

Georgia Morse Middle School

*309 E Capitol
Pierre, South Dakota*

Course Descriptions

6th, 7th & 8th Grades

*School Year
2017-2018*

GEORGIA MORSE MIDDLE SCHOOL
2017-2018
6TH GRADE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

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| REQUIRED COURSES |
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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

Quarter

Basic keyboarding is the process of using touch-fingering techniques to enter alphanumeric data on a keyboard for the primary purpose of communications or obtaining information. This course will emphasize correct keyboarding techniques and accuracy. This course will also cover the basics of Microsoft Word, Microsoft PowerPoint, Internet Safety, and Google Chrome.

ART

Quarter

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

Quarter

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.

S.T.E.M.

Quarter

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.

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|------------------|
| 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

| | Quarter 1 | Quarter 2 | Quarter 3 | Quarter 4 |
|----------|---|-------------|-----------|-----------|
| Period 1 | Art | Keyboarding | S.T.E.M. | Music |
| Period 2 | ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS | | | |
| Period 3 | BAND OR STUDY HALL | | | |
| Period 4 | SOCIAL STUDIES | | | |
| Period 5 | SCIENCE | | | |
| Period 6 | P E / HEALTH (SWITCHES EVERY OTHER DAY) | | | |
| Period 7 | MATH | | | |

**GEORGIA MORSE MIDDLE SCHOOL
2017-2018**

7TH GRADE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

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

7TH GRADE MATH

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 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 identify problems and solve problems in science. Students will identify basic cell organelles and their functions. They will also identify and explain the function of the human systems and the organs within each system. Classifying organisms by using the currently recognized kingdoms along with describing and identifying the structure of vascular and non-vascular plants is covered. During the year, the students will distinguish between processes involved in sexual and asexual reproduction. And lastly, students will predict the effects of biotic and abiotic factors on a species' survival.

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.

7th Grade Electives

ART

Quarter

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.

7th FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCE

Quarter

Family and Consumer Science is a project/module based exploratory program. Focusing on problem solving, critical thinking, hands on participation and communications skills in a cooperative learning environment. Each student will be responsible for all content and projects. Computers will be used for many of the projects. Topics include basic kitchen procedures and safety, basic cooking and baking skills, basic food safety and nutrition, Careers, Basic Child Care, and Basic Sewing. Minimal cost may be incurred by the students.

BASIC COMPUTER APPLICATIONS

Quarter

This computer course strives to introduce the student to the computer as a lifelong learning tool. Students will refresh their keyboarding skills while learning the Microsoft Office package. Students will become advanced learners in Microsoft Word. Students will learn how to use Microsoft PowerPoint and create presentations. The course will cover the basics of using Microsoft Excel. During the quarter, students will also do activities and projects with the Internet, online safety and Google Chrome.

7TH GRADE TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION

Quarter

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.

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

Choir is an elective class for 7th 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 |
|----------|---|-----------|------------|---------------|
| | Semester 1 | | Semester 2 | |
| Period 1 | MATH | | | |
| Period 2 | ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS | | | |
| Period 3 | ART | FACS | TECH ED | COMPUTER APPS |
| Period 4 | SOCIAL STUDIES | | | |
| Period 5 | HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION (SWITCHES EVERY OTHER DAY) | | | |
| Period 6 | BAND/CHORUS/STUDY HALL | | | |
| Period 7 | SCIENCE | | | |

GEORGIA MORSE MIDDLE SCHOOL
2017-2018
8TH GRADE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

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| REQUIRED COURSES |
|-------------------------|

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

8th Grade Math

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 is 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 score of 80% or better 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.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION & HEALTH

Required

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.

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 also 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 other day. Band students perform four presentations or concerts.

CHORUS

Full Year

Choir is a year-long elective class for 8th grade students. 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 other day.

TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION

Quarter

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

Quarter

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.

8th FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCE

Quarter

Family and Consumer Science is a project/module based exploratory program. Focusing on problem solving, critical thinking, hands on participation and communications skills in a cooperative learning environment. Each student will be responsible for all content and projects. Computers will be used for many of the projects. Topics include kitchen and food safety, RealCare baby simulation, basic personal finance, career readiness skills, looming, sewing, 401K, and Food Presentations. A minimal cost may be incurred by the student for projects.

DESKTOP PUBLISHER & PHOTOSHOP

Quarter

Desktop publishing is one of the fastest growing areas in the computer industry. Many organizations that once relied on other firms to produce their published documents are now using their computers to create these documents. We will use Publisher to create brochures, business cards, flyers, calendars, magazine covers, newsletters and more. In Photoshop, students will learn how to use the software to enhance and manipulate photos. This program is ideal for home users, hobbyists, business users, and professional photographers – anyone who wants to produce good-looking pictures and sophisticated graphics for the Web and for print. We will use digital cameras and the Internet to insert pictures for several image-editing projects.

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 25 students. Class is taken by invitation only. Students are selected for this class using a variety of criteria including GPA, Standardized Test Scores, and Language Arts Grades.

A score of 80% or better on a cumulative end of year exam over course content will determine eligibility for high school credit.

ONLINE WORLD HISTORY

Full Year

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 through an online curriculum system called Edgenuity. It will be taken during a study hall with a high school certified History teacher. Open to all students. A score of 80% or better on a cumulative end of year 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.

REGISTRATION WORKSHEET

Grade 8

| | Quarter 1 | Quarter 2 | Quarter 3 | Quarter 4 |
|----------|---|-----------|-----------|---------------|
| Period 1 | MATH | | | |
| Period 2 | ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS | | | |
| Period 3 | SCIENCE | | | |
| Period 4 | SOCIAL STUDIES | | | |
| Period 5 | HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION (SWITCHES EVERY OTHER DAY) | | | |
| Period 6 | ART | FACS | TECH ED | COMPUTER APPS |
| Period 7 | BAND/CHORUS/STUDY HALL | | | |

**Georgia Morse Middle School
Course Selection 2017-2018**

Name/Grade: _____

| 6 th Grade Courses | | | 7 th Grade Courses | | | 8 th Grade Courses | | |
|-------------------------------|--------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|--------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|--------|--------------------------------|
| Required Courses | | | Required Courses | | | Required Courses | | |
| X | 200146 | English Language Arts | X | 200147 | English Language Arts | X | 200148 | English Language Arts |
| X | 200226 | Social Studies | X | 204357 | Science | X | 204358 | Science |
| X | 204356 | Science | X | 200227 | Social Studies | X | 200218 | U.S. History |
| X | 630036 | Health & Physical Education | X | 630017 | Health & Physical Education | X | 630018 | Health & Physical Education |
| X | 585306 | Math | | 585307 | 7 th Grade Math | | 585308 | 8 th Grade Math |
| | | | | 585317 | Pre-Algebra | | 589228 | Algebra I |
| | | | | | | | | |
| Encore Classes (9 weeks each) | | | Encore Classes (9 weeks each) | | | Encore Classes (9 weeks each) | | |
| X | 670036 | Basic Keyboarding | X | 620027 | Art | X | 620028 | Art |
| X | 620026 | Art | X | 550067 | Family & Consumer Science | X | 550068 | Family & Consumer Science |
| X | 516056 | S.T.E.M. | X | 670057 | Technology Education | X | 516058 | Technology Education |
| X | 651016 | Music | X | 670067 | Computer Applications | X | 670058 | Desktop Publishing & Photoshop |
| | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | |
| Electives (optional) | | | Electives (optional) | | | Electives (optional) | | |
| | 652016 | Band | | 652017 | Band | | 652018 | Band |
| | | | | 651017 | Chorus | | 651018 | Chorus |

X Denotes required courses

Check Here for Online World History: _____

Please check your student's schedule in the fall to determine that study halls and electives are equally distributed. For a complete course description booklet please see our website at: <http://pierre.k12.sd.us/schools/gmmiddleschool/parents/>

Due _____

Signature of Student

Special Service Teacher (if applicable)

Signature of Parent