

Brevard Middle School
Curriculum Guides
Grade 6
2010-2011

Grade level curriculum for sixth grade Communication Skills and Mathematics is rigorous. Below is a brief description of each course.

MATH CURRICULUM

Sixth grade math builds upon concepts students have previously learned in elementary school: addition and subtraction of non-negative rational numbers; number properties; perimeter and area; median, mode, and range; and bar graphs and leaf plots. Major concepts/skills for sixth grade include: negative rational numbers; percent; transformations in the coordinate plane; probability; equations and inequalities; multiplication and division of non-negative rational number; and solving relevant and authentic problems using appropriate technology and applying these concepts as well as those developed in earlier years.

Sixth Grade Mathematic Concepts

Sixth grade students who require further skill building and review of elementary concepts would be recommended for Mathematic Concepts coursework. This Sixth Grade Mathematics Curriculum would be appropriate due to the implementation of equal parts review and rigor (Students in Sixth Grade Mathematic Concepts may enter either Algebra Concepts or Pre-Algebra in seventh grade as based on observation of need and teacher recommendation).

Sixth Grade Algebra Concepts

If a student has demonstrated mastery of the elementary concepts described above as well as all the traits listed below, the student may be recommended for Sixth Grade Algebra Concepts. (Students in Sixth Grade Algebra Concepts are expected to continue in Pre-Algebra in 7th grade and Algebra I in 8th grade.) Traits fundamental to this placement would include:

- Evident work ethic
- Attempts to work independently
- Accepts responsibility for self
- Attends school regularly
- Performs consistently to a high standard
- Gifted in this area as designated by an AIG plan
- Historical Math scores are in the 85th percentile and above

COMMUNICATION SKILLS CURRICULUM

Sixth grade students will use oral language, written language, and media and technology for expressive, informational, argumentative, critical, and literary purposes. Students also explore the structure of language and study grammatical rules through novel study and the implementation of the literature and grammar program in order to speak and write effectively.

Communication Skills

While emphasis in the sixth grade Communication Skills is placed on personal expression, students in this course will also:

- Interpret and synthesize information
- Develop an understanding of the foundations of an argument
- Critically analyze print and non-print communication
- Use effective sentence construction and edit for improvements in sentence formation, usage, mechanics, and spelling
- Interpret and evaluate a wide range of literature

The **majority** of middle school students will adapt well to the rigorous standards set in this course level.

Pre-Advanced Placement (Pre-AP) Communication Skills

Pre-AP 6 (along with Pre-AP for grades 7 and 8) is an introductory course to teach students ***inquiry*** as a major part of the reading and comprehension process. This will be a **research-based course**, which will include the study of language and the undertaking of strategies necessary to build strengths in understanding and then connecting appropriate texts to other knowledge areas. Eighth grade will extend and refine the method of Socratic discussion and incorporate in-depth written reflection and connection(s) to real world situations. Students will be expected to participate in seminar-based learning used in Pre-AP/AP courses at the high school level. Students will demonstrate their comprehension of a variety of texts through writing and a variety of inter-curriculum and technological based projects. With print and non-print works, students will explore connections between significant literary works and other expressions of human aspiration. There will be required summer reading at all grade levels before entering the Pre-AP program. Work assignments, both for home and school, will be extensive in challenge level, amount and level of expectation.

Students may only be registered for the course through teacher recommendation and demonstration of required entrance criteria.

SOCIAL STUDIES AND SCIENCE

Students will receive the North Carolina Standard Course of Study for both Social Studies and Science. Students are mixed heterogeneously in both these courses during middle school.

ELECTIVE / EXPLORATORY ROTATIONS

Students enjoy Physical Education as well as an additional elective class every day. This additional elective period will change each nine weeks, allowing most students to attend four different exploratory courses each year. Please note that P.E., Chorus and Band are all year long elective courses.

Brevard Middle School offers the following elective courses to enrich each student's educational experience:

BioTechnology General Music Spanish Art Computer Skills and Applications

Rotations are scheduled for each student according the following criteria:

Band *AND* *one opportunity to take one additional elective for a single nine week quarter.*

Choir (a full year elective offered at grades 6-8) ***AND*** *an opportunity to take one additional elective for a single nine week quarter.*

Exploratory Rotation (*for students in neither band nor choir*) In addition to PE, one elective will be taken in each of the four nine week quarters.

Choir and Band: This is a **limited option only for upper grade level students previously in choir and/or band**; these students, with approval, will do A/B rotations with PE for a full year, with no other options for exploratory rotations.