

Gray Middle School
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Student Hours: 7:30 AM – 2:35 PM
Office Hours: 7:00 AM – 3:30 PM

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Gray Middle School Grading Scale

A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
I	69 and Below

Report Cards

Report cards are issued at the completion of each term. Gray Middle School currently operates on 5 term grading periods per year, each term consisting of 7 weeks.

Honor Roll

At Gray Middle School academic excellence is recognized by both “All A” honor roll and an “A/B” honor roll. The honor roll is based on each class grade as it appears on the report card.

Sixth Grade Core Courses

English Language Arts

Sixth grade language arts teaches reading and writing, through a variety of text, novels, short stories, and articles aligned with the Common Core Standards. We focus on the conventions of the English language in our writing, speaking, and listening skills. We utilize Google Classroom, No Red Ink, and Quizlet, with additional computerized programs to aid in our instruction and classroom activities. We focus on growth in the areas of narrative, expository, and argumentative essay writing. We incorporate a vocabulary unit that spirals into seventh and eighth grades, focusing on Greek and Latin root words, prefixes, and suffixes.

Math Courses Offered in Sixth Grade

Math 6

Sixth grade math will follow the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics. Emphasis will be on the following topics:

- Operations with whole number, decimals, and fractions.
- Basic ratio, percent and problem solving strategies.
- Statistics will focus on data analysis (mean, median, mode and variation)
- Algebra topics will focus on integers, opposites, absolute value, expressions, equations and inequalities.
- Geometry topics will focus on area, surface are, and volume.

Accelerated Math 6

Accelerated Math 6 will follow the Accelerated Math standards in the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics. This class is designed to prepare students for the study of Algebra 1 in the 7th grade. Emphasis will be on the advance study of the following topics:

- Integers, equations and inequalities.
- Exponents and formulas
- Proportions, and linear equations with graphing

GMS staff will use the following criteria to determine placement into advanced math courses:

- Standardized test score

- Placement test score
- Math grades from current year
- Math teacher recommendation

6th Grade Science

Sixth grade science focuses heavily on developing models through the Next Generation Science Standards. The following includes a list of topics covered, based on the Boone County School District's 6th grade Curriculum Map:

- Forces and Interactions
- Structure and Properties of Matter
- Earth Systems
- Weather and Climate
- Geological Processes and History of Earth
- Matter and Energy in organisms and Ecosystems

Social Studies

Sixth grade Social Studies focuses on the five "BIG IDEAS". The five "big ideas" are: Government and Civics, Cultures and Societies, Economics, Geography and Historical Perspective. The Social Studies program includes strong literacy connections, active hands-on work with concrete materials, and appropriate technologies. Students will study how to use maps and globes in order to locate places throughout the world. Students will learn the similarities, differences and interactions of the regions by studying each regions people, government, economics, history and physical geography.

Project Based Learning (One family)

Sixth grade PBL class focuses on developing the 4 C's (Communication, Collaboration, Creativity and Critical Thinking). Students will increase their presentation and computer skills throughout the year. They will conduct projects based on the Common Core State Standards for sixth grade. When the projects are complete, students will present their findings to community members, teachers and/or peers. We will also focus on Stephen Covey's Leader in Me. These habits coincide with The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People. We will be applying them throughout the year.

Advisory

Advisory is a 30 minute time period where students and teachers can collaborate on assignments, reinforce lessons, gain insight and understanding of learning and teaching strengths and weaknesses, as well as set goals and track progress on an individual student level.

Enrichment (5th period--Rotates every seven weeks)

Each core subject will have a grading term of enrichment. Each student will have an English Language Arts, Math, Science, and a Social Studies Enrichment Course. For some students their Enrichment course will be an extension of the curriculum and for others it will be addressing their skill deficiencies.

*****For Unified Arts courses for sixth grade see pages 8-11**

Seventh Grade Courses

English Language Arts

Seventh grade English Language Arts class focuses on the seventh grade Common Core State Standards. Instruction is designed to prepare students to achieve high academic standards in reading, writing, speaking, listening and media literacy. In addition, students will build strong critical thinking skills and gain awareness of his or her individual self and community. Students will have access to and utilize a wide range of resources, including traditional and digital sources.

Math Courses offered in 7th Grade

Math 7

Seventh grade math will follow the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics. Emphasis will be on the following topics: integers and rational numbers, algebraic reasoning, equations and inequalities, proportions and using percent's, geometric figures and their properties, an introduction to the coordinate plane, measurement and probability and statistics.

Accelerated Math 7

Accelerated Math 7 will follow the Accelerated Math standards in the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics. This class is designed to prepare students for the study of Algebra 1 in the 8th grade. Emphasis will be on the advance study of the following topics: integers, equations, inequalities, exponents, formulas, proportions, linear equations with graphing, measurement, probability and statistics.

GMS staff will use the following criteria to determine placement into advanced math courses:

- Standardized test score
- Placement test score
- Math grades from current year
- Math teacher recommendation

Algebra 1

This course follows the high school curriculum, using the ACT Quality Core Curriculum for Algebra 1. Students must maintain an 87% average in order to be eligible for the next course. This is the criteria for Gray and Ryle. (The End of Course Assessment will make up 10% of their final grade and will be administered in May)

PREREQUISITES FOR ALGEBRA 1 IN 7TH GRADE

GMS staff will use the following criteria to determine placement into advanced math courses:

- Standardized test scores
- Placement test score
- Math grades from current year
- Math teacher recommendation

7th Grade Science

Seventh grade science focuses heavily on collecting and analyzing data to construct scientific explanations using the Next Generation Science Standards. The following includes a list of topics covered, based on the Boone County School District's 7th grade Curriculum Map:

- Electromagnetic and Mechanical Waves
- Magnetism and Electricity
- Transfer of Gravitational Energy
- Kinetic Energy
- Chemical Reactions
- Structure and Function
- Growth, Development and Reproduction
- Matter and Energy in Organisms and Ecosystems

Social Studies

Seventh grade Social Studies focuses on ancient world history. Students will explore world civilizations from the Paleolithic Age to the Renaissance. Units of study include: Prehistory, Mesopotamia, Egypt, India, China, Greece, Rome, and the Middle Ages up to A.D. 1500.

Advisory

Advisory is a 30 minute time period where students and teachers can collaborate on assignments, reinforce lessons, gain insight and understanding of learning and teaching strengths and weaknesses, as well as set goals and track progress on an individual student level.

Enrichment (5th period--Rotates every seven weeks)

Each core subject will have a grading term of enrichment. Each student will have an English Language Arts, Math, Science, and a Social Studies Enrichment Course. For some students their Enrichment course will be an extension of the curriculum and for others it will be addressing their skill deficiencies.

*****For Unified Arts courses for seventh grade see pages 8-11**

Eighth Grade Courses

English Language Arts

The eighth grade English Language Arts course challenges students to maximize their potential in reading (informational and literary), writing (narrative, argumentative, and informational), speaking and listening (literature circles and formal and informal presentations), language (conventions of standard English grammar and usage, punctuation, and academic, literary, and Greek/Latin prefix/root word vocabulary), and media literacy. Using a blended learning model, programs like No Red Ink and MySciLearn are utilized to complement and enhance classroom instruction. Students will continue to build strong critical thinking skills over the course of the year, further preparing them for high school and beyond.

Math Courses offered in 8th grade

Math 8

Math 8 will follow the 8th grade Math standards in the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics. This class is designed to prepare students for the study of Algebra 1 in their freshman year of high school. Emphasis will be on the study of the following topics: integers, equations, inequalities, exponents, formulas, proportions, linear equations with graphing, measurement, probability and statistics.

Algebra 1

This course follows the high school curriculum, using the ACT Quality Core Curriculum for Algebra 1. Students must maintain an 87% average in order to be eligible for the next course. This is the criteria for Gray and Ryle. (The End of Course Assessment will make up 10% of their final grade and will be administered in May)

PREREQUISITES FOR ALGEBRA 1 IN 8th GRADE

GMS staff will use the following criteria to determine placement into advanced math courses:

- Standardized test score
- Placement test score
- Math grades from current year
- Math teacher recommendation

Geometry

This course follows the high school curriculum, using the ACT Quality Core Curriculum for Geometry. Students must maintain an 87% average in order to be eligible for the next course. This is the criteria for Gray and Ryle. (The End of Course Assessment will make up 10% of their final grade and will be administered in May)

PREREQUISITES FOR GEOMETRY IN 8th GRADE can be found on the next page.

GMS staff will use the following criteria to determine placement into advanced math courses:

- Standardized test score
- Placement test score
- Math grades from current year
- Math teacher recommendation

8th Grade Science

Eighth grade science focuses heavily on improving students' science literacy skills through the Next Generation Science Standards. The following includes a list of topics covered, based on the Boone County School District's 8th grade Curriculum Map:

- Energy
- Reproduction, Unity and Diversity
- Populations and Response to Change
- History of Earth
- Climate and Resources
- Human Impact

Social Studies

Eighth grade Social Studies focuses on a chronological history of the United States from its beginning through the end of Reconstruction (explorers to 1877). Themes that students will examine are the forging of a national identity, democratic principles, civics & citizenship, and our economic capacity in relation to the world. Students will examine conflicts, cultures, geography, and people involved during this period of time.

Advisory

Advisory is a 30 minute time period where students and teachers can collaborate on assignments, reinforce lessons, gain insight and understanding of learning and teaching strengths and weaknesses, as well as set goals and track progress on an individual student level.

Enrichment (5th period--Rotates every seven weeks)

Each core subject will have a grading term of enrichment. Each student will have an English Language Arts, Math, Science, and a Social Studies Enrichment Course. For some students their Enrichment course will be an extension of the curriculum and for others it will be addressing their skill deficiencies.

**** For Unified Arts courses for eighth grade see pages 8-11**

UNIFIED ARTS COURSES—6th, 7th, and 8th GRADE

Course	6th grade focus	7th grade focus	8th grade focus
Arts/ Humanities	The study of how people have expressed themselves throughout time. Investigations of self-expression in various art forms. Students will learn how and why people have created art. Students will begin a study of the timeline of Art History, beginning with prehistoric arts, Ancient Greece, Ancient Rome,	Continue the study of the timeline of Art History, beginning with an extensive study of the Renaissance both in Italy and the countries of Northern Europe. Students will also experience the arts of the Baroque Period and The Enlightenment. Projects will reflect the specific types of art made or performed in each time period	Continue the study of the Timeline of Art history, beginning with the styles pursued by the artists of the 1800's. Specific styles experienced include Romanticism, Realism, Impressionism, and Post-Impressionism. Students will create art in several styles from the first half of the 1900's

	the Byzantine Empire and the Middle Ages.		
Careers	Students will explore different career options available. Students will start to develop individual learning plans to update each year (ILP)	Introduces students to a broad range of career opportunities. Focuses on employability skills, career awareness, and education/career planning	To stimulate interest in career options. The course guides students in identifying their options, setting career goals, and developing strategies for reaching their goals.
Project Lead the Way (PLTW)	Intro to Design in Modeling: The Design and Modeling unit provides students opportunities to apply the design process to creatively solve problems. Students are introduced to the unit problem in the first activity and are asked to make connections to the problem throughout the lessons in the unit. Students learn and utilize methods for communicating design ideas through sketches, solid models, and mathematical models. Students will understand how models can be simulated to represent an authentic situation and generate data for further analysis and observations. Students work in teams to identify design requirements, research topic, and engage stakeholders. Teams design a toy or game for a child with cerebral	Energy and the Environment: In the Energy and the Environment unit, students are challenged to think big and look toward the future as they explore sustainable solutions to our energy needs and investigate the impact of energy on our lives and the world. They design and model alternative energy sources and evaluate options for reducing energy consumption.	Medical Detective: In the Medical Detectives unit, students play the role of real-life medical detectives as they analyze genetic testing results to diagnose disease and study DNA evidence found at a "crime scene." They solve medical mysteries through hands-on projects and labs, investigate how to measure and interpret vital signs, and learn how the systems of the human body work together to maintain health.

	palsy, fabricate and test it, and make necessary modifications to optimize the design solution.		
Course	6th grade focus	7th grade focus	8th grade focus
General Art	Students will gain an understanding of basic art vocabulary. Also, an introduction to the elements of art and experiencing different art media.	Further exploration of the elements of art and an introduction to the principles of design. Students will become aware of art career possibilities. Students will develop the skills to express their aesthetic judgments.	Review of the elements of art and exploration of the principles of design. Students will work in both two and three dimension while experimenting with a variety of media.
Health	Students will study life skills training and utilize the Level Green Decisions for Health textbooks to focus on positive self-image, decision making, tobacco/alcohol prevention, coping with anxiety, safety, etc.	Students will study life skills training and utilize the Level Red Decisions for Health textbooks to build on prior year health education. They will study drug abuse, decision making, communicating effectively, etc.	Students will study life skills training and utilize the Level Blue Decisions for Health textbooks and build on 6 th and 7 th grade health education topics covered in addition to alcohol/tobacco/drug effects, media influences, nutrition education, safety education, and the importance of being physically active.
Music Appreciation	This course covers basic music reading skills, elements and purposes of music as well as Asian music and Latin music. The cultural part of the class coincides with the Social Studies curriculum in the 6 th grade	This course continues with music theory basics, elements and purposes of music and includes Greek and Medieval music. These cultures are also studied in the 7 th grade Social Studies curriculum.	This 8 th grade course covers music theory basics but also includes the major scale and major and minor triads. Students will make presentations on the elements of music. The two time periods covered are the Baroque period

			and the Colonial period. This is also covered in their Social Studies curriculum.
Physical Education/ Fitness	Designed to develop student's muscular strength, muscular endurance, flexibility and cardiovascular fitness. The students learn how to perform different psychomotor skills effectively and efficiently through a variety of activities, including elements of dance.	The students learn how to perform different psychomotor skills effectively and efficiently through a variety of activities, including elements of dance. Group and team activities also develop communication and social skills.	Focus is mostly on team sports. Skills have previously been developed and now the skills are actually used in game situations. Physical fitness is also stressed, including elements of dance.

Course	6th grade focus	7th grade focus	8th grade focus
Spanish	Introduction to Spanish in which students are exposed to some of the cultural aspects of Spanish-Speaking countries while learning the alphabet and numbers. Also students will learn other vocabulary (greetings, colors, days & months, weather).	Students will expand their vocabulary by learning about home, family, occupations, body parts, animals, and clothing. Students will learn some basic grammar uses, rules and sentence structure. They will also explore Spanish-speaking countries.	Spanish is only offered as a full year course in the 8 th grade. See page 11 for details.
Speech/ Theatre	Students are introduced to the fundamental beginnings of theatre. Students explore Storytelling, traditional Greek Theatre and classical Japanese Theatre through Kabuki.	Focus is on the beginning of modern theatre (Shakespeare). Students will also learn the different types, and categories of plays. The purposes of drama, and	Focus is on jobs in a theatre company; from acting to directing to designing to props. Character and script development are also focused on. Students

	Students apply the fundamentals through a monologue performance for their final project.	who's who among cast and crew.	will also learn the types of stages and how to do blocking on each.
Technology in the Arts	Students are provided with a variety of computer skills that will be useful throughout the remainder of their education and into their lives beyond school. An arts-emphasis will be our focus through many of our projects. The students will create real life work, which will be used throughout the school and community. Our main focus will be on the Microsoft Office Suite, focusing on Word, Power Point, and Outlook.	Continuing with the same goals put in place in the previous grade, our main focus will be on the Microsoft Office Suite, including Word, Power Point, Publisher and Outlook.	Continuing with the same goals put in place in the previous grades, Our main focus will be on the Microsoft Office Suite, including Word, Power Point, Publisher, Outlook, and Windows Movie Maker.

Full year Unified Arts Courses

Sixth Grade Band

Sixth grade beginning band introduces students to playing an instrument with a good fundamental sound and steady pulse. In addition, students learn note reading, ensemble performance and characteristics of quality ensembles. By the end of the course, students generally have at least a one octave range and can read music in 2/4, 3/4, and 4/4 time with note values to eighth notes.

Seventh Grade Band

Seventh grade band expands the playing range of students while introducing them to more advanced rhythms and more independent part playing. By the end of the course, students will generally play major scales starting on Bb, C, Eb and Ab. They will play sixteenth notes and dotted notes. They will perform in 3/8, 6/8 and cut time. Students in 7th grade are expected to

audition for the Northern Kentucky Select Band and perform for the Northern Kentucky Solo and Ensemble competition.

Eighth Grade Band

This course refines ensemble performance and more advanced rhythms, time signatures and range requirements. By the end of the course, students will generally play major scales starting on Bb, C, Eb and Ab, F and G. Students are expected to audition for the Northern Kentucky Select Band and perform for the Northern Kentucky Solo and Ensemble competition. Selected students may perform with the Ryle Marching Band after school if they choose to do so.

6th, 7th, and 8th grade Chorus

This course has try-outs for placement in Chorus. Try-outs are held at the beginning of the school year for sixth grade students. Chorus class is a development of music skills. The student learns to read and recognize music notes. They learn to read and sing 2 and 3 part music. Students are exposed to singing different styles or types of music. This helps develop singing skills for the high school level. Students will perform at concerts throughout the year in conjunction with the band. Students will also perform at competitions throughout the year.

Spanish 1

Eighth grade Spanish students take the class for the entire school year and will enter high school at Spanish 2 or Spanish 2 honors, provided they maintain a "B" average. In this class, they learn to speak somewhat fluently in the present tense. They will continue to learn about the cultural customs of Spanish speakers both in their native countries as well as in the U.S. while focusing on distinguishing fact from stereotype.

PREREQUISITES FOR SPANISH 1 IN EIGHTH GRADE

- 1) Spanish teacher recommendation
- 2) Must have an A or B final average grade in 7th grade Spanish class
- 3) Must have an A average for the year in 7th grade Language Arts