



Pinkston Middle School

Course Descriptions

6th Grade Study Skills (1 semester or 2 semesters)

The content of this course will focus on different skill areas that fall within the vast context of Study Skills. These areas can include organization, time management/personal responsibility, active listening, note taking/summarizing, test-taking skills, and goal setting. Students will participate in a variety of activities in order to strengthen their skills in each of these areas of focus and learn to apply these skills to their work in other courses.

6th Grade Study Prep (1 semester or 2 semesters)

Students are given the opportunity to work on assignments from other classes during study prep. Students can ask for assistance if needed from instructor.

6th Grade Physical Education (1 semester)

Physical Education plays a major role in a student's overall educational experience. All students are required to participate in Physical Education for a semester. The program focuses on building a foundation for life-long learning through physical activity, fitness, wellness, and team building. These components provide an opportunity for the development of each student's physical, social, and emotional well-being.

6th grade D.A.R.E II (1 semester)

D.A.R.E is a class provided to Pinkston Middle School as a partnership with the Baxter County Sheriff's Department. Students learn and discuss citizenship, cyber safety, tobacco and drug awareness, as well as doing several community service projects. The community service projects are chosen by the students based on their interest. Students will be involved in a DWI prevention program involving driving the golf cart while wearing the drunk goggles and internet safety unit.

East (2 semesters) (Teacher recommendation and application to determine eligibility)

Students in East class will work on student-driven service projects accomplished using team-work and cutting-edge technology. Students identify problems in their school/community and use technology to develop solutions, collaborating with school and community members.

7th grade Promise/Study Skills Class (1 semester)

Promise class is designed to bring a College and Career awareness to students in the middle grades. The Promise class is a partnership with the Mountain Home Education Foundation and the Mountain Home Public Schools. Students will explore all types of post secondary education and a variety of careers. Students will have the opportunity to hear various community members' career journeys, visit top public and private universities, talk to different colleges and universities' admissions representatives, etc.

Art (1 semester)

Students in 6th or 7th grade will focus on developing skills which include drawing, painting, and collage. They will have the opportunity to experiment and refine skills using a variety of art media. Elements and principles of design will be emphasized in each project.

7th grade Advanced Art (2 semesters)

Students that have taken 6th grade Art can request to take 7th grade advanced art. The advanced art class will extend skills and apply skills in various projects. (Requires approval of instructor)

Choir (1 semester)

Students in both 6th and 7th grade will have the opportunity to learn the fundamentals of vocal music. The choir students will participate in concerts throughout the school year.

7th grade Advanced Choir (2 semesters)

The advanced choir is for students that have an understanding and are able to apply vocal fundamentals. Students in the advanced choir compete at all-region, choral performance assessment, and perform concerts throughout the school year. (Requires approval of instructor)

Beginner Band (2 semesters)

Beginner band is for students in 6th or 7th grade who have attended band try-outs or met with a band instructor for individual try-outs. The Pinkston Middle School band is the foundation to all bands in the Mountain Home School District. Students will learn the fundamentals of instrumental music as well as have an opportunity to perform on their instrument.

7th Grade Band (2 semesters)

Seventh grade band is for students who have completed band in the sixth grade. The class meets daily and performs each year. Special activities are scheduled throughout the school year.

G/T Explore (6th grade - 1 year; 7th grade - 1 semester or 2 semesters) Students in the Mountain Home Gifted and Talented program, in 6th or 7th grade, have the opportunity to take the G/T explore elective. This course is driven by student interest. *Gifted students can take this and/or a Pre-AP course to meet gifted requirements. This course is a "pull out"

Keyboarding (1 semester)

Students in 6th or 7th grade keyboarding class will learn the fundamentals of keyboarding skills as well as formatting skills. Students will also learn the fundamentals of Word Processing.

7th Grade Family and Consumer Science Investigations (FCSI) (1 semester) During this semester long hands-on course, students will participate in curricula that includes sewing, nutrition & food preparation, child development, budgeting, and interior design. They will construct a variety of useful projects. In the foods section of the course, students will participate in a variety of kitchen lab activities that will enhance food preparation techniques and facilitate self-sufficiency in the kitchen.

7th Grade Physical Education (1 semester)

Physical Education plays a major role in a student's overall educational experience. All students are required to participate in Physical Education for a semester. The program focuses on building a foundation for life-long learning through physical activity, fitness, wellness, and team building. These components provide an opportunity for the development of each student's physical, social, and emotional well-being.

7th Grade Health & Safety (1 semester)

Health covers the different aspects of physical, mental and social health, and how the aspects affect each person's overall well-being. Some areas covered include Healthy Relationships, Emotional Empowerment, ATOD (Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs), Injury Prevention and Reproductive Wellness. The subject of STIs and AIDS will be reviewed during Reproductive Wellness.

7th Grade Library Worker (1 semester)

Students with good grades and behavior are eligible to request library worker. Students in this course check out books to students, check-in books, shelf books, pick up books from the book drop areas around campus, and other duties assigned by the librarian.

7th Grade Office Worker (1 semester)

Students with good grades and behavior are eligible to request office worker. Students in this course deliver messages to classrooms, take items to students from the office, retrieve students from classrooms to check out, and other duties assigned by office personnel.

7th grade Football (2 semesters)

Football meets for 1 period of the day and requires after school practice. Students are required to have a physical before they can practice/participate.

7th grade Boys Basketball (2 semesters)

Boys basketball meets 1 period of the day and requires after school practice. Students are required to have a physical before they can practice/participate.

7th grade Girls Basketball (2 semesters)

Girls basketball meets 1 period of the day and requires before school practice. Students are required to have a physical before they can practice/participate.

7th grade Volleyball (after school-not in school day. Coaches will send home info at end of present school year for following summer/school year.)

Girls volleyball begins practicing during the summer and meets after school for practices and games. Students are required to have a physical before they can practice/participate.

7th grade Track (after school – Spring, not in school day. Coaches will send home info.) Track meets after school for practices. Students are required to have a physical before they can practice/participate.

Cross Country (after school – Fall, not in school day. Coaches will send home info) 6th and 7th grade cross country athletes meet after school for practices. Students are required to have a physical before they can practice/participate.

Test Prep (1 or 2 semesters)

Students, in 6th and 7th grade, not performing well on the previous years' state mandated testing will be assigned to a test prep course. The number of semesters assigned will be determined based on scores.

6th grade Literacy/Social Studies

Each student will be assigned to a literacy/social studies block for 100 minutes each day. This course engages learners in becoming skilled readers and writers. In both reading and writing, learners will develop an understanding of the interactions among a writer's purposes, audience expectations, as well as the way conventions contribute to effectiveness in writing. Social studies focus will be on ancient civilizations. This course follows AR Core Standards for both literacy and social studies.

6th grade Literacy/Social Studies-Pre-AP

Each student will be assigned to a literacy/social studies block for 100 minutes each day. This course is designed to prepare students for entry into Advanced Placement (AP) courses at the high school level. This course engages learners in becoming skilled readers and writers. In both reading and writing, learners will develop an understanding of the interactions among a writer's purposes, audience expectations, as well as the way conventions contribute to effectiveness in writing. Social studies focus will be on ancient civilizations. This course follows AR Core Standards for both literacy

and social studies. Students who score in the top percentiles of standardized testing in literacy and can handle increased rigor in literacy are encouraged to enroll in this course.

6th grade Mathematics

Each student is assigned a 100 minute block of mathematics each day. This course follows AR Core Standards for mathematics. Focus areas include ratios and unit rates; arithmetic operations (including fractions); rational numbers; expressions and equations; geometry (including area/surface area/volume); and statistics.

6th grade Mathematics-Pre-AP

This course is designed to prepare students for entry into Advanced Placement (AP) courses at the high school level. This course follows AR Core Standards for mathematics. Focus areas include ratios and unit rates; arithmetic operations (including fractions); rational numbers; expressions and equations; geometry (including area/surface area/volume); and statistics. Students who have scored in the top percentile of standardized testing in mathematics and can handle increased rigor in mathematics are recommended to enroll in this course.

6th grade Science

Each student is assigned to 50 minutes of science each day. The class follows the AR state learning expectations for students in science. Students are provided with a minimum of 20% of instructional time with hands-on laboratory experiences.

7th grade Literacy/Social Studies

Each student will be assigned to a literacy/social studies block for 100 minutes each day. This course engages learners in becoming skilled readers and writers and builds on skills taught in the 6th grade. In both reading and writing, learners will develop an understanding of the interactions among a writer's purposes, audience expectations, as well as the way conventions contribute to effectiveness in writing. Social studies focus will be on geography. This course follows AR Core Standards for both literacy and social studies.

7th grade Literacy/Social Studies Pre-AP

This course is designed to prepare students for entry into Advanced Placement (AP) courses at the high school level. Each student will be assigned to a literacy/social studies block for 100 minutes each day. This course engages learners in becoming skilled readers and writers and builds on skills taught in the 6th grade. In both reading and writing, learners will develop an understanding of the interactions among a writer's purposes, audience expectations, as well as the way conventions contribute to effectiveness in writing. Social studies focus will be on geography. This course follows AR Core Standards for both literacy and social studies. Students who score in the top percentiles of standardized testing in literacy and can handle increased rigor in literacy are encouraged to enroll in this course.

7th grade Mathematics

Each student is assigned to 50 minutes of mathematics each day. This course follows AR Core Standards for mathematics. Focus areas include ratios and proportional relationships; rational numbers; expressions and equations; percents and proportional relationships; statistics and probability; and geometry.

7th grade Mathematics-Pre-AP

This course is designed to prepare students for entry into Advanced Placement (AP) courses at the high school level. Each student is assigned to 50 minutes of mathematics each day. This course follows AR Core Standards for mathematics. Focus areas include ratios and proportional relationships; rational numbers; expressions and equations; percents and proportional relationships; statistics and probability; and geometry. Students who have scored in the top percentile of standardized testing in mathematics and can handle increased rigor in mathematics are recommended to enroll in this course.

7th grade Science

Each student is assigned to 50 minutes of science each day. The class follows the AR state learning expectations for students in science. Students are provided with a minimum of 20% of instructional time with hands-on laboratory experiences.

Pre-AP classes

Pre-AP Courses – Who should take these?

1. A student with interest in intense exploration of the course material
2. A student with appropriate study skills
3. A student with strong personal commitment to complete all requirements
4. A student with strong classroom grades and test scores in the subject

area. **Should students take both Pre-AP courses?**

Students are encouraged to challenge themselves but also to find a balance with other activities they are involved in outside of school. The decision is an individual one based on schedule and interest of each student. It is not recommended that a 6th or 7th grade student take more than one Pre-AP course per school year.

Pre-AP Language Arts – 2 semesters

This course is rigorous and recommended for students who excel academically in Language Arts, have a love for reading and writing, and have a strong work ethic. Students will experience the 6th or 7th grade Language Arts curriculum with an emphasis on developing critical thinking and analysis. Students need to be self-driven and have a good work ethic. Students will have additional reading and writing requirements in this course.

Pre-AP Math – 2 semesters

This course is an accelerated program for students who excel academically in Math, have a love for this subject area, and have a strong work ethic. Students will experience the 6th or 7th grade Math curriculum and go further into the curriculum. Students need to be self-driven and have a good work ethic.

****A G/T student can take a Pre-AP course to meet gifted requirements in place of taking G/T Explore elective or can choose to take both.***