RIVER TRAIL MIDDLE SCHOOL
Home of the Wolves
Neil Pinnock, Principal

Guy Crotsley, Taylor Kidd, Lori Lahmann-Scullion
Assistant Principals
Amy Palermo
Administrative Assistant

Preparing for 6th Grade at River Trail Middle School

WORLD LANGUAGE AND READING OPTIONS

At RTMS, we offer Reading *or* World Language classes to students as part of their daily academic schedules. The reading course offered uses a comprehensive literacy program designed to complement skills addressed in the language arts courses while accelerating reading and literacy gains through direct instruction, read-aloud, guided practice, and independent practice on skills such as: comprehension, fluency, phonics, vocabulary, grammar, and spelling.

Initial Placement Guidelines (Qualifiers) for Reading 6:
Students meeting any of the following qualifiers will be placed in Reading

- Performs below grade level on the Georgia Milestones Reading Indicator for Grade 4 or 5
- Performs at or below the 35th percentile on the i-Ready Reading diagnostic
- Placed at 2 or more grade levels below on the i-Ready Reading Diagnostic
- Qualifies for remedial reading

Initial Placement Guidelines for WL: At/or above grade level on GMAS Reading indicator for grades 4 and 5 AND at or above the 36th percentile on the Mid-Year i-Ready Reading Diagnostic. Students who meet the placement criteria to take a World Language course will be placed in World Language. Our World Language course options for 6th grade students who qualify are Chinese, French, and Spanish. Parents will need to designate their preference for a World Language in the link provided at the end of this letter.

ALL Parents: Please indicate your preference for a World Language (in the event your student qualifies) in the Response Form linked at the end of this letter. In the form, indicate your first and second choice for World Language, in case seats in a certain language are full.

CONNECTIONS OPTIONS

Like “Specials” in Elementary School, “Connections" classes provide opportunities for students to receive additional exposure to the arts, science, career awareness, physical education, etc. At RTMS, the only courses that students can request to be placed in for connections are our music programs: Band, Orchestra, and Chorus. General Connections are randomly assigned and can include: Career Awareness, PE, Health, Family Consumer Science, Adventure Quest, Visual Arts, and Music General.

If students would like to play a band or orchestra instrument, or sing in chorus, now is the time to sign up! All students may join Band, Chorus, or Orchestra in 6th grade regardless of experience level. Participation in the music department is a yearlong commitment. These classes are the first of potentially seven years’ worth of music education. With hard work, students will continue to learn about and enjoy music for the rest of their lives.

Connections Options: Please make your selection in the Response Form linked at the bottom of this page.

► **OPTION A – General Connections:** Students participate in a total of 8 nine-weeks courses. Sixth graders are required to participate in 1 nine-weeks of Health, 1 nine-weeks of Career Awareness, and 3-4 nine-weeks of PE. The other Connections classes are randomly assigned and can include 2-3 of the following: Visual Art, Music General, Family and Consumer Sciences, and Adventure Quest.

► **OPTION B – Performing Music Connections Program:** Students participate in 1 year-long course of Band, Chorus, or Orchestra. They also participate in 1 nine-weeks of Health, PE, Career Awareness, and 1 other general connections course.

Instruments: *Band and Orchestra students will choose their instrument at the beginning of next school year with the guidance of the band/orchestra teacher.*

Orchestra – Cello, String Bass, Viola, Violin

Band – Baritone, Bassoon, Clarinet/Bass Clarinet, Flute, Horn, Oboe, Percussion, Saxophone, Trombone, Trumpet, Tuba, Bells/Xylophone/Marimba, Snare/Bass Drum

Click here for more information about the RTMS music programs:

https://rivertrail.fultonschools.org/academics1/fine-arts/fine-arts-department

Please enter your responses on the digital form by clicking on this link:: **ADD LINK HERE**