

Georgia Morse Middle School

**309 E Capitol
Pierre, South Dakota**

Course Descriptions

6th, 7th & 8th Grades

**School Year
2019-2020**

GEORGIA MORSE MIDDLE SCHOOL
2019-2020
6TH GRADE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

REQUIRED COURSES

All required core courses in this section are a full year in length.

MATHEMATICS

Required

The sixth grade students extend their understanding of the four operations using multi-digit numbers, fractions, decimals, and negative rational numbers. They increase their understanding of ratios, use ratio reasoning to solve real-world problems, graph points in all quadrants of the coordinate plane, and begin to think statistically as they summarize numerical data sets. Students will write expressions and equations with variables and apply the properties of operations to generate equivalent expressions. They will build upon their knowledge of area and perimeter to determine area and volume of more complex two-dimensional and three-dimensional shapes.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Required

The curriculum is based on the studies of short stories, plays, poetry, and novels. Building and developing vocabulary is also a component in this course. Students will read the various genres of literature and will engage in various reading and writing activities/assignments to demonstrate their comprehension, evaluation, and analysis of the stories, both fiction and non-fiction.

EARTH/SPACE SCIENCE

Required

In conjunction with The Next Generation Science Standards, the primary discipline is the investigation of the earth and space sciences. Students will explore the major themes of geology, plate tectonics, the atmosphere, oceanography, and space sciences. During the year, students will explore how different disciplines of earth/space sciences relate to other subjects such as math, geography, literature, and experiences outside the classroom.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Required

Students at the 6th grade level will expand their understanding of history by studying people and events of the major western and non-western ancient civilizations. Geography is also introduced in the development of these civilizations. Students develop critical thinking skills by considering why civilizations developed where they did, why they became dominant, and why they declined. They will analyze interaction between the ancient and contemporary world.

HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Required

The basis of 6th grade physical education is to improve individual physical fitness, body control, hand-eye coordination, cardiovascular endurance as well as improve the development of motor skills, strength and flexibility. The students are instructed in proper etiquette, safety procedures, and rules and game strategy. This course focuses on enjoyment of physical activities, cooperation within a group, appreciation of individual differences and demonstration of good sportsmanship. The Fitness Gram Testing Battery is used periodically throughout the school year.

Health class provides students with the importance of social health, mental health, and physical health. The topics that are covered include healthy relationships, nutrition, personal health, body systems, growth and development, tobacco, alcohol and other drugs, diseases, safety and environment, and the importance of physical activity.

REQUIRED EXPLORATORY BLOCK

BASIC KEYBOARDING

35 Days

In this course, the student will learn the touch method of keyboarding as well as document processing, online safety, and email etiquette. Emphasis will be on speed and accuracy as well as spelling, grammar, and punctuation.

ART

35 Days

In sixth grade, art students will be exploring the question, "Where is art?" They will be introduced to the world of art spanning several cultures and time periods. The students will discover the unique characteristics of art in China, Africa, Mexico, and North America. Artwork will be produced using a variety of media.

MUSIC

35 Days

Sixth grade students will have music class for one quarter. This class meets every other day. Students will have the opportunity to learn about elements of music in history, music in world cultures, and music theory. Students will also get to experience writing their own music as well as an introduction to guitar performance.

STEM

35 Days

This quarter-long class is designed to give students exposure to numerous types of technology and gives students the opportunities to apply what they are learning in their core courses of math, science, and language arts. This course is designed to expose students to technology that will allow them to use and strengthen their content area skills while learning about how technology is used in industry or career situations. The course will use a fresh approach in delivering science, technology, engineering, and math. The resources used will allow learners to investigate technology as well as the applications of engineering and science. Topics include Engineering/Woods, Aviation, Energy, Robotics, & Structures.

FACS - LIFE SKILLS**35 Days**

Family and Consumer Science is a project/module based exploratory program. Focusing on problem solving, critical thinking, hands on participation and communication skills in a cooperative learning environment. Each student will be responsible for all content and projects. This class will cover Basic Kitchen Procedures and Safety, Basic Sewing Skills, Balancing a Checkbook, Completing a Job Application, and How to handle an Interview.

ELECTIVES

BAND**Elective**

In this class students will learn music theory, history, how to play an instrument and perform in small and large ensembles. Sixth grade band students meet for lessons and guided practice which replaces their study hall every other day. Students will learn proper performance techniques in their respective instrument groups, as well as experiencing large group rehearsals and performances.

SAMPLE SCHEDULE

Grade 6

	Encore 1	Encore2	Encore 3	Encore 4	Encore 5
Period 1	ART	KEY-BOARDING	S.T.E.M	MUSIC	FACS 101
Period 2	ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS				
Period 3	PE/HEALTH (SWITCHES EVERY OTHER DAY)				
Period 4	SOCIAL STUDIES				
Period 5	LUNCH/HOMEROOM				
Period 6	BAND/STUDY HALL				
Period 7	MATH				
Period 8	SCIENCE				

**GEORGIA MORSE MIDDLE SCHOOL
2019-2020**

7TH GRADE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

REQUIRED COURSES

All required core courses in this section are a full year in length.

MATH – 7th Grade

Required

This class is an extension of numbers in decimals, percent, and fractional operations. This course includes ratios and proportional relationships, the number system, expressions and equations, geometry concepts, and statistics and probability. Students will apply mathematical thinking to a variety of problem solving situations. The 7th grade common core standards will guide the instruction. Students will develop their critical thinking and problem solving strategies throughout the year. Most of the reading of the material/lesson will be done in class. **There will be assignments daily.** A scientific calculator is suggested (the teacher preferred calculator is the TI-30XS MultiView).

PRE-ALGEBRA

Required

This is a pre-algebra course that interweaves applied arithmetic, pre-algebra and pre-geometry with an emphasis on how operations are used in the real world. This course includes ratios and proportional relationships, the number system, expressions and equations, geometry concepts, and statistics and probability. All 7th grade common core standards will be taught, in addition to 2/3 of the 8th grade common core standards. This class is intended for those who will take Algebra I the following year. It is a rigorous course, in that the pace is fast, reading is a necessity, **homework is given most nights (usually 30 to 45 minutes outside of class is needed)** and the student is expected to be motivated to do well. A great deal of responsibility is placed on the student to keep up with the work. A scientific calculator is needed (the teacher preferred calculator is the TI-30XS MultiView). Class is taken by invitation only. Students are selected for this class using a variety of criteria including GPA, Standardized Test Scores, and 6th Math Grades.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Required

The seventh grade English Language Arts curriculum consists of literature and composition. The course includes focus on development of vocabulary and comprehension strategies and skills. Short stories, plays, poetry, and novels comprise the study of literature. Book reports, essays, and journal writing are requirements of each student. Students will analyze stories, apply the elements of literature, and develop critical thinking skills. Recreational readings will be encouraged through independent reading.

LIFE SCIENCE

Required

Throughout the year, students will use scientific inquiry to explore Biology related content. They will have the opportunity to conduct experiments while practicing the steps of the Scientific Method. Students will discover that all living things are composed of cells and they will identify cellular organelles and their functions. Students will learn how cells divide through the process of mitosis. During the year, the students will distinguish between processes involved in sexual and asexual reproduction and understand the role meiosis plays in the production of gamete cells. We will study DNA replication and protein synthesis to understand the cause of genetic mutations and how this impacts organisms. Students will model how organisms obtain energy through either photosynthesis or cellular respiration and how that energy flows throughout the ecosystems. Students will be able to explain natural selection; how it may lead to an increase or decrease of specific traits in a population over time. Students will create potential solutions for maintaining valuable biodiversity in the world around us.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Required

The social studies course gives students a broad view of today's changing world and a better understanding of events that affect our lives. As students explore the various regions of the world, they develop an understanding of the influence of people on these places and regions and why and how they change. A wide variety of maps, graphics, and technological resources help students understand the geographic, cultural, and economic differences in our world. Students are given frequent opportunities to apply a wide variety of skills to social studies content.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION & HEALTH

Required

This physical education course level emphasizes basic instruction of team concepts and skill techniques as well as activities for leisure time. It includes a variety of muscular strength and cardiovascular activities to develop motor skills. There is a major emphasis on the Fitness Gram Testing battery used to set goals to increase overall fitness levels.

Health class provides students with information regarding personal health/wellness in the areas of social health, mental health and physical health. The emphasis is on using this information to make positive life choices, especially in the areas of social choices such as relationships, dangerous chemical substances, alcohol, tobacco, fitness, nutrition, and dealing with stress. Issues such as self-esteem, communication, conflict resolution, assertiveness, goal setting, social skills, legal consequences, diseases, and decision-making are covered.

Required Exploratory Block

ART

35 Days

In seventh grade, art students will develop their understanding of “Who is an artist?” Through the discovery of creativity strategies and examples of the process of individual artists, students will develop their own creative thinking through the process. The culmination of our seventh grade art class is a ceiling tile. The ceiling tiles are painted by all of the seventh grade students and are placed throughout the school for decoration during their eighth grade year. The students will pay \$3.00 for the cost of the tile, which they will take home at the end of their eighth grade year.

FACS – CAREER EXPLORATION

35 Days

Family and Consumer Science is a project/module based exploratory program. Focusing on problem solving, critical thinking, hands on participation and communication skills in a cooperative learning environment. Each student will be responsible for all content and projects.

BASIC COMPUTER APPLICATIONS

35 Days

This computer course strives to introduce the student to the computer as a lifelong learning tool. Students will refresh their keyboarding by touch skills while gaining basic hands-on experience using the Microsoft Office package. Students will develop familiarity with Word, PowerPoint, and Excel. Students will also do activities and projects with the Internet, online safety, and Google Drive.

PROJECT BASED LEARNING

35 Days

Over the length of this course students will learn research and library skills within the context of investigating a personal interest. This class will encourage creativity in the classroom and provide students with an opportunity to explore their own passion or interest. Each student is responsible for individual learning tasks, responses, and will give a final speaking presentation over his or her “passion project” for a final class assessment.

STEM

35 Days

This quarter-long class is designed to give students exposure to numerous types of technology and gives them opportunities to apply what they are learning in their core courses of math, science, and language arts. This course is designed to expose students to technology that will allow them to use and strengthen their content area skills while learning about how technology is used in industry or career situations. The course will use a fresh approach to delivering science, technology, engineering and math. The resources used will allow learners to investigate technology as well as the applications of engineering and science. Real world scenarios provide contextualized backdrop for the investigations and problem-solving tasks. Each individual will be responsible for all content and projects. Computers will be used to present the material and assess daily progress. Topics will include Life Science; Food Science; History of Science; Wind Power; Building towers, Woodshop, Aviation and Robotics; Hydropower; Geothermal; Human Impacts on Earth; and Laboratory Safety.

ELECTIVES

BAND

Full Year

Band is an elective class that will be taken for both semesters. Seventh grade band is an elective course rehearsing as a band every other day. Band students perform four presentations or concerts.

CHORUS

Full Year

This is a class for 7th and 8th grade students that will be taken for both semesters. They will have the opportunity to sing a wide variety of music from different genres during the year. The students will perform in four concerts during the school year with opportunities for additional performances. Choir meets every day.

REGISTRATION WORKSHEET

Grade 7

	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	
Period 1	MATH				
Period 2	ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS				
Period 3	ART	FACS	STEM	COMPUTER APPS	LIBRARY
Period 4	SOCIAL STUDIES				
Period 5	LUNCH/HOMEROOM				
Period 6	BAND/CHORUS/STUDY HALL				
Period 7	SCIENCE				
Period 8	PE/HEALTH (SWITCHES EVERY OTHER DAY)				

GEORGIA MORSE MIDDLE SCHOOL
2019-2020
8TH GRADE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

REQUIRED COURSES

All required core courses in this section are a full year in length unless otherwise noted.

MATH – 8th Grade

Required

This course interweaves applied arithmetic, pre-algebra and pre-geometry with an emphasis on how operations are used in the real world. Scientific calculators will be used on a daily basis (TI-30 or TI-36 is recommended). Major skills necessary for algebra are emphasized throughout the year. It is intended for those who will take algebra the following year. Reading and thorough note taking is a necessity and homework will be assigned most nights.

ALGEBRA

Required

This course builds on student's prior knowledge of arithmetic, number concepts and problem-solving skills developed in Transition Mathematics. The first semester focuses on using Algebra to describe and explain real world patterns and problems. Students will use graphing calculators (Ti - 83, Ti -83+, Ti -84 are recommended, but students are expected to know how to run their OWN calculator) to explore algebraic functions and test for equivalence. By the end of first semester, students should be able to write, solve, and graph linear equations and inequalities. Concepts in statistics, proportional reasoning, and probability are also explored in semester one. Second semester deals with more advanced topics that utilize skills mastered in first semester. These topics include: powers and roots, quadratic equations and functions, linear and nonlinear systems, polynomials, and factoring.

This is a rigorous course. The pace is fast, the material is quite challenging, and homework is given every night. Reading of lesson materials is a necessity, and students are expected to be motivated and responsible for all work assignments. An A or B in Pre-Algebra is required as a prerequisite to this course.

A passing score on a cumulative end of year exam over course content will determine eligibility for high school credit.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Required

The English Language Arts curriculum consists of the following areas of study: literature, writing, and grammar/usage. Students will continue to improve their reading skills by reading and studying a variety of literature forms: short stories, novels, nonfiction, poetry, and drama. Students will analyze stories, apply the elements of literature, identify figures of speech, and develop critical thinking skills. Remediation of reading skills will be provided for students when appropriate. The language arts curriculum will provide students with an opportunity to improve writing skills in sentences, paragraphs, short reports, essays, and poetry. Reviewing and applying proofreading skills, capitalization, punctuation, spelling, grammar, and usage will be included. Developing an appreciation for recreational reading will also be emphasized.

U.S. HISTORY

Required

The eighth grade American History course is a general overview of United States history. The class covers events leading up to the American Revolution and concludes with the Reconstruction era. Students learn how to think historically, analyze different causes of major events, and learn the impact of those events on the American people.

PHYSICAL SCIENCE

Required

This course covers many physical science topics. Students acquire knowledge in the structure and properties of matter, practice creating chemical reactions, study causes of forces and interactions, understand how energy passes on and maintains, and analyze waves and electromagnetic radiation. Students use interactive lessons and labs to better understand content.

HEALTH

Required (one semester)

Health is an introduction to the basic concepts of health and wellness. Included in this study are chapters on growth and development, body systems, personal hygiene, general mental health, nutrition, communicable and non-communicable diseases, relationships and communication skills, lifelong fitness, heredity and environment, substance abuse, and character education. A series on preventing early pregnancy (PEP) is presented by health and family professionals. Emphasis is made on note taking skills, listening skills, and reading for important concepts.

ELECTIVES

BAND

Full Year

Eighth grade band is an elective course rehearsing as a band every day. Band students perform four presentations or concerts.

CHORUS

Full Year

This is a class for 7th and 8th grade students that meets every day. Students will have the opportunity to sing a wide variety of music from different genres during the year. The students will perform in four concerts during the school year with opportunities for additional performances.

SPANISH 1

Full Year

In Spanish I, the students are introduced to the Spanish language by imitation, repetition and the use of the language in class. Spanish pronunciation, basic grammar patterns, conversation, and comprehension are stressed. Modern visual and audio aids are used for presenting cultural insights of Hispanic peoples. This class is taken for high school credit and space is limited to one section. Class is taken by invitation only. Students are selected for this class using a variety of criteria including Smarter Balance Test Scores, and NWEA Scores. A passing score on a cumulative end of year exam over course content will determine eligibility for high school credit.

STEM

Semester

This class is designed to give students exposure to numerous types of technology and gives them opportunities to apply what they are learning in their core courses of math, science, and language arts. This course is designed to expose students to technology that will allow them to use and strengthen their content area skills while learning about how technology is used in industry or career situations. The course will use a fresh approach to delivering science, technology, engineering and math. The resources used will allow learners to investigate technology as well as the applications of engineering and science. Real world scenarios provide contextualized backdrop for the investigations and problem-solving tasks. Each individual will be responsible for all content and projects. Computers will be used to present the material and assess daily progress. Topics will include: Engineering Drawing; Earth Systems; Biomedical and Environmental Science; Recording and Presenting Information; Research & Design of CO₂ Powered Cars; Robots in Action; Geothermal; Chemical Reactions; Chromatography; Principle of Pneumatics; Biomass; Solar Power, Production/3D printing, woodshop, Basic automotive/welding, Aviation, and structures/bridges.

ART**Semester**

In eighth grade, art students will focus on the idea “What is art?” Through the discovery of the basic elements and principles of art, students will understand and create art that contains these very principles and elements. Examples of art movements and artists’ works will develop and broaden our understanding of art and what defines it. Students will use traditional and non-traditional materials such as painting, drawing, batik, and clay.

FACS – FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE**Semester**

Family and Consumer Science is a project/module based exploratory program. Focusing on problem solving, critical thinking, hands on participation and communication skills in a cooperative learning environment. Each student will be responsible for all content and projects. This class will cover Basic Sewing Skills, Fashion Design, Interior Design, Marketing, Career Paths, and Finance.

MULTIMEDIA**Semester**

This computer course is an introductory course organized into a series of modules for Graphic Design, Publishing, exploring Technological Careers, Network Systems, and Computer Coding. Various forms of technologies will be highlighted to expose students to the emerging technologies impacting the digital world. Students will complete required introductory modules in a prescribed order. They will then have the opportunity of skipping advanced modules that do not interest them and spending more time on those that do. This course is designed for students to understand, communicate, and adapt to a digital world as it impacts their life.

INTRODUCTION TO PERFORMING ARTS**Semester**

Over the course of a semester, students will learn about types of communication, public speaking, oral interpretation and drama (theatre). This class will provide students with an opportunity to gain performance skills and self-confidence through speaking, listening, storytelling, and acting.

WORLD HISTORY**Semester**

This course focuses on 20th Century history, including political ideologies, world religions, economic systems, social practices and their effects on the world today. The major emphasis is on Asia, Africa, and Europe. In addition, current events of the world will be addressed as they relate to the history of the 20th Century. This course is taken for high school credit, and will be taught by a high school certified History teacher. Open to all students. A passing score on a cumulative end of course exam over course content will determine eligibility for high school credit. Successful completion of this class and passing the EOC test will allow students to take an extra elective class as a freshman.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND FITNESS**Semester**

This course level is fitness based and will be continuation of 7th grad PE. At least three days of the week students will work on cardiovascular fitness or strength training. Team games, outdoor, and lifetime activities are introduced with more emphasis placed on skills. Units at this level also include a variety of activities to develop social skills as well as developing muscle strength and cardiovascular endurance for life-long fitness. Distance running and lifting will be a large part of this course.

This course level is continuation of units covered at the 7th grade level. Team games, outdoor, and lifetime activities are introduced with more emphasis placed on skills. Units at this level also include a variety of activities to develop social skills as well as developing muscle strength and cardiovascular endurance for life-long fitness.

STUDY HALL**Semester or Year**

REGISTRATION WORKSHEET

Grade 8

	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
	Semester 1		Semester 2	
Period 1	MATH			
Period 2	ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS			
Period 3	SCIENCE			
Period 4	US HISTORY			
Period 5	LUNCH/HOMEROOM			
Period 6	HEALTH			
Period 7				
Period 8				

