



Beck Academy

A Middle Years International Baccalaureate Program

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Planning Your Education

Your school provides this course curriculum guide as a means of assisting students and parents in understanding and planning their course of study. Students are encouraged to carefully select related arts courses during the registration process. Your school's guidance counselors and teachers stand ready to assist them. Parents are invited and encouraged to actively participate by assisting their student.

Related arts classes are scheduled based upon student requests. However, due to schedule conflicts and changes in course offerings, the staff cannot guarantee that students will be scheduled for all courses they request. In addition, be aware that the school builds a master schedule and employs teachers based on students' requests; therefore, schedule changes will only be considered on a very limited basis.

Online Registration

Online Registration was implemented in 2004. It allows parents and students to request related arts courses for the next school year from home via the Internet. Families who do not have access to the Internet will be given opportunities to use school computers to register online. Parents and students should understand that requesting a related arts course through online registration does not guarantee that the student is placed in the course the next school year. Final placement in a course is dependent upon enrollment, scheduling feasibility, and teacher allocation. Schools will post the courses that they will be offering the next school year in a course curriculum guide which will be located on the school's website. Parents without Internet access at home will receive a printed copy of the course curriculum guide by request. The window for students to select related arts courses online is posted by the school on the school's website and in parent newsletters. Schools will provide instructions on accessing the online registration tool.

Promotion Criteria for Grades Six through Eight (GCS IHE / Rule 9/11/2006)

Criterion 1: Students in grades six through eight are expected to learn, at a minimum, curriculum standards in English language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies, and meet attendance requirements.

Criterion 2: The student earned a minimum average grade of 70% in English language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies (if language arts is taught as a separate subject in grades 6-8, the English language arts grade will be determined by the mean of the yearly average of reading and language arts.)

End of Year Promotion Status

The following are summary designation and descriptors for end-of-year promotion status of students in grades six-eight.

Promoted – The student met all promotion criteria. The one exception is that students who fail a high school credit bearing course in middle school are promoted but must retake the course. Enrollment in these credit bearing courses will be determined by the district criteria as stated in the Master Catalog of Middle School Courses which is located in the Important Items section of the Infoweb.

Promoted - Summer School Required - The student failed to meet the criteria for one or two core academic areas, but successful performance in summer school for any deficient area was met.

Principal's Welcome

If you are new to Beck Academy, I envy your opportunity to experience it for the first time. I remember when I first arrived as one of the administrators in 2005, and was amazed at the dedicated staff and community. As you get to know everyone involved with our school, you will notice some unique aspects that make Beck Academy one of the best middle schools in the state.

- ▣ We have a highly qualified teaching staff that cares for students. This is showcased in the consistently above average achievement scores obtained by our students.
- ▣ We are very proud of our IB Program and the opportunity we have to provide our students with a learning environment that allows them to become independent thinkers, with a global perspective. All of our students take a foreign language, and are assisted with opportunities for self reflection about their own learning style.
- ▣ We are determined to make a difference in the lives of our students by providing a positive learning environment to maximize student achievement. Beck will continue to implement the School Wide Optimal Organization Handbook (SWOOSH). This notebook helps students organize materials for all their classes. Students will receive a grade for a notebook check two times each nine weeks. A list of the items needed to be kept in the notebook will be posted in each classroom.
- ▣ We are committed to providing a safe and secure school that includes a climate conducive to learning. We accomplish this with close supervision of students and consistent and fair discipline practices. Beck also has a uniform dress-code to improve discipline and encourage sense of belonging in our school. In addition an incentive program available to students is Marvelous Mondays. Students that have not received a referral for two weeks are allowed to wear Greenville County dress code with the exception of jerseys and hoods.
- ▣ Each grade level has an Assistant Principal to facilitate communication. We pride ourselves on our ability to work with parents to provide the best education possible for our students. We also communicate through our e-news letter by visiting the Beck Academy webpage at www.greenville.k12.sc.us/beck/. Scroll to the bottom of the homepage where you will find a subscription box that reads "submit your email address below to subscribe to Beck's email newsletter." Just enter your email address and you will begin receiving Beck's E-News every 2 weeks.
- ▣ Our award-winning PTSA is one of a kind. Not only are our parents committed to helping our school succeed they also understand the different needs of our parents. To help with this, they have devised a variety of ways for parents to be involved. Regardless of your schedule and time available, there are opportunities to assist our PTSA if you are willing to help. Our e-news provides contact information to connect you with our PTSA>

There are too many great things about Beck Academy to include in one letter. The best way to see them all is to come on in and get involved! I am excited about the possibilities of the school year' please feel free to contact us if you have any questions as we work together to make a difference in the lives of our students.

See you soon,

Jason S. Warren, EdS
Principal

Mission

The mission of Beck Academy, an International Baccalaureate School, is to meet the academic needs of our culturally diverse student body in a safe environment that nurtures, accepts, and encourages all students to be productive citizens of the global community, life-long learners and future leaders.

Beliefs

- ▣ Student learning is the chief priority for the school.
- ▣ Each student is a valued individual with unique physical, social, emotional, and intellectual needs.
- ▣ A safe and physically comfortable environment promotes student learning.

International Baccalaureate – Middle Years Program

Many challenges are revealed in a child's development during grades 6 through 10. The International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program was developed to assist students traveling through the experiences of growth. It is a program of international education designed to help students develop the knowledge, understanding, attitudes and skills necessary to participate actively and responsibly in a changing world. A student learning how to learn and how to evaluate information critically is as important as learning facts.

Students study subjects from each of eight subject groups:

Humanities (History)
Science
Physical Education
Arts (Visual and Performing)
Language A (English)
Technology
Mathematics
Language B (Spanish or French)

Through the five areas of interaction (AOIs):

Approaches to Learning : Through ATL teachers provide students with the tools to enable them to take responsibility for their own learning, thereby developing an awareness of how they learn best, of thought processes and of learning strategies.

Human Ingenuity: Students explore in multiple ways the processes and products of human creativity, thus learning to appreciate and develop in themselves the human capacity to influence, transform, enjoy and improve quality of life.

Environments: This area aims to develop students' awareness of their interdependence with the environment so that they understand and accept their responsibilities.

Community and Service *: This component requires students to take an active part in the communities in which they live, thereby encouraging responsible citizenship.

Health and Social Education: This area deals with physical, social and emotional health, and intelligence – key aspects of development leading to complete and healthy lives.

Beck Academy Registration Reference for Students & Parents:

Beck Academy has a 6 period day which is made up of 4 core academic periods and 2 elective period. Your child's 5th grade teacher(s) will make recommendations for your child in the areas of English, Math, Science, and Social Studies. Core academic courses offered at Beck Academy include:

English

- English Gifted & Talented - *Must meet district criteria & identified as Gifted & Talented.*
- English Studies - *Must meet district criteria.*
- English Strategies

Math

- Math 6/7/8 -*Must meet district criteria.*
- Math 7 or 6th grade- *Must meet district criteria.*
- Math 6

Science

Social Studies

Parents who have questions about a recommendation(s) in the areas of English, Math, Science, and/or Social Studies should contact your student's 5th grade teacher and/or elementary school counselor. Any parent wanting to override a recommendation should contact his/her student's 5th grade teacher and/or counselor to discuss the recommendation. The override should be completed at the elementary school and attached to the registration form prior to a student entering Beck Academy.

Please follow these directions when choosing elective courses for Beck Academy for the 2012-2013 school year:

- Students should only choose 3 electives and 1 alternative.
- One elective must be French or Spanish.
- All students will take Physical Education.

Important Information for Band & Strings Students

- 6th grade students who are planning to take Band or Strings next year should choose 2 electives.
- One elective should be either Band or Strings and the second elective should be either Spanish or French.

Elective Courses for Grade 6

Year Long

- Band 6
- Strings 6

Semester

- Physical Education
- French 6
- Spanish 6
- Art
- Music
- Chorus
- Computer Technology
- Gateway to Technology

PowerSchool Registration for 2012-2013

Students and parents will have access to the registration system through the Parent and Student Portal using a PowerSchool login. Each grade level will have access to the registration system beginning in February. At this time students and parents can review teach recommendations for core academic courses and choose elective courses for the 2012-2013 school year. If you have not set up a PowerSchool account on the Parent Portal, please contact your student's school to obtain login information.

Important Registration Dates

- February 6-10 - Teacher Window Opens (Teachers will make recommendations at this time.)
- February 13-17 - Registration for Grades 6 & 7 (Rising 7th & 8th)
- February 21-27 - Registration for Grade 8 (Rising 9th)
- February 27-March 2 - Registration for Grade 5 (Rising 6th)

PowerSchool Registration Instructions

1. Open the Internet and go to ps.greenville.k12.sc.us
2. Type in your PowerSchool userID and password.
3. On the main menu, click on the Class Registration icon at the top of the page.
4. Read the instructions on the screen.
5. Find the box for 6th Grade English. Click on the pencil icon. Select the course in bold and then click okay.
6. Find the box for 6th Grade Math. Click on the pencil icon. Select the course in bold and then click okay.
7. Science, Social Studies, and Physical Education have been select for you. You do not need to edit these requests.
8. Find the box for 6th Grade Electives. Click on the pencil icon. Follow directions. Select 1 or 2 courses and then click okay. (See Example)
9. Find the box for 6th Grade Alternatives. Click on the pencil icon. Select 2 alternative elective courses. Click okay.
10. Review.
11. Click submit.

Example Course Box:

Students will choose either 1 or 2 electives. Band and Strings are year long courses. Students choosing BAND or STRINGS should ONLY choose 1 elective of BAND or STRINGS. Students not choosing Band or Strings as an elective should choose 2 electives of their choice. *** Please note if your teacher recommended you for an ESOL course, then you will only choose 1 elective.

Course Name	Number	Credits	Prerequisite Note	Alerts
Art 6	15010000	0		
Band 6	15310000	0		
Chorus 6	15410000	0		
Computer Tech 6	17010000	0		
GTT6DesignModel	28410000	0		
Music 6	15610000	0		
Strings 6	15510000	0		

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[OkayOkay](#)

[CancelCancel](#)

You may select between 1 and 2 courses. You have selected **0** courses.

Please visit the Beck Academy Guidance Department Blog Site at <http://sbeaver.blog.greenville.k12.sc.us/> for more information and a detailed look at registration.

Course Descriptions

English

Title: English Strategies 6

Unit Credit: 0.00

Grade Level: 6

Prerequisite:

Students should meet one or more of the following criteria: Teacher recommendation ; PASS score of Not Met in 4th grade; 5th grade MAP RIT scores of <213

This course is designed to meet the needs of students transitioning from elementary to middle school instruction in reading and language arts. Instruction will continue to reinforce foundational skills in reading and provide ample scaffolding for those students whose reading skills are still developing. Writing instruction, vocabulary development, and research skills will be taught in conjunction with the literature studied.

Course Number: 10013000

Duration:

Short Title:

Title: English Studies 6

Unit Credit: 0.00

Grade Level: 6

Prerequisite:

Students should meet two or more of the following criteria: Teacher recommendation; PASS score of Met in 4th grade; 5th grade MAP RIT scores of 213 - 236

This course is designed to meet the needs of those students whose reading and language arts skills are sufficient to allow them to read more difficult texts, analyze what they have read more deeply, and respond without difficulty to the text in writing. The students in this course do not require foundational instruction in reading strategies; however, they will continue to receive instruction in more sophisticated reading practices that prepare the student for literary analysis. All writing instruction, vocabulary development, and research opportunities will be in response to a text read. Students can expect instruction to move at an accelerated pace.

Course Number: 10013100

Duration:

Short Title:

Title: English GT 6

Unit Credit: 0.00

Grade Level: 6

Prerequisite: Identified as GTA (Gifted and Talented Academic)with a MAP RIT score >236

This course is designed to meet the needs of academically gifted and talented students who were identified through the standard measures implemented by The School District of Greenville County. The curriculum designed specifically for this course meets the guidelines set forth by the South Carolina State Department of Education as criteria for Gifted and Talented instruction. Students should expect to find the curriculum challenging in a number of ways: text complexity, analytical writing, problem solving, creative endeavors, and accelerated pace.

Course Number: 10013200

Duration:

Short Title:

Math

Title: Math 6

Unit Credit: 0.00

Grade Level: 6

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation

This standards-based sixth-grade course is designed to help students begin the transition from arithmetic to algebraic thinking. It includes concepts, operations, and problems solving with decimals, fractions, and percents in addition to an introduction to integers and ratios. Students will develop algebraic thinking through the investigation of patterns, the use of simple equations and inequalities to represent relationships, and the use of tables and graphs to solve problems. Throughout the course there is an emphasis on the process standards of problem-solving, communication, reasoning, representations, and connections.

Course Number: 11100600

Duration:

Short Title:

Title: Math 6/7

Unit Credit: 0.00

Grade Level: 6

Prerequisite: Must meet district criteria including Teacher recommendation

This standards-based course is designed to help students begin the transition from arithmetic to algebraic thinking. It includes all of the grade 6 standards and half of the grade 7 standards. Topics include operations and problem-solving with decimals, fractions, integers, ratios, proportions, and percents. Students will develop algebraic thinking through the investigation of patterns, the use of one-and two-step equations and inequalities to represent relationships, and the use of tables and graphs to solve problems. Throughout the course there is an emphasis on the process standards of problem-solving, communication, reasoning, representations, and connections.

Course Number: 11100700

Duration:

Short Title:

Title: Math 6/7/8

Unit Credit: 0.00

Grade Level: 6

Prerequisite: Must meet district criteria including Teacher recommendation

This standards-based course is designed to help students begin the transition from arithmetic to algebraic thinking and to prepare them to take Algebra 1 in grade 7. It includes all of the Number and Operation Standards for grades 6,7 and 8. It also includes selected standards from the 6-8 Standards of Algebra, Geometry, Measurement, Data Analysis and Probability. Topics include operations and problem-solving with decimals, fractions, integers, ratios, proportions, and percents. Students will develop algebraic thinking through the investigation of patterns and by exploring the merits and limitations of graphical, symbolic, tabular, and verbal representations of relationships. Students will use tables, graphs, one-, two-, and multi-step equations and inequalities to represent relationships and solve problems. Throughout the course there is an emphasis on the process standards of problem solving, communication, reasoning, representations, and connections.

Course Number: 11100800

Duration:

Short Title:

Social Studies

Title: Social Studies 6

Unit Credit: 0.00

Grade Level: 6

Prerequisite: None

Sixth grade social studies expands students' understanding of history through the study of people, places, and events to the era of European exploration and settlement. Students focus not only on facts about various cultures but also on the significance of geography in history, their everyday lives, problems, and accomplishments of people, and their roles in developing the social, economic, and political structures of major civilizations. Instruction should emphasize the elements of social studies literacy—the tools, strategies, and perspectives necessary for understanding how history, geography, economics and government are interwoven.

Course Number: 13010000

Duration:

Short Title:

Arts

Title: Art 6

Unit Credit: 0.00

Grade Level: 6

Prerequisite: None

The purpose of this course is to enable students to communicate ideas and concepts through a variety of artwork, including drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture, arts, and crafts. A study of artists and their work will help students understand the techniques, skills, and diverse intentions of artists from many cultures and times. Students will focus on developing creative problem-solving skills, visual literacy, and personal expression.

Course Number: 15010000

Duration:

Short Title:

Title: Band 6

Unit Credit: 0.00

Grade Level: 6

Prerequisite: None

This course provides beginning-level instruction on brass, woodwind, and percussion instruments. No previous musical experience is required. The curriculum includes the development of fundamental skills, concepts, composition, cooperative learning, music as it relates to history and culture, and band techniques. The class will include an expectation for the purchase or rental of an instrument and individual practice at home. Concert performances will be an outgrowth of the study of musical concepts.

Course Number: 15310000

Duration:

Short Title:

Title: Chorus 6

Unit Credit: 0.00

Grade Level: 6

Prerequisite: None

The purpose of this course is to enable students to develop fundamental vocal musicianship, technical skills, and aesthetic awareness through the study and performance of varied middle school choral literature. The curriculum for Chorus 6 includes vocal technique, part singing, music fundamentals, and singing music of various historical and world styles through large and small group participation. Concert performances will be an outgrowth of the study of the musical concepts.

Course Number: 15410000

Duration:

Short Title:

Title: Strings 6

Unit Credit: 0.00

Grade Level: 6

Prerequisite: None

This course provides beginning-level instruction on violin, viola, cello, and string bass. No previous musical experience is required. The curriculum includes the development of fundamental skills, concepts, composition, cooperative learning, music as it relates to history and culture, and string techniques. The class will include an expectation for the purchase or rental of an instrument and individual practice at home. Some larger instruments are available at the school, and parents should coordinate with the director for their use. Concert performances will be an outgrowth of the study of musical concepts.

Course Number: 15510000

Duration:

Short Title:

Title: Music 6

Unit Credit: 0.00

Grade Level: 6

Prerequisite: None

This is a course providing students with the opportunity to explore musical concepts and further their understanding of music through listening, singing, playing instruments, and engaging in creative activities.

Course Number: 15610000

Duration:

Short Title:

Title: Guitar 6

Unit Credit: 0.00

Grade Level: 6

Prerequisite: None

This course provides beginning-level instruction in guitar. No previous musical experience is required. The curriculum includes the development of fundamental skills, concepts, composition, cooperative learning, music as it relates to history and culture, and string techniques. The class will include an expectation for the purchase or rental of an instrument and individual practice at home. Concert performances will be an outgrowth of the study of musical concepts.

Course Number: 15995200

Duration:

Short Title:

Title: Chorus 7-1

Unit Credit: 0.00

Grade Level: 7

Prerequisite: None

The purpose of this course is to enable students to continue to develop the fundamental vocal musicianship, technical skills, and aesthetic awareness learned in Chorus 6, through the study and performance of varied middle school choral literature. The curriculum for Chorus 7 includes vocal technique, part singing, music fundamentals, and singing music of various historical and world styles through large and small group participation. Concert performances will be an outgrowth of the study of the musical concepts.

Course Number: 25413800

Duration:

Short Title:

Title: Chorus 8-1
Unit Credit: 0.00
Grade Level: 8
Prerequisite: None

Course Number: 25414400
Duration:
Short Title:

The purpose of this course is to enable students to continue to develop the fundamental vocal musicianship, technical skills, and aesthetic awareness learned in Chorus 7, through the study and performance of varied middle school choral literature. The curriculum for Chorus 8 includes vocal technique, part singing, music fundamentals, and singing music of various historical and world styles through large and small group participation. Concert performances will be an outgrowth of the study of the musical concepts.

Foreign Language

Title: French Lang & Culture 6
Unit Credit: 0.00
Grade Level: 6
Prerequisite: None

Course Number: 16100400
Duration:
Short Title:

This is the first course in an articulated, sequential, standards-driven program of foreign language study in middle school. It is for students with no previous experience with a second language. The focus is on proficiency, first oral and then written. Grammar is included only when the need arises and learned in context. Culture is centered around everyday customs and values. Students will continue their study of the language in all subsequent grades.

Title: Span Lang & Culture 6
Unit Credit: 0.00
Grade Level: 6
Prerequisite: None

Course Number: 16500900
Duration:
Short Title:

This is the first course in an articulated, sequential, standards-driven program of foreign language study in middle school. It is for students with no previous experience with a second language. The focus is on proficiency, first oral and then written. Grammar is included only when the need arises and learned in context. Culture is centered around everyday customs and values. Students will continue their study of the language in all subsequent grades.

Physical Education

Title: Phys Education 6
Unit Credit: 0.00
Grade Level: 6
Prerequisite: None

Course Number: 14400000
Duration:
Short Title:

Enrollment in this course fulfills the regulation that all students will complete one quarter of physical education each year in grades 6 – 8. Course content focuses on teaching students the four SC Middle School PE Student Performance criteria as mandated by the SC Department of Education. Students will demonstrate the abilities, concepts, knowledge, and skills required to: 1) demonstrate competence in modified versions of activities in three movement forms as identified in the SCPEAP standards; 2) demonstrate knowledge of the five components of fitness and the F.I.T.T. principle on a written test; 3) participate regularly in health-enhancing physical activity outside the physical education class; 4) meet the gender and age group health-related physical fitness standard as described by the National Association for Sport and Physical Education.

Career and Tech

Title: GTT6DesignModel
Unit Credit: 0.00
Grade Level: 6
Prerequisite: Teacher Recommendation

Course Number: 28410000
Duration:
Short Title:

This unit uses solid modeling (a very sophisticated mathematical technique for representing solid objects) to introduce students to the design process. Utilizing this design approach, students understand how solid modeling has influenced their lives. Students also learn sketching techniques, and use descriptive geometry as a component of design, measurement, and computer modeling. Using design briefs or abstracts, students create models and documentation to solve problems.

Miscellaneous

Title: Computer Tech 6
Unit Credit: 0.00
Grade Level: 6
Prerequisite: Keyboarding skills

Course Number: 17010000
Duration:
Short Title:

This course provides the student an opportunity to work with word processing, spreadsheets, and PowerPoint presentations.

Title: AcademicLiteracy6
Unit Credit: 0.00
Grade Level: 6
Prerequisite: Teacher Recommendation

Course Number: 17992800
Duration:
Short Title:

This class will teach strategies and support textbook and print literacy across the curriculum, to include strengthening skills to break down linguistically represented mathematical prompts.

English Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)

Title: ESOL 6
Unit Credit: 0.00
Grade Level: 6

Course Number: 17990300

Duration:
Short Title:

Prerequisite: Guidance Placement

This course is designed for the student who has a primary language other than English, and is not proficient in listening, speaking, reading, writing, or comprehension in the English speaking classroom. Instruction will be provided in the areas of listening, speaking, reading, writing, and comprehension to assist students in classrooms where English is the language of instruction. Students will receive skills to aid in the transition to all academic areas, as well as help in the preparation for middle school formal tests. Limited English proficiency should be determined by an approved language assessment instrument.