



Great Neck South Middle School

Registration Information 2026 – 2027

Grade 6



Sixth Grade Registration Information

The following information has been prepared to help you understand the Sixth Grade Program at Great Neck South Middle School so that you will be better able to help your child plan his/her program for the upcoming school year.

All fifth grade students will visit South Middle this spring to tour our building. In addition, we host a walk-through for sixth-grade students and parents, generally a day or two before school begins in the fall. Student schedules and locker combinations are distributed at this time.

For next year's class, **Ms. Jecelyn Scauzillo and Ms. Jennifer Hill** will be the school counselors. They will oversee your child's academic and social progress for their three years of middle school. In addition to the school counselors, a social worker and psychologist are a part of the "Pupil Personnel Team" and are available to support your child if needed. Parents are always encouraged to call the Pupil Personnel/Guidance Office at 441-4620 with any questions or concerns.

Each student is assigned to a team of teachers (Math/English/Science/Social Studies). Each team meets daily to plan curriculum and to discuss ways of providing the best possible learning environment for each child. The school counselors and a special education teacher regularly attend these meetings. Close home/school communication is encouraged.

Program Description

The 6th Grade Program consists of four curriculum components:

1. Required component
2. Elective component
3. Support service component
4. After school component

1. Required Component

The required courses are English, social studies, math, science, lunch, and physical education. In addition, the sixth grade has a daily flex period in which different areas of study are emphasized based upon team needs. Students who participate in a support service or a performing group take physical education every other day. A daily ten week rotating art cycle consisting of art, music, family and consumer sciences, and technology is also a required part of the sixth grade curriculum.

English 6

Sixth grade English provides an opportunity to read for information and understanding, for literary response and expression, and for critical analysis and evaluation. In keeping with New York State standards, students will have a myriad of experiences in reading, writing, listening and speaking in order to explore these areas of study. Students will experience independent reading, book clubs, whole-class novels as well as writing units that center on growth through practice. Units of study will utilize a reader's/writer's workshop approach.

Mathematics 6

- **Math 6**

In Grade 6, instructional time focuses on four critical areas: (1) connecting ratio and rate to whole number multiplication and division and using concepts of ratio and rate to solve problems; (2) completing understanding of division of fractions and extending the notion of number to the system of rational numbers, which includes negative numbers; (3) writing, interpreting, and using expressions and equations; and (4) developing understanding of statistical thinking.

- **Math 6 EP**

This advanced course offers an accelerated program for the capable sixth grade student. This faster-paced, rigorous course covers all of the traditional topics and problem solving skills in the sixth grade regular curriculum and delves into more intricate real world situations. Some of the more advanced algebraic methods from the seventh grade curriculum are explored.

Science 6

The sixth grade science curriculum introduces students to science and engineering at the secondary level. This integrated science course allows students to explore select topics in physical, life, and earth and space sciences while weaving in engineering. Students will primarily focus their studies on experimental design, forces and motion, chemistry and matter, and ecology. The grade six program provides a strong foundation for all future science endeavors. Lab activities, engineering challenges, and an ecology field trip serve to reinforce science skills, content, and practices.

Social Studies 6

In Social Studies 6, students use rich content and themes to learn history, geography, economics, civics, citizenship and government. Students will develop specific intellectual skills to “think like historians.” The examination of a variety of archaeological and historical evidence allows students to compare and contrast characteristics across several societies and civilizations in the Eastern Hemisphere, provides the foundation for connecting the past with the present and allows students to consider the broad sweep of history from a variety of perspectives. Additionally, students will continually evaluate local and global current events as they relate to history. Our diverse global geography has impacted human culture and settlement patterns in distinct ways. Students will examine how the physical environment influences human population distribution, land use, economic activities, and political connections. Students will consider the essential question, “How does where you live affect how you live?” through exploration of the geography of the interdependent world in which we live, specifically the distribution of people, places, and environments over Earth’s surface.

Art 6

Art 6 is a comprehensive introductory course designed to engage students at their individual levels through hands-on studio experiences. Students explore a variety of two-dimensional and three-dimensional media while learning essential artistic techniques and processes. They also build foundational art vocabulary, develop skills in analyzing works of art, and gain exposure to key concepts in art history. All course content aligns with the New York State Learning Standards for the Visual Arts.

Family Consumer Sciences 6

Family Consumer Sciences is a required class for the 6th grade. This is an exploratory experience where students will receive 10 weeks of instruction that is divided between the Food and Sewing Units. Topics of instruction include but are not limited to: food preparation, consumerism, financial literacy, personal development and clothing management. This 10-week class is the stepping stone, framework and foundation that will be built on in the seventh grade curriculum.

Health Education 6

The sixth grade Health Education Module is designed to provide sequentially organized instruction geared toward the specific needs of our sixth grade students. The lesson topics include: self-image, building self-confidence, developing a sense of health awareness, setting positive health goals, developing decision-making skills, and mental health awareness. The health teacher delivers these lessons through the flex period.

Music 6

The Music 6 class provides an experience that includes part music history, part music theory, part music composition and part in-class music performance. Basic elements of music, including rhythm, melody, harmony, texture and form, are taught through various hands-on activities. Technology is utilized throughout the quarter in creating music compositions.

Physical Education 6

This is a state mandated course that meets on an alternating day cycle throughout the school year. Systematic units of instruction are provided through a variety of activities that include safety, skill development, rules, etiquette, sportsmanship and knowledge as specified by the New York State Learning Standards. Units of instruction may include the following: Fitness, Team Sports, Individual Sports, Net/racquet activities, Cooperative Activities, Lifetime activities.

Technology 6

Technology 6 is the first in a series of three Technology courses a student must complete to satisfy their 1 credit requirement at South Middle School. Students study the history of technology, explore the science and mechanics of simple machines, and work on various problem solving activities.

Students will also be involved in a manufacturing unit where they will learn about mass production, interchangeable parts, assembly line, jigs and fixtures. Each student will bring home a wooden charging station/notepad holder that the student helped to create.

2. Elective Component

World Language

World Language in sixth grade is an elective. As a result, a sixth grade student who is identified as in need of supportive services may need to postpone the start of World Language until eighth grade, when they will begin studying Spanish

The language chosen in sixth grade is a three year commitment and changes to a child's course of language study are not permitted from year to year. Therefore, it is important for students and their families to carefully consider and discuss their language preferences. All of our 6th grade classes are taught at the introductory level. For this reason, if children are heritage learners and are proficient in all four modalities of language (listening, reading, writing and speaking), it is strongly recommended they challenge themselves through the study of another language.

Based upon sufficient student interest, we anticipate offering the following languages: Mandarin Chinese, French, Latin and Spanish. There is a communicative approach to World Language learning, as well as an emphasis on cultural fluency. In Latin, the emphasis is on translation, grammar, and Latin to English word derivation; there will also be a strong focus on Roman mythology, history, and the daily life of the ancient Romans, as well as the impact of the Greco-Roman world on our modern society.

Music Performance

A sixth grade student may elect to participate in one performing group. Sixth grade students who elect to take a performing group will generally take the performing group on alternate days and physical education on the opposite alternating days. One of the following performing groups may be elected:

Band 6

All students who play brass, woodwind, and percussion instruments who have successfully completed the fifth grade level of work are invited to continue in the sixth grade performing band. Concepts of breathing, posture, hand position, tone quality, articulation, rhythm, intonation, dynamics, phrasing, ensemble, and note reading are the focus of every lesson. Membership entails mandatory attendance at all concerts. Students are encouraged to participate in the NYSSMA Solo Ensemble Evaluation Festival held each spring, which can lead to being selected for the All-County Band or Stage Band. Signature of approval from the 5th grade band teacher is required for participation.

REQUIREMENTS FOR DRUMMERS ENROLLING IN BAND 6: Because of the balance of sound, a Band can only have a limited amount of drummers as opposed to any wind instrument. Therefore, the requirements for continuing drums in Band after 6th grade are much more strict than any other instrument. All 6th grade drummers wishing to be accepted to 7th grade MUST successfully perform a Level 1 NYSSMA Snare Drum solo by November AND a NYSSMA Level 2 Snare Drum solo by January, with all correct rhythms, stickings, dynamics, rudiments and rolls included in the piece of music. They do NOT have to go to NYSSMA, but they must perform these two pieces for the teacher. If they are not able to competently perform these pieces, they will not be allowed to enroll in Band for 7th grade.

Orchestra 6

All students who play string instruments who have successfully completed the fifth grade level of work are invited to continue in the sixth grade performing orchestra. Concepts of bowing, posture, hand position, tone quality, articulation, rhythm, intonation, dynamics, phrasing, ensemble, and note reading are the focus of every lesson. Students are encouraged to participate in the NYSSMA Solo and Ensemble Evaluation Festival held each spring, which can lead to being selected for the All-County Orchestra or Long Island String Festival Orchestra. Membership entails mandatory attendance at all concerts. Signature of approval from the 5th grade orchestra teacher is required for participation.

Chorus 6

Students who enjoy singing in a group may elect chorus in the sixth grade. Vocal training builds self-esteem while allowing students to accomplish musical goals within an artistic setting. Students will work with their natural voices on tone quality, intonation, breath control, articulation, and song interpretation. The chorus performs a wide variety of musical selections, including popular songs as well as music of master composers. Students who qualify for additional vocal challenges will be considered for the All-County Chorus. Membership entails mandatory attendance at all concerts. No signature of approval is required to join Chorus 6.

3. Support Service Component

Sixth grade students may be placed into one or more supportive services as a result of standardized test scores and/or teacher recommendation. The following support services are offered to sixth graders:

Math Center

Students are scheduled for Math Center on the basis of their scores in mathematics on standardized tests or by the fifth grade teacher recommendation. The aim of the Math Center is to upgrade the mathematics performance of students whose test data indicates below grade level achievement. The Math Center teacher provides small group instruction for students in connection with their assigned math classes.

English Center

Students are scheduled for English Center based upon their standardized English (ELA) test scores or by their fifth grade teachers' recommendation. Using specific writing and reading techniques taught in the Center, students will become better readers and writers; they will also learn to make connections to the reading and writing assignments they work on in their content area classes.

Special Education Services

Students requiring Special Education Services receive support as mandated by their IEP (Individualized Educational Program).

ENL (English as a New Language)

Our ENL program teaches English to students who are foreign born and/or recent arrivals to this country. Attempts are made to group students according to ability in English. Instruction is individualized and is aimed at helping the students in the transitional period of acculturation and preparing them to function in regular classes.

4. After School Component

Extra Help

Extra help on an as needed basis is available both during and after the school day.

Library/Homework Center/Math Center/Computer Labs

These areas are available after school from 3:00pm to 3:45pm to allow students to complete homework, do research, and explore other areas of interest.

Late Buses

There are 4:15pm, as well as 5:00pm, 5:30pm and 6:30pm late buses to take students home who have stayed after school. The late bus stops may vary from the 2:50pm scheduled bus stops. The late bus schedule and routes are posted in the main lobby. Aides are present on the bus platform after school to assist students. Late buses pick up South Middle School students first and then South High School students.

Bell Schedule

The middle school day is made up of a 9-minute homeroom plus 9 periods. The school day begins with the Homeroom period at 8:20 a.m. and ends at 2:50 p.m.

SMS Bell Schedule

Mon/Wed/Thu				Tue/Fri			
HR	8:20 AM	8:29 AM	9	HR	8:20 AM	8:42 AM	22
1	8:33 AM	9:13 AM	40	1	8:46 AM	9:24 AM	38
2	9:17 AM	9:55 AM	38	2	9:28 AM	10:05 AM	37
3	9:59 AM	10:37 AM	38	3	10:09 AM	10:46 AM	37
4 gr.6	10:41 AM	11:19 AM	38	4 gr.6	10:50 AM	11:26 AM	36
5 gr.8	11:23 AM	12:01 PM	38	5 gr.8	11:30 AM	12:06 PM	36
6 gr.7	12:05 PM	12:43 PM	38	6 gr.7	12:10 PM	12:46 PM	36
7	12:47 PM	1:25 PM	38	7	12:50 PM	1:27 PM	37
8	1:29 PM	2:07 PM	38	8	1:31 PM	2:08 PM	37
9	2:11 PM	2:50 PM	39	9	2:12 PM	2:50 PM	38