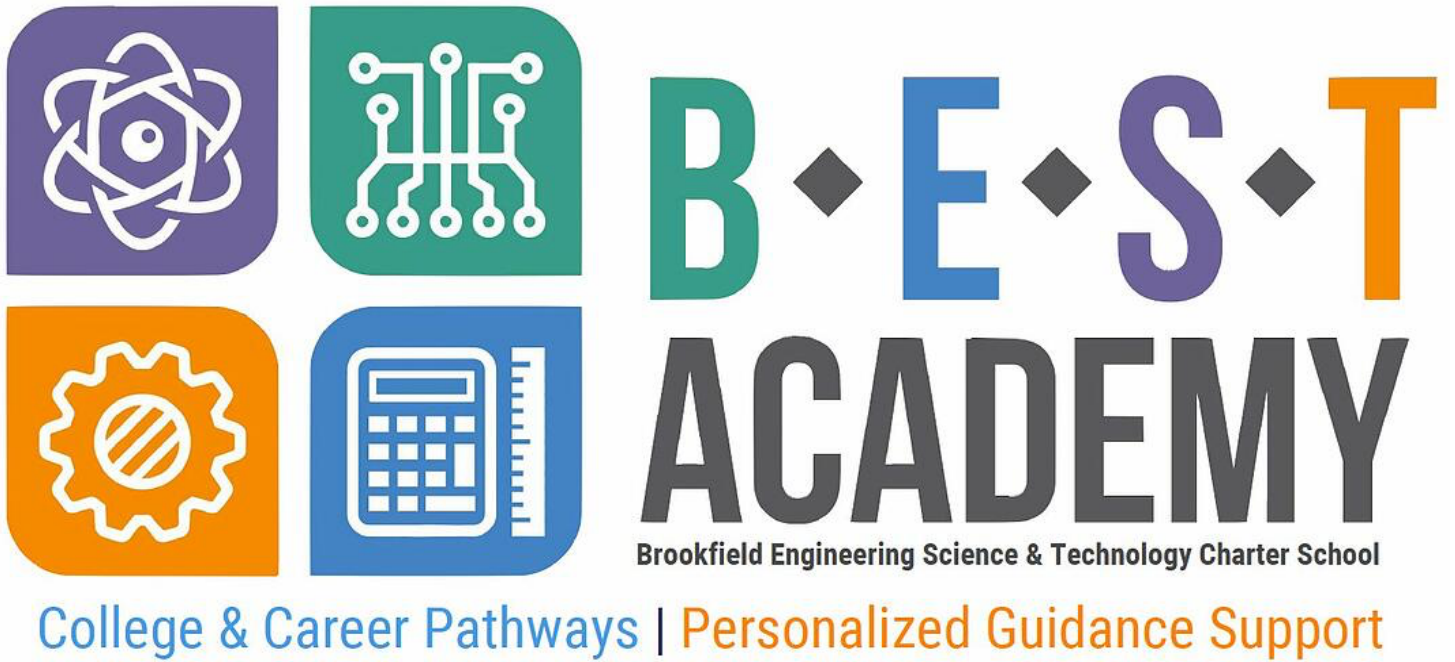


Middle School Catalog  
6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> Grade



2024-2025 Academic Year

## ENGLISH

### ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 6

This course provides an overview of reading/comprehension of various genres, including fiction and non-fiction. Students read the novel *Hatchet* by Gary Paulsen and analyze the main character's development. Various activities emphasize informative and fiction writing, including planning, research, use of organizers, drafting, revision, and editing. Instruction also includes grammar basics and mechanics, such as combining sentences and using correct punctuation. Analytical exercises include comparing genres, evaluating media, and identifying and using persuasion. Additionally, students practice necessary life skills such as communication and presentation, reflecting on the importance of collaboration in teamwork.

### ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 7

In this course, students will learn and apply new reading, writing, and oral communication skills. Students will consider establishing a purpose in reading and identifying themes. Reading assignments include short stories, myths, legends, true stories, and expository texts. Students will read and critique the historical novel *Chasing Lincoln's Killer*. Students will plan, draft, revise, proofread, edit, and publish a fictional narrative and an expository essay. Students will research reliable sources to create a research essay and accompanying multimedia presentation. Exploring the poetic devices of sensory and figurative language, students will create a poem. Students will develop oral communication skills by preparing and presenting persuasive and instructional speeches. The course finishes with an investigation of communication in teamwork and collaboration.

### ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 8

This course will expand students' reading horizons and communication skills. Students will develop an appreciation for the sound, structure, and language of poetry by investigating narrative, epic, lyric, and free verse poetry. Students will better understand the elements of literature after reading O. Henry's "A Retrieved Reformation," Agatha Christie's *Murder on*

the Orient Express, and William Gibson's *The Miracle Worker*. Writing projects include creating a personal narrative, a procedural text, and a multimedia research presentation. Students will examine various forms of media and learn to distinguish bias when evaluating a persuasive text. Presenting a persuasive speech, participating in a debate, and practicing formal and informal speaking and listening will enhance students' communication skills.

## MATH

### MATH 6

Sixth-grade math primarily focuses on numbers and their operations, proportionally, expressions and equations, geometry, measurements, and statistics. Students are exposed to concepts, including fractions, decimal operations, and ratios. They learn and practice the geometric principles of area and volume. Students learn to balance equations, solve inequalities, and perform functions in algebra. Students are also taught and allowed to practice statistical representations and interpretation of data. Further topics on financial literacy are also covered in this course.

### MATH 7

This course reviews many mathematics concepts and introduces new concepts of graphing and financial information. Students work with sets and subsets, rational and irrational numbers, and exponents. Other topics include order of operations, additive inverses, and a thorough treatment of decimals. Algebraic concepts include ratios, rates, proportions, equations, and inequalities. Geometry concepts include triangles, circles, and circumferences. Students are taught graphing concepts, such as plotting in different forms. Probability and financial topics, including interest, taxes, and budgeting, are covered.

### Algebra Readiness 8

This course emphasizes the application of mathematics to real-life scenarios, helping the student build problem-solving skills. Its topics include expressions, equations, relationships, proportions, geometric shapes, measurements, and the use of information. Emphasis is given to interpreting and creating graphs

and charts that express, describe, and apply data. Students are also instructed in finance, especially in personal financial literacy. This course ensures students have mastered the basic skills needed to enter high school mathematics courses.

### **ALGEBRA 1**

Algebra I is a common starting point for high school math studies. Reviewing fundamental math skills in Unit 1 will ensure students are ready for algebraic concepts. Students' math competence will grow as they learn to solve expressions, functions, and equations by using formulas, ratios, proportions, percentages, and rates. Other concepts include exponents and scientific notation, polynomials and trinomials, multi-step inequalities, slope formulas, and systems of equations and inequalities. Students will solve quadratic functions through various methods, including graphing, factoring, square roots, and completing the square and quadratic equations. Using tables and graphs, students will analyze and organize data and statistics. Students will learn to work and solve exponential, radical, and rational functions and equations. The final unit ties algebraic concepts to the study of geometry.

## **SOCIAL STUDIES**

### **SOCIAL STUDIES 6**

The World Cultures course seeks to expand students' knowledge beyond their local community to appreciate the diversity of the world at large. The course begins with a survey of ancient civilizations and the development of the Middle East's three major religions. In unit 2, students will study the classical foundations of Western civilization and survey European nations. Unit 3 surveys American history, culture, and the role of citizens. The remainder of the course takes students on a whirlwind tour of dozens of nations around the world, exploring the history, geography, governmental systems, customs, and cuisine of each.

### **SOCIAL STUDIES 7**

This course introduces students to the basic geography of the continents, including boundaries, rivers, and landforms. Students are introduced to the early history of people groups, including civilizations in

Mesopotamia, Egypt, and China, and the foundations of Western civilization: ancient Greece and Rome. These cultures' languages, art, literature, societies, and way of life are covered. The rise and fall of world kingdoms is discussed, ending with the fall of Rome in 476. Further studies into subsequent civilizations include the Byzantine Empire, the rise of nations, and events in the world through the Renaissance and Reformation. Information is presented concerning the rise of many different world cultures.

### **SOCIAL STUDIES 8**

This course employs an integrative approach to the teaching of U.S. history with an emphasis on geography, government, economics, culture, science, and technology. Students will learn how early explorations and development of the first colonies led to the union of 13 states as one nation. Students will examine and analyze important founding documents, including the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution. A survey of the events will reveal how Americans embraced the idea of Manifest Destiny and expanded the nation across North America. Students will follow and analyze the complex issues leading up to the American Civil War. The course concludes with a look at post-war issues.

## **SCIENCE**

### **Science 6**

6th Grade Science is an integrated course surveying essential physics, geology, chemistry, astronomy, and biology concepts. Students will investigate elements and compounds while learning the basics of chemistry. Students will examine different forms of energy and the laws of motion. Investigating the earth's structure will precede a study of the characteristics and properties of rocks, minerals, and fossils. A study of astronomy, including galaxies, stars, and the solar system, will provide a context in which students will consider the history and future of space exploration. The course concludes with an inquiry into cells, classification, and ecology. There are lab investigations, including video labs, to reinforce science concepts and skills throughout the course.

## SCIENCE 7

The 7th Grade Science course will deepen students' understanding of life science. The course begins with the basic building blocks of life—cells. A unit on genetics will challenge students to investigate how DNA, genes, and proteins affect reproduction. Students will learn about different life processes and the importance of water, nitrogen, and carbon cycles. Students will analyze the effect of climate and weather on life and the environment. An investigation into human body systems, including the skeletal, respiratory, and immune systems, precedes the concluding unit on ecology, where students will learn how living things interact with their environments. Throughout the course, there are lab investigations to reinforce science concepts and skills.

## SCIENCE 8

8th Grade Science will challenge students with an integrated study of earth, physical, and biological sciences. Students will analyze the relationship between the Earth, Sun, and Moon. Students will better understand the changing earth by surveying physical processes, such as erosion and weathering, and the characteristics of rocks and minerals. A unit on oceanography will introduce students to the ocean's geological, chemical, and biological aspects. Students will consider the fundamentals of matter and energy and the application of energy, force, and motion in physics. Units on plant and animal biology will introduce students to the importance of habitats and earth cycles in sustaining life. The course concludes with a look at

the human impact on the earth. Throughout the course, there are lab investigations to reinforce science concepts and skills.

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

### *P.E.*

To improve and maintain optimum health, people of all ages must participate in physical exercise. There is little doubt that, besides students in schools, the number of adults participating in sports and recreational activities in the United States has increased in recent years. Physical education is much more than just fitness and exercise. A well-planned program will cause you to think and express your emotions about different situations. In addition, a good program can make a valuable contribution to your education. These experiences will help you develop a sense of wellness.

This course emphasizes the value of these sports as possible lifetime activities and clearly explains the rules and basic principles of various sports. The sports covered in this course are archery, bicycling, golf, skiing, tennis, volleyball, baseball, basketball, football, hockey, and soccer.

The discussions include information about the playing area and equipment, basic rules, safety considerations, and terminology for each sport. The information presented in each lesson applies to sports programs throughout most sections of the United States.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL ELECTIVES

- Art
- Music
- Theater
- Health
- Investigating Careers Course