

Meigs Middle School

MMS
Wildcats



6th Grade Curriculum Guide

2018-2019

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Why a Wildcat?

Being a Wildcat is being empowered to reach your potential in academics, athletics, and much more. It is being part of a team that aspires to be successful in the community, the work place, and higher education. It builds a foundation strong enough to compete in a competitive global arena. Once you begin to investigate Meigs Middle School very closely, you will start to understand how unique we really are. Our students, teachers, parents, and staff are committed to being distinctly relevant and comprehensive and it shows. Meigs Middle School is a school with:

- a “students first” system of decision-making.
- a readily-visible, friendly, and professional staff, faculty, and administration.
- a relationship-driven attitude commensurate with the Principal’s philosophy.
- a core program of rigorous study for all students from those with special needs to the highest of academic fliers.
- a current and relevant elective curriculum aligned with student needs which includes Technology, STEM, Chorus, Band, and Physical Education.
- a Talented and Gifted program for select students that is designed to enrich and challenge academically advanced students.
- a full offering of competitive and successful athletic teams for both males and females.
- a Media Center that provides both critical assistance to students and teachers alike, as well as a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere.
- extracurricular clubs and activities that gives students an opportunity to be involved and make friends.
- the smallest middle school population in Okaloosa County.
- A+ school 17 years in a row.

Registration

This Academic Catalog is a resource to help students and parents understand decisions concerning course selections for the upcoming school year. From the courses requested, administration determines the master schedule for the upcoming school year. Because this schedule is generated based on number of student requests, careful consideration should be given to course selections, as course changes during the year are improbable and only allowed within the constraints of the master schedule and upon administrative approval.

Meigs is a place where you will be taught, challenged, inspired and loved.



The Florida Standards

All Florida students deserve to graduate high school with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in college, careers, and life. Over the last several years, Florida has made strong academic gains. We know today's workforce requires our graduates to have stronger critical thinking, problem solving, and communications skills than ever before. Higher standards that challenge and motivate our students are essential.

To address this need, education leaders across the state of Florida improved our academic content standards, creating new expectations for what students need to know and be able to do. The Florida Standards are designed to ensure that ALL students reach their greatest potential.

The Florida Standards:

- Challenge students to develop their full potential;

The Florida Standards are designed to engage students so that they gain the critical thinking and problem-solving skills essential for college, career and life—whatever their path may be.

- Engage Parents and Families to prepare children to have the life skills they need and support learning at home;

Parents and families can better understand what students need to know at each grade level so that they can help students learn at home. With clear expectations for learning, parents can feel confident in their children's readiness for the future.

- Connect the classroom with real-world business and community needs;

The Florida Standards ensure that students have the experience and skills needed for the real world so that employers feel confident in the readiness of new hires. The standards help students learn to communicate and solve challenging problems.

- Give teachers a structure for student learning expectations and freedom to personalize instruction;

The Florida Standards cover fewer topics so that teachers can ensure every student masters the learning concepts. This freedom allows teachers to get creative and collaborate across classrooms to bring the best instruction to their students.

For more information about the Florida Standards and what you can do to ensure your student's success, you may refer to the Department of Education's (DOE) resource for parents at: <http://www.fl DOE.org/core/fileparse.php/12087/urlt/Backpack-Guide.pdf>

Middle School Progression & High School Credit

Required Courses:

| 6 th Grade | 7 th Grade | 8 th Grade |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Math | Math | Math |
| English Language Arts | English Language Arts | English Language Arts |
| Earth/Space Science | Life Science | Physical Science |
| World History | Civics | U.S. History |
| PE | PE | PE |
| Elective | Elective | Elective |

Florida State Statute 1003.4156 requires middle school students pass a total of 12 core courses to be promoted to the 9th grade:

- Three courses in mathematics
- Three courses in English Language Arts
- Three courses in Science, to include instruction in Earth/Space, Life, and Physical Science
- Three courses in Social Studies, to include instruction in World History, Civics, and U.S. History

Per Florida State Statute 1003.455, students must also take one semester of physical education each year of middle school. However, Physical Education classes are year-long classes. This physical education requirement may be waived based on the following criteria:

- The student is enrolled or required to enroll in Intensive Reading or Intensive Math
- The student is participating in physical activities outside the school day which are equal to or in excess of the mandated requirement
- The parent requests the student enroll in another course from those courses offered by the school. Waiver requests must be submitted on an annual basis. The parent must complete MIS 4252, available in the guidance department.

High School Courses in Middle School:

Middle school students may take Algebra I Honors, Geometry Honors, Digital Information Technology, Web Programming, and/or Spanish I for high school credit. Students will receive academic counseling regarding the consequence of their choices. Middle school students and their parent or legal guardian will be carefully advised regarding how these courses will affect the graduation option they select. If enrolled, students will be held to all the high school course requirements in order to receive high school credit.

All high school courses taken in middle school will count toward meeting graduation requirements, will be part of the student's overall GPA, and are eligible to be included in calculating honors graduation designation.

Students who elect not to receive high school credit must withdraw from the course within the period identified by the district (on or before the mid-point (4 ½ weeks) of the first quarter for semester long courses, and by the end of the first nine (9) weeks for a year-long course, or will earn an F (withdrawal F) for the course.

If the student has a failing course grade (to include the 30% EOC requirement), but passes the EOC, credit is issued but the student's grade remains an F, which is calculated into the high school GPA. High school courses taken during middle school will be included in the student's cumulative weighted GPA.

Middle school students taking courses for high school credit may retake the same, or comparable course, in high school for any grade earned less than a B.

Additional progression information can be found in the Okaloosa County School District's Pupil Progression Plan

INTENSIVE STUDIES

In order to remediate or provide additional support in reading or math, Meigs Middle School offers Intensive Reading and Intensive Math for students who score below grade level proficiency on the FSA or equivalent standardized assessment. The Pupil Progression Plan for Okaloosa County School District has guidelines in place for these classes.

Intensive Reading Placement Guidelines for Grades 6-8:

- Students who score at Level 1 on FSA are *required* to be enrolled in an Intensive Reading Class.
- Students who score a lower Level 2 on FSA ELA are *highly recommended* for Intensive Reading placement.
- Students who score at upper Level 2 on FSA ELA are *recommended* for Intensive Reading placement.

Additional Data Used for Placement:

- MAP data
- Student grades in ELA courses
- Teacher recommendation

Intensive Math Placement Guidelines for Grades 6-8:

- Students who score a Level 1 on FSA are *strongly recommended* for placement in an Intensive Math/Remedial Math Class.
- Students who score a lower Level 2 on FSA are *highly recommended* for placement in an Intensive Math/Remedial Class.

Additional Data: this data may be used for placement and conferencing with parents.

- MAP data
- Student grades in math courses
- Teacher recommendation

EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT EDUCATION

Every student at Meigs Middle School is given the opportunity to perform to the best of his/her ability in the least restrictive environment. Generally, students are heterogeneously grouped for instruction. Students who meet ESE criteria and have an active Individual Education Plan (IEP) may be served in programs such as Specific Learning Disabled, Intellectually Disabled, Autism Spectrum Disorder, Speech/Language Impaired, Hearing Impaired, Visually Impaired, Hospital-Homebound and other Special Education programs.

Meigs offers a Matrix of Services for Exceptional Student Education (ESE) students. These individual needs are addressed during IEP reviews and monitored with periodic progress reports. The following matrix domains are targeted:

- Curriculum and Learning Environment
- Social / Emotional Behavior
- Independent Functioning
- Health Care
- Communication

For questions about your student's ESE needs, contact our ESE Staffing Specialist, Ms. Rich, or our School Counselor, Ms. Barrow.

Talented and Gifted (TAG)

Program Description

TAG is an accelerated, highly advanced program for those students demonstrating an above-average aptitude and a developmental readiness to be challenged. The program provides rigorous, above grade-level instruction in English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies. Coursework for high school credit is also available in Math (7th and 8th Grade). The teachers collaborate to provide interdisciplinary opportunities and challenges to the students.

Meigs Middle School also recognizes the importance of community service and civic duty. For this reason, it is incumbent upon our most successful students to make a positive contribution in the community in which we live. In addition to the rigorous coursework in all four core subjects, TAG students will also participate in a community service component. Under the mentorship of the TAG teachers, and as a grade-level cohort, students will research the needs of our community and choose a year-long community service project. This may require time outside of school hours and/or transportation to off-campus locations, depending on the nature of the chosen project. The results of this service will be recognized at the end-of-year Academic Awards Ceremony.

Application and Eligibility

Students will have an opportunity to apply for the TAG program in April of 2018. One class section will be selected for each grade level. Admission will be based on 2018 FSA scores, end of year grades, and teacher recommendations. The TAG leadership team (consisting of Administration, School Counselor, and TAG teachers) will review applications, FSA results, final grades and teacher recommendations in June. Students will be notified of their application status by July. Due to the changes in the program admission process, current TAG students are not guaranteed future placement.

TAG students are expected to have a minimum of the following:

- Level 4 or 5 on 2018 FSA Reading **and** Math
- Final grade of “A” or “B” in all 2017-2018 core subjects
- Regular and consistent school attendance
- Strong teacher recommendations for work ethic, ability to work with others, communication skills, and citizenship

Course Descriptions

6th Grade



6th Grade Core Subject Course Descriptions

LANGUAGE ARTS

Language Arts 1

Recommended: FSA Reading Level 1, 2

M/J Language Arts 1, ADV

Recommended: FSA Reading Level 3, 4, 5

The purpose of this course is to provide grade 6 students, using texts of appropriate complexity, integrated language arts study in reading, writing (argumentative and informative), speaking, listening, and language for college and career preparation and readiness. The content includes active reading of varied texts for what they say explicitly, as well as the logical inferences that can be drawn, analysis of literature and informational texts from varied literary periods, writing for varied purposes, effective listening, speaking, and viewing strategies with emphasis on the use of evidence to support or refute a claim in multimedia presentations, class discussions, and extended text discussions, and collaboration amongst peers.

During the spring, 6th graders will take the FSA Writing and the FSA Reading Assessment

SCIENCE

M/J Earth Space Science

Recommended: FSA Reading Level 1, 2

M/J Earth Space Science ADV

Recommended: FSA Reading Level 3, 4, 5

The Earth/Space science curriculum introduces students to the basic laboratory safety skills, use of the scientific method, and measuring in the metric system. Emphasis is placed on the use of the scientific method to solve problems and understand natural phenomena. This science course provides an opportunity for students to explore the Earth's materials, processes, place in the universe, and history. Other topics covered in this course are meteorology, oceanography, astronomy, and geology. Laboratory activities and safe laboratory techniques are essential elements of the course. Projects are used to further the students' understanding of key concepts.

SOCIAL STUDIES

M/J World History

Recommended: FSA Reading Level 1, 2

M/J World History ADV

Recommended: FSA Reading Level 3, 4, 5

The primary content for this course pertains to the world's ancient and classical civilizations of Africa, Asia, and Europe. Students will be exposed to the multiple dynamics of world history including economics, geography, politics, and religion/philosophy. Students will study methods of historical inquiry and primary and secondary historical documents. This course also offers scaffolded learning opportunities for students to develop the critical skills of analysis, synthesis, and evaluation. Socratic seminars/discussions, emphasizing free-response and document-based writing, contrasting opposing viewpoints, and solving problems are various methods of instructional exploration in this course.

MATHEMATICS

M/J Grade 6 Math

Recommended: FSA Math Level 1, 2

Students will: Develop an understanding of and fluency with multiplication and division of fractions and decimals, ratios, rates, estimation, equivalent forms for decimals, fractions and percents. Write, solve and graph one and two step equations and inequalities as well as use tables, graphs and equations to describe linear equations. Explore the measurements of composite two-dimensional figures and volumes of rectangular prisms. Determine and use measures of central tendency and variability to analyze data sets.

M/J Grade 6 Math Advanced

Recommended: FSA Math Level 3, 4, 5

All topics in M/J Mathematics I are included in M/J Mathematics I, Advanced. In addition, students will: Develop an understanding of and apply proportionality to solve problems involving percent. Apply formulas to determine surface areas and volumes of three dimensional shapes including pyramids, prisms, cylinders and cones. Develop an understanding of operations involving integers and other rational numbers, as well as solving linear equations. Identify and plot ordered pairs in all four quadrants of the coordinate plane.

M/J Grade 7 Math Advanced

Prerequisite: Administration Approval

Recommended: FSA Math Level 4, 5

Students will develop an understanding of and apply proportionality, similarity, and formulas to determine surface areas and volumes of three dimensional shapes including pyramids, prisms, cylinders and cones. Identify and plot ordered pairs in all four quadrants of the coordinate plane and will predict the results of transformations. Determine, compare and make predictions based on experimental and theoretical probability of independent and dependent events. Construct and analyze histograms, stem-and-leaf plots and circle graphs. Analyze and represent linear functions and solve linear equations and systems of equations. Analyze two and three-dimensional figures by using distance and angle relationships. Analyze and summarize data sets including box and whisker plots, scatter plots and lines of best fit. **6th graders may require additional, supplemental instruction to fully prepare for the assessment of the standards associated with this course.**

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| During the spring, 6th graders will take the FSA Mathematics Assessment |
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6th Grade Elective/PE Course Descriptions

FINE ARTS

Chorus 1

Grade 6, 7, 8 – Year Long

Students with little or no choral experience develop beginning vocal technique and skills, critical and creative thinking skills, and an appreciation of music from around the world and through time. Public performances may serve as a culmination of specific instructional goals. Students may be required to attend and/or participate in rehearsals and performances outside the school day to support, extend, and assess learning in the classroom.

M/J Band 1

Grade 6, 7, 8 – Year Long

Students with little or no instrumental experience develop musicianship, technical proficiency, and performance skills. Beginning musicians focus on development of skills and techniques through scales, etudes, and solo literature. Public performances may serve as a culmination of specific instructional goals. Students may be required to attend and/or participate in rehearsals and performances outside the school day to support, extend, and assess learning in the classroom. This course may also require students to obtain a musical instrument (e.g., borrow, rent, purchase) from an outside source.

TECHNOLOGY

Info & Communication Technology 1

Prerequisite: None

Grade 6 – Year Long

The purpose of this course is to provide students with the computer, digital, and information technology skills necessary for success in their future academic and occupational goals. In addition to fundamental computer information, the content includes but is not limited to digital technologies associated with web development, multimedia, word processing, spreadsheet, database, internet communications, cybersecurity, and computer programming. Students may earn industry certifications while in this course.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

M/J Fitness Grade 6

Grade 6 – Year Long

The purpose of this course is to provide students with the knowledge, skills, and values they need to become healthy and physically active for a lifetime. This course addresses both the health and skill-related components of physical fitness which are critical for students' success. Meigs PE shirts are available in the front office and open house events.



Meigs administration and staff are looking forward to a successful 2018-2019 school year. Please let us know how we can help your student have the best possible middle school experience.