

Meigs Middle School
MMS
Wildcats



8th 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.
- aextracurricular 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.fldoe.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 an 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

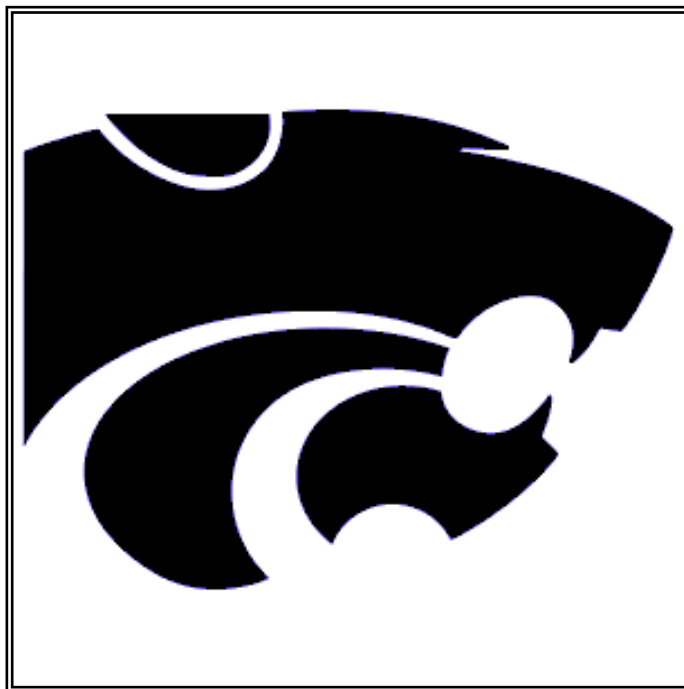
Students will have an opportunity to apply for the TAG program in April of 2018. One class section will be selected for each grade level. Admission will be based on 2018 FSA scores, end of year grades, and teacher recommendations. The TAG leadership team (consisting of Administration, School Counselor, 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

8th Grade



8th Grade Core Subject Course Descriptions

LANGUAGE ARTS

M/J Language Arts 3

Recommended: Reading FSA Level 1, 2

M/J Language Arts 3, ADV

Recommended: FSA Reading Level 3, 4, 5

The purpose of this course is to provide grade 8 students, using texts of high 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, 8th graders will take the FSA Writing and the FSA Reading Assessment

SCIENCE

M/J Physical Science

Recommended: FSA Reading & Math Levels 1, 2

M/J Physical Science ADV

Recommended: FSA Reading & Math Levels 3, 4, 5

Safety skills and the use of the scientific method and metric system are utilized to further students' knowledge of science. The content area for the eighth grade focuses on an introduction to chemistry and physics. Chemistry topics include properties and changes of matter (e.g., physical and chemical), and the atomic model of matter. Physics topics include forces (e.g., magnetic, electrical, gravitational), energy (e.g., thermal, kinetic, potential), motion, light, and sound. Laboratory activities and safe laboratory techniques are an essential part of the course. Projects further the students' understanding of key concepts.

During the spring, 8th graders will take the comprehensive Florida Science Assessment (6-8)

SOCIAL STUDIES

M/J United States History

Recommended: FSA Reading Levels 1, 2

M/J United States History ADV

Recommended: FSA Reading Levels 3, 4, 5

The purpose of this course is to enable students to understand the development of the United States within the context of history by examining connections to the past to not only prepare for the future as participating members of a democratic society but also to understand the rights and responsibilities of citizens. The student will examine political, economic, technological and social developments of the United States from the Exploration Period through Reconstruction, with special emphasis on Florida's role. The course of study should include but is not limited to: the impact of expansion on the development of America; political, social, and economics conflicts and compromise; influence of diverse groups on cultural

development of the U.S.; key concepts of the United States Constitution and other important historical documents. Document-based writing will be emphasized in this class.

MATHEMATICS

M/J Grade 8 Pre-Algebra

Recommended: Math FSA Level 1, 2

Students will 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. Compare, contrast and convert between customary and metric systems. Solve one and two step inequalities with one variable. Perform operations on real numbers using multi-step and real-world problems.

Algebra I Honors

Prerequisite: Grade 7 Math Advanced, Grade A/B

Recommended: FSA Math Level 3, 4, 5

High School Credit: 1 (Weighted, Year Long)

This rigorous course is designed to provide an in-depth study of the foundation for future secondary mathematics courses and develop skills needed to solve mathematical problems. Topics shall include, but are not limited to, functions, linear equations and inequalities, systems of linear equations and inequalities, polynomials, operations with radical expressions, solving quadratic equations, ratios and proportions.

Geometry Honors

Prerequisite: Algebra I Honors

High School Credit: 1 (Weighted, Year Long)

This course includes a rigorous, in-depth study of practical applications of geometric skills and concepts in the real world, as well as, but not limited to, truth tables, vectors, Fibonacci sequence, coordinate geometry proofs, proofs involving circles and problems involving cross sections of solids.

In the spring, 8th graders will take the FSA Math Assessment, Alg. I EOC, or Geometry EOC
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8th Grade Elective/PE Course Descriptions

FINE ARTS - CHORUS

M/J 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 Chorus 2

Prerequisite: Chorus 1

Grade 7, 8 – Year Long

Students build on previous choral experience to expand vocal, technical, musical, and ensemble skills through rehearsal, performance, and study of high-quality choral literature. Singers focus on increasing knowledge of music theory, music literacy, and aesthetic response. 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 Select Chorus

Prerequisite: Teacher Selection

Grade 7, 8 – Year Long

Students with previous choral experience build intermediate-level knowledge of vocal technique, musical literacy, ensemble skills, and related musical knowledge through rehearsal, performance, and study of a variety of high-quality 2-, 3-, and 4-part choral 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.

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.

M/J Band 2

Prerequisite: Band 1 or Equivalent

Grade 7, 8 – Year Long

Students with previous band experience build on instrumental technique, music literacy, and aesthetic response through rehearsal, performance, and study of a variety of high-quality band literature. Instrumentalists expand their knowledge of music notation, music theory, sound production, and personal and group rehearsal strategies. 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.

M/J Band 3

Prerequisite: Band 2 or Equivalent and Teacher Recommendation

Grade 7, 8 – Year Long

Students with previous band experience expand on their instrumental technique, music literacy, and aesthetic response through rehearsal, performance, and study of a variety of intermediate-level, high-quality band literature. Instrumentalists extend their knowledge of music notation and theory, sound production, and personal and group rehearsal strategies. 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 AND INDUSTRY CERTIFICATIONS

Exploring Technology

Grade 8 – 2 Semester Courses

This course is designed to be an extension of Aerospace, Engineering, and Robotics Studies 1. Students will continue to gain knowledge and experience in STEM related fields such as aeronautics, physics, engineering, 3D printing, and robotics. Students will continue to experience a variety of adapted modular units from a variety of fields and resources and will participate in many highly complex experiential activities in controlled environments.

Digital Information Technology

Prerequisite: None

Grade 7, 8 – 2 Semesters

High School Credit: 1 (Unweighted, Fulfills Fine Art & Online Component Graduation Requirements)

This course is designed to provide an introduction to information technology concepts and careers as well as the impact information technology has on the world, people, and industry and basic web design concepts. The content includes information technology career research; operating systems and software applications; electronic communications including e-mail and Internet services; basic HTML, DHTML, and XML web commands and design; emerging technologies, and Web page design. Students will be prepared for the Microsoft Office Specialist exam for Microsoft Word, Microsoft PowerPoint, and Microsoft Excel. This is a Florida Gold Seal Scholarship course. Additional information about the Gold Seal can be found at <http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/>.

Web Programming

Prerequisite: Digital Information Technology

Grade 8 – 2 Semesters

High School Credit: 1 (Weighted, Fulfills Fine Art & Online Component Graduation Requirement)

Web Programming is a foundation course where students learn HTML5 & CSS coding and how to program Web sites from start to finish all while having fun. In addition, students will learn basic computer programming concepts, such as problem solving skills using logic flow and algorithm development. The combination of hands-on learning and teacher instruction gives the student a well-rounded background in Web programming. Students will have the opportunity to earn the Certified Internet Webmaster Site Development Associate industry certification.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

Spanish 1

Prerequisite: None

Grade 8 – 2 Semesters

High School Credit: 1 (Unweighted)

Spanish 1 introduces students to the target language and its culture. The student will develop communicative skills in all 3 modes of communication and cross-cultural understanding. Emphasis is placed on proficient communication in the language. An introduction to reading and writing is also included as well as culture, connections, comparisons, and communities. The Florida state university system requires students successfully complete 2 years of a foreign language to be considered for admission to a 4-year university. This course fulfills this requirement and is a high school credit class. **8th grade students who wish to pursue the Spanish elective and (a) intend to enroll in Choctaw's IB program OR (b) who wish to be considered for Honors designation in High School should make an appointment with the Guidance department to ensure proper registration.**

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

M/J Comprehensive Grade 8

Grade 8 – 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

Individual/Dual Sports (Grade 8 Athletics/Weightlifting)

This course is offered to our school-sponsored athletes, as well as any student who may be interested in weight training. Research shows that a well-designed, year-round resistance training program is not only harmless for preadolescent athletes, it can provide tremendous health, wellness, and athletic performance benefits. This course is designed to improve students physically in preparation for all sports or for self-improvement. It includes techniques and instruction in conditioning, strength training, and powerlifting. If you have questions regarding signing up for this class, contact our Athletic Director, Coach Nemith.



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.