

Georgia Morse Middle School

*309 E Capitol
Pierre, South Dakota*

Course Descriptions

6th, 7th & 8th Grades

*School Year
2016-2017*

GEORGIA MORSE MIDDLE SCHOOL
2016-2017
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 LANGAUGE 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.

SCIENCE

Required

Students will cover the South Dakota Science Standards to include: the nature of science, technology, and environment, earth/space, physical and life sciences. The basic disciplines of science are taught throughout the year utilizing the scientific method through labs and classroom activities. Students also explore how science relates to other subjects and they are given a variety of opportunities to participate in their own learning.

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.

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.

LITERATURE CONNECTIONS**Quarter**

Literature Connections will introduce 6th grade students to the joy and wonder of literature and libraries. Students will join Mrs. Lehman, GMMS librarian, in exploring 9 different genres (types) of literature through a variety of activities. Additionally, students will investigate several print and electronic reference resources and learn how to use them to locate information. Finally, students will practice an assortment of common core reading and writing skills.

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.	Lit Connections
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
2016-2017

7TH GRADE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

REQUIRED COURSES

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 (TI-30 through TI-36).

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 (TI-30 through TI-36). 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.

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 and graphics 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 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, family types and functions, basic sewing skills, looming, and crocheting. 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 Bridges; 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
2016-2017
8TH GRADE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

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

American history on the eighth grade level is an overview of our country's history from 1492 to 1876. On this level we emphasize colonial settlements, American Revolution, the Constitution, the Civil War, and Westward Expansion. Current events, civics and economics are also discussed.

EARTH SCIENCE

Required

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

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

Semester

This *semester-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: 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; and Solar Power.

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.

ART 2

Semester

This semester long course is divided into two units. The first unit will focus on design, drawing, painting, ceramics, and sculpture for the advanced student. The principles of art, elements of design, mixed media drawing, color theory, slab and coil hand building techniques and additive and subtractive sculpture methods will be explored. The second unit will focus on independent projects developed by the students themselves. Students will write a project proposal for an area of art they want to explore further. Permission of instructor required.

8th FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCE

Semester

Family and Consumer Science is a project 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, nutrition and wellness, child development, parenting and families, RealCare baby simulation, basic personal finance, career readiness skills, going green, looming, crocheting, and interior design. Minimal cost may be incurred by the students for projects.

DESKTOP PUBLISHER & PHOTOSHOP

Semester

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, stationery, 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, scanners, and the Internet to insert pictures for several image editing projects.

MULTI-MEDIA TECHNOLOGY

Semester

This class will cover a wide variety of technology topics. This course will provide opportunities for students to interact and complete projects using various multi-media technologies. Students will also learn about individual and corporate ethics, cutting-edge technologies, and future IT trends. The skills learned in this course will enable each student to use the different programs with confidence in preparation for high school.

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
	Semester 1		Semester 2	
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	ELECTIVE #1		ELECTIVE #2	
Period 7	BAND/CHORUS/STUDY HALL/ELECTIVE #3 OR #4			

**Georgia Morse Middle School
Course Selection 2016-2017**

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
		Exploratory Block			Encore Classes			Encore Classes (Pick 2 or more)
X	670036	Basic Keyboarding	X	620027	Art		620028	Art
X	620026	Art	X	550067	Family & Consumer Science		550068	Family & Consumer Science
X	516056	S.T.E.M.	X	670057	Technology Education		516058	Technology Education
X	206116	Literature Connections	X	670067	Computer Applications		670058	Desktop Publishing & Photoshop
							670068	Multi-Media Technology
							620038	Art 2
		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