



McCord Junior High School

Program of Studies

Administration:

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KNOWLEDGE

McCord students are open to learn and embrace new ideas and concepts. We are active participants in our academic growth.

INTEGRITY

McCord students show consideration towards others. We are willing to share and help everyone. We are honest. We are trustworthy.

DISCOVERY

McCord students embrace tolerance and celebrate diversity. We strive to improve our academic and social relationships. We welcome all.

RESPECT

McCord students display kindness towards others. We value compassion. We are polite.

Dear Students and Parents,

We are excited about the menu of course options that will be available at McCord for the upcoming school year. Please read the course descriptions in this booklet. An understanding of the broad goals of these courses is your first step toward success at McCord Junior High School and preparing you for your high school years. Please keep in mind these suggestions:

STUDENTS:

- Develop an organizational system.
- Use an agendabook/homework matrix daily.
- Know how and when to talk to teachers.
- Use a PowerSchool/Schoology Account.

PARENTS:

- Know your child's schedule and teachers.
- Keep in contact with school - be visible.
- Attend as many functions as possible.
- Use a PowerSchool/Schoology Account.

We want you to enjoy a rich experience that will prepare you to meet the goals you have for the rest of your life after you leave McCord Junior High.

Sincerely,



Susan Felver, Principal

Junior High Honors Program

Honors courses are available in each of the four core areas. English Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies. Students have to be recommended into honors courses. Accelerated courses such as Algebra count as one of those courses.

McCord Junior High Teacher Request Policy

Requests are becoming increasingly difficult to honor due to our continuously growing student population, sharing teachers with four different buildings, teachers teaching more than one subject and/or more than one grade level, and the need to balance class sizes. We will consider your request if the factors above make it possible. In order to formally request a teacher please put your request in writing prior to the end of the school year to Susie Felver and your child's school counselor. Teacher requests are reviewed and granted when possible prior to the start of the school year.

McCord Junior High Schedule Change Policy

Occasionally students or parents request schedule changes throughout the school year for a variety of reasons. Schedules will not be changed after the 5th day of class. Due to our growing student population, class size, and various schedule constraints McCord requires the following to occur prior to considering a schedule change for students:

1. *A student and/or guardian should contact their school counselor and/or an administrator to discuss concerns or issues they might be having with a certain class.*
2. *If these concerns have not already been brought to the classroom teacher's attention we will discuss the most appropriate way for this to happen depending on the situation.*
3. *Teachers will be notified of class change requests and will assist in resolving concerns with students and parents.*
4. *Develop a resolution specific to the situation.*
5. *Revisit as needed.*

This is McCord's general schedule change request policy. Extreme or severe situations are handled differently depending on the nature and severity of the situation.

McCord Junior High Failure Policy

Students will advance to the next grade level regardless of GPA or class failures. In cases where students fail a core class, we strongly recommend enrolling in the annual Sylvania Summer School, which will help students review and master the skills and concepts of the class(es) they failed. Refusal to do this will lead to challenges in passing classes in the next year. When students advance to high school, failures can jeopardize graduation. To prevent this challenge, Summer School is highly recommended.

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Required and Elective Courses for 8th Grade Students

McCord offers a 7 period day, plus a 25 minute Homeroom class at the end of the day. Listed below are the five required courses, as well as the full list of electives offered to 8th grade students. Students may select two electives from the options below. Please note that some students are recommended for certain electives based upon their individual needs.

Junior High/High School Course Add/Drop Policy

Students may not drop a course unless it is dropped with a written teacher recommendation. Teacher recommendation will be based on the following criteria:

1. The student sought assistance from the teacher.
2. The student has taken advantage of any available academic assistance.
3. The student's work does not indicate the ability to meet minimum course requirements with conscientious effort.

Core / Required Courses

- English Language Arts
- Math
- Science
- Social Studies
- 8th Grade Elective Rotation
 - Physical Education / Health (semester)
 - S.T.E.M. (quarter)
 - Information Technology (quarter)

Elective Courses

- Reading *Recommended
- Spanish I *1 HS Credit
- French I *1 HS Credit
- German I *1 HS Credit
- Art 8
- Band 8
- Orchestra 8
- Choir 8
- Creative Theater & Musical Arts
- Media Assistant

ENGLISH (year)

Students focus on and read grade and ability level texts in a range of genres. Students follow the writing process to produce arguments, informational texts, and narratives. They work to ensure that development, organization and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience. Vocabulary, grammar, and research lessons are included in reading and writing instruction. Speaking and listening skills are also addressed to ensure that students are working towards college and career readiness.

HONORS ENGLISH (year)

This class offers depth, complexity, variety, and accelerated pacing appropriate to advanced learners. Students develop skills in analysis, interpretation, oral communication, vocabulary, and research. In addition, students read classic and contemporary literature and challenging informational texts in a range of genres. Deeper analysis is required during the writing process as students produce arguments, informational texts, narratives enhanced complexity--while still ensuring task, purpose, and audience. Students identified as gifted in Reading, Cognitive Abilities, or Creative Thinking can receive gifted services in this course; Honors placement is based on multiple data points and teacher recommendation.

MATH 8 (year)

Students will learn to bring to problem situations the ability to analyze and manipulate mathematical ideas. Instruction emphasizes inquiry and discovery of mathematical ideas through investigation of rich problem solving situations. The curriculum is accommodated to meet diverse learning needs. Student materials are organized into units, each of which focuses on a core set of important, related mathematical ideas including: data representation and analysis, variables, tables, graphs and symbolic representations, transformations, linear and nonlinear functions, inequalities, algebraic method of equation solving, exponential relationships and quadratic functions.

MATH HONORS 8 (year)

Students will learn to bring to problem situations the ability to analyze, manipulate and extend mathematical ideas. Instruction emphasizes inquiry and discovery of mathematical ideas through investigation of rich problem solving situations. Teacher recommendation is required for enrollment in this course. Student materials are organized into units, each of which focuses on a core set of important, related mathematical ideas including: data representation and analysis, variables, tables, graphs and symbolic representations, transformations, linear and nonlinear functions, inequalities, algebraic method of equation solving, exponential relationships and quadratic functions. Students identified as gifted in Math, Cognitive Abilities, or Creative Thinking can receive gifted services in this course; Honors placement is based on multiple data points and teacher recommendation.

ALGEBRA I HONORS (year)

Algebra I is the same as the course taught in Sylvania's high schools. Students will earn high school credit for the course. The grade earned will be on their high school transcript and will be factored into their overall G.P.A. upon entering high school as a freshman. Topics include: basic operations on signed numbers, fundamental concepts of exponents, factoring, and solutions of linear and quadratic equations. Enrollment is limited on the basis of the 7th grade teacher recommendation and several test score criteria. One hour of homework each night can be expected. High school ADD/DROP policy applies for this course. *Algebra I is a prerequisite for Honors Science 9.*

HONORS GEOMETRY (year)

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation and Algebra I In addition to all of the concepts covered in the regular geometry course, students will develop skills in critical thinking, logical reasoning, and problem solving. Emphasis is given to the structure of geometry and the development of direct proofs. Proof-writing skills are developed by beginning with short and simple ideas that gradually lead to more complex proofs. Students will understand how geometry grows from observations and common relationships. Students will study examples of geometry in the physical world and how to use geometric concepts to solve problems. Other ideas that are developed include: trigonometry, indirect proofs, inductive reasoning, non-Euclidean geometries, transformations, and symmetry. Throughout the course students will utilize algebraic skills and develop constructions using a compass and a straight edge. The grade earned will be on their high school transcript and will be factored into their overall G.P.A. upon entering high school as a freshman.

SCIENCE (year)

This course will explore the world of science touching on Earth, Life, and Physical Science. Units will include; Scientific Inquiry, Introduction to Earth, Plate Tectonics, Earthquakes and Volcanoes, Geologic Time, Plant and Animal Life Cycles, Genetics, Forces of Motion, and Electromagnetism. Background information includes skills and laboratory techniques and application of the scientific method. The self inquiry method is used to enable the students to grow in self-discipline and responsibility. Reference books, current printed materials, student textbooks, models, and audio visual materials are used as aids in learning. Student evaluation is based on concepts learned and the ability to use the scientific method.

SCIENCE HONORS (year)

Honors Science 8 offers an 8th grade science curriculum with depth, complexity, variety, and appropriate to advanced learners. The curriculum focuses on helping students use scientific inquiry to discover patterns, trends, and relationships that are related to the studies of earth, space, physical, and life sciences. Students will explore the topics of: the Physical Features of Earth; Forces and Motion; and Species and Reproduction. Emphasis on laboratory safety and scientific processes such as conducting scientific investigations, developing laboratory measurement skills, analyzing and interpreting data, and thinking logically and critically are woven throughout these areas of focus. Students identified as gifted in Science, Cognitive Abilities, or Creative Thinking can receive gifted services in this course; Honors placement is based on multiple data points and teacher recommendation.

SOCIAL STUDIES (year)

Students explore the development of the United States from the Pre-Colonial Period to the Civil War and Reconstruction. Students become acquainted with contributions made by people who came to this country and formed the "American" culture. Units include the creation of the U.S., the growth of democracy, westward expansion, the preservation of the "Union," and a knowledge and understanding of the Constitution

SOCIAL STUDIES HONORS (year)

Honors Social Studies 8 is designed for the advanced and/or gifted 8th grade student who has a strong interest in the field of American History and plans to pursue Honors and/or AP social studies courses in high school. Student collaboration utilizing developmentally appropriate inquiry-based learning, problem solving, project-based learning, lectures, discussions, and debates, Honors Social Studies 8 gives an in-depth treatment to the topics covered to make connections to 21st century events that continue to impact the world as we know it today. Honors Social Studies 8 utilizes a number of informational sources, both print and digital, to illustrate the aftermath of events ranging from the early explorers through Reconstruction. An in-depth study of primary sources will capture the political implications, the economic effects and the social implications of America's history in order to prepare students for the rigor of Honors American History 10 and/or AP United States History 10. Students identified as gifted in Social Studies, Cognitive Abilities, or Creative Thinking can receive gifted services in this course; Honors placement is based on multiple data points and teacher recommendation.

RECOMMENDED READING (year)

Eighth Grade Recommended Reading provides additional support and skill building in nearly all skill areas involving Reading. Instructors analyze individual student data from classroom performance, past individual student record information, State and STAR testing, and teacher recommendations to design their instruction. The purpose of this class is to help students gain skills and confidence in all Reading areas. Because this class is designed to provide explicit Reading skill building and support much of the work will be done in class with little work coming home. Students must be recommended to take this course.

ART 8 (year)

Art class combines the concepts of process, product and understanding to support both cognitive and creative development. The curriculum is designed to advance content knowledge and skills in the following areas: visual literacy, personal expression through art production, creative problem solving, recognition of the role and importance of art and artists in society, culture, and history, critical assessment of artwork from aesthetic and cultural perspectives, and technical studio processes.

CREATIVE THEATRE & MUSICAL ARTS (year)

Creative Theater & Musical Arts (CTMA) will explore history, culture, music and the arts through areas tied to music in some capacity. This is a year-long course with each quarter being connected to one theme/style or genre of music. We will begin with Musicals/Drama, move on to Music of the Decades, continue with modern music & composition (1990s-today), and wrap up the year learning the Ukulele & bucket drumming. Students will complete several individual and group projects within each unit to demonstrate their understanding of the world and the influence music continues to have.

FRENCH I / SPANISH I / GERMAN I (year)

The French, Spanish, and German courses are the equivalent of French I, Spanish I, and German I at the high school level. Students will earn high school credit for the course. The grade earned will be on their high school transcript and will be factored into their overall G.P.A. upon entering high school as a freshman. Emphasis is given to language skills of pronunciation, vocabulary, grammar, reading, writing, conversation and awareness of the French, Spanish, and German cultures. High school ADD/DROP policy applies for this course.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY 8 (9 weeks)

This course is a continuation of Information Technology 7, designed to provide students with a working knowledge of computer concepts and essential skills necessary for work and communication in today's society. Students will learn safety, security and ethical issues in computing and social networking. Students will also learn fundamental concepts in personal finance, credit, banking, and career exploration. This course also builds upon the keyboarding skills learned from 6th grade and places more of an emphasis on speed and accuracy.

STEM (9 weeks)

STEM 8 is a continuation of STEM 7. Students in the STEM program acquire knowledge and skills in problem solving, teamwork, and innovation. Students explore STEM careers as they participate in a project-based learning process, designed to challenge and engage the natural curiosity and imagination of middle school students. Teams design and test their ideas using modeling, automation, robotics, mechanical and computer control systems, while exploring energy and the environment.

MEDIA CENTER/CLASSROOM ASSISTANT (year)

Students scheduled as a Media Center or Classroom Assistant are assigned tasks based upon McCord's Main Office, Media Center, and classroom needs. Students help with office and classroom clerical tasks. They also assist teachers with organizational tasks and peer tutoring. Any student may request to be a Media Center/Classroom assistant. However, this role requires high levels of trust & responsibility. Only students in good academic/behavioral standing will be considered.

INTEGRATED PHYSICAL EDUCATION (18 weeks)

Integrated health and physical education is a semester course, which allots four weeks for health instruction and fourteen weeks of physical education. Students are expected to change clothes for class. Shorts or sweatpants, T-shirts and proper athletic shoes are required. Physical education activities covered are ultimate frisbee, speedball, lacrosse, badminton, and volleyball. Two-three days per week are dedicated to fitness activities. Evaluation is based on participation and effort. Fitnessgram is now used as our assessment program. Topics covered in health are drugs and alcohol use, body image, eating disorders and goal setting. Grading is based on assignments and tests.

BAND (year)

Prerequisite: enrollment in seventh grade band or approval of the director. Eighth grade band is a requirement for participation in the high school bands. Rehearsals include fundamental drill, sectionals, small ensemble playing and concert preparation. Through participation, students have the opportunity to improve their musical skills and knowledge. Opportunities exist for enrichment activities such as Solo and Ensemble competition and District Honors Band. Evaluation is based on fulfillment of practice requirements and improvement of performance skills demonstrated by the student through written and playing tests. *Attendance at scheduled performances is required.*

ORCHESTRA (year)

Prerequisite: enrollment in seventh grade orchestra or approval of the director. Eighth grade orchestra is a requirement for participation in the high school orchestra. Rehearsal fundamentals include scales, rhythms, positions, and vibrato. Opportunities exist for enrichment activities such as Solo and Ensemble competition and District Honors Orchestra. Evaluation is based on fulfillment of practice requirements and improvement of performance skills demonstrated by the student through written and playing tests. *Attendance at scheduled performances is required.*

CHOIR (year)

This is a group performance class for students who enjoy singing and would like an opportunity to develop their vocal skills while learning and performing choral music. Students learn beginning sight singing skills, harmony parts, and how to present themselves to an audience. Any student may participate in choir but they must understand that full participation is expected. Repeated lack of participation, and/or behavioral issues will result in removal from this class. *7th grade choir students requesting to take 8th grade choir must pass 7th grade choir. The Choir instructor reserves the right to deny acceptance to 8th grade choir based upon behavioral concerns with administrative approval.*

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Required and Elective Courses for 7th Grade Students

McCord offers a 7 period day, plus a 25 minute Homeroom class at the end of the day. Listed below are the five required courses, as well as the full list of electives offered to 7th grade students. Students may select up to two electives from the options below. Please note that some students are recommended for certain electives based upon their individual needs.

JuniorHigh/High School Course Add/Drop Policy

Students may not drop a course unless it is dropped with a written teacher recommendation. Teacher recommendation will be based on the following criteria:

1. The student sought assistance from the teacher.
2. The student has taken advantage of any available academic assistance.
3. The student's work does not indicate the ability to meet minimum course requirements with conscientious effort.

Core / Required Courses

- English Language Arts
- Math
- Science
- Social Studies
- 7th Grade Elective Rotation
 - Physical Education / Health (semester)
 - S.T.E.M. (quarter)
 - Information Technology (quarter)

Elective Courses

- Reading *Recommended
- Reading *Enrichment
- Choir
- Band
- Orchestra
- Exploratory Block
 - Exploratory French (quarter)
 - Exploratory Spanish (quarter)
 - Exploratory Art (quarter)
 - Exploratory Music (quarter)

ENGLISH (year)

Seventh-grade English focuses on short story and novel study, composition writing, vocabulary enrichment, grammar usage, and public speaking. Short stories and novels are the basis for studying literary elements such as style, theme, setting, characterization, and plot development. In addition, composition development focuses on sentence and paragraph structure, grammar usage, precise language, and creativity. Working with weekly vocabulary exercises, students study definitions, pronunciations, spelling usage and roots. The use of correct grammar and the eight parts of speech are explored throughout the year. Students are also required to present informative, demonstrative and persuasive speeches to complete the communication requirement.

HONORS ENGLISH (year)

This class offers depth, complexity, variety, and accelerated pacing appropriate to advanced learners. Students develop skills in analysis, interpretation, oral communication, vocabulary, and research. In addition, students read classic and contemporary literature and challenging informational texts in a range of genres. Deeper analysis is required during the writing process as students produce arguments, informational texts, narratives enhanced complexity--while still ensuring task, purpose, and audience. Students identified as gifted in Reading, Cognitive Abilities, or Creative Thinking can receive gifted services in this course; Honors placement is based on multiple data points and teacher recommendation.

RECOMMENDED READING (year)

Seventh grade recommended reading provides additional support and skill building in nearly all skill areas involving Reading. Instructors analyze individual student data from classroom performance, past individual student record information, State and STAR testing, and teacher recommendations to design their instruction. The purpose of this class is to help students gain skills and confidence in all Reading areas. Because this class is designed to provide explicit Reading skill building and support much of the work will be done in class with little work coming home. Students must be recommended to take this course.

READING ENRICHMENT CLASS (year)

7th grade Reading as an elective class for the full school year. This elective has been developed as an enrichment opportunity for those students with a love and passion for Reading. Using both fiction and nonfiction texts students will participate in activities that explore themes, concepts, and cross curricular applications. This class will allow students to demonstrate their comprehension and interpretation of different texts using a variety of creative media.

***This elective may change depending upon interest and staff availability. Detailed information regarding this elective will be available later into the 3rd quarter or the beginning of the 4th quarter.*

MATH 7 (year)

Instruction in this class emphasizes inquiry and discovery of mathematical ideas through investigation of rich problem situations. The relationship between mathematical ideas and “real world” problems offer students opportunities to apply their skills and revisit concepts. Student materials are organized into units, each of which focuses on a core set of important, related mathematical ideas. Students will be expected to reason effectively with information represented in graphic, numeric, symbolic and verbal forms, and move flexibly among these representations. The concepts covered will be: computation and understanding rational numbers, understanding integers, percent reasoning, ratio, rates, proportional reasoning, the relationship between two variables, surface area and volume, and probability with expected values.

MATH 7 HONORS (year)

This course incorporates all of the same concepts in Math 7. In addition, this course will cover conceptual algebra, including multi-step equations, inequalities and problem solving using an algebraic approach. Rational numbers are stressed and principles and properties of all operations are developed. Students selected for Math III must demonstrate an excellent background in mathematics and skill development, and be able to verbalize their understanding. They will be expected to apply their knowledge to higher level thinking skills. Students identified as gifted in Math, Cognitive Abilities, or Creative Thinking can receive gifted services in this course; Honors placement is based on multiple data points and teacher recommendation.

SOCIAL STUDIES (year)

This course covers several areas of world history. Emphasis is placed on understanding ancient historical events and the culture of the civilizations being studied throughout the year. Students will develop an awareness of how civilizations functioned, flourished, and eventually declined, as well as become aware of the contributions these ancient people have given to the development of Western Civilization. The units covered will expose students to a variety of cultural experiences and knowledge from ancient Greece, the Roman Empire, the Middle Ages, and global exploration.

SOCIAL STUDIES HONORS (year)

Honors Social Studies 7 is designed for the advanced and/or gifted 7th grade student who has a strong interest in the field of World History and plans to pursue Honors and/or AP social studies courses in high school. Student collaboration utilizing developmentally appropriate inquiry-based learning, problem solving, project-based learning, lectures, discussions, and debates, Honors Social Studies 7 provides areas of historical inquiry for investigation throughout the course. Honors Social Studies 7 utilizes a number of informational sources, both print and digital, to illustrate the aftermath of events in the Eastern Hemisphere ranging from topics of the ancient empires (Greek, Roman, Islamic, Chinese, and Japanese), the Middle Ages, the Renaissance, and global exploration. An in-depth study of primary sources will capture the geographic reasons for the movement of people, products and ideas, political implications, and the economic effects of the empires/regions of the ancient civilizations in preparation for the rigor of Honors World Studies. Students identified as gifted in Social Studies, Cognitive Abilities, or Creative Thinking can receive gifted services in this course; Honors placement is based on multiple data points and teacher recommendation.

SCIENCE (year)

This course covers several aspects of physical, life, and earth sciences. Physical science will mainly revolve around the concept of conservation of mass and energy, with an emphasis on the flow of energy in a system. The life science portion of the course will be devoted to the main concept of cycles in matter and the flow of energy through an ecosystem. Lastly, the earth science units will emphasize cycles and patterns of the Earth and the Moon. The use of hands-on activities and cooperative learning strategies are used to reinforce the major concepts in an inquiry-based manner. Students will learn to think for themselves, make connections to the real world, and problem solve on a more scientific level.

SCIENCE HONORS (year)

Honors Science 7 offers a 7th grade science curriculum with depth, complexity, variety, and accelerated pacing appropriate to advanced learners. The curriculum focuses on helping students use scientific inquiry to discover patterns, trends, and relationships that are related to the studies of earth, space, physical, and life sciences. Students will explore the topics of: Cycles and Patterns of the Earth and Moon; Conservation of Mass and Energy; and Cycles of Matter and Flow of Energy. Emphasis on laboratory safety and scientific processes such as conducting scientific investigations, developing laboratory measurement skills, analyzing and interpreting data, and thinking logically and critically are woven throughout these areas of focus. Students identified as gifted in Science, Cognitive Abilities, or Creative Thinking can receive gifted services in this course; Honors placement is based on multiple data points and teacher recommendation.

EXPLORATORY FRENCH and SPANISH (9 weeks)

Exploratory French and Spanish are nine week courses offered to seventh grade students to introduce them to the various aspects of World languages. Basic pronunciation, vocabulary and culture are covered. French and Spanish are part of the exploratory block.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY 7 (9 weeks)

This first course in the IT career field is designed to provide students with a working knowledge of computer concepts and essential skills necessary for work and communication in today's society. Students will learn safety, security, and ethical issues in computing and social networking. Students will also learn about input/output systems, computer hardware and operating systems, and office applications. This course also builds upon the keyboarding skills learned from 6th grade and places more of an emphasis on speed and accuracy.

STEM 7 (9 weeks)

Students in the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) program acquire knowledge and skills in problem solving, teamwork, and innovation. Students explore STEM careers as they participate in a project-based learning process, designed to challenge and engage the natural curiosity and imagination of middle school students. Teams design and test their ideas using modeling, automation, robotics, mechanical and computer control systems, while exploring energy and the environment.

ART (9 weeks)

Art class combines the concepts of process, product and understanding to support both cognitive and creative development. The curriculum is designed to advance content knowledge and skills in the following areas: visual literacy, personal expression through art production, creative problem solving, recognition of the role and importance of art and artists in society, culture, and history, critical assessment of artwork from aesthetic and cultural perspectives, and technical studio processes.

INTEGRATED PHYSICAL EDUCATION (18 weeks)

Integrated health and physical education is a semester course, which allots four weeks for health instruction and fourteen weeks of physical education. Students are expected to change clothes for class. Shorts or sweatpants, T-shirts and proper athletic shoes are required. Physical education activities covered are team handball, basketball, soccer and softball. Two-three days per week are dedicated to fitness activities. Evaluation is based on participation and effort. Fitnessgram is now used as our assessment program.

Topics covered in health are human growth and development, tobacco use and physical activity. Grading is based on assignments and tests. Students also receive a week of D.A.R.E. education from a police officer, with topics of concern that the city of Sylvania deals with on a daily basis.

EXPLORATORY MUSIC (9 weeks)

Students in this class will be introduced to a variety of music styles. Students will also learn about the development of music, both pop and traditional. There will be an emphasis on music theater, pop music in choral form, and the rich tradition of American music, including spirituals, ragtime, jazz, swing and the blues. Music history, theory and composition will also be covered in this interactive class.

BAND (year)

Prerequisite: enrollment in sixth grade band or approval of the director. Rehearsals include fundamental drill, sectionals, and concert preparation. Through participation, students have the opportunity to improve their musical skills and knowledge. Opportunities exist for enrichment activities such as Solo and Ensemble competition. Evaluation is based on fulfillment of practice requirements and improvement of performance skills demonstrated by the student through written and playing tests. Attendance at scheduled performances is required.

ORCHESTRA (year)

Prerequisite: enrollment in sixth grade orchestra or approval of the director. Rehearsal fundamentals include scales, rhythms, positions, and vibrato. Opportunities exist for enrichment activities such as Solo and Ensemble competition. Evaluation is based on fulfillment of practice requirements and improvement of performance skills demonstrated by the student through written and playing tests. Attendance at scheduled performances is required.

7th Grade CHOIR (year)

This is a performance class for students who enjoy singing and would like an opportunity to develop their vocal skills while learning the basics of performing choral music. Students learn beginning sight singing skills, simple choreography, easy harmony parts, and how to present themselves to an audience. Admittance to the class is by audition and by teacher recommendation. Opportunities exist for enrichment activities such as Solo and Ensemble competition and District Honors Choir. Attendance at scheduled performances is required, as is appropriate concert attire. Students must successfully complete 7th grade choir to be recommended to continue with 8th grade choir.

6

Required and Elective Courses for 6th Grade Students

McCord offers a 7 period day, plus a 25 minute Homeroom class at the end of the day. Listed below are the six required courses along with elective choice of playing an instrument. Please note that some students are recommended for certain electives based upon their individual needs.

Junior High/High School Course Add/Drop Policy

Students may not drop a course unless it is dropped with a written teacher recommendation. Teacher recommendation will be based on the following criteria:

1. The student sought assistance from the teacher.
2. The student has taken advantage of any available academic assistance.
3. The student's work does not indicate the ability to meet minimum course requirements with conscientious effort.

Core / Required Courses

- English Language Arts
- Reading
- Math (double blocked - 2 periods)
- Science
- Social Studies
- Elective Rotation
 - Physical Education
 - Health
 - S.T.E.M. (*quarter*)
 - Information Technology (*quarter*)
 - Art
 - Music
 - Cultural Studies

Elective Courses

6th grade students have the opportunity to take the following electives in conjunction with their other electives during 1st period.

- Band
- Orchestra

6th grade Band and Orchestra students alternate between their scheduled elective listed above and Band/Orchestra during 1st period.

ENGLISH (*year*)

The main emphasis of English is the sequential development of the skills necessary for effective communication, which includes writing, using MLA format, speaking, and listening. Students will use the five steps of the writing process and will write for a variety of purposes. Students learn correct grammar, mechanics, parts of speech and spelling through mini-lessons. Acquisition of vocabulary occurs as students work with word analogies, synonyms, antonyms, figurative language, and Greek root words.

HONORS ENGLISH (*year*)

This class offers depth, complexity, variety, and accelerated pacing appropriate to advanced learners. Students develop skills in analysis, interpretation, oral communication, vocabulary, and research. In addition, students read classic and contemporary literature and challenging informational texts in a range of genres. Deeper analysis is required during the writing process as students produce arguments, informational texts, narratives enhanced complexity--while still ensuring task, purpose, and audience. Students identified as gifted in Reading, Cognitive Abilities, or Creative Thinking can receive gifted services in this course; Honors placement is based on multiple data points and teacher recommendation.

ALL 6TH GRADE LEVEL MATHEMATICS (year)

Math courses are assigned based on teacher recommendation and can include Math 6 or Honors Math 6. Each 6th grade Math is a double blocked course lasting two periods. The math curriculum for each of the levels is organized around clusters of important, related concepts, processes, ways of thinking, skills, and problem solving strategies. These are studied in depth with the development of deep understanding as the goal. Honors Math will include complexities of concepts and require students to verbalize their understanding of higher level content. Instruction in all levels emphasizes inquiry and discovery of mathematical ideas through investigation of rich problem situations. Student materials are organized into units, each of which focuses on a core set of important, related mathematical ideas.

These units include:

Number Theory; Measurement; Use of Data and Graphs; Ration, Rates, and Proportions;
Fractions, Decimals, and Percents; Equations; Area, Perimeter, Volume, and Surface Area.

Students identified as gifted in Math, Cognitive Abilities, or Creative Thinking can receive gifted services in Honors Math 6; Honors placement is based on multiple data points and teacher recommendation.

READING (year)

Reading requires students to be actively involved and connected with a text. Students learn strategies to help them comprehend, interpret, and evaluate informational and literary text. Students acquire new vocabulary by employing word identification strategies and improve fluency through practice. They will analyze texts to determine the conflict, point of view, main idea, theme, author's purpose, and other literary elements. Students will respond to literature by summarizing or supporting their interpretations with references to the text. They are expected to read independently to foster reading as a lifelong skill.

SOCIAL STUDIES (year)

Social Studies will focus on regions and people found throughout the world. 6th grade Social Studies is a meaningful and balanced presentation of the physical and cultural geography of the major cultural regions of the world. People, economy, and government of the regions will be explored. In addition, carefully sequenced skills teach students how to read and interpret maps, globes, charts, graphs, and diagrams, and to use timelines, critical thinking, and study and research skills.

SOCIAL STUDIES HONORS (year)

Honors Social Studies 6 is designed for the advanced 6th grade student who has a strong interest in the field of social studies and plans to pursue Honors and/or AP social studies courses in high school. Student collaboration utilizing developmentally appropriate inquiry-based learning, problem solving, project-based learning, lectures, discussions, and debates, Honors Social Studies 6 gives an in-depth treatment to the topics covered to make connections to 21st century events that continue to impact the world as we know it today. Honors Social Studies 6 utilizes a number of informational sources, both print and digital, to illustrate the aftermath of events. An in-depth study of primary sources will capture the political implications, the economic effects and the social implications in preparation for the rigor of an Honors Social Studies class. Students identified as gifted in Social Studies, Cognitive Abilities, or Creative Thinking can receive gifted services in this course; Honors placement is based on multiple data points and teacher recommendation.

SCIENCE (year)

In a technological age when scientific knowledge progresses at such a rapid rate, science education must include the use of an up-to-date activity-based program with methods and strategies that lead students:

*To construct science concepts and solve problems through inquiry and exploration.

*To explore and understand several aspects of physical science, life science, and earth science.

The science program is designed so that skills, concepts, and generalizations are reinforced and refined with new, more complex situations. It allows students to have the opportunities to make connections among the science disciplines. Students then can apply the knowledge they have learned to their own lives.

HONORS SCIENCE 6 (year)

Honors Science 6 offers a 6th grade science curriculum with depth, complexity, variety, and accelerated pacing appropriate to advanced learners. The curriculum focuses on helping students use scientific inquiry to discover patterns, trends, and relationships that are related to the studies of earth, space, physical, and life sciences. Students will explore the topics of: Rocks, Minerals and Soil; Matter and Motion; and Modern Cell Theory (cellular to multicellular). Emphasis on laboratory safety and scientific processes such as conducting scientific investigations, developing laboratory measurement skills, analyzing and interpreting data, and thinking logically and critically are woven throughout these areas of focus. Students identified as gifted in Science, Cognitive

Abilities, or Creative Thinking can receive gifted services in this course; Honors placement is based on multiple data points and teacher recommendation.

EXPLORATORY CLASSES (4-5 weeks each)

In addition to the state required courses, our 6th grade students will be introduced to other courses that will expand their minds and educational experiences. One of our goals in Sylvania Schools is to provide each child the opportunity to experience a diverse curriculum. Thus, all our 6th graders will experience, in varied lengths, the following classes: Art, Computer Applications, Music, Applied Technology, Physical Education, and Health.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The goal in 6th grade physical education is for students to experience a range of activities and to develop a positive attitude toward physical activity. The emphasis at this level is on fitness activities and sport-related skill practice. Students are expected to change clothes each day for class. Shorts, T-shirts and proper athletic shoes are required. Evaluation is based on participation and effort.

HEALTH

The goal of 6th grade health will focus on healthy habits for physical and mental well-being, social-emotional topics like mindset and goal-setting, social inclusion, mental health and suicide prevention, as well as conflict resolution in an age-appropriate setting to increase overall wellness.

BAND, ORCHESTRA

Beginning band and orchestra are elective courses which meet three days a week. Students are introduced to the fundamental instrumental techniques and the basics of music reading. Evaluation is based on fulfillment of practice requirements and improvement of performance skills demonstrated by written and playing tests. Three concerts are scheduled throughout the school year at which attendance is required.

ART

Art class combines the concepts of process, product and understanding to support both cognitive and creative development. The curriculum is designed to advance content knowledge and skills in the following areas: visual literacy, personal expression through art production, creative problem solving, recognition of the role and importance of art and artists in society, culture, and history, critical assessment of artwork from aesthetic and cultural perspectives, and technical studio processes.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY 6

Keyboarding is designed to help students develop speed and accuracy by learning the touch operation of the keyboard characters. Emphasis is placed on the following: introduction of the keyboard with desirable keyboarding techniques; development of speed and accuracy; and proper care of equipment. Keyboarding is the foundation for Information Technology 7.

APPLIED TECHNOLOGY

In this course students are introduced to the elective course Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM). The STEM course in Junior High integrates these disciplines with hands-on activities, various technology applications, and career applications.