	B Day
1	English 6	2	English 6
3	Elective	4	Health PE 6
5	Math	6	Math
7	Science	8	History

- English and Math are every day
- Elective and Health & PE alternate A day/B day
- Science and History alternate A day/B day
- Students must be in same level Science & History

Course Offerings

- **English 6**
  - Regular or Advanced
- **Math 6**
  - Math 6 regular, Pre-Algebra 6, or AMP 6 (based on placement)
- **Science 6**
  - Regular or Advanced
  - Must be same level as US History 1 class (Adv or Reg)
- **US History 1 (to 1865)**
  - Regular or Advanced
  - Must be same level as Science 6 class (Adv or Reg)
- Teachers made recommendations based on current grades, attendance, and understanding of content in middle school course. Parent can make necessary adjustments on form that goes home. Questions can be directed to your child's teacher, but notice from them is not required in order to adjust the course request.

Accelerated Math Program (AMP)

- Placement in AMP is a decision made by a committee at Central Office, not recommendations made by teachers.
- Letters went home in December of students selected for AMP. Return the form to your child's school and they will communicate with me. GMS will then make the change once letters are received from elementary schools.
- See page 20 of the Registration Guide
- Roanoke County Public Schools places great importance on the enrollment of its students in the most appropriate mathematics courses and offers several pathways to ensure success for them. The Accelerated Mathematics Program is the pathway for selected students beginning in the sixth grade and allows for these students to take a sixth course in advanced mathematics in high school:

AMP COURSE SEQUENCE			
6th Grade	AMP 6	10th Grade	Precalculus
7th Grade	Advanced Algebra I	11th Grade	AP Calculus AB
8th Grade	Advanced Geometry	12th Grade	AP Statistics or AP Calculus BC
9th Grade	Advanced Algebra II		

6th Grade Elective Options

- Students can choose **ONE** of the following electives:
  - Band 6 – Beginning Band
    - Full year course
    - Class introduces and develops techniques of instrument playing and music reading.
    - Students are **required** to participate in 2-3 concerts after school and are expected to practice their instrument outside of school.
  - Choir 6
    - Full year course
    - Students learn vocal techniques, ensemble techniques, and music-reading fundamentals.
    - Students are **required** to participate in 2-3 concerts after school.
  - Interest Block 6
    - Rotates between courses that could include: Art Exploratory, World Language Exploratory, Intro to Technology, and Family and Consumer Sciences (rotations are based on staffing)
    - One 9 weeks per class in Interest Block (if only 3 rotations, 12 week rotations in each)
    - Students are able to explore a range of electives that they can expand upon in middle and high school

Band & Choir

- **Band 6 - Beginning Band:** The 6th Grade Beginning Band class provides instrumental group instruction. The class introduces and develops techniques of instrument playing and music reading. **A minimal number of outside-of-school rehearsals and performances are required** unless excused by the teacher (must be arranged with parent, student, and teacher).
  - **ANY plans of doing band in middle or high school? You are strongly encouraged to take it in 6th grade.

- **Chorus 6**: The 6th Grade Chorus class provides instruction in ensemble techniques, vocal techniques, and music-reading fundamentals through the use of unison and two part songs. Both sacred and secular music are performed. **A minimal number of outside-of-school rehearsals and performances are required** unless excused by the teacher (must be arranged with parent, student, and teacher).

Interest Block

- **The rotations will include some of the courses listed below (3-5)**
- **Art Exploratory:** Art Exploratory is a hands-on course that will offer students the opportunity to personally explore art through drawing, painting, sculpture, graphics, and critique. Emphasis will be on the students' creative experiences while exploring basic art concepts and materials.
- **World Languages Exploratory:** Students will explore languages, culture, geography and other information related to current World Language offerings in Roanoke County Public Schools (French, Latin, Spanish, and German).
- **Exploratory Computer Skills:** Students will become familiar with the RCPS Acceptable Computer Use Policy. Students will better understand the uses and safety precautions needed when using technology. Topics will include cyber-bullying, cyber-predators, email use, social networking, texting, blogs, gaming, copyright infringement, virus/malware, and firewalls.
- **Family & Consumer Sciences:** Students will explore the skills needed for successful transition to the middle school environment. Topics will include: time management, goal setting; personal safety; completing tasks; getting along with others; taking care of personal space and possessions; personal grooming; saving money; making good food choices, and using problem-solving and decision-making skills.
- **Intro to Technology:** As a part of the interest block program, this curriculum is not only hands-on and fun, but highly relevant to students' everyday lives. The goal is to give students a thorough and practical understanding of the importance of technology in both today's and tomorrow's world. Introduction to Technology is offered as the first Technology Education experience for middle school students. Students will study the basic elements of all technology, including processes, energy, information, and people. The four primary systems of technology provide the context for the study of technological systems (i.e., communication, construction, manufacturing, and transportation).

Reminders

- Recommendation form needs to be reviewed by a parent and returned to teacher no later than **January 13**.
- Pick an elective YOU want to take; not something your friend is taking. This is about you exploring something you might enjoy!
- Work hard this year to set yourself up for success in middle school.
- Email Mrs. Noell if you have questions: gnoell@rcps.us