



Avondale GATE

MAGNET SCHOOL

6th Grade Curriculum Guide

2025-2026

Sixth Grade

The Avondale GATE 6th grade schedule consists of 6 academic class periods in a year. The school year consists of two semesters. All students are also assigned to a daily advisory period. Sixth grade students are required to take 4 full periods of required core courses. Students also have 2 periods of exploratory courses per semester.

6th Grade Course Offerings

Required Core Classes	- Advanced Math 6/7; Algebra 1; or Geometry - English Language Arts 6 - Integrated Science - World Geography 6	
Choose One Exploratory Track	Non-Band Students 	Band Students 
Exploratory Offerings	(Must Choose 4 Semesters) Options Include: ☐ Art (1 Semester) ☐ Drama (1 Semester) ☐ Leadership (1 Semester) ☐ Life Skills (1 Semester) ☐ Physical Education (1 Semester) ☐ PLTW Micro:bit (1 Semester) ☐ PLTW App Creator (1 Semester) ☐ Spanish 1 (1 Year/2 Semesters) ☐ STEAM Lab (1 Semester)	(Must Choose 2 Semesters) Options Include: ☐ Art (1 Semester) ☐ Drama (1 Semester) ☐ Leadership (1 Semester) ☐ Life Skills (1 Semester) ☐ Physical Education (1 Semester) ☐ PLTW Micro:bit (1 Semester) ☐ PLTW App Creator (1 Semester) ☐ Spanish 1 (1 Year/2 Semesters) ☐ STEAM Lab (1 Semester)

*GATE students must take Life Skills during their 6th, 7th OR 8th grade year.

** If a student is enrolled with MSU CHAMP or ISHALL, accommodations are made so the student can work in class during the day on the assignments.

Avondale GATE 6th Grade Course Descriptions

Advisory Year-Long

Student advisory groups are made up of multi-grade level students that are led by teacher mentors. The goal of this time is to provide a personalized connection to our learning environment where all students will be well known by their teacher advocate. This relationship and connection to school is fostered through intentionally scheduled lessons, group activities, and one-to-one interactions with the advisor. The structure of this program will provide opportunities for character education (Positivity Project), independent reading, academic monitoring, school wide initiatives, and fun cooperative activities.

CORE COURSES

English Language Arts 6 Year-Long

Language Arts 6 is an advanced English course that integrates sixth-grade Common Core State Standards (CCSS) with seventh-grade content. Throughout the course, students delve into the analysis of narrative and informational texts, with a specific focus on understanding structure and style. Students will also have opportunities to enhance their vocabulary skills through exposure to diverse literature. Additionally, students engage in writing narratives, expository, and argumentative essays to strengthen their composition abilities. The mechanics of writing, encompassing sentence structure, spelling, and grammar, are not only taught but also reinforced through various student assignments. Throughout the year, students refine their speaking and listening skills through active participation in group discussions and delivering presentations.

ONE of the following Mathematics Classes (Year-Long)

Advanced Math 6 Year-Long

Students are placed in this course based on placement criteria. Advanced Math 6 is a rigorous pre-algebra course designed for students who learn at an accelerated pace; both 6th and 7th grade math concepts are taught. The course develops a deep conceptual and procedural understanding of mathematics. The critical areas for Advanced Math 6 include: (1) connecting ratio and rate to whole number multiplication and division and using concepts of ratio and rate to solve problems; (2) completing understanding of division of fractions and extending the notion of number to the system of rational numbers, which includes negative numbers; (3) writing, interpreting, and using algebraic expressions and equations; and (4) developing understanding of statistical thinking; (5) reasoning about relationships among shapes to determine area, surface area, and volume; (6) developing understanding of and applying proportional relationships; (7) developing understanding of operations with rational numbers and working with algebraic expressions and linear equations.

OR

Advanced Math 7 Year-Long

Advanced Math 7 is a rigorous pre-algebra course designed for students who learn at an accelerated pace; both 7th and 8th grade math concepts are taught. The course develops a deep conceptual and procedural understanding of mathematics. The critical areas for Advanced Math 7 include: (1) solving multi -step equations, (2) exploration of transformations in the coordinate plane, (3) understanding properties of triangles and other polygons, (4) identifying angle relationships given two parallel lines, (5) graphing linear equations, (6) solving systems of linear equations, (7) writing and interpreting functions, (8) the Pythagorean's Theorem and the real number system, (9) finding surface area and volume of solids, (10) properties of exponents, and (11) various concepts concerning probability and statistics.

OR

Algebra 1 Year-Long

Prerequisite: Department Placement Based on Prior Math Grades and Standardized Test Scores.

Students are placed in this course based on placement criteria: post-course assessment, prior math grades and standardized test scores. In this year-long course, students will complete all required Mathematics Arts Common Core Standards for Algebra I and begin earning high school credits. Selection and enrollment in a high school course is a year-long commitment and may not be dropped. Algebra I will cover: (1) solving linear equations and inequalities, (2) graphing and writing linear functions, (3) solving systems of linear equations and inequalities, (4) writing, evaluating and solving exponential equations, (5) identifying and writing arithmetic and geometric sequences, (6) solving, simplifying and factoring polynomials, (7) solving and graphing quadratic equations, and (8) graphing and solving radical equations.

OR

Geometry Year-Long

Prerequisite: Algebra 1. In this year-long course, students will complete all required Mathematics Arts Common Core Standards for Geometry and earn high school credit. Selection and enrollment in a high school course is a year-long commitment and may not be dropped. Geometry will cover: (1) exploring the fundamental principles of geometry, (2) topics of Euclidean geometry in two and three dimensions, (3) use of inductive and deductive reasoning to verify conjectures, (4) developing the ideas of congruence and similarity through transformations, (5) proving the congruence of angles, sides, and triangles and using these congruent relationships to prove properties of parallel lines, triangles, and other polygons area, volume and transformations, (6) developing spatial reasoning skills to help analyze and prove geometric theorems, and (7) properties of circles.

Integrated Science A Year-Long

Integrated Science A (physical Science): Integrated Science A is a rigorous course based on middle school physical science standards in order to develop usable knowledge to explain real world phenomena in the physical world. This includes developing and using models, planning and conducting investigations, analyzing and interpreting data, using mathematical and computational thinking, and constructing

explanations; and to use these practices to demonstrate understanding of the core ideas. Critical areas of physical science include: (1) scientific notation; (2) motion and forces; (3) energy; (4) waves; (5) matter; (6) atomic structure; (7) bonding; (8) reactions.

World Geography 6 Year-Long

The 6th grade social studies curriculum is a geography-based course which introduces students to the physical and human geography of the world. Beginning with a spatial perspective, students explore different ways in which the earth has been represented, how geographers use specific tools and technologies in geographic inquiry, and some of the limitations of these tools. They investigate patterns of natural and human characteristics and use case studies to examine how the physical environment has provided both benefits and obstacles to human societies. In doing so, students explore how humans have used, adapted, or modified their environment and the consequences.

***Students Taking High School Level Courses:**

According to state law, students who take courses in middle school with a curriculum that is identical to a course at the high school (such as Algebra I, Honors Algebra II, Geometry, French I, Spanish I, or German I) – as well as any student who take high school courses – will receive credit on their high school transcripts. All students must still earn 27 credits in grades 9-12 to earn a diploma. The grades earned in middle school will therefore not be included in the high school GPA. If a student has not been successful in one of these courses prior to 9th grade and repeats a course in high school, the previous credit and grade will be removed from the transcript. Selection and enrollment in a high school course is a year-long commitment and may not be dropped. Students who are taking high school/college courses prior to attending 9th grade at the high school will receive letter grades on their transcripts unless there is a request by the caregivers for them to receive a G (passing) or an H (no credit). This request will need to be sent in writing to the student's counselor by the end of the semester. Any requests after the end of the semester will not be considered. Note: All grades (even letter grades) and G/H's will not be calculated into the high school GPA if they were taken prior to the start of the student's 9th grade year.

6th GRADE EXPLORATORY COURSES

There are 4 semesters to fill with exploratory classes. Students must choose between the exploratory classes to fill this time.

MS Art 1 Semester

This is a Middle School Level Visual Arts Curriculum class including experiences in a variety of 2D and 3D media. Students will participate in concentrated efforts to apply design elements and principles in organization, creation, reflection and self-evaluation of all projects. Extensive explanation, instruction, demonstration and skill practice prior to major project work. Students will explore visual examples of various designs through world and art history, contemporary work, multi-disciplinary connections and problem-solving. Minimal homework required.

Drama 1 Semester

Do you break out in a cold sweat at the thought of getting up in front of an audience? Then Drama class is for you! Do you love being the center of attention? Then Drama class is for you too! This class will teach you the skills you need to successfully speak in front of groups of people-something you'll need in school and in almost any career you choose. You will have the opportunity to slowly ease into performing onstage, giving you time to get used to speaking in front of a small, safe group. The last few weeks of class you will help produce a mini-play performed on camera.

Leadership 1 Semester

This course is for students who desire to make a positive impact at GATE and beyond. Students will learn how to be a leader by engaging in collaborative projects and learning the foundational skills of leadership. This is a project-based class where students collaborate on initiatives to implement school events and create a positive impact on the school or community. Students will learn individual and team-based leadership skills. Students must have the ability to work independently and have a will to be of service to others.

Life Skills 1 Semester

All GATE students must take the Life Skills class during their 6th, 7th or 8th grade year. The students will be able to successfully manage a budget and understand real -life examples of personal finance. Students will also learn how to sew and create products that benefit their society/world and will learn cooking/kitchen skills through hands-on experience. Students will also learn how to develop their communications skills involving all forms: verbal, non -verbal, email and print, listening and visual, and how to make responsible decisions and resolve conflicts effectively. The students will learn how to prioritize, manage necessary tasks, how to study effectively and efficiently, learn the basic skills to be self-sufficient, as well as healthy and productive habits. *The students will be able to successfully complete and demonstrate adult & pediatric CPR/AED/First Aid. (American Red Cross certification, learn about the basics of babysitting safety, responsibility, emergencies, age -appropriate activities and how to start a babysitting business (American Red Cross certification).

*Content will be piloted in the 7th Grade Health course instead of Life Skills in the 2024-2025 school year.

Physical Education 1 Semester

Boys and girls participating in physical education will be challenged with a variety of fitness conditioning activities that will increase their muscular strength and entrance, flexibility, and cardiovascular endurance. Students will develop skills to be used to play a variety of team sports along with a basic understanding of team sports rules. Indoor and outdoor activities include basketball, volleyball, soccer, speedball, floor hockey, softball and group games. Students will participate in fitness testing. Sportsmanship, teamwork and leadership are emphasized.

Project Lead the Way: Innovators and Makers Micro:bit 1 Semester

This PLTW course will focus on innovation and making, where students will explore and apply the design process to create solutions to real-life problems. Taking on the role of a computer scientist, students will explore how computers receive, process, and send information. Working in teams, they will examine the parts of a microcontroller, learn about inputs and outputs, analyze, revise, and test programs and hardware, and explore wireless technology. Throughout the course, students will be using their creativity, algorithmic thinking, communication skills, and coding to program microcontrollers to perform a variety of real-world tasks, such as developing a security system, designing wearable technology, and creating interactive art.

Project Lead the Way: App Creators 1 Semester

This PLTW course focuses on app creation, where students will use the MIT App Inventor platform to create and design their own apps. Throughout the course, students will learn about different components of an app, including user interface design, programming concepts, and app testing. The class is designed to provide students with an understanding of the app development process and to encourage creativity and problem-solving.

STEAM Lab 1 Semester

The STEAM Lab class will use science, technology, engineering, the arts, and math to guide student inquiry and critical thinking. Students will define problems, prototype solutions, and evaluate designs. Through various projects and challenges, students will work in teams, improve their computational thinking abilities, develop communication skills, and think critically to achieve their goals. Units of study will include Keyboarding Techniques, using the Engineering Design Process, Coding Languages, Solving problems with 3D Design and solutions with Robots.

6th GRADE FULL YEAR EXPLORATORY COURSES

Year-long classes may not be dropped. This is a year-long commitment.

Beginning Band Year-Long (2 Semesters)

Beginning Concert Band is our beginning band class. In this class, students will learn music, basics pertaining to rhythm, tone, intonation, theory, and terminology as well as instrument care and maintenance. This class will start from the most basic components of music, and no previous experience is required except for in the area of percussion. Students will have the opportunity to learn how to play a wind instrument or percussion instrument. Students will start on one of the following instruments: flute, clarinet, alto saxophone, trumpet, trombone, euphonium, or percussion. Students who participate in band will need to rent or purchase a non-disposable, repairable instrument. Enrollment in Beginning Band constitutes a commitment of the student to participate in all scheduled performances. Beginning Band is our standard class for beginning instrumental instruction. This is a full-year class. **Participation at all performances is a requirement for the course.**

Instrument List:

Flute/Piccolo, Oboe, Clarinet, Bass Clarinet, Bassoon, Alto Saxophone, Tenor Saxophone, Bari Saxophone, Trumpet, French Horn, Trombone, Euphonium, Tuba, Percussion (Drums, Mallets, etc.)

Spanish 1 Year-Long (2 Semesters)

This advanced, high school level class will focus on the four language skills of reading, listening, reading, and writing. Students will engage in a variety of activities to practice and promote language learning. This rigorous course is designed for students who wish to participate in a high school level course. Selection and enrollment in a high school course is a year-long commitment and may not be dropped. This course develops a deep understanding of grammar and spoken language. Students are advised that this class requires active participation in reading, writing, speaking, and listening.

GATE TEST-OUT POLICY

One of our main beliefs as a school is that we want our students to be at the "just right" level in their content areas. We strive to achieve that whenever possible. This doesn't always mean going as fast as we can through content or grade levels. Sometimes it means going deeper and strengthening our understanding of content as well. We must take this balance into consideration as we place students into classes/content area levels.

We love that our families and students want to go far with their studies, but please know that we have standards for mastery and the "test out procedures", listed below, for all grade levels. We don't move students into higher grade level content unless that student has completely shown mastery of previous content at school. We don't move students into higher grade level content just because they studied it outside of school - they must be able to show their mastery on our assessments.

Students may test-out of certain classes at the end of the academic year. The intent of "testing out" is to provide exceptionally able students options beyond what they might have if required to take courses in which they have already mastered the material. Students may not take a test for a class they have already taken and failed, or a repeat of a previous test out attempt.

For entrance to a higher GATE content area course:

All elementary and middle school content area placement is decided by the teachers and/or grade level teams. This placement is based on in-class performance, NWEA MAP results, and pre/post assessments.

In order to show mastery, a student must achieve at least an 85% or higher.

- A middle school math placement takes place in May for rising 5th graders and new middle school students. This is for placement into the appropriate math class.
- Current GATE middle school students will receive a placement test in May during their regular Math class. This is for placement into the appropriate math class.
- A middle school science placement takes place in May for rising 7th and 8th graders and new middle school students. This is for placement into high school level science classes.
- All elementary math placement testing is done at the start of the school year.

For entrance to AHS high school level classes:

The following are the levels of content mastery for testing out:

- Scores at or below 76% will not demonstrate proficiency and students will be required to take the course.
- Scores 77% or higher will demonstrate content mastery of the course and students will be able to progress to the next level class.

Teachers *will not* provide any instruction to prepare students for these tests. Each department *will* provide a syllabus so that students know what the test will cover. Students will be notified regarding test dates.

Students will be notified, regarding the final test-out schedule. The notification will include the exact time and location for the exams. Test out exams will be scored as soon as possible after the test date. Students will be notified as soon as results are available. If a student passes a test out exam the counselor will adjust their schedule as needed.

Additional Details for GATE Students:

- If a GATE 6th grade student tests-out of a math or science class, they are not eligible to take classes at Avondale High School. Therefore, they must either take a science class at GATE or take an additional elective. High school level math classes are taken on the GATE campus. High school level science classes are taken on the AHS campus.
- If a GATE 7th and 8th grade student tests-out of a science class, they are eligible to take classes at Avondale High School.
- The student has the following options for SCIENCE classes:
 - They take a middle-school level science class at GATE.
 - They travel to AHS for their 1st and 2nd hours.
 - They will need to choose 1 science and 1 elective option **OR** they will need to choose 1 science and 1 math. They will be bussed back to GATE for the remainder of the day.
- The student has the following options for MATH classes:
 - They will be placed by the teacher based on their academic performance. Class options are:
 - Advanced Math 7/8 (MS level)
 - Algebra 1 (HS level)
 - Geometry (HS level)
 - Algebra 2 (HS level)

- If a course isn't listed within this document, then it is not able to be "tested out" of.

GATE Content Area Progression

ELA	Math	Science
Wit & Wisdom 2nd grade Teacher placed based on in-class assessments 	Big Ideas 2nd grade Teacher placed based on in-class assessments 	FOSS 2nd grade No test out 
Wit & Wisdom 3rd grade Teacher placed based on in-class assessments 	Big Ideas 3rd grade Teacher placed based on in-class assessments 	FOSS 3rd grade No test out 
With & Wisdom 4th grade Teacher placed based on in-class assessments 	Big Ideas 4th grade Teacher placed based on in-class assessments 	FOSS 4th grade No test out 
Wit & Wisdom 5th/6th grade (alternating years) Teacher placed based on in-class assessments 	Big Ideas 5th grade Teacher placed based on in-class assessments 	FOSS 5th grade No test out 
Wit & Wisdom 7th grade Teacher placed based on in-class assessments	Big Ideas 6th grade advanced (6th grade + ½ of 7th grade standards)	6th grade science: Physical Science No test out

	Teacher placed based on in-class assessments and/or rising 5th grade placement test 	
Wit & Wisdom 8th grade Teacher placed based on in-class assessments	Big Ideas 7th grade advanced (½ of 7th grade + 8th grade standards) Teacher placed based on in-class assessments and/or rising 5th grade placement test 	7th grade science: Earth & Space Science 7th & 8th grade test-out assessment 
	Algebra 1 (HS Level) Teacher placed based on in-class assessments and/or rising 5th grade placement test 	8th grade science: Life Science 7th & 8th grade test-out assessment 
	Geometry (HS Level) Teacher placed based on in-class assessments and pre-requisite course completion 	AHS for HS Classes 7th & 8th grade test-out assessment
	Algebra 2 (HS Level) Teacher placed based on in-class assessments and pre-requisite course completion	

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Avondale GATE

MAGNET SCHOOL

7th Grade Curriculum Guide

2025-2026

Seventh Grade

The Avondale GATE 7th grade schedule consists of 6 academic class periods in a year. The school year consists of two semesters. All students are also assigned to a daily advisory period. Seventh grade students are required to take 4 full periods of required core courses. Students also have 2 periods of exploratory courses per semester.

7th Grade Course Offerings

Required Core Classes	☒ Advanced Math 7/8; Algebra 1; Geometry; or Algebra 2 ☒ English Language Arts 7 ☒ Integrated Science or Biology ☒ World History 7	
Choose One Exploratory Track	☐ Non-Band Students 	☐ Band Students 
Required 1 Semester	☒ Health 7	☒ Health 7
Exploratory Offerings - 1 Semester Each	Must choose 3 Semesters Options Include: ☐ Art (1 Semester) ☐ Drama (1 Semester) ☐ Leadership (1 Semester) ☐ Life Skills (1 Semester) ☐ Physical Education (1 Semester) ☐ PLTW Micro:bit (1 Semester) ☐ PLTW App Creator (1 Semester) ☐ Spanish 1 (1 Year/2 Semesters) ☐ Spanish 2 (1 Year/2 Semesters) ☐ STEAM Lab (1 Semester)	Must choose 1 Semester Options Include: ☐ Art (1 Semester) ☐ Drama (1 Semester) ☐ Leadership (1 Semester) ☐ Life Skills (1 Semester) ☐ Physical Education (1 Semester) ☐ PLTW Micro:bit (1 Semester) ☐ PLTW App Creator (1 Semester) ☐ Spanish 1 (1 Year/2 Semesters) ☐ Spanish 2 (1 Year/2 Semesters) ☐ STEAM Lab (1 Semester)

*GATE students must take Life Skills during their 6th, 7th OR 8th grade year.

** If a student is enrolled with MSU CHAMP or ISHALL, accommodations are made so the student can work in class during the day on the assignments.

Avondale GATE 7th Grade Course Descriptions

Advisory Year-Long

Student advisory groups are made up of grade level students that are led by teacher mentors. The goal of Advisory is to provide a personalized connection to our learning environment where all students will be well known by at least one adult advocate. This relationship and connection to school is fostered through intentionally scheduled lessons, group activities, and one-to-one interactions with the advisor. The structure of this program will provide opportunities for character education, bullying prevention lessons, positive behavior support, independent reading, academic monitoring, organizational meetings, school wide initiatives, and fun cooperative activities.

CORE COURSES

English Language Arts 7 Year-Long

Language Arts 7 is an advanced English course that integrates seventh-grade Common Core State Standards (CCSS) with eighth-grade content. Throughout the course, students delve into the analysis of narrative and informational texts, with a specific focus on understanding structure and style. Students will also have opportunities to enhance their vocabulary skills through exposure to diverse literature. Additionally, students engage in writing narratives, expository, and argumentative essays to strengthen their composition abilities. The mechanics of writing, encompassing sentence structure, spelling, and grammar, are not only taught but also reinforced through various student assignments. Throughout the year, students refine their speaking and listening skills through active participation in group discussions and delivering presentations.

ONE of the following Mathematics Classes (Year-Long)

Math 7 Year-Long

Math 7 is a pre-algebra course where 7th grade math concepts are taught. The course develops a deep conceptual and procedural understanding of mathematics. The critical areas for Math 7 include: (1) developing understanding of and applying proportional relationships; (2) Apply and extend previous understandings of operations with fractions; (3) Use properties of operations to generate equivalent expressions; (4) Solve real-life and mathematical problems using numerical and algebraic expressions and equations; (5) Draw construct, and describe geometrical figures and describe the relationships between them; (6) Solve real-life and mathematical problems involving angle measure, area, surface area, and volume; (7) Draw informal comparative inferences about two populations; and (8) Investigate chance processes and develop, use, and evaluate probability models.

Advanced Math 7 Year-Long

Advanced Math 7 is a rigorous pre-algebra course designed for students who learn at an accelerated pace; both 7th and 8th grade math concepts are taught. The course develops a deep conceptual and procedural understanding of mathematics. The critical areas for Advanced Math 7 include: (1) solving multi -step equations, (2) exploration of transformations in the coordinate plane, (3) understanding properties of triangles and other polygons, (4) identifying angle relationships given two parallel lines, (5) graphing linear equations, (6) solving

systems of linear equations, (7) writing and interpreting functions, (8) the Pythagorean's Theorem and the real number system, (9) finding surface area and volume of solids, (10) properties of exponents, and (11) various concepts concerning probability and statistics.

OR

Algebra 1 Year-Long

Students are placed in this course based on placement criteria: post-course assessment, prior math grades and standardized test scores. In this year-long course, students will complete all required Mathematics Arts Common Core Standards for Algebra I and begin earning high school credits. Selection and enrollment in a high school course is a year-long commitment and may not be dropped. Algebra I will cover: (1) solving linear equations and inequalities, (2) graphing and writing linear functions, (3) solving systems of linear equations and inequalities, (4) writing, evaluating and solving exponential equations, (5) identifying and writing arithmetic and geometric sequences, (6) solving, simplifying and factoring polynomials, (7) solving and graphing quadratic equations, and (8) graphing and solving radical equations.

OR

Geometry Year-Long

Prerequisite: Algebra I. In this year-long course, students will complete all required Mathematics Arts Common Core Standards for Geometry and earn high school credit. Selection and enrollment in a high school course is a year-long commitment and may not be dropped. Geometry will cover: (1) exploring the fundamental principles of geometry, (2) topics of Euclidean geometry in two and three dimensions, (3) use of inductive and deductive reasoning to verify conjectures, (4) developing the ideas of congruence and similarity through transformations, (5) proving the congruence of angles, sides, and triangles and using these congruent relationships to prove properties of parallel lines, triangles, and other polygons area, volume and transformations, (6) developing spatial reasoning skills to help analyze and prove geometric theorems, and (7) properties of circles.

OR

ALGEBRA 2 Year-Long

Prerequisite: Algebra 1 OR placement based on prior math grades and standardized test scores. (Class cannot be dropped after first semester) This second course in algebra covers units similar to those in Algebra I but in more depth and at an increased pace including operations with real numbers, quadratic equations and systems, logarithms, irrational numbers, complex numbers, matrices, conic sections, probability, statistics and sequences.

Integrated Science B Year-Long

Integrated Science B (Earth and Space Science) : Integrated Science B is a rigorous course based on middle school earth and space science (ESS) standards in order to develop usable knowledge to explain the natural world. This course builds upon the understanding of the physical and chemical world and expands into the biological world. This includes developing and using models, planning and conducting investigations, analyzing and interpreting data, using mathematical and computational thinking, and constructing explanations; and to use

these practices to demonstrate understanding of the core ideas. Critical areas of earth and space science include: (1) history of Earth; (2) Earth's surface systems; (3) Earth's interior systems; (4) Weather and climate; (5) biogeochemical cycles; (6) human impacts; (7) space systems.

OR

Biology 1 Year-Long

Prerequisite: Placement test. Department placement based on prior math grades and standardized test scores. Current Science teacher recommendation and approval. Microbiology covers the following basic topics: cell structure and function, Mendelian and Non -Mendelian Genetics, and living processes of plants and animals. Macrobiology covers the following basic topics: ecology, human impact, human diseases, body systems, and evolution. Biology is designed to use life skills of communication, critical thinking, and investigation to introduce high school freshmen to the fundamental principles, processes, and diversity of life. Students will dive into the fascinating realms of cells, genetics, ecology, and evolution, gaining a deeper understanding of the intricate web of life that surrounds us.

World History 7: Ancient Civilizations Year-Long

The 7th grade social studies curriculum focuses on ancient world history and geography, from the origins of early man, through the Middle Ages. Students will explore significant changes in every world region through a chronological organization. Mankind's journey will be investigated as it transitions from a nomadic lifestyle to developed agricultural settlements to the rise and eventual collapse of classical empires.

Students Taking High School Level Courses:

According to state law, students who take courses in middle school with a curriculum that is identical to a course at the high school (such as Algebra I, Honors Algebra II, Geometry, French I, Spanish I, or German I) – as well as any student who take high school courses – will receive credit on their high school transcripts and that credit shall be counted in the total number of credits to graduate (26 credits). The grades earned in middle school will therefore not be included in the high school GPA. If a student has not been successful in one of these courses prior to 9th grade and repeats a course in high school, the previous credit and grade will be removed from the transcript. Selection and enrollment in a high school course is a year-long commitment and may not be dropped. Students who are taking high school/college courses prior to attending 9th grade at the high school will receive letter grades on their transcripts unless there is a request by the caregivers for them to receive a G (passing) or an H (no credit). This request will need to be sent in writing to the student's counselor by the end of the semester. Any requests after the end of the semester will not be considered. Note: All grades (even letter grades) and G/H's will not be calculated into the high school GPA if they were taken prior to the start of the student's 9th grade year.

7th GRADE EXPLORATORY COURSES

Every seventh-grade student will have 2 exploratory hours/classes in their schedule per semester.

Health Education 7 Semester-Long, Required

This is a mandatory class for all seventh-grade students, required by the State of Michigan's Department of Education. This class is designed to teach students about the important social, emotional, and physical issues that they face today. This curriculum follows the Michigan Model for Health. Topics covered in this course are: decision-making and problem solving skills, recognizing and managing stress, recognizing bullying and prevention skills, understanding emotions, healthy relationships, healthy eating, positive body image and physical activity, understanding the importance of being drug and tobacco free and the consequences of drugs on their health, reproductive anatomy, abstinence- based sex education, HIV, sexual orientation and gender identity. This class will alternate between a health curriculum and physical education curriculum. *The students will be able to successfully complete and demonstrate adult & pediatric CPR/AED/First Aid. (American Red Cross certification, learn about the basics of babysitting safety, responsibility, emergencies, age -appropriate activities and how to start a babysitting business (American Red Cross certification).

*Content will be piloted in the 7th Grade Health course instead of Life Skills in the 2024 - 2025 school year.

MS Art 1 Semester

This is a Middle School Level Visual Arts Curriculum class including experiences in a variety of 2D and 3D media. Students will participate in concentrated efforts to apply design elements and principles in organization, creation, reflection and self-evaluation of all projects. Extensive explanation, instruction, demonstration and skill practice prior to major project work. Students will explore visual examples of various designs through world and art history, contemporary work, multi-disciplinary connections and problem-solving. Minimal homework required.

Drama 1 Semester

Do you break out in a cold sweat at the thought of getting up in front of an audience? Then Drama class is for you! Do you love being the center of attention? Then Drama class is for you too! This class will teach you the skills you need to successfully speak in front of groups of people-something you'll need in school and in almost any career you choose. You will have the opportunity to slowly ease into performing onstage, giving you time to get used to speaking in front of a small, safe group. The last few weeks of class you will help produce a mini-play performed on camera.

Leadership 1 Semester

This course is for students who desire to make a positive impact at GATE and beyond. Students will learn how to be a leader by engaging in collaborative projects and learning the foundational skills of leadership. This is a project-based class where students collaborate on initiatives to implement school events and create a positive impact on the school or community. Students will learn individual and team-based leadership skills. Students must have the ability to work independently and have a will to be of service to others.

Life Skills 1 Semester

All GATE students must take the Life Skills class during their 6th, 7th or 8th grade year. The students will be able to successfully manage a budget and understand real -life examples of personal finance. Students will also learn how to sew and create products that benefit their society/world and will learn cooking/kitchen skills through hands-on experience. Students will also learn how to develop their communications skills involving all forms: verbal, non -verbal, email and print, listening and visual, and how to make responsible decisions and resolve conflicts effectively. The students will learn how to prioritize, manage necessary tasks, how to study effectively and efficiently, learn the basic skills to be self-sufficient, as well as healthy and productive habits. *The students will be able to successfully complete and demonstrate adult & pediatric CPR/AED/First Aid. (American Red Cross certification, learn about the basics of babysitting safety, responsibility, emergencies, age -appropriate activities and how to start a babysitting business (American Red Cross certification).

*Content will be piloted in the 7th Grade Health course instead of Life Skills in the 2024-2025 school year.

Physical Education 1 Semester

Boys and girls participating in physical education will be challenged with a variety of fitness conditioning activities that will increase their muscular strength and entrance, flexibility, and cardiovascular endurance. Students will develop skills to be used to play a variety of team sports along with a basic understanding of team sports rules. Indoor and outdoor activities include basketball, volleyball, soccer, speedball, floor hockey, softball and group games. Students will participate in fitness testing. Sportsmanship, teamwork and leadership are emphasized.

Project Lead the Way: Innovators and Makers Micro:bit 1 Semester

This PLTW course will focus on innovation and making, where students will explore and apply the design process to create solutions to real-life problems. Taking on the role of a computer scientist, students will explore how computers receive, process, and send information. Working in teams, they will examine the parts of a microcontroller, learn about inputs and outputs, analyze, revise, and test programs and hardware, and explore wireless technology. Throughout the course, students will be using their creativity, algorithmic thinking, communication skills, and coding to program microcontrollers to perform a variety of real-world tasks, such as developing a security system, designing wearable technology, and creating interactive art.

Project Lead the Way: App Creators 1 Semester

This PLTW course focuses on app creation, where students will use the MIT App Inventor platform to create and design their own apps. Throughout the course, students will learn about different components of an app, including user interface design, programming concepts, and app testing. The class is designed to provide students with an understanding of the app development process and to encourage creativity and problem-solving.

STEAM Lab 1 Semester

The STEAM Lab class will use science, technology, engineering, the arts, and math to guide student inquiry and critical thinking. Students will define problems, prototype solutions, and evaluate designs. Through various projects and challenges, students will work in teams, improve their computational thinking abilities, develop communication skills, and think critically to achieve their goals. Units of study will include Keyboarding Techniques, using the Engineering Design Process, Coding Languages, Solving problems with 3D Design and solutions with Robots.

7th GRADE FULL YEAR EXPLORATORY COURSES

Year-long classes may not be dropped – this is a year-long commitment.

Beginning Band Year-Long (2 Semesters)

Beginning Concert Band is our beginning band class. In this class, students will learn music, basics pertaining to rhythm, tone, intonation, theory, and terminology as well as instrument care and maintenance. This class will start from the most basic components of music, and no previous experience is required except for in the area of percussion. Students will have the opportunity to learn how to play a wind instrument or percussion instrument. Students will start on one of the following instruments: flute, clarinet, alto saxophone, trumpet, trombone, euphonium, or percussion. Students who participate in band will need to rent or purchase a non-disposable, repairable instrument. Enrollment in Beginning Band constitutes a commitment of the student to participate in all scheduled performances. Beginning Band is our standard class for beginning instrumental instruction. This is a full-year class. **Participation at all performances is a requirement for the course.**

Instrument List:

Flute/Piccolo, Oboe, Clarinet, Bass Clarinet, Bassoon, Alto Saxophone, Tenor Saxophone, Bari Saxophone, Trumpet, French Horn, Trombone, Euphonium, Tuba, Percussion (Drums, Mallets, etc.)

Intermediate Concert Band Year-Long (2 Semesters)

Prerequisite: Students must have successfully completed Beginning Band with teacher recommendation. Intermediate Concert Band is a performing ensemble designed for second year middle school musicians that will focus on intermediate-level skills, techniques, and concepts in music comprehension and performance, as well as preparation to participate in the Avondale High School Concert and Marching Bands. The prerequisite for this band is successful completion of Beginning Band. Additional placements are determined by audition. This class will include at least four performances, including MSBOA District XVI Solo & Ensemble Festival, which occur outside of the typical school day. **Participation at all performances is a requirement for the course.**

Instrument List:

Flute/Piccolo, Oboe, Clarinet, Bass Clarinet, Bassoon, Alto Saxophone, Tenor Saxophone, Bari Saxophone, Trumpet, French Horn, Trombone, Euphonium, Tuba, Percussion (Drums, Mallets, etc.)

Spanish 1 Year-Long (2 Semesters)

This advanced, high school level class will focus on the four language skills of reading, listening, reading, and writing. Students will engage in a variety of activities to practice and promote language learning. This rigorous course is designed for students who wish to participate in a high school level course. This course develops a deep understanding of grammar and spoken language. Students are advised that this class requires active participation in reading, writing, speaking, and listening.

Spanish 2 Year-Long (2 Semesters)

Prerequisite: Students must have successfully completed Spanish 1 with teacher recommendation. In this advanced, high school level course, students will continue to focus on the four language skills of reading, listening, reading, and writing. Students will engage in a variety of activities to practice and promote language learning. This rigorous course is designed for students who wish to participate in a high school level course. Selection and enrollment in a high school course is a year-long commitment and may not be dropped. This course develops a deep understanding of grammar and spoken language. Students are advised that this class requires active participation in reading, writing, speaking, and listening.

GATE TEST-OUT POLICY

One of our main beliefs as a school is that we want our students to be at the "just right" level in their content areas. We strive to achieve that whenever possible. This doesn't always mean going as fast as we can through content or grade levels. Sometimes it means going deeper and strengthening our understanding of content as well. We must take this balance into consideration as we place students into classes/content area levels.

We love that our families and students want to go far with their studies, but please know that we have standards for mastery and the "test out procedures", listed below, for all grade levels. We don't move students into higher grade level content unless that student has completely shown mastery of previous content at school. We don't move students into higher grade level content just because they studied it outside of school - they must be able to show their mastery on our assessments.

Students may test-out of certain classes at the end of the academic year. The intent of "testing out" is to provide exceptionally able students options beyond what they might have if required to take courses in which they have already mastered the material. Students may not take a test for a class they have already taken and failed, or a repeat of a previous test out attempt.

For entrance to a higher GATE content area course:

All elementary and middle school content area placement is decided by the teachers and/or grade level teams. This placement is based on in-class performance, NWEA MAP results, and pre/post assessments. In order to show mastery, a student must achieve at least an 85% or higher.

- A middle school math placement takes place in May for rising 5th graders and new middle school students. This is for placement into the appropriate math class.
- Current GATE middle school students will receive a placement test in May during their regular Math class. This is for placement into the appropriate math class.

- A middle school science placement takes place in May for rising 7th and 8th graders and new middle school students. This is for placement into high school level science classes.
- All elementary math placement testing is done at the start of the school year.

For entrance to AHS high school level classes:

The following are the levels of content mastery for testing out:

- Scores at or below 76% will not demonstrate proficiency and students will be required to take the course.
- Scores 77% or higher will demonstrate content mastery of the course and students will be able to progress to the next level class.

Teachers *will not* provide any instruction to prepare students for these tests. Each department *will* provide a syllabus so that students know what the test will cover. Students will be notified regarding test dates.

Students will be notified, regarding the final test-out schedule. The notification will include the exact time and location for the exams. Test out exams will be scored as soon as possible after the test date. Students will be notified as soon as results are available. If a student passes a test out exam the counselor will adjust their schedule as needed.

Additional Details for GATE Students:

- If a GATE 6th grade student tests-out of a math or science class, they are not eligible to take classes at Avondale High School. Therefore, they must either take a science class at GATE or take an additional elective. High school level math classes are taken on the GATE campus. High school level science classes are taken on the AHS campus.
- If a GATE 7th and 8th grade student tests-out of a science class, they are eligible to take classes at Avondale High School.
- The student has the following options for SCIENCE classes:
 - They take a middle-school level science class at GATE.
 - They travel to AHS for their 1st and 2nd hours.
 - They will need to choose 1 science and 1 elective option **OR** they will need to choose 1 science and 1 math. They will be bussed back to GATE for the remainder of the day.
- The student has the following options for MATH classes:
 - They will be placed by the teacher based on their academic performance. Class options are:
 - Advanced Math 7/8 (MS level)
 - Algebra 1 (HS level)
 - Geometry (HS level)
 - Algebra 2 (HS level)
- If a course isn't listed within this document, then it is not able to be "tested out" of.

GATE Content Area Progression

ELA	Math	Science
Wit & Wisdom 2nd grade Teacher placed based on in-class assessments 	Big Ideas 2nd grade Teacher placed based on in-class assessments 	FOSS 2nd grade No test out 
Wit & Wisdom 3rd grade Teacher placed based on in-class assessments 	Big Ideas 3rd grade Teacher placed based on in-class assessments 	FOSS 3rd grade No test out 
With & Wisdom 4th grade Teacher placed based on in-class assessments 	Big Ideas 4th grade Teacher placed based on in-class assessments 	FOSS 4th grade No test out 
Wit & Wisdom 5th/6th grade (alternating years) Teacher placed based on in-class assessments 	Big Ideas 5th grade Teacher placed based on in-class assessments 	FOSS 5th grade No test out 
Wit & Wisdom 7th grade Teacher placed based on in-class assessments 	Big Ideas 6th grade advanced (6th grade + ½ of 7th grade standards) Teacher placed based on in-class assessments and/or rising 5th grade placement test 	6th grade science: Physical Science No test out 

Wit & Wisdom 8th grade Teacher placed based on in-class assessments	Big Ideas 7th grade advanced (½ of 7th grade + 8th grade standards) Teacher placed based on in-class assessments and/or rising 5th grade placement test ↓	7th grade science: Earth & Space Science 7th & 8th grade test-out assessment ↓
	Algebra 1 (HS Level) Teacher placed based on in-class assessments and/or rising 5th grade placement test ↓	8th grade science: Life Science 7th & 8th grade test-out assessment ↓
	Geometry (HS Level) Teacher placed based on in-class assessments and pre-requisite course completion ↓	AHS for HS Classes 7th & 8th grade test-out assessment
	Algebra 2 (HS Level) Teacher placed based on in-class assessments and pre-requisite course completion	

Updated 3/24

BOE Approved 8/5/2024



Avondale GATE

MAGNET SCHOOL

8th Grade Curriculum Guide

2025-2026

Eighth Grade

An Avondale GATE Magnet School's 8th grade schedule consists of 6 academic class periods in a year. The school year consists of 2 semesters. All students are also assigned to a daily advisory period. Eighth grade students are required to take 4 periods of required core courses. Students also have 2 periods of exploratory courses.

8th Grade Course Offerings

Required Core Classes	☒ English Language Arts 8 ☒ Advanced Math 7/8; Algebra 1; Geometry; or Algebra 2 ☒ Integrated Science C; Biology; or Chemistry ☒ U.S. History 8	
Choose One Exploratory Track	☐ Non-Band Students 	☐ Band Students 
Exploratory Offerings	Must choose 4 Semesters Options Include: ☐ Art (1 Semester) ☐ Drama (1 Semester) ☐ Leadership (1 Semester) ☐ Life Skills (1 Semester) ☐ Physical Education (1 Semester) ☐ PLTW Micro:bit (1 Semester) ☐ PLTW App Creator (1 Semester) ☐ Spanish 1 (1 Year/2 Semesters) ☐ Spanish 2 (1 Year/2 Semesters) ☐ Spanish 3 (1 Year/2 Semesters) ☐ STEAM Lab (1 Semester)	Must choose 2 Semesters Options Include: ☐ Art (1 Semester) ☐ Drama (1 Semester) ☐ Leadership (1 Semester) ☐ Life Skills (1 Semester) ☐ Physical Education (1 Semester) ☐ PLTW Micro:bit (1 Semester) ☐ PLTW App Creator (1 Semester) ☐ Spanish 1 (1 Year/2 Semesters) ☐ Spanish 2 (1 Year/2 Semesters) ☐ Spanish 3 (1 Year/2 Semesters) ☐ STEAM Lab (1 Semester)

*GATE students must take Life Skills during their 6th, 7th OR 8th grade year.

** If a student is enrolled with MSU CHAMP or ISHALL, accommodations are made so the student can work in class during the day on the assignments.

Avondale GATE 8th Grade Course Descriptions

Advisory Year-Long

Student advisory groups are made up of grade level students that are led by teacher mentors. The goal of Advisory is to provide a personalized connection to our learning environment where all students will be well known by at least one adult advocate. This relationship and connection to school is fostered through intentionally scheduled lessons, group activities, and one-to-one interactions with the advisor. The structure of this program will provide opportunities for character education, bullying prevention lessons, positive behavior support, independent reading, academic monitoring, organizational meetings, school wide initiatives, and fun cooperative activities.

CORE COURSES

English Language Arts 8 Year-Long

Students build a critical foundation in reading and writing narrative, informational, persuasive, and argumentative texts. Through analysis and production of texts in these three modes, students become more adept thinkers, readers and writers. Students are encouraged to be independent, engaged, and empowered learners who value close reading, idea generation, drafting, and revision. Students explore a range of literary genres including memoir, poetry, realistic fiction, classic literature, and informational text. Vocabulary study includes direct instruction as well as application of proper usage of words in all their variant forms and the utilization of context clues to convey and interpret meaning. Grammar instruction is also directly taught and students are consistently held accountable for use of proper writing conventions throughout the year.

ONE of the following Mathematics Classes (Year-Long)

Math 8 Year-Long

Math 8 is a pre-algebra course designed for eighth-grade students. The course develops a deep conceptual and procedural understanding of mathematics in a moderately paced learning environment. The critical areas for Math 8 include: solving multi-step equations, exploration of transformations in the coordinate plane, triangles and other polygons, angle relationships given two parallel lines, graphing linear equations, solving systems of linear equations, functions, Pythagorean's theorem, the real number system, surface area and volume of solids, and exponents.

OR

Algebra 1 Year-Long

Students are placed in this course based on placement criteria: post-course assessment, prior math grades and standardized test scores. In this year-long course, students will complete all required Mathematics Arts Common Core Standards for Algebra I and begin earning high school credits. Selection and enrollment in a high school course is a year-long commitment and may not be dropped. Algebra I will cover: (1) solving linear equations and inequalities, (2) graphing and writing linear functions, (3) solving systems of linear equations and inequalities, (4) writing, evaluating and solving exponential equations, (5)

identifying and writing arithmetic and geometric sequences, (6) solving, simplifying and factoring polynomials, (7) solving and graphing quadratic equations, and (8) graphing and solving radical equations.

OR

Geometry Year- Long

Prerequisite: Algebra 1. In this year-long course, students will complete all required Mathematics Arts Common Core Standards for Geometry and earn high school credit. Selection and enrollment in a high school course is a year-long commitment and may not be dropped. Geometry will cover: (1) exploring the fundamental principles of geometry, (2) topics of Euclidean geometry in two and three dimensions, (3) use of inductive and deductive reasoning to verify conjectures, (4) developing the ideas of congruence and similarity through transformations, (5) proving the congruence of angles, sides, and triangles and using these congruent relationships to prove properties of parallel lines, triangles, and other polygons area, volume and transformations, (6) developing spatial reasoning skills to help analyze and prove geometric theorems, and (7) properties of circles.

OR

ALGEBRA 2 Year-Long

Prerequisite: Algebra 1 OR placement based on prior math grades and standardized test scores. (Class cannot be dropped after first semester) This second course in algebra covers units similar to those in Algebra I but in more depth and at an increased pace including operations with real numbers, quadratic equations and systems, logarithms, irrational numbers, complex numbers, matrices, conic sections, probability, statistics and sequences.

Integrated Science C Year-Long

Integrated Science C (Life Science): Integrated Science C is a rigorous course based on middle school life science standards in order to develop usable knowledge to explain the natural world from the microscopic level to the macroscopic level. Life science studies living organisms and their processes. This includes developing and using models, planning and conducting investigations, analyzing and interpreting data, and constructing explanations; and to use these practices to demonstrate understanding of the core ideas. Critical areas of life science include: (1) structure, function, and information processing; (2) growth, development, and reproduction of organisms; (3) genetics and heredity; (4) interdependent relationships in ecosystems; (5) natural selection and adaptations.

OR

Biology 1 Year-Long

Prerequisite: Placement test. Department placement based on prior math grades and standardized test scores. Current Science teacher recommendation and approval. Microbiology covers the following basic topics: cell structure and function, Mendelian and Non -Mendelian Genetics, and living processes of plants and animals. Macrobiology covers the following basic topics: ecology, human impact, human diseases, body systems, and evolution. Biology is designed to use life skills of communication, critical thinking, and investigation to introduce

high school freshmen to the fundamental principles, processes, and diversity of life. Students will dive into the fascinating realms of cells, genetics, ecology, and evolution, gaining a deeper understanding of the intricate web of life that surrounds us.

OR

Chemistry 1 Year-Long

Prerequisite: Biology and Algebra I. Chemistry is a foundation course in the theory of matter and its structure and reactions. Concepts are clarified with mathematical explanations and problems having measurable results. The language of chemistry through formula writing and equation reactions is fundamental to the understanding of chemical theory. Students study atomic and molecular structure including bonding and the periodic nature of elements. Laboratory experiences, writing and reporting are part of this study.

U.S. History Year-Long

Students will be introduced to the history of the United States from Colonial times through Reconstruction. The course is divided chronologically into eras. Students will learn to place major events on a timeline and to analyze the causes and effects of historical events. Using primary and secondary sources, they will explore time and place in nineteenth century America. They will compare accounts of the past and express informed opinions about significant events that shaped the nation. Students will deepen their understanding of major geographical themes and basic economic concepts while building an understanding of the American government.

Students Taking High School Level Courses:

According to state law, students who take courses in middle school with a curriculum that is identical to a course at the high school (such as Algebra I, Honors Algebra II, Geometry, French I, Spanish I, or German I) – as well as any student who take high school courses – will receive credit on their high school transcripts and that credit shall be counted in the total number of credits to graduate (26 credits). The grades earned in middle school will therefore not be included in the high school GPA. If a student has not been successful in one of these courses prior to 9th grade and repeats a course in high school, the previous credit and grade will be removed from the transcript. Selection and enrollment in a high school course is a year-long commitment and may not be dropped. Students who are taking high school/college courses prior to attending 9th grade at the high school will receive letter grades on their transcripts unless there is a request by the caregivers for them to receive a G (passing) or an H (no credit). This request will need to be sent in writing to the student's counselor by the end of the semester. Any requests after the end of the semester will not be considered. Note: All grades (even letter grades) and G/H's will not be calculated into the high school GPA if they were taken prior to the start of the student's 9th grade year.

8th GRADE EXPLORATORY COURSES

Every eighth-grade student will have 2 exploratory hours/classes in their schedule per semester.

MS Art 1 Semester

This is a Middle School Level Visual Arts Curriculum class including experiences in a variety of 2D and 3D media. Students will participate in concentrated efforts to apply design elements and principles in organization, creation, reflection and self-evaluation of all projects. Extensive explanation, instruction, demonstration and skill practice prior to major project work. Students will explore visual examples of various designs through world and art history, contemporary work, multi-disciplinary connections and problem-solving. Minimal homework required.

Drama 1 Semester

Do you break out in a cold sweat at the thought of getting up in front of an audience? Then Drama class is for you! Do you love being the center of attention? Then Drama class is for you too! This class will teach you the skills you need to successfully speak in front of groups of people-something you'll need in school and in almost any career you choose. You will have the opportunity to slowly ease into performing onstage, giving you time to get used to speaking in front of a small, safe group. The last few weeks of class you will help produce a mini-play performed on camera.

Leadership 1 Semester

This course is for students who desire to make a positive impact at GATE and beyond. Students will learn how to be a leader by engaging in collaborative projects and learning the foundational skills of leadership. This is a project-based class where students collaborate on initiatives to implement school events and create a positive impact on the school or community. Students will learn individual and team-based leadership skills. Students must have the ability to work independently and have a will to be of service to others.

Life Skills 1 Semester

All GATE students must take the Life Skills class during their 6th, 7th or 8th grade year. The students will be able to successfully manage a budget and understand real -life examples of personal finance. Students will also learn how to sew and create products that benefit their society/world and will learn cooking/kitchen skills through hands-on experience. Students will also learn how to develop their communications skills involving all forms: verbal, non -verbal, email and print, listening and visual, and how to make responsible decisions and resolve conflicts effectively. The students will learn how to prioritize, manage necessary tasks, how to study effectively and efficiently, learn the basic skills to be self-sufficient, as well as healthy and productive habits. *The students will be able to successfully complete and demonstrate adult & pediatric CPR/AED/First Aid. (American Red Cross certification, learn about the basics of babysitting safety, responsibility, emergencies, age -appropriate activities and how to start a babysitting business (American Red Cross certification).

*Content will be piloted in the 7th Grade Health course instead of Life Skills in the 2024-2025 school year.

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Project Lead the Way: App Creators 1 Semester

This PLTW course focuses on app creation, where students will use the MIT App Inventor platform to create and design their own apps. Throughout the course, students will learn about different components of an app, including user interface design, programming concepts, and app testing. The class is designed to provide students with an understanding of the app development process and to encourage creativity and problem-solving.

STEAM Lab 1 Semester

The STEAM Lab class will use science, technology, engineering, the arts, and math to guide student inquiry and critical thinking. Students will define problems, prototype solutions, and evaluate designs. Through various projects and challenges, students will work in teams, improve their computational thinking abilities, develop communication skills, and think critically to achieve their goals. Units of study will include Keyboarding Techniques, using the Engineering Design Process, Coding Languages, Solving problems with 3D Design and solutions with Robots.

8th GRADE FULL YEAR EXPLORATORY COURSES

Year-Long classes may not be dropped – this is a year-long commitment.

Beginning Band Year-Long (2 Semesters)

Beginning Concert Band is our beginning band class. In this class, students will learn music, basics pertaining to rhythm, tone, intonation, theory, and terminology as well as instrument care and

maintenance. This class will start from the most basic components of music, and no previous experience is required except for in the area of percussion. Students will have the opportunity to learn how to play a wind instrument or percussion instrument. Students will start on one of the following instruments: flute, clarinet, alto saxophone, trumpet, trombone, euphonium, or percussion. Students who participate in band will need to rent or purchase a non-disposable, repairable instrument. Enrollment in Beginning Band constitutes a commitment of the student to participate in all scheduled performances. Beginning Band is our standard class for beginning instrumental instruction. This is a full-year class. **Participation at all performances is a requirement for the course.**

Instrument List:

Flute/Piccolo, Oboe, Clarinet, Bass Clarinet, Bassoon, Alto Saxophone, Tenor Saxophone, Bari Saxophone, Trumpet, French Horn, Trombone, Euphonium, Tuba, Percussion (Drums, Mallets, etc.)

Intermediate Concert Band Year-Long (2 Semesters)

Prerequisite: Students must have successfully completed Beginning Band with teacher recommendation. Intermediate Concert Band is a performing ensemble designed for second year middle school musicians that will focus on intermediate-level skills, techniques, and concepts in music comprehension and performance, as well as preparation to participate in the Avondale High School Concert and Marching Bands. The prerequisite for this band is successful completion of Beginning Band. Additional placements are determined by audition. This class will include at least four performances, including MSBOA District XVI Solo & Ensemble Festival, which occur outside of the typical school day. **Participation at all performances is a requirement for the course.**

Instrument List:

Flute/Piccolo, Oboe, Clarinet, Bass Clarinet, Bassoon, Alto Saxophone, Tenor Saxophone, Bari Saxophone, Trumpet, French Horn, Trombone, Euphonium, Tuba, Percussion (Drums, Mallets, etc.)

Advanced Concert Band Year-Long (2 Semesters)

Prerequisite: Students must have successfully completed Intermediate Band with teacher recommendation. Advanced Concert Band is a performing ensemble designed for third year middle school musicians that will focus on advanced-level skills, techniques, and concepts in music comprehension and performance, as well as preparation to participate in the Avondale High School Concert and Marching Bands. The prerequisite for this band is successful completion of Intermediate Concert Band. Additional placements are determined by audition (If new to the district or band program). This class will include at least four performances, including MSBOA District XVI Solo & Ensemble Festival, which occur outside of the typical school day. **Participation at all performances is a requirement for the course.**

Instrument List:

Flute/Piccolo, Oboe, Clarinet, Bass Clarinet, Bassoon, Alto Saxophone, Tenor Saxophone, Bari Saxophone, Trumpet, French Horn, Trombone, Euphonium, Tuba, Percussion (Drums, Mallets, etc.)

Spanish 1 Year-Long (2 Semesters)

This advanced, high school level class will focus on the four language skills of reading, listening, reading, and writing. Students will engage in a variety of activities to practice and promote language learning. This rigorous course is designed for students who wish to participate in a high school level course. Selection and enrollment in a high school course is a year-long commitment and may not be dropped. This course develops a deep understanding of grammar and spoken language. Students are advised that this class requires active participation in reading, writing, speaking, and listening.

Spanish 2 Year-Long (2 Semesters)

Prerequisite: Students must have successfully completed Spanish 1 with teacher recommendation. In this advanced, high school level course, students will continue to focus on the four language skills of reading, listening, reading, and writing. Students will engage in a variety of activities to practice and promote language learning. This rigorous course is designed for students who wish to participate in a high school level course. This course develops a deep understanding of grammar and spoken language. Students are advised that this class requires active participation in reading, writing, speaking, and listening.

Spanish 3 Year-Long (2 Semesters)

Prerequisite: Students must have successfully completed Spanish 1 and 2 with teacher recommendation. Students may not skip Spanish courses. In this advanced, high school level course, students will continue to focus on the four language skills of reading, listening, reading, and writing. Students will engage in a variety of activities to practice and promote language learning. This rigorous course is designed for students who wish to participate in a high school level course. This course develops a deep understanding of grammar and spoken language. Students are advised that this class requires active participation in reading, writing, speaking, and listening.

GATE TEST-OUT POLICY

One of our main beliefs as a school is that we want our students to be at the "just right" level in their content areas. We strive to achieve that whenever possible. This doesn't always mean going as fast as we can through content or grade levels. Sometimes it means going deeper and strengthening our understanding of content as well. We must take this balance into consideration as we place students into classes/content area levels.

We love that our families and students want to go far with their studies, but please know that we have standards for mastery and the "test out procedures", listed below, for all grade levels. We don't move students into higher grade level content unless that student has completely shown mastery of previous content at school. We don't move students into higher grade level content just because they studied it outside of school - they must be able to show their mastery on our assessments.

Students may test-out of certain classes at the end of the academic year. The intent of "testing out" is to provide exceptionally able students options beyond what they might have if required to take courses in which they have already mastered the material. Students may not take a test for a class they have already taken and failed, or a repeat of a previous test out attempt.

For entrance to a higher GATE content area course:

All elementary and middle school content area placement is decided by the teachers and/or grade level teams. This placement is based on in-class performance, NWEA MAP results, and pre/post assessments. In order to show mastery, a student must achieve at least an 85% or higher.

- A middle school math placement takes place in May for rising 5th graders and new middle school students. This is for placement into the appropriate math class.
- Current GATE middle school students will receive a placement test in May during their regular Math class. This is for placement into the appropriate math class.
- A middle school science placement takes place in May for rising 7th and 8th graders and new middle school students. This is for placement into high school level science classes.
- All elementary math placement testing is done at the start of the school year.

For entrance to AHS high school level classes:

The following are the levels of content mastery for testing out:

- Scores at or below 76% will not demonstrate proficiency and students will be required to take the course.
- Scores 77% or higher will demonstrate content mastery of the course and students will be able to progress to the next level class.

Teachers *will not* provide any instruction to prepare students for these tests. Each department *will* provide a syllabus so that students know what the test will cover. Students will be notified regarding test dates.

Students will be notified, regarding the final test-out schedule. The notification will include the exact time and location for the exams. Test out exams will be scored as soon as possible after the test date. Students will be notified as soon as results are available. If a student passes a test out exam the counselor will adjust their schedule as needed.

Additional Details for GATE Students:

- If a GATE 6th grade student tests-out of a math or science class, they are not eligible to take classes at Avondale High School. Therefore, they must either take a science class at GATE or take an additional elective. High school level math classes are taken on the GATE campus. High school level science classes are taken on the AHS campus.
- If a GATE 7th and 8th grade student tests-out of a science class, they are eligible to take classes at Avondale High School.
- The student has the following options for SCIENCE classes:
 - They take a middle-school level science class at GATE.
 - They travel to AHS for their 1st and 2nd hours.
 - They will need to choose 1 science and 1 elective option **OR** they will need to choose 1 science and 1 math. They will be bussed back to GATE for the remainder of the day.
- The student has the following options for MATH classes:
 - They will be placed by the teacher based on their academic performance. Class options

are:

- Advanced Math 7/8 (MS level)
 - Algebra 1 (HS level)
 - Geometry (HS level)
 - Algebra 2 (HS level)
- If a course isn't listed within this document, then it is not able to be "tested out" of.

GATE Content Area Progression

ELA	Math	Science
Wit & Wisdom 2nd grade Teacher placed based on in-class assessments 	Big Ideas 2nd grade Teacher placed based on in-class assessments 	FOSS 2nd grade No test out 
Wit & Wisdom 3rd grade Teacher placed based on in-class assessments 	Big Ideas 3rd grade Teacher placed based on in-class assessments 	FOSS 3rd grade No test out 
With & Wisdom 4th grade Teacher placed based on in-class assessments 	Big Ideas 4th grade Teacher placed based on in-class assessments 	FOSS 4th grade No test out 
Wit & Wisdom 5th/6th grade (alternating years) Teacher placed based on in-class assessments 	Big Ideas 5th grade Teacher placed based on in-class assessments 	FOSS 5th grade No test out 
Wit & Wisdom 7th grade Teacher placed based on in-class assessments	Big Ideas 6th grade advanced (6th grade + ½ of 7th grade standards)	6th grade science: Physical Science No test out

	Teacher placed based on in-class assessments and/or rising 5th grade placement test 	
Wit & Wisdom 8th grade Teacher placed based on in-class assessments	Big Ideas 7th grade advanced (½ of 7th grade + 8th grade standards) Teacher placed based on in-class assessments and/or rising 5th grade placement test 	7th grade science: Earth & Space Science 7th & 8th grade test-out assessment 
	Algebra 1 (HS Level) Teacher placed based on in-class assessments and/or rising 5th grade placement test 	8th grade science: Life Science 7th & 8th grade test-out assessment 
	Geometry (HS Level) Teacher placed based on in-class assessments and pre-requisite course completion 	AHS for HS Classes 7th & 8th grade test-out assessment
	Algebra 2 (HS Level) Teacher placed based on in-class assessments and pre-requisite course completion	

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