

Homewood Middle School

Curriculum Guide

2016-2017

Homewood City Schools

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HOMEWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL

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HMS Mission Statement

The mission of the Homewood City Schools, a system enriched by tradition, community spirit, and vision, is to empower every student to reach his or her unique potential, ensured by a dedicated and exemplary staff, a supportive and involved community, the recognition and celebration of diversity, an optimal use of resources, and an uncompromising commitment to excellence.

Counseling Department

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Faculty and Staff

Homewood Middle School faculty is composed of highly qualified individuals who are dedicated to the profession and devoted to meeting the unique needs of young adolescents. An exemplary support staff is in place to complement the services provided by our faculty.

School Recognition

HMS is accredited by AdvancEd.

LANGUAGE ARTS

Language Arts - Grade Six

Sixth grade language arts encompasses all skills related to written and spoken language, including reading and responding to literature. The course incorporates grammar, vocabulary, and writing with an emphasis upon authentic opportunities for communication. Information retrieval and organization is also a part of the language arts curriculum.

Language Arts - Grade Seven

Seventh grade language arts focuses on the development of competency in reading, writing, and critical thinking. Students refine their skills through daily practice in authentic situations that include analysis of fictional and informational texts, interdisciplinary learning, and the application of knowledge through written expression. Seventh grade language arts builds on skills learned in previous grades and introduces new skills that will be honed in future grades.

English - Grade Eight

Eighth grade English encompasses instruction in vocabulary, literature, grammar and writing. Literature studies include the short story, the novel, poetry, and drama. Reading is emphasized throughout the year because of its pronounced effect on written language skills. Formal and informal writing, consisting of personal narratives and original fiction, along with formal essays and compositions, will be required to further refine students' communication skills.

Pre-AP English - Grade Eight

Pre-AP English is an accelerated academic course designed for dedicated students who plan to continue on the Advanced Placement track throughout high school in preparation for college. Students will move at a fast pace, requiring an increased expectation of responsibility and independence. Students are expected to display a high level of proficiency in writing, reading, and critical thinking. Additionally, they should be willing to respond to an increased workload, exhibit a strong work ethic, demonstrate a serious attitude toward their studies, and participate consistently in class discussions.

MATH

Math - Grade Six

The sixth grade mathematics program requires proficiency in performing the basic operations with whole numbers and decimals. Emphasis is placed on application and understanding the relationships among fractions, decimals, and percentages. Measurement and geometric concepts are extended and applied. Students learn skills to make conjectures and draw conclusions. The study of statistics and probability involves conducting surveys and selecting appropriate ways to organize, display and interpret data. Sixth grade mathematics includes various techniques of mental arithmetic, estimation skills, the use of calculators, and an introduction to pre-algebra. An understanding of mathematics is fostered through the use of instructional strategies in which students apply problem-solving techniques, explore and examine realistic situations, build understanding of percent and application to sales tax and discounts, and formulate questions to clarify their thinking and level of understanding. The 6th grade math curriculum includes and exceeds the standards set forth by the state of Alabama.

Pre-Algebra - Grade Seven

Pre-Algebra is a course designed to provide students with a strong foundation in the concepts of algebra and geometry. Mathematical procedures are reinforced through expanded use of algebraic methods and complex problem-solving activities. Exploratory opportunities are provided in data analysis and probability. Students are encouraged to think critically about results and implications, consider alternative methods to approach problems, and generalize information properly. Pre-Algebra provides a comprehensive introduction to the properties and applications of the real number system.

Pre-Algebra: Math Team - Grade Seven

Pre-Algebra math team is a rigorous course designed for the mathematically-oriented student. The fast-paced curriculum covers not only all of the objectives in the Pre-Algebra course description, but also provides students with numerous and varied experiences with problem solving as a method of inquiry and application. These experiences include ciphering to help prepare students to compete in math tournaments throughout the year. Students are expected to display a high level of proficiency in mathematics. They should be willing to respond to an increased workload, exhibit a strong work ethic, and demonstrate a serious attitude toward their studies. Attendance is required at math tournaments.

***Algebra I - Grade Eight**

Algebra I is a rigorous study of the fundamental structure of the real number system. Emphasis is placed on algebraic properties and operations needed to solve complex equations. Correlation between equations and their corresponding graphs are a primary focus. Real life application is emphasized throughout the course to develop problem-solving and higher-order thinking skills. Calculator use is encouraged when appropriate. Students passing Algebra I will earn a Carnegie unit* toward graduation, but the course will not be included in the high school GPA.

***Algebra I: Math Team - Grade Eight**

Algebra I math team is a rigorous course designed for the mathematically-oriented student. The fast-paced curriculum covers not only all of the objectives in the Algebra I course description, but also provides students with numerous and varied experiences with problem solving as a method of inquiry and application. These experiences include ciphering to help prepare students to compete in math tournaments throughout the year. Math Team students are expected to display a high level of proficiency in mathematics. They should be willing to respond to an increased workload, exhibit a strong work ethic, and demonstrate a serious attitude toward their studies.

Attendance is required at math team tournaments. Students passing Algebra math team will earn a Carnegie unit* toward graduation, but the course will not be included in the high school GPA.

*Algebra I and Algebra Math Team are high school courses and are treated in the same manner as other courses taken at Homewood High School. These courses are divided into two separate semesters with regard to grades and credit. This means that the two semesters are passed or failed independently. If a student fails either semester of Algebra I, that semester must be taken in summer school.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Social Studies - Grade Six

Sixth grade Social Studies focuses on America from the beginning of the twentieth century to present day. Units of study include: immigration, westward expansion, World War I, Roaring Twenties, the Great Depression, World War II, the Fifties, and the Civil Rights Movement. Research, map and globe skills, literacy, and writing are applied throughout the course.

Social Studies - Grade Seven

Seventh grade Social Studies is comprised of geography and citizenship. Geography places emphasis on the knowledge and skills that allow the student to develop a geographical perspective of Europe and the Eastern hemisphere. The six essential elements of geography form a framework within which major geographic concepts are introduced. The Citizenship/Civics course serves as a bridge between the curriculum emphasis in the elementary and secondary grades by providing an understanding of representative democracy, law, personal economics, and civic responsibility.

Social Studies - Grade Eight

Eighth grade Social Studies is a course blending world history and geography from prehistoric man to the 1500's. Students are required to think critically about the various forces that combined to shape the world today. Emphasis is placed on geographic impact, development of civic knowledge/responsibilities, and emerging economic systems within a chronological context.

SCIENCE

Science - Grade Six

Sixth grade science curriculum focuses on earth and space science. Content standards challenge students to discover their Earth and its place in the universe. The study of Science is blended with the development of literacy in the content area, mathematical skills such as charting and graphing, and project-based learning.

Science - Grade Seven

The seventh grade science course serves as a bridge to allows students to connect the concepts and skills learned in the sixth grade earth and space course to the principles of the universe studied in the eighth grade physical science course. Students in the seventh grade are encouraged to develop an appreciation for the diversity of life on Earth while understanding the importance of their individual roles in the community of life.

Science - Grade Eight

Content standards in the eighth grade include chemistry and physics that are inquiry-based. In eighth grade science, students engage in higher, more abstract thinking processes that combine reasoning skills with scientific knowledge through experimental, manipulative, and laboratory-oriented processes.

ELECTIVES

Unified Arts - Grade Six

These courses are exploratory in nature and introduce students to a variety of activities. Students spend nine weeks in four of the following courses:

Art 6: An introduction to basic drawing skills, color theory, and color design.

Career Technology 6: Students explore various careers and the realities involved with the world of work.

Family and Consumer Sciences (FACS 6): This is a project-based course that is exploratory in nature. The course will provide a general understanding of what to expect from Teen Discoveries (7th grade). Students will learn 21st century skills and how to apply them to a variety of tasks.

Music 6--An extension of the general music that students began in their elementary music classes. This course includes studying composers, different styles of music, music technology, and singing.

Rotation - Grade Seven

These courses are exploratory in nature. Students will spend one nine weeks in these courses, except for Art I & II, Teen Discoveries, & Career Technology with Video Production which are semester (18 weeks) long courses:

Art 7: Students study the Principles of Design to conduct an in-depth study of Color Theory, while using a variety of media.

Art I & II (Semester): Students who wish to take Art 7 with additional experiences based on 3 Dimensional artwork, that goes beyond those offered in Art 7.

Career Technology 7: This course provides foundational knowledge and processes in technological literacy while exposing students to various careers and related pathways in transportation, production communication, manufacturing, and construction.

Computer Essentials 7: This introductory course is designed to aid the student in better understanding the function of a computer for school and personal use. Emphasis will be placed on an introduction to Microsoft Office applications. Internet safety, appropriate search techniques, and the use of Office applications for productivity and problem solving will also be addressed in this course.

Teen Discoveries (Semester): Emphasis is placed on understanding the physical, intellectual, emotional, and social development of teenagers and how to use a variety of 21st century skills to become financially literate.

Music Technology 7: Fundamental music theory with computer-aided instruction, students are introduced to creating music. Projects such as songwriting and producing music for multimedia assignments are components of this class.

Career Technology I (Semester): This course provided foundational knowledge and processes in technological literacy while exposing students to various careers and related pathways in transportation, production, communication, manufacturing, and construction. In addition, students will learn to write, produce, and edit video programs and the process for movie making.

Rotation – Grade Eight

These courses are exploratory in nature. Students spend eighteen weeks (one semester) in two of the following:

Art 8: This course builds upon artistic skills introduced in the rotations to create a foundation for future study in art. The elements and principles of art are fully introduced.

Career Technology II: This course offers students the opportunity for a more in-depth study of student-selected careers within the three technological areas. Students work with robots, lasers, CNC machines, and other high-tech equipment.

Computer Essentials 8: This introductory course is designed to aid the student in better understanding the function of a computer for school and personal use. Emphasis will be placed on an introduction to Microsoft Office applications. Internet safety, appropriate search techniques, and the use of Office applications for productivity and problem solving will also be addressed in this course.

Teen Connections: Course content provides opportunities for students to use a variety of 21st century skills to build a small business. General knowledge in food, clothing, and consumerism will be explored in order for students to develop entrepreneurial skills.

Music 8: This course offers a semester of basic music theory, note reading, and group singing. Ability to sing well is not required.

YEAR LONG ELECTIVES

These courses offer students the opportunity to expand their knowledge through in-depth study. Most of these courses have an associated cost.

Band 6: Beginner band is for any student who is interested in learning to play a musical instrument. Students are taught the basics of how to read music as well as how to play their instruments. No prior musical experience is necessary. Associated cost.

Band 7: Intermediate band allows students to develop the technical skills and tone production necessary for individual musical achievement. Instruction includes instrumental proficiency, improving listening skills, and music appreciation. Prior instrumental music experience is preferred. Associated cost.

Band 8: This course encompasses advanced music fundamentals and skills, which develop musicianship. Instruction includes instrumental mastery, performance, and evaluation. Prior instrumental instruction is required. Associated costs.

Concert Choir 7: This choir class will allow students to have the opportunity to develop sight reading skills, basic theory knowledge, music history fundamentals, as well as vocal technique through unison, two-, three-, and four-part singing. Choir classes will be combined for all performances. The ability to sing well is not required - only the desire to learn how to sing well and contribute through hard work. No associated cost.

Concert Choir 8: This choir class will allow students to have the opportunity to develop sight reading skills, basic theory knowledge, music history fundamentals, as well as vocal technique through unison, two-, three-, and four-part singing. Choir classes will be combined for all performances. The ability to sing well is not required - only the desire to learn how to sing well and contribute through hard work. Associated costs.

Algebra I Support (8th Grade): This course affords students the opportunity for additional and individualized assistance from an Algebra teacher in a smaller class size. No associated cost.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical Education - Grades Six, Seven, and Eight

Physical Education is a vital part of the total program of Homewood Middle School. The course is designed to help each student develop and maintain a high degree of physical fitness in addition to the acquisition of new skills with lifetime carry-over values, a solid base of sports knowledge, and desirable health practices. This course includes a variety of team, dual and individual activities including: flag football, Frisbee football, wrestling, golf, Frisbee golf, track & field, basketball, weight training, horse shoes, volleyball, jump rope, bowling, softball, tennis, soccer, crab soccer, badminton, gymnastics, pillow polo, aerobics, gym hockey, and personal fitness. In addition, the Presidential Fitness test is administered twice per year.

Health Curriculum - Grades Six, Seven, and Eight

Comprehensive health education is delivered through the physical education department. The range of instruction focuses on understanding health issues and personal responsibilities related to adolescent growth & development, promoting health-enhancing behaviors, and obtaining accurate information from a variety of sources. Content standards contain grade-appropriate, current, and health-related information. Health-literate students have opportunities to determine positive influences on health in the environment. They use decision-making and communication skills important for enhancing relationships, reducing conflicts, expressing needs, and evaluating behavioral consequences.

Course Changes

Students and parents should carefully consider student participation in advanced courses. Teacher recommendation and your student's grades and achievement test scores can help you make an informed decision. Course selections are full-year commitments. Students who experience difficulty in advanced level work will be expected to complete the course.

Course Information

Required Academic Courses

Language Arts/English

Language Arts 6, 7
English 8

Science

Science 6, 7, 8

Social Studies

Social Studies 6, 7, 8

Math

Math 6
Pre-Algebra
Algebra I

Physical Education

Physical Education 6, 7, 8

Optional Advanced Academic Courses

Language Arts/English

Pre-AP English 8

Math

Pre-Algebra: Math Team
Algebra I: Math Team

Elective Courses

6th Grade

Quarterly Rotation (9 Wks.):

Unified Arts

Art 6
Career Technology 6
FACS 6
Music 6

Year Long (36 Wks.):

Band 6

7th Grade

Quarterly Courses (9 Wks.):

Art 7
Career Technology 7
Computer Essentials 7
Music Technology 7

Semester Courses (18 Wks.):

Art I & II
Career Technology I
Teen Discoveries

Year Long Courses (36 Wks.):

Band 7
Concert Choir 7

8th Grade

Semester Rotation (18 Wks.):

Art 8
Career Technology II
Computer Essentials 8
Music 8
Teen Connections

Year Long (36 Wks.):

Algebra I Support
Band 8
Concert Choir 8

Registration Procedures

Step-by-step registration instructions for all upcoming Homewood Middle School students will be mailed to parent(s) in the spring or early summer timeframe.

Registration Dates:

2016-2017 Registration dates will be announced and published on the HMS website, www.homewood.k12.al.us/hms

Registration Requirements:

1. Homewood Residency Verification:

All HMS students must provide proof of the following:

- A July AL Power or ALAGASCO utility bill.
- A current deed, tax notice, or lease.

2. Updated Blue Immunization Form

- A Tdap vaccine is needed for all 6th grader who will be 11 years of age or older by the first day of school. Please check with your pediatrician to verify whether or not your child has received this immunization.

3. Required Cost Payments:

Required costs to be paid by all students are:

- Book Locker
- PE Locker & Shirt
- HMS Student Planner
- Postage
- Team T-Shirt (6th & 7th grade only)
- Optional cost may apply to certain students based on their course selection.

Extracurricular Opportunities

Student Athlete

Homewood Middle School offers athletic participation for seventh and eighth grade students in the following sports:

Homewood Middle School provides for the development of boys and girls through a properly controlled, well-organized sports program designed to meet the students' needs for self-expression, mental alertness, and physical growth. A student who elects to participate is voluntarily making a choice of self-discipline. Specific expectations and program philosophy may be communicated from the athletic department.

THE STATE ELIGIBILITY RULES FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL ATHLETICS ARE

Cross country	Cheerleading	Football	Baseball
Golf	Volleyball	Softball	Wrestling
Basketball	Track & Field	Tennis	

AS FOLLOWS:

1. No sixth graders are allowed to participate.
2. The maximum age limit for seventh and eighth grade competitions is 15 years of age on or after August 1 of the current year to be eligible.
3. A player must have a composite of 70 or better in 5 courses. A player eligible at the beginning of the year is eligible the whole year.

4. No pupil shall be eligible to participate in inter-scholastic athletics until his/her birth certificate issued by the State Bureau of Vital Statistics in the state in which he/she was born has been sent by the athletic director to the State Executive Director. The State will not accept hospital certificates or photocopier copies. Original birth certificates will be returned after processing. Student must show proof of insurance.
5. Any member of a school athletic team who participates in an athletic contest as a member of a similar team during the same season shall be ineligible to compete under these rules for the remainder of the season.
6. A pupil must be legally enrolled in Homewood City School System.
7. A student must have passed a current year physical examination. Record of such must be on file in the principal's office.

Chess Club

Chess Club members are from all three grade levels. Students learn the fundamentals of chess and have the opportunity to play in tournaments. Students do not have to be "Rated/Ranked" in order to participate in the club.

Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA)

The FCCLA Club encourages students to be leaders in their school, community, and family. Students participate in projects that promote personal development and community involvement. Club activities allow students to utilize skills learned in Family and Consumer Science Courses.

Builders Club

The Builders Club is an organization that offers the students of Homewood Middle School opportunities to make a personal contribution to their school and community. The Builders Club is for young men and women who want to take positive, constructive action to build a better world for themselves and others.

The objectives of the Builders Club are:

- To provide opportunities for working together in service to school and community.
- To develop leadership potential.
- To foster the development of strong moral character.
- To provide loyalty to school, community, and nation.

The Builders Club of Homewood Middle School is sponsored by Homewood Kiwanis Club. Membership is open to all students.

Sixth Grade Math Team

The sixth grade math team consists of students who are highly motivated and enjoy math. Students learn new, inventive, and challenging ways to solve math problems. The math team competes in tournaments against other schools in the state.

Patriot Singers (Show Choir)

Any seventh or eighth grade student is eligible to audition for Show Choir. The students will represent Homewood Middle School at civic performances, competitions, and festivals throughout the school year. Participation in performances is required.

Scholars' Bowl

Scholars' Bowl is open to all seventh and eighth grade students, although those who excel in their academic studies generally perform best. Students on four-player teams compete against teams of other middle school students, answering trivia questions. Meets and practices are held after school hours. Students will host "home games" at Homewood Middle School and travel to other schools for "road games." The season concludes with a district tournament in which all local teams participate.

Heritage Panel

The Heritage Panel is an organization that empowers a group of student leaders to make their school a more inclusive and welcoming place by creating a climate which discourages bullying and harassing behavior. This year-long program begins by training a diverse group of twenty-five students and five faculty advisors in an intensive two-day workshop. During the training, participants are asked to look within themselves and their school community and make personal commitments to improve relations at school. Students prepare to sit on a panel and discuss issues which are relevant to their school experience and often include cliques, race, gender, cultural backgrounds, and exclusion. The panelists present to various classrooms, and the audience is invited to participate in a discussion of issues related to the presentation. The Heritage Panel is a program of the National Conference for Community and Justice.

Jazz Band

The jazz band is an opportunity for instrumental music students to express themselves through a different means and enjoy the experience of participating in small group performance. It develops training in jazz, rock, and popular music. Prior instrumental instruction is required. Students are selected for jazz band through an audition process.

Technology Student Association (TSA)

TSA is an integral part of the technology program. It provides opportunities for students to develop leadership and problem-solving skills and other technology experiences through the participation in community services projects and local, state, and national competition.

Peer Helping Program

The Peer Helping Program is designed to enhance each student's middle school experience by providing peer helpers with the skills and resources necessary to encourage and help their fellow classmates. Peer helpers, which consist of 7th and 8th grade students, are expected to maintain high personal standards and be positive role models for their peers. The selection process held in April and May includes an application, interview, and parent meeting. Peer Helper responsibilities include: commitment to an alcohol, other drug, and tobacco free lifestyle, before and after school meetings and other school events, minimum of 30 hours of community service, and mentoring HCS elementary students.

Student Government Association (S.G.A.)

The S.G.A. is an organization of students committed to maintain laws of good order; to maintain high standards of cooperation, loyalty and fair play; to set high standards of citizenship; and to encourage the support of all forms of student activities. Furthermore, the S.G.A. organizes, promotes, and supervises school elections; assists in honor roll and other special assemblies; sponsors and supervises drives and campaigns; and originates policies in the areas of student activities which make more wholesome school citizenship. S.G.A. officers are chosen by school-wide election. Officers must maintain upstanding grades and behavior. Anyone is eligible to be a representative if he/she is elected and meets the academic and behavioral criteria. S.G.A. sponsors may replace representatives who are not adequately functioning within the organization.

Yearbook Staff

The yearbook staff is an extracurricular activity for responsible sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students interested in producing the school yearbook. Students must apply for a position on the staff and are required to attend all meetings. To complete the yearbook, students will have an opportunity to learn about publishing using computers and will write articles and essays, select pictures, and design the cover. Students interested in writing and journalism are encouraged to apply.

National Junior Beta Club

Eligibility Requirements:

1. Eighth grade students must have a cumulative grade point average of 3.3 in seventh grade. Cumulative GPA for 7th grade for Beta Club is calculated by including all grades earned during the seventh grade year.
2. Members of Beta Club must exemplify good character, creditable achievement, and a commendable attitude.
3. Any transfer student with a 3.3 G.P.A. who is a member of Beta Club at the school from which they transfer may participate in the Homewood Middle School Beta Club.
4. The induction ceremony will be conducted in the fall of the eighth grade school year.

National Junior Honor Society

Eligibility Requirements:

1. Eighth grade students that have been enrolled for at least one semester at Homewood Middle School are considered for membership.
2. The student must have a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.7. Cumulative grade point average for National Junior Honor Society excludes sixth grade, but includes all grades earned in seventh and eighth grade to the point of induction.
3. The student must exemplify the qualities of service, leadership, character, and citizenship.
4. The induction ceremony will be conducted in the spring of the eighth grade year.

National Junior Beta Club and the National Junior Honor Society are honors bestowed upon students at the secondary level. Accordingly, the requirements for induction into these distinguished organizations will emphasize the scholarly outcomes in seventh and eighth grades.

NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

It is the policy of the Homewood Board of Education not to discriminate on the basis of sex, color, handicap, religion, creed, national origin, race, or age in its educational program, activities, or employment policies as required by Federal Regulations.