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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.

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, social studies, and meet attendance requirements.

Criterion 2: The student earned a minimum average grade of 60% 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 designations and descriptors for end-of-the-year promotion status of students in grades six-eight.

Promoted – the students 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.

Mission Statement

The STEAM Middle School will provide a continuous pathway of education through opportunities that create STEAM-literate graduates ready to accept the challenges of the curriculum at high school, advanced education, and the needs of tomorrow's workforce. Innovation is the key to discovering the solutions to the challenges facing the world today and in the future.

Vision Statement

STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math) Education seeks to transform the typical teacher-centered classroom by encouraging a transdisciplinary curriculum that is driven by problem-solving, discovery, exploratory learning, and an experience that requires each student to actively engage in a situation in order to find its solution. The STEAM curriculum permeates every facet of the school environment-from the moment the student steps onto the campus until he/she advances to high school and the post-secondary world.

Dr. Phinnize J. Fisher Middle School Registration

Rising 6th Graders

The transition from elementary school to middle school is a huge change for incoming students. It is an exciting opportunity to experience more freedom and autonomy. Please make sure to take your time and select courses, through the registration process, that interest you and meet your academic needs.

Academic course placement in English and Math classes are determined by teacher recommendations based on district set criteria for each of these classes. The elementary teachers are responsible for completing recommendations for their students. Once recommendations are made for individual students, they will have limited choices available based on those recommendations. It is the parents' responsibility to review all academic course recommendations for accuracy and to assist the children in the registration process. Any parent that has concerns with the academic recommendations is encouraged to contact the current teacher/s during the designated registration window. The academic placement is **finalized** at the close of the registration process.

Related Arts courses are selected based on requests, enrollment, teacher allocations and class size, as well as the limited number of students enrolled for the inaugural year. Due to these restrictions, students may not be enrolled in the requested choices. As students rank their related arts courses, they should choose the courses that interest them the most, while keeping in mind there are no guarantees for course selections.

The administration, faculty and staff at Dr. Phinnize J. Fisher Middle School are excited for new class of sixth graders. While there are many challenges, it is our goal to make this transition, a positive one, full of amazing opportunities. Parents, begin preparing your child for middle school by setting goals, addressing changes that are inevitable and fostering a love of learning in this innovative school.

Important Dates:

- 2/21 Curriculum Night – Curriculum Night offers parents and students the opportunity to learn about the school, the innovative approach to learning, available courses and the registration process.
- 2/15-2/22 Sixth grade recommendations from the elementary teachers. Recommendations are required for English & Math.
- 2/25-3/1 Sixth Grade Registration – Student registration will be completed at the elementary schools. Questions/concerns/deadlines should be addressed with the elementary teachers and counselors.

Academic Course Placement Policy

Students are recommended for the academic courses by the current teachers using district mandated criteria. The Greenville County School District develops course placement criteria based on students' grades and standardized test scores. The goal is for all students to achieve success. Dr. Phinnize J. Fisher Middle School has a seven (7) period schedule. Students will attend seven periods each day. There are four core courses, a STEAM course, and a physical education/health course requirement for **all** students. Based on standardized test results, some students may be required to take an additional reading, math or both course/s. The number of related arts courses is dependent on each individual student. Related arts courses should be ranked and decisions will be made based on need and availability.

English – 1 required

English GT 6

English Studies 6

Math – 1 required

Math 6

Math 6/7

Math 6/7/8

Science – required

Science 6

Social Studies – required

Social Studies 6

Physical Education/Health – STEAM – required

Physical Education/Health (S)
STEAM (S)

Academic-

Broadcast Journalism 6th

Spanish 6 Beginner (S)

Arts

Band 6

Chorus 6

Strings 6

Art 6 (S)

Piano Keyboarding 6

Career and Technical

GTT 6 Design Model (S)

GTT 6 Auto Robotics (S)

“Exploratory”- Forensics (S)

Robotics (S)

Video Gaming (S)

Industrial Technology (S)

Family & Consumer Science (S)

Dance 6 (S)

All students at the completion of the registration process should have a total of 7 classes. Required courses are: English, Math, Social Studies, Science, PE/STEAM. The other 2 courses may be selected from the related arts courses.

Course Descriptions

English

Title: English Studies 6

Course Number: 10013100

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.

Title: English GT 6

Course Number: 10013200

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.

Math

Title: Math 6

Course Number: 11100600

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.

Title: Math 6/7

Course Number: 11100700

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.

Title: Math 6/7/8

Course Number: 11100800

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 from 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

Social Studies

Title: Social Studies 6

Course Number: 13010000

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.

Science

Title: Science 6

Course Number: 12010000

Unit Credit: 0.00

Grade Level: 6

Prerequisite: None

The focus for science in sixth grade is to provide students with inquiry based experiences that develop science concepts in the following areas: Structures, Processes and Response of Plants-structure and function of plants; Structures, Processes and Responses of Animals-structure and function of animals; Earth's Atmosphere and Weather-atmospheric properties and processes; and, Conservation of Energy-properties of energy, work, and conservation of energy.

Physical Education

Title: PE / Health 6

Course Number: 14401200

Unit Credit: 0.00

Grade Level: 6

Prerequisite: None

Enrollment in this course fulfills the regulation that all students will complete one quarter of physical education each year in grades 6 – 8 and all students will complete one quarter of health each year in grades 6 - 8. The content of the course will consist of both health and PE standards-based instruction.

Academic

Title: Broadcast Journ 6

Course Number: 17992100

Unit Credit: 0.00

Grade Level: 6

Prerequisite: Teacher Recommendation

In this course, students study journalism in a television broadcast setting. Study includes review of principles of journalism, writing, camera technique, research and interviewing, culminating in regular production of actual programming for in-school television and community viewing.

Title: Spanish 6 Beginner

Course Number: 16500000

Unit Credit: 0.00

Grade Level: 6

Prerequisite: none

Aligned with the district's vision, philosophy, and goals for world language education, this beginner course introduces students to the second language through high-quality learning experiences. Not only do students gain an understanding of what it means to learn a new language, they also experience progress over time and are likely to be motivated to continue language study. Students learn enough language to ensure that they will not be total beginners when they take another course in the same language. The goal of this course is to develop some language competence.

Arts

Title: Band 6

Course Number: 15310600

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.

Title: Chorus 6

Course Number: 15410600

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.

Title: Strings 6

Course Number: 15510100

Unit Credit: 0.00

Grade Level: 6

Prerequisite: none

This class is an introductory course in playing the violin, viola, cello, or bass. Students do not need any previous experience to participate. Skills will be developed in solo performance, orchestra performance, and small ensembles.

Title: Piano Keyboarding 6

Course Number: 15990200

Unit Credit: 0.00

Grade Level: 6

Prerequisite: none

This class is an introductory course to playing the piano. Students do not need any previous experience to participate. They will learn basic piano playing technique, music theory, sight reading, music history and other general music topics. Students will have a chance to perform at in-class recitals, and an end of year recital.

Title: Art 6

Course Number: 15010000

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.

Career & Technical

Title: GTT6 Design and Modeling

Course Number: 28410000

Unit Credit: 0.00

Grade Level: 6

Prerequisite: Teacher Recommendation

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.

Title: Robotics

Course Number: 27013600

Unit Credit: 0.00

Grade Level: 6

Prerequisite: none

Students trace the history and development of automation and robotics. They learn about structures, energy transfer, machine automation, and computer control systems.

Title: Video Gaming

Course Number: 27999700

Unit Credit: 0.00

Grade Level: 6

Prerequisite: none

Video game design is a course in which students examine the history, usefulness, elements, and process of game design.

Title: Industrial Technology 6

Course Number: 18400200

Unit Credit: 0.00

Grade Level: 6

Prerequisite: none

Industrial Technology provides the students an opportunity to develop an understanding of how technology has affected our society. Students will also study the attributes of design in order to develop

an understanding of troubleshooting, researching, and problem solving skills. They will also be able to select which technology best fits a problem or certain area.

Title: GTT 6 Auto Robotics

Course Number: 18412000

Unit Credit: 0.00

Grade Level: 6

Prerequisite: none

Students trace the history and development of automation and robotics. They learn about structures, energy transfer, machine automation, and computer control systems. Students acquire knowledge and skills in engineering problem solving and explore requirements for careers in engineering.

Title: Family & Consumer Science

Course Number: 18580000

Unit Credit: 0.00

Grade Level: 6

Prerequisite: none

Family and Consumer Sciences introduces students to relationship development skills, resources, home safety and security, childcare responsibilities, personal image strategies, basic food preparation techniques, and entrepreneurship opportunities.

Title: Dance 6

Course Number: 15250000

Unit Credit: 0.00

Grade Level: 6

Prerequisite: none

The purpose of this course is to enable students to develop fundamental knowledge in dance, to recognize choreographic processes, enhance aesthetic awareness, and make connections between dance and other subjects. Students will participate in technical exercises, improvisation, and dance composition, and will study early and contemporary modern dancers. Performances will be an outgrowth of study.

Title: Exploratory "Forensics"

Course Number: 17010100

Unit Credit: 0.00

Grade Level: 6

Prerequisite: none

Forensic Science is an introductory course in which students will have the opportunity to explore how scientific principles and inquiry are used in analyzing physical evidence found at crime scenes. Students will gain experience in the major investigative techniques as they observe, collect, analyze and evaluate evidence found at a crime scene and how these results can be communicated in the judicial system. Students will also explore a variety of Forensic fields and careers and participate in a mock crime scene investigation and court trial.

Miscellaneous

Title: ESOL 6

Course Number: 17990300

Unit Credit: 0.00

Grade Level: 6

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.