



Welcome to Gunnison Middle School

Where Everybody Belongs!

Dear Students,

I am looking forward to welcoming you to Gunnison Middle School. You will find your experience at GMS a new and exciting adventure. I'm sure that moving to the middle school may seem a bit scary, but rest assured that we are making plans right now to make sure that you have a smooth transition into the 6th grade. You will find that you have fantastic teachers who are very excited about helping you be successful at GMS. Soon you will feel like a true Gunnison Middle School Mustang!

The best advice that I can give you is get involved in school. Work hard, study hard and play hard. I hope you will take advantage of all the numerous opportunities to get involved in school life at GMS. Middle school is what you make of it, get involved and be part of the "Mustang Magic."

I'm looking forward to seeing you at school.

Sincerely,

Mr. Witzel

Mr. Witzel
Gunnison Middle School Principal



GUNNISON MIDDLE SCHOOL
“Where Everybody Belongs”
2020-2021



General Information for 6th Graders

Preparing Your Child for Middle School

Welcome to Gunnison Middle School, home of the Mustangs. Moving up to middle school is exciting. Parents can help their preteens prepare for this monumental transition by gathering information and staying involved in their child’s education. Learning begins at home. Your child’s success at school depends on what happens at home. You will be able to access your child’s grades via the district website.

As with any stage of childhood, communication between parent and child is crucial. Staying connected to your child’s school and his or her teachers are important components to parenting during the middle school years. Contact can be made to your child’s teachers through the Gunnison Middle School Website at www.gunnisonschools.net.

It is helpful to maintain an after-school routine. Set aside one hour a night for your child to work on school assignments. If all school work is complete, your child should read. Create a consistent work area supplied with pencils, paper, scissors, calculator, and colored pencils. Encourage your child to use their planner in each class by writing down assignments and due dates. Parents should review the planner with their child nightly to discuss assignments and concepts they are learning.

School Emblem and Colors

Our school emblem, the Mustang, represents the spirit and character of our student body. Official school colors are red and white.

School Organization

The 6th, 7th, and 8th grades are structured with seven academic periods. Each student will have seven subjects, an advisory period, and a lunch period. Every attempt is made to provide a student-oriented atmosphere in which individual progress and growth is the most important goal. We are fortunate to have a faculty that is enthusiastic, innovative, conscientious and well prepared to fulfill this goal.

Activities and Organizations

Activities and organizations are an important part of our school. We hope that every student will take part in at least one of the activities available for their grade level. Participation in activities adds an exciting dimension to a student’s middle school experience and includes: Geography Bee, Science Olympiad, National History Day (NHD), Spring Musical, Student Leadership (SLC), and sports (cross country, gymnastics, and wrestling).

Student Fees*

When students pick up their class schedules in August, certain fees are collected to cover a variety of items over and above those the school furnishes. The fees are listed with the individual description of each elective.

*Office Staff will work with students and their families in case of difficulty paying their fees. We ask that the principal be alerted at the beginning of a semester if difficulty paying fees is anticipated. **Under no circumstances will a student be deprived of a course due to financial considerations.**

Breakfast/Lunch

Breakfast is offered each morning before school beginning at 7:50 a.m. All students eat lunch at school and a hot lunch may be ordered from the cafeteria. The cost of breakfast and lunch will be found on the district website in August. Lunch accounts must be pre-funded accounts; they are NOT credit accounts. Students may bring a lunch from home if they prefer.

Insurance

It is the responsibility of parents to purchase insurance for students involved in sports. If your family already has insurance coverage, it is not necessary to purchase school insurance. If the student is not already enrolled in an insurance plan, parents can enroll their student in Student Accident Insurance by calling 877-444-5014 or by using the dedicated secure enrollment website located at <http://market.sevencorners.com/>. You can also find this information by going to www.gunnisonschools.net and selecting Student Accident Insurance in the red box to the left of the screen. Parents must work directly with the insurance company when filing a claim.

Physicals

Physicals are required before an athlete can practice for any sport, and they are valid for one full calendar year from the date of issue.

Sixth Grade Work Habits and Citizenship Standards

All students are held accountable for the following work habit and citizenship standards in each of their classes. We feel that, in addition to academics, these characteristics are equally important for demonstrating student success.

Work Habit:

- Productivity: (individual) - *Effectively and efficiently get work done on their own.* (group) - *Effectively and efficiently get work done in group settings.*
- Promptness - *Arrive and get assignments turned in on time.*
- Prepared - *Having materials, homework, etc. and being in the mindset to get their jobs done in class.*

Citizenship:

- Respectful - *Interacts with respect and manners with teachers and peers.*
- Cooperative - (mentally and physically) *Be in class and pay attention, both individually and in groups.*
- Positive - *Being kind to others and self.*

Report Cards

Report cards are sent home quarterly. If your child is failing a class, you will be mailed a progress report mid-quarter. It is recommended that you and your child check PowerSchool weekly for an update on your child's grades. Information on how to access PowerSchool will be available at the 5th to 6th grade Parent Transition Meeting and Back to School Night.

6th Grade Supply List for 2020-2021

Parents: There is no need to purchase anything that is not specifically mentioned on this supply list. Many students start the first day with supplies that are unnecessary and they later may become a distraction. Your child's advisory teacher will help students organize items by labeling or collecting them.

All students need to bring the following:

- 7 PLASTIC pocket folders: red, blue, yellow, green, orange, two = your color choice
(No zipper binders/binders, difficult to fit in lockers)
- 1 set earbuds/headphones
- 2 box of tissues**
- 1 package of loose-leaf notebook paper
- 3 spiral notebooks, 70 pages, 3-hole punched (WIN, Eng, Math)
- 1 dozen pencils
- 2 hand-held pencil sharpeners
- 1 pencil pouch/bag/box to carry to classes
- 1 doz red pens
- 1 package pencil top erasers
- 1 PE uniform***

Girls need to also bring:

- 2 ultra-fine line black Sharpies (girls) **
- 2 pink pearl erasers (girls) **
- 1 box colored pencils (girls) **
- 1 package chisel dry erase markers (girls) **

Boys need to also bring:

- 2 fine-line Sharpies (boys) **
- 2 rolls clear Scotch-type tape (boys) **
- 1 box of markers (boys) **
- 1 package of sticky notes (boys) **

*Students are required to have a GMS Daily Planner. These will be purchased for \$5 from the school at registration or on the first day of school.

**On the first day of school, these items will be collected and shared for classroom use.

***Students must purchase a P.E. uniform before the first day of their sixth grade year. The cost is \$25. They may be purchased at 6th grade registration in August at the GMS office. Students may also make this purchase at the end of their fifth grade year. The uniform is a one-time purchase for middle school years unless lost or outgrown.



GUNNISON MIDDLE SCHOOL
“Where Everybody Belongs”
2020-2021



6th Grade Course Registration Information

How To Use This Course Description Guide

The following information will help students and their families review the courses that they will take next year as 6th graders at Gunnison Middle School. Many courses are required for all students to take, descriptions of which you will find under the “required courses” heading. However, 6th graders will also enroll in elective courses and are encouraged to review the descriptions carefully to select the ones they are the most interested in taking. Students and their families are asked to read through the following pages and then fill out and return the last page (Gunnison Middle School 6th Grade Registration) to their classroom teacher by the due date written on the top. The GMS office staff and counselors will need to select electives for any students who do not return their form by the deadline.

At Gunnison Middle School, our academic year is split into 4 quarters, which make up two semesters (fall and spring). Students will change one course each quarter, and one or two courses each semester. All 6th graders take 7 classes each semester. You are not choosing which period you have your classes. Please see the following pages for course descriptions. Pay close attention to course fees. When you request a course, you are indicating that you understand the requirements of each course. Band and choir are the only two electives that 6th grade students can take for a full year. You will have a chance to indicate how long you would like to take these electives on the registration page.

Here is an **example** of a possible 6th grade schedule:

	Semester 1		Semester 2	
	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
Period 1	Physical Education	Physical Education	Physical Education	Physical Education
Period 2	Beginning Band	Beginning Band	Beginning Choir	Beginning Choir
Period 3	English 6	English 6	English 6	English 6
Period 4	Math 6	Math 6	Math 6	Math 6
Period 5	Social Studies 6	Social Studies 6	Social Studies 6	Social Studies 6
Period 6	Science 6	Science 6	Science 6	Science 6
Period 7	Keyboarding	Life Skills	Mindful Empowerment	Industrial Arts

Please reach out to Sara Lamar, GMS Counselor, with any questions. She may be reached at 970.641.7710 or slamar@gunnisonschools.net.

REQUIRED COURSES

Advisory (Yearlong)

All students at the middle school are involved in our Advisory Program. Advisory time is when teachers help promote intellectual, social, physical, and emotional growth in students through character education experiences. Teacher advisors promote self-awareness, such as knowing your strengths and weaknesses, self-management, such as being able to stay in control and persevere through challenges, social awareness, such as understanding and empathizing with others, relationship skills, such as being able to work in teams and resolve conflicts, and responsible decision making, such as making ethical and safe choices. Additionally, advisors may discuss schedules, registration, orientation, academic progress and community service. This advisory course is necessary for the development of the total school curriculum. The advisor is your student’s primary contact at school.

English 6 (Yearlong)

The Sixth Grade English program includes a variety of reading, writing, research, speaking and listening activities to facilitate student learning. All content and skills are taught using the Wit and Wisdom Curriculum from Great Minds. This curriculum utilizes thematic modules that include intensive reading and writing practice. Students improve their reading skills through a variety of fiction and non-fiction texts, including articles, classic and contemporary novels, and other shorter genres. Students engage in meaningful writing activities in each unit to support the growth of skills, specific to individual needs as much as possible. Socratic Seminar discussions are used to teach and practice speaking and listening skills. Vocabulary, spelling and grammar lessons are integrated into all units to continue each student's growth in these fundamental areas. This class is designed to foster a love of reading and writing while pushing students to individual success.

Math 6 (Yearlong)

The 6th grade math program builds on the mathematics fundamentals, ensuring a strong foundation for student achievement in problem-solving mathematics. Students receive a broad knowledge of computations and explore number sense, algebraic methods, probability and statistics, and geometric and measurement concepts. Students are involved in using manipulatives, taking notes, discussions, using computer software, and practicing skills individually and in groups throughout the class.

Science 6 (Yearlong)

6th grade science covers the concepts within chemistry and physics including but not limited to matter and its properties, electricity, magnetism, simple machines, and energy. Students are required to take notes, complete projects, utilize research materials, conduct classroom experiments and draw conclusions, actively participate in classroom discussions. Proper and safe lab techniques are taught and expected. We are adopting a new curriculum and the above may be subject to some change.

Social Studies 6 (Yearlong)

Social Studies 6 will introduce students to the four main categories of social studies; history, geography, economics, and civics/government. Students will learn about these categories through different units and assignments throughout the year. In social studies 6 we will also explore the history and culture of ancient civilizations, including Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greece, and parts of the Americas. Students will learn the basic elements of culture and apply these concepts to the ancient world, as well as to today's society. The process of historical-inquiry, specifically archaeology, will help us investigate, "How do we know what we know?" The class will use a wide variety of activities including simulations, reading and writing assignments, presentations, demonstrations, discussions and debates. Students will develop both their independent work strategies and their group communication skills.

Physical Education (Yearlong)

The Physical Education curriculum emphasizes the area of physical activity, physical development and positive attitude toward physical, mental and social-emotional growth to promote healthy lifestyle activity. The coed Physical Education units consist of individual and team activities including fitness training, team sports and games. The course promotes movement activities, sportsmanship, and skill development with an emphasis on physical fitness increases. Students will be graded on content knowledge, activity comprehension, self-responsibility, effort, skills, and physical fitness.

FINE ARTS COURSES - ONE YEAR REQUIRED

Beginning Band (Year)

Beginning band gives students the opportunity to learn how to play an instrument. Development of individual skills during this class leads to membership in upper level middle school band, as well as band at the high school. Students will participate in two evening concerts and will have the chance to play solos and small ensembles. No experience playing an instrument is necessary.

Fee: \$5 for music book (paid to band teacher, not in the office)

Minim Choir (Semester) or Breve Choir (Year Long)

This class is open to any student with an interest in singing and performing. Unison and two part singing, music literacy, performance skills, and sight singing will be taught as part of this course. This group performs four concerts a year and may participate in The Colorado West Music Festival and Solo/Ensemble Festival. A variety of music is presented to the students including folk, classical, and pop genres.

Fee: \$10 first semester, \$25 second semester

Beginning Art (Semester)

This is an introductory course designed to build upon students' visual art foundation. In this class, students will explore the elements of art through various art projects focused around the art movements throughout history and the artists involved. Students focus on art history from the 1800's to our current time, through guided projects and experimenting with different art mediums.

Fee: \$10

Materials needed: wood pencils

QUARTER-LONG ELECTIVE COURSES

All 6th grade students will take 4 quarter-long classes each year. Selections will be based on teacher availability

Keyboarding & Google Apps for the Classroom (Quarter)

Keyboarding is a quarter class that is required for all 6th graders. The goal of Keyboarding is to increase skills in typing and to become more computer literate. During this class, students will learn log-in and log-off account procedures, password management, Home Row typing skills (typing without looking at keyboard), computer and computing vocabulary, creating and submitting assignments through Google Apps for the Classroom and Google Classroom, and other basic computing skills. Grades are based on learning and applying skills to in-class projects.

Mindful Empowerment (Quarter)

This required quarter-long course is designed to empower and increase student's social and emotional intelligence (EQ). This course entails brain-focused research and strategies for continual learning and proactive/thoughtful living. Topics such as Growth Mindset, daily mindfulness activities, character strength analysis and creation; as well as; emoji bingo, individual Inside Out emotion and island creation, and acts of gratitude and kindness will be explored during this 9 week course. Through integration of multiple intelligences, learning and play styles, and choice projects students will gain a better understanding of themselves, in addition to, a better understanding of the world and those around them.

Industrial Arts (Quarter)

Industrial Arts I at GMS provides students with an opportunity to develop a variety of basic shop skills in the areas of wood, metal and leather. Throughout the semester students will develop their understanding of shop safety, they will gain hands-on experience with a variety of tools including both hand tools and power tools. Students will construct a number of small projects using wood, metal and leather. Projects may include; ping-pong paddles, gumball machines, nutcrackers, wooden games, metal boxes and leather crafts.

Fee: \$10

Family and Consumer Sciences - Life Skills (Quarter)

FCS-*Life Skills* focuses on learning and projects related to personal development, communication, self-care, interpersonal relationships, consumer buying and decision making, foods and nutrition, garden care, harvest, and cooking, hand and machine sewing, and learning strategies related to information processing, recording, and presenting. All students will cook and consume foods as well as work in the Mountain Roots Garden. All students will complete at least one major sewing project and potentially many smaller projects. ***Students with food allergies must be sure to inform teacher about allergies as soon as class starts.***

Fee: \$10

Science EX! (Quarter)

The EX is for experiment, exploration and excitement! In this class, students learn about a scientific principle, or law, and then have hands-on experiences studying it. Non-Newtonian fluids, electric circuits and Newton's Laws are some of the topics covered.