



FAYETTE ACADEMY

Inspiring Minds for Learning and Hearts for Christ

Curriculum Guide 2024-2025

Middle School

Curriculum Map

This map shows the yearly curriculum plan for each grade level.

	6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade
Language Arts	English Reading	English	English
Mathematics	Math	Math	Pre-Algebra or Algebra I
Science	Science	Life Science	Physical Science
Social Studies	Social Studies	World History/Geography	U.S. History
Fine Art (choice)		Band Performing Arts STEM	Band Performing Arts STEM
Foreign Language		Spanish	Spanish
Other Required Courses	Music (quarter) Performing Arts (quarter) STEM (quarter) Physical Education (quarter)		

Table of Contents

Sixth Grade
4-5

Seventh Grade
6-7

Eighth Grade
8-9

The following courses may be offered at Fayette Academy for the 2021-2022 school year. Please review the items on the following pages to better understand the course descriptions and requirements.

6th Grade Curriculum

ENGLISH

The sixth grade English class is a fundamental requirement in which objectives will range from developing strong grammar mechanics to the mastery of various writing processes and composition. Students will demonstrate proficiency in sentence structure, fluency, and conventions through application. Students are expected to write in a variety of modes and genres, including, descriptive, narrative, expository, persuasive, literary response, personal expression, and imaginative. Students will initially begin by organizing ideas into essays consisting of introductions, developing detailed paragraphs with appropriate transitions, and conclusions while simultaneously incorporating grammar skills. At the conclusion of the course, students will be required to write a research paper using primary and secondary sources.

READING

This is a literature course that offers a variety of literary genres. Students are required to logically analyze both novels and short stories using analytical skills. They will recognize and differentiate literary elements (setting, plot, character, conflict, theme) within each story/novel. Students are required to apply content specific vocabulary within context to strengthen both comprehension and writing skills. Students will master concepts such as chronological order, cause-effect, comparison-contrast, and problem-solution. Assessment is reinforced through the use of Accelerated Reader, selection and vocabulary tests, projects, and essays.

MATHEMATICS

Abeka Math is the curriculum used for Sixth Grade Math. The text presents a series of daily lessons, each followed by "in class practice" and homework practice. Each problem set reviews lessons that have been previously taught. Continual practice allows fundamental skills and concepts to be reviewed throughout the year. As a result, students achieve a deeper understanding and better retention of the material. This is an important bridge year, taking the student from emphasis on calculation in elementary to a more "applications approach" in preparing them for higher levels of mathematical thinking.

SOCIAL STUDIES

In 6th Grade Social Studies, the focus is to expand students' understanding of history through the study of people and events before the era of European exploration and settlement. This study focuses not only on the significance of geography in the development of human history, but also on the everyday lives, problems, and accomplishments of the people and their roles in developing social, economic, and political structures of the major civilizations.

SCIENCE

Sixth grade science is a study of the ever-changing dynamic natural world surrounding us. Students will explore the interconnections among the sciences, develop scientific literacy, and use the scientific method of inquiry to gather information and solve problems. They will use these practices to study living things and ecosystems, Earth and its cycles, and matter and energy.

MUSIC

The Sixth Grade Music course provides students with the opportunity to experience being a Fayette Academy Band member. At the end of the course, Students should be able to: demonstrate a basic understanding and application of expressive qualities in music; demonstrate a basic understanding of the elements of music such as: dynamics, rhythm, melody, and pitch; demonstrate the ability to read and notate music individually and in ensemble settings; demonstrate fundamental control, technical accuracy, and a beginning level of fluency on the xylophone percussion instruments; and perform music in both individual and ensemble settings.

PERFORMING ARTS

Sixth grade performing arts is an introduction to theatre. This nine week class explores acting techniques and styles as well as music. Part of performing arts also includes theatrical tech. Students will learn this side of production as well. This means learning to create show posters, stage design, make-up and costuming. Students will learn all basic elements of theatre.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

This course will require students to perform body-weight exercises to improve overall health and self-esteem. They will also be improving cardiovascular health through running, walking, and other fun activities.

STEM

The 6th grade STEM class is a nine-week course where students will learn to create games using Scratch, a fun and interactive block-based programming language. Students may also explore TinkerCad to design and develop 3D models, bringing creative ideas to life.

7th Grade Curriculum

ENGLISH

The focus of English is grammar, literature, composition, and understanding prefixes and suffixes in vocabulary. Parts of speech, phrases, usage, and mechanics encompass the grammar while the emphasis in literature is short stories, poems, and novels. Interspersed within the grammar and literature units are various writing assignments, focusing on different kinds of writing as well as the style and mechanics of writing.

MATHEMATICS

This course will place a strong emphasis on the continued study of integers, order of operations, variables, expressions, and equations. Students will solve and graph equations and inequalities, write and solve proportions, and explore geometry, statistics, and graph concepts. Problem solving will be emphasized throughout the course.

SCIENCE

Life Science is an introduction to biology. The course includes a study of the three domains and six kingdoms of living things and all of the characteristics that identify organisms in each kingdom and domain. In addition, the course will include an introduction to the concepts of genetics, taxonomy, microbiology, human physiology, laboratory technique and safety, and the metric system.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Students will examine the history of Tennessee, including the cultural, geographic, economic, and political influences upon that history. Students will discuss Tennessee's indigenous peoples as well as the arrival of Euro-American settlers. Students will analyze and describe the foundation of the state of Tennessee. Students will identify and explain the origins, impact, and aftermath of the Civil War. Students will discuss the rise of a manufacturing economy. Finally, students will examine and discuss the Civil Rights Movement and Tennessee's modern economy and society.

SPANISH

This semester course is filled with diverse, multimedia language activities. Students begin their introduction to Spanish by focusing on the four key areas of foreign language study: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The course represents an ideal blend of language learning and cultural learning. Each unit consists of a new vocabulary theme and grammar concept, reading and listening comprehension activities, speaking and writing activities, multimedia cultural presentations, and interactive activities and practices which reinforce vocabulary and grammar. There is a strong emphasis on providing context and conversational examples for the language concepts presented in each unit. Students should be engaged in their own language learning, become familiar with common vocabulary terms and phrases, participate in simple conversations and respond appropriately to basic conversational prompts, analyze and compare cultural practices, products, and perspectives of various Spanish-speaking countries, and take frequent assessments where their language progression can be monitored.

STEM

The 7th grade STEM class is designed to inspire students through an engaging Problem/Project Based Learning (PBL) approach. In this hands-on environment, students will explore the Engineering Design Process to create innovative solutions for real-world challenges. Participants will acquire valuable skills in CAD software, enabling them to design and 3D print their own creations, which enhances both technical skills and creativity. Additionally, students will collaborate with peers on hands-on projects using paper, cardboard, and various basic materials, fostering teamwork and imaginative problem-solving.

MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND

The Middle School Instrumental Music program provides students with the opportunity to learn how to play an instrument and perform in an instrumental ensemble. Students will learn the fundamentals of music and how

to apply them in practice and performance. Middle School Band students (7th and 8th grade) also have the opportunity to perform with the High School Band at football games, basketball games, pep rallies, concerts, and the local Christmas parade. In Band, students will experience a spirit of family and camaraderie through instrumental music performance. Band students are expected to practice at home, and private lessons are encouraged. This academic and performance-based program meets the needs of all students interested in studying and performing on a musical instrument during grades 7-8.

PERFORMING ARTS

This class teaches the disciplines of music, vocal performance, dance (tap, jazz, modern and hip hop), theatre and performance at the entry level. The class will perform a musical production each year to showcase the skills they have acquired throughout the year. This class requires a simple audition. There are special dance shoes needed each year and a costume fee.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

This course is designed to provide physical education for the students. The class will teach students about different sports and the benefits of a physically active lifestyle such as how it improves their health, wellness, heart health, physical health as well as combating obesity, heart disease, diabetes and other ailments.

8th Grade Curriculum

ENGLISH

The focus is threefold: grammar, literature, and composition. The elements of grammar (parts of speech, phrases, clauses, usage, and mechanics) are linked closely to composition where students apply what they've learned. The main emphasis in literature is analysis, taught primarily through a wide selection of short stories. Writing assignments complement literature, as well. Students learn to read deeply and write deeply.

PRE-ALGEBRA

This course will place a strong emphasis on the continued study of integers, order of operations, variables, expressions, and equations. Students will solve and graph equations and inequalities, write and solve proportions, and explore geometry, statistics, and graph concepts. Problem solving will be emphasized throughout the course.

ALGEBRA I

Students continue to build upon the foundation of math skills previously learned. Problem solving skills and abstract thinking skills are emphasized to help the students master any problems they may encounter. Algebra I is the building block for the remaining high school math classes and college math classes. Basic math operations are reviewed using more complicated problems to help the students and the teacher identify any weaknesses the students may have with these operations. A high emphasis is placed on the students' ability to solve for an unknown number and on the students' ability to apply rules and properties to a given problem. Requirements: Teacher recommendation, 90+ /A in 7th grade mathematics

SCIENCE

This course is an introduction to chemistry. We will study concepts involving the structure of the atoms, various chemical reactions, the periodic table, the gas laws, acid bases, and solutions. We will also review a brief history of the scientists who contributed knowledge to the evolution of science. The second semester will be an introduction to physics. The concepts studied in the course include energy and force and forces that act upon matter.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Eighth grade students will study the European exploration of North America, along with the geographic features that influenced early settlements and colonies. This course will emphasize the development and maturation of the British colonies, and the political, cultural, and economic influences that led to the American Revolution. The major events and outcomes to the American Revolution will be analyzed, along with the individuals that played influential roles in the development of the new nation. Students will follow the development of the United States and its government, continuing through the early nineteenth century. The impact of the expansion of the United States will be analyzed, including implications on domestic and foreign policy. Policies that affected the American Indians will also be studied. The events leading up to the Civil War will be examined, along with the individuals and events that were significant during the war. The history, people, government, and geography of Tennessee will be emphasized in order to illustrate the role our state has played in American history. Reconstruction and the development of the American West will conclude this course. Appropriate primary sources and information texts will be included in order to enhance understanding of the content.

SPANISH

Students begin their introduction to Spanish by focusing on the four key areas of foreign language study: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The course represents an ideal blend of language learning and cultural learning. Each unit consists of new vocabulary theme and grammar concept, reading and listening comprehension activities, speaking and writing activities, cultural presentations, and interactive activities and practices which reinforce vocabulary and grammar. There is a strong emphasis on providing context and conversational examples for the language concepts presented in each unit. Students should be engaged in

their own language learning, become familiar with common vocabulary terms and phrases, participate in simple conversations, and respond appropriately to basic conversational prompts, analyze and compare cultural practices, products, and perspectives of various Spanish-speaking countries, and take frequent assessments where their language progression can be monitored.

STEM

The 8th grade STEM class is designed to inspire students through an engaging Problem/Project Based Learning (PBL) approach. In this hands-on environment, students will explore the Engineering Design Process to create innovative solutions for real-world challenges. Participants will acquire valuable skills in CAD software, enabling them to design and 3D print their own creations, which enhances both technical skills and creativity. Additionally, students will collaborate with peers on hands-on projects using paper, cardboard, and various basic materials, fostering teamwork and imaginative problem-solving.

MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND

The Middle School Instrumental Music program provides students with the opportunity to learn how to play an instrument and perform in an instrumental ensemble. Students will learn the fundamentals of music and how to apply them in practice and performance. Middle School Band students (7th and 8th grade) also have the opportunity to perform with the High School Band at football games, basketball games, pep rallies, concerts, and the local Christmas parade. In Band, students will experience a spirit of family and camaraderie through instrumental music performance. Band students are expected to practice at home, and private lessons are encouraged. This academic and performance-based program meets the needs of all students interested in studying and performing on a musical instrument during grades 7-8.

PERFORMING ARTS

This class teaches the disciplines of music, vocal performance, dance (tap, jazz, modern and hip hop), theatre and performance at the entry level. The class will perform a musical production each year to showcase the skills they have acquired throughout the year. This class requires a simple audition. There are special dance shoes needed each year and a costume fee.