

# **Grade Six**

## **Language Arts**

This course is designed for on level students who read a variety of nonfiction and fiction for comprehension. Vocabulary will be taught for fluency. Students will write for a variety of purposes and audiences using standard English. The South Carolina Language Arts Academic Standards for sixth grade are addressed.

## **Advanced Language Arts**

This course, with instruction above grade level, is designed for the students whose achievement reflects a strong foundation in reading comprehension and writing. This course strengthens the foundation of literacy skills and writing skills. The South Carolina Language Arts Academic Standards for sixth grade are addressed.

## **Gifted and Talented Language Arts**

This course maximizes the potential of students by providing curriculum and instruction that matches the characteristics and needs of the gifted and talented student. Students are challenged with vocabulary by means of a Latin foundation incorporating grammar. The theme of change is explored through a multicultural genre in reading and writing with a focus on persuasion. In addition, The South Carolina Language Arts Academic Standards for sixth grade are addressed.

## **Mathematics**

Sixth grade mathematics is designed to further strengthen the mathematical processes. These processes are numbers and operations, algebra, geometry, measurement, and data analysis and probability. The South Carolina Mathematics Academic Standards for sixth grade are addressed.

## **Advanced Mathematics**

Advanced mathematics is for those students who are working above grade level. This course strengthens mathematical concepts and problem-solving skills. The course serves as an introduction to pre-algebra, exposing the students to many of the algebra and geometry concepts necessary for success in secondary mathematics. The South Carolina Mathematics Academic Standards for sixth grade are addressed.

## **Gifted and Talented Mathematics**

Sixth grade GT Math is designed for those students who are identified as Gifted and Talented. While the South Carolina Mathematics Academic Standards for sixth grade are addressed, this challenging course serves as an introduction to

pre-algebra, algebra, and geometry. It also reinforces data analysis and probability. Students will complete a series called “Navigating through Probability and Navigating through Data Analysis”. These books help students develop their probabilistic thinking and discover how to “interrogate” data sets, and use numerical summaries to make sense of data.

## **Science**

Science in grade six is an introductory course for the learning of basic inquiry skills. Topics covered include Earth’s atmosphere and weather, energy and machines, and the structures, processes, and responses of plants and animals. The South Carolina Science Academic Standards for sixth grade are addressed.

## **Social Studies**

This course expands students' understanding of history through the study of people and events before the era of European exploration and settlement. Study focuses on the significance of geography in the development of the human story, as well as the everyday lives, problems, and accomplishments of the people and their roles in developing social, economic, and political structures in major civilizations. The South Carolina Social Studies Academic Standards for sixth grade are addressed.

# Grade Seven

## **Language Arts**

This course focuses on reading and writing at the seventh grade level. A literature book is used, as well as several novels. Major writing projects also are assigned throughout the year. Both reading and writing skills address South Carolina Language Arts academic standards for seventh grade.

## **Advanced Language Arts**

This course is designed for seventh grade students working above grade level in language arts. In addition to selections from the literature text, the class will read and analyze several novels, short stories, and poems chosen by the teacher. Students will be expected to read independently and participate in class discussions. Writing assignments will include short stories, persuasive letters and essays, literary analysis essays, personal narratives, and journals. The South Carolina Language Arts Academic Standards for seventh grade are addressed.

## **Gifted and Talented Language Arts**

Gifted Language Arts is designed for those students who qualify for the gifted and talented program in language arts. A special language arts unit, designed to meet the needs of high-ability students, is used. The unit was prepared by the College of William and Mary Center for Gifted Education and is called *The 1940's: A Decade of Change*. The Word Within the Word program also is used for the study of word stems. The text is used as an additional resource. The South Carolina Language Arts Academic Standards for seventh grade are addressed.

## **Mathematics**

The seventh grade math course is intended to strengthen the basic math skills used in higher mathematics courses. The purpose of this class is to prepare students for higher level mathematics courses. General computational skills are taught and reinforced based on the South Carolina Mathematics Academic Standards for seventh grade.

## **Pre-algebra**

This course is an advanced mathematics class for seventh grade students working above grade level. It is designed to bridge the gap from concrete to abstract. It is the first step from arithmetic into algebra. The South Carolina Mathematics Academic Standards for seventh grade will be covered in depth.

### **Gifted and Talented Pre-algebra**

This course is an advanced mathematics class for seventh grade students working above level and classified gifted by the state. Due to the accelerated nature of the course, students will be expected to work at a challenging pace and be exposed to more advanced topics in greater depth. The South Carolina Mathematics Academic Standards for seventh grade will be covered in depth.

### **Science**

This course is designed for seventh grade students who enjoy hands on learning. This course covers all standards for seventh grade science in depth and reviews them throughout the year. This course exposes students to Biology, Ecology, Genetics, and Chemistry. This course requires the student to do group work as well as individual work. The South Carolina Science Academic Standards for seventh grade are addressed.

### **Social Studies**

Social Studies in grade seven continues the study of world cultures with the focus on the changes that have occurred in Europe, Africa, Asia and the Americas from 1600 to the present. The South Carolina Social Studies Academic Standards for seventh grade are addressed.

# Grade Eight

## Language Arts

In eighth grade language arts, students continue to build their reading and writing skills. Students will read a variety of informational texts as well as four major types of literary texts: fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and drama. Students will pay close attention to author's craft, as well as, literary and figurative elements in both their reading and writing. Students will plan, write, and edit their own written works such as narrative, expository, and persuasive. The South Carolina Language Arts Academic Standards for eighth grade are addressed.

## Advanced Language Arts

In this course, students will be exposed to multiple aspects of the English language. Students will read poetry, short stories, and several young adult novels. Students will write in various formats, including essays, letters, and poetry. Students will focus on developing concrete skills like the mastery of certain aspects of grammar and word stems, as well as more abstract skills such as finding the main idea of a passage, detecting authorial purpose and meaning, and determining bias and meaning. This challenging course adheres to South Carolina 8<sup>th</sup> grade language arts standards and is designed to fully prepare students for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade PACT test and English I. Those students who strive for success and excel in class will also find themselves prepared for English I Honors. The South Carolina Language Arts Academic Standards for eighth grade are addressed.

## Gifted and Talented Language Arts

This course actually serves as two-courses-in-one: Students will spend the first semester immersed in a fast-paced eighth grade curriculum designed for gifted and talented students who have shown the ability and the test scores to excel in English; students will spend the second semester earning a Carnegie Unit in English Honors I.

During the first semester, students will familiarize themselves with the Transcendentalist movement and the writers that embraced it. They will read challenging and sophisticated material, and they will be asked to stretch farther in their writing and their thinking than they have in any class they've taken to this point.

In the second semester, students will take the English I Honors curriculum; for all intents and purposes, where English is concerned, they will be ninth graders. They will read four challenging long works, including *Romeo and Juliet* and The Great Gatsby, and they will complete at least one intensive research project. They will also write multiple long-form essays. This class adheres to South

Carolina 8<sup>th</sup> grade language arts standards and 9<sup>th</sup> grade English I Honors standards. At the course's completion, students will be prepared for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade PACT test, the 9<sup>th</sup> grade End of Course exam, and English II Honors.

## **Mathematics**

In Pre-Algebra, students will explore a variety of mathematical concepts as well as apply them to other subject areas and to daily life. Students will investigate concepts such as adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing rational numbers; solving and graphing multi-step equations and inequalities; and applying geometry. Throughout this course, students will focus on the South Carolina Mathematics Academic eighth grade curriculum standards which are designed to prepare them for 8<sup>th</sup> grade PACT Testing. In addition, students who strive for success in this course will find themselves prepared for success in Algebra I.

## **Advanced Algebra**

Eighth grade Advanced Math is a fast-paced course in which students must understand the logic of algebraic procedures and make connections from algebra to other subject areas and to real-world situations. Students will explore concepts such as solving and graphing equations, inequalities, and systems of equations; applying geometry; and factoring. Students in this course are expected to master the South Carolina Mathematics Academic eighth grade curriculum standards and to address the South Carolina Algebra 1 standards for ninth grade. This combination of 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade material will prepare students for 8<sup>th</sup> grade PACT as well as success in advanced mathematics at the high school level.

## **Gifted and Talented Algebra**

Eighth grade Algebra I is the most rigorous math course offered at Northside Middle School. This course requires both motivation and determination as students will be expected to perform at a high level on a daily basis. In this course, students will develop the ability to think critically about and apply algebraic concepts. Algebra I students will explore concepts such as solving and graphing equations, inequalities, and systems of equations; applying geometry; and factoring. This class adheres to South Carolina Algebra 1 standards for ninth grade which will prepare students for success on the 8<sup>th</sup> grade PACT, the End of Course Exam, and in Algebra II Honors.

## **Science**

In eighth grade, students are required to demonstrate an understanding of six areas of physical and Earth sciences. These areas include technological design and scientific inquiry skills (doing laboratory experiments safely and following the scientific method of investigation), Earth's biological history (a study of fossils and how Earth has changed over time), Earth's structure and processes (layers of the Earth, volcanoes, earthquakes and the rock cycle), Earth and space systems (the motion of the Earth, Moon and Sun, Moon phases and other items inside and

outside our solar system), forces and motion (gravitation, friction and Newton's laws of motion) and waves (sound and light). The South Carolina Science Academic Standards for eighth grade will be addressed.

## **Social Studies**

Social studies in the eighth grade focuses on the history of South Carolina and the role of the state in the development of the United States. The students will trace the development of South Carolina through settlement, colonial times, revolution, civil unrest, reconstruction, and the modern era; in addition, students will explore the changing views of the people of South Carolina during this time frame. A major emphasis of the curriculum will include an examination by students of the role and impact of South Carolina on the history of the United States and today's global society. The South Carolina Social Studies Academic Standards for eighth grade will be addressed.

# Related Arts

## Art

### **Sixth Grade – Nine Weeks**

Students in *Introduction to Elements and Principals of Design* will create projects using a variety of media. Sketch books are used to encourage practice and creativity.

### **Seventh Grade – Nine Weeks or Year**

This course builds on the *Elements and Principles* providing increased knowledge and experiences. Discipline is gathered through sketch book assignments.

### **Eighth Grade – Nine Weeks or Year**

This course is designed to prepare students to enter the high school art curriculum. Various techniques and media are used to increase student thinking and creativity.

## Band – Year

### **Sixth Grade**

Beginning band requires no previous musical experience. Students will learn the basics of instrument fundamentals, reading music/rhythmic notation, and independent musical performance. The flute, oboe, clarinet, saxophone, bassoon, trumpet, French horn, trombone, baritone, tuba, and concert percussion are taught. To achieve success, students are expected to practice from 120 to 84 minutes per week.

### **Seventh Grade**

Seventh grade band is an ensemble that provides students with learning and performance opportunities on wind and percussion instruments. The primary focus is on the development, continuation, and expansion of basic skills that had begun the previous year and that are necessary for effective instrumental music performance. In addition to large group ensembles, individual growth and achievement are encouraged through participation in adjudicated solo and ensemble contests, honor bands, and private lessons. To achieve success, students are expected to practice from 120 to 84 minutes per week.

### **Eighth Grade**

Eighth grade band is the most advanced performing ensemble for wind and percussion instrumentalists. This course introduces “comprehensive musicianship” through music performance of challenging and varied literature. In addition to continued refinement of individual performance skills, greater emphasis is placed on ensemble performance skills. Students will continue to

develop their knowledge of music theory, begin to analyze and evaluate music, and to use critical thinking skills to make refinements in their performance. Students will perform at least two concerts a year. Individual growth and achievement are encouraged through participation in adjudicated solo and ensemble contest, honor bands, and private lessons. To achieve success, students are expected to practice from 120 to 84 minutes per week.

## **Chorus**

### **Sixth grade – Nine weeks**

This course provides opportunities for students to develop their musical potential and aesthetic understanding through singing in a choral ensemble. Study includes the care and cultivation of a beautiful tone, aesthetic awareness, the ability to read music, the building of technical skills, team spirit, and responsible rehearsal habits. Students will experience the spontaneity of improvisation and the creative process of composition. Students will strengthen their listening skills and their ability to analyze and evaluate music and musical performances. Attention will be given to relating their musical experiences to personal development.

### **Seventh Grade and Eighth Grade – Year**

Concert choir is offered to students who exhibit advanced skill levels in music literacy and vocal technique. The content of the course is designed to develop the students' technical, musical, and performance skills. The music studied is challenging and requires a desire for excellence on the part of its members. Students are required to perform in the winter and spring concerts, local and district festivals, and other performance opportunities. Music performed covers a wide range of historical periods and musical styles.

## **Business Computer Application – Nine Weeks**

### **Sixth Grade**

This course teaches students to type the alphabetic keys using a technique that will allow them to improve their speed and accuracy. Grading is based on speed, accuracy, and the ability to learn the technique being taught. Students learn the basic word processing program features. Students learn to format, to create, and to edit outlines, agendas, reports, title page, a table of content, business letters, memorandums, and tables.

### **Seventh Grade**

This course continues to develop students' skills using the basic word processing program. Additionally, students learn to create and present presentations on a presentation program which include; slide layout, placeholders, slide design, slide views, new slide, moving slides, slide transitions, preset animation, and custom animation. Planning and delivering a presentation using outline principles also is included in this course.

## **Eighth Grade**

This course teaches students the basic spreadsheet program and the basic database program. The basic spreadsheet features include the title bar, menu bar, standard toolbar, formatting toolbar, column, row, cell, name box, active cell, range, selecting, column width, formula (mathematical operators), functions, relative reference, and charts. The database program features include the database management system, tables, queries, forms, reports, datasheet view, design view, field, and records. Appropriate use of the internet for researching information also is taught in the course.

## **Desktop Publishing** (any grade – for students who have completed previous courses)

Students will learn the basic functions of a desktop publishing program which include creating newsletters, business cards, flyers, calendars, post cards, greeting cards, and other advertisements. Customizing documents and using wizards to create predesigned documents also will be taught.

## **Computer Graphics – Nine Weeks**

### **Sixth Grade**

This course introduces fundamental software used in computer graphics including PowerPoint and Microsoft design software. This course emphasizes basic design skills of PowerPoint that are in the Microsoft Windows 2003 program. While learning design software, there will be experimentation with the program and creative ideas that will be shared with the class. The students will design slide shows that include 10 or more slides for themselves.

### **Seventh Grade and Eighth Grade**

Students will enhance their knowledge of PowerPoint to a more descriptive way by learning Word Art design, digital storytelling, digital photography and voice enhanced software. Students will learn basic photographic software to enhance digital and scanned images for a more professionally prepared presentation.

## **Science Tech – Nine Weeks**

### **Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth Grade**

Science Tech offers all students the opportunity to use a computer-based lab in the exploration of technology concepts. The course is divided into content areas which introduce basic technological literacy concepts in a variety of areas. Each content area has “real-world,” context-based problems that students solve by: (a) completing hands-on activities and projects; (b) using computer applications; and (c) viewing multimedia resources. Each year students complete four different modules.

## **ESOL - Year**

English to speakers of other languages (ESOL) is a course designed for students whose first language is not English. ESOL students fall into one of three groups and receive services based on language proficiency. Each group has components of speaking, reading, writing, listening, and comprehension.

### **Beginner Class**

This class is designed for students who are newly arrived in the United States. The focus is on vocabulary and basic grammar. Students write brief paragraphs in English as they progress throughout the year.

### **Intermediate**

This class is designed for students who have developed intermediate communicative skills in English. Students produce longer writings and learn how to approach more intense reading passages. Support is also offered for content area coursework from mainstream classes.

### **Monitored Students**

Monitored students have developed all reading, writing, speaking, listening, and comprehension skills well enough to join their mainstream classes without the direct involvement of the ESOL teacher. The ESOL teacher monitors students' grades closely to insure that these do not begin to drop. In the event that a student begins to struggle academically, he or she will again join the appropriate ESOL class and receive full support from the ESOL teacher.

## **Language Arts Enrichment** (length is determined by the number of students eligible for this course)

### **Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Grade**

English Language Arts Enrichment is designed for students to improve and to expand reading and writing skills. Individual and small group interaction and conferencing allows for more customized instruction.

## **Math Enrichment** (length is determined by the number of students eligible for this course)

### **Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Grade**

This course is designed to assist students by reviewing the functions and skills needed for problem solving, numbers, algebra statistics, decimals, number patterns, fractions, ratios, geometry, and probability.

## **Physical Education – Nine Weeks**

### **Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Grade**

The focus of Physical Education is to introduce and develop physical fitness awareness for all students. By using a variety of beneficial daily exercises, teaching skills and techniques and participating in individual and group sports, students develop an appreciation for the importance of physical activity. Health issues such as abstinence education, personal hygiene, diseases, sport injuries and treatments for those injuries are also addressed in the course.