



PINE MOUNTAIN

MIDDLE SCHOOL

MUSTANG SURVIVAL GUIDE

As part of the Cobb County School District, Pine Mountain offers a high-quality education with qualified teachers and a shared core curriculum. Pine Mountain Middle School has proudly served West Cobb for over 40 years and is known for its vibrant, engaging, and innovative atmosphere.



PINE MOUNTAIN ADMINISTRATION

Principal
Dr. David Nelson

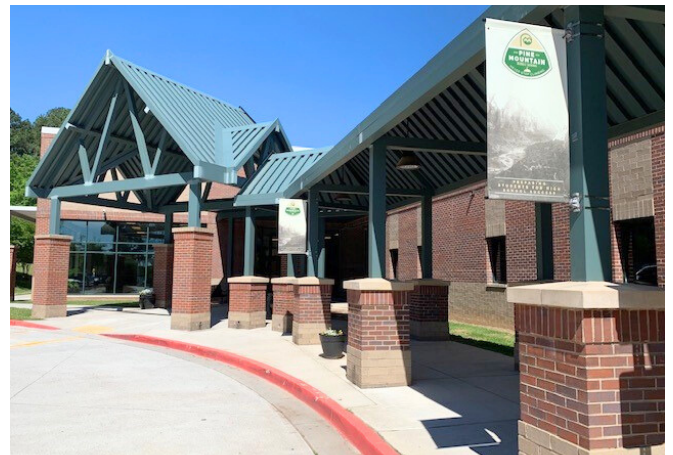
Assistant Principal
Dr. Caroline O'Connor
A-L All Grades

Assistant Principal
Mrs. Allison Paulk
M-Z All Grades

Support & Services Administrator
Mrs. Julie Kimbrough

Counselor
Ms. Greonna Brooks
A-L All Grades

Counselor
Ms. Candice Grella
M-Z All Grades



Our Mission One Team, One Goal--Student Success

Our Vision Prepare Students for High School Success

At our school, **CLIMB** represents our core values: **Commitment, Leadership, Integrity, Mindfulness, and Balance.**

These values guide our expectations for behavior and learning, and are reinforced throughout the year to foster a safe, productive, and achievement-focused environment.

CONNECTION CLASSES

Students attend two periods of Connections each day. Chorus, band, and orchestra are year-long, and students will not be moved from these classes without director permission.

Other connection classes change each quarter to give students the opportunity to be exposed to different disciplines.

Chorus (6th - 8th year-long)

Chorus is a year-long, performance-based class. All course objectives pertain to the experience of performing choral music. Students will learn to read music at sight (sight-reading), notate music, use proper breath support, use appropriate posture for singing, use good diction, sing in a head voice with appropriate tone, and light choreography. They will experience music of all genres and many different cultures.

Band (6th - 8th year-long)

The purpose of the band program is to give students a solid foundation in the basics of music and to provide the opportunity to enhance this knowledge through performance. The following topics will be covered as our skills develop throughout the year: proper posture, breathing techniques, characteristic tone quality, rhythmic studies, articulation, major scales, musical terms, music theory, music history and band literature.

Orchestra (6th - 8th year-long)

The following topics will be covered as our skills develop through the year: characteristic tone quality of string instruments, rhythmic studies, bowing technique development, left-hand finger patterns, scales and arpeggios, ear training, music reading, music vocabulary, shifting, vibrato, music theory, music history, composer study, orchestral literature, and musical creativity.

Physical Education (6th year-long - 7th & 8th one semester)

Students who are not enrolled in a music class may have a year-long PE class. The goal is for all students to be introduced to and learn about a variety of physical activities, team and individual sports, as well as to increase overall fitness and health.

Project Lead the Way (6th nine-weeks) ; Foundations of Computer Programming (7th one semester) ; Technological Systems (8th one semester)

The purpose of Project Lead the Way is to develop technological literacy as part of all students' fundamental education through an activity-based study of past, present, and future technological systems and their resources, processes, and impact on society.

Art (6th nine-weeks - 7th & 8th one semester)

Students will participate in both written and studio production activities which include; art history, art criticism, aesthetics, and art production. Through looking at, talking about, and making art, students can develop a positive appreciation for the arts as well as an informed understanding of the art process. We also offer a high school art class to eighth graders that is based on submitted portfolio in 7th grade.

Spanish (6th nine-weeks - 7th one semester); Spanish 1 High School (8th grade year-long)

This class is designed for the novice Spanish speaker. Students will build skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing during instructional lessons. Gradually students will begin using Spanish to respond to questions, ask questions, make requests, and navigate through basic introductory conversations. Additionally, the culture, perspectives, practices, and products of various Spanish-speaking countries will be explored. We also offer a high school Spanish 1 class in 8th grade. This class is an advanced content class based on established criteria.

Health Education (6th nine-weeks - 7th & 8th one semester)

In the health education class, students will learn about factors that affect health and how the choices they make can impact their health.

Math Support & Reading Support

Math and Reading Support classes provide targeted instruction to strengthen foundational skills. In a small group setting, the students receive focused support to build and/or improve skills, close learning gaps, and succeed in the classroom.

LOCKERS & PHONES

Students will be assigned lockers, and specific locker access times will be provided. Lockers are school property, and students are not permitted to share lockers or share their locker combinations.

Cell phones and other electronic devices must be stored in the student's assigned locker along with their backpack, lunch box, and other personal items. The school is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged devices.

Students may use the front office telephone for emergency purposes only. If a parent needs to contact a student in an emergency, they may call the front office and leave a message, and the message will be relayed to the student.



WEATHER & CALENDAR



Weather:

If you have a student in the Cobb County School District, your contact information is already included in our Automated Contact System. You will receive notifications through every method you have provided to your local school (landline, cell phone, text, email, etc.).

It is important to ensure that we have your most up-to-date phone numbers and addresses.

Calendar: You can access the most current school calendars through the CCSD School Calendar.



BUS TRANSPORTATION

Students must ride their assigned bus, and appropriate behavior is expected at all times. Riding the bus is a privilege, and we want everyone to enjoy a safe and respectful ride. Please follow all bus rules—students who do not may lose the privilege to ride. Always listen carefully to bus announcements for updates and instructions.

In the afternoons, students often have questions about where their buses are located. You can verify your bus number and pick-up/drop-off times using Here Comes the Bus, an app that allows you to track your child's bus in real time. The app is available for download in the iTunes App Store and Google Play Store.

EARLY CHECK OUTS



Our student will be called to the front office upon your arrival. Parents/guardians will sign out their students at the front office. If someone other than the enrolling parent/guardian is checking out the student, that person must be listed by the enrolling adult on the enrollment forms. The enrolling adult may update the list of authorized individuals using the ParentVUE system. Anyone checking out a student must provide a picture ID. Please note that no students may be checked out after 3:45 PM.

GRADES

Grades will be taken from daily classwork, homework, quizzes, tests, and any special projects. Numerical grades are used on the report card. The current grading scale is:

A = 90 – 100
B = 80 – 89
C = 74 – 79
D = 70 – 73
F = below 70

If a student is having difficulty in a class, it is important that they seek help from their classroom teacher.

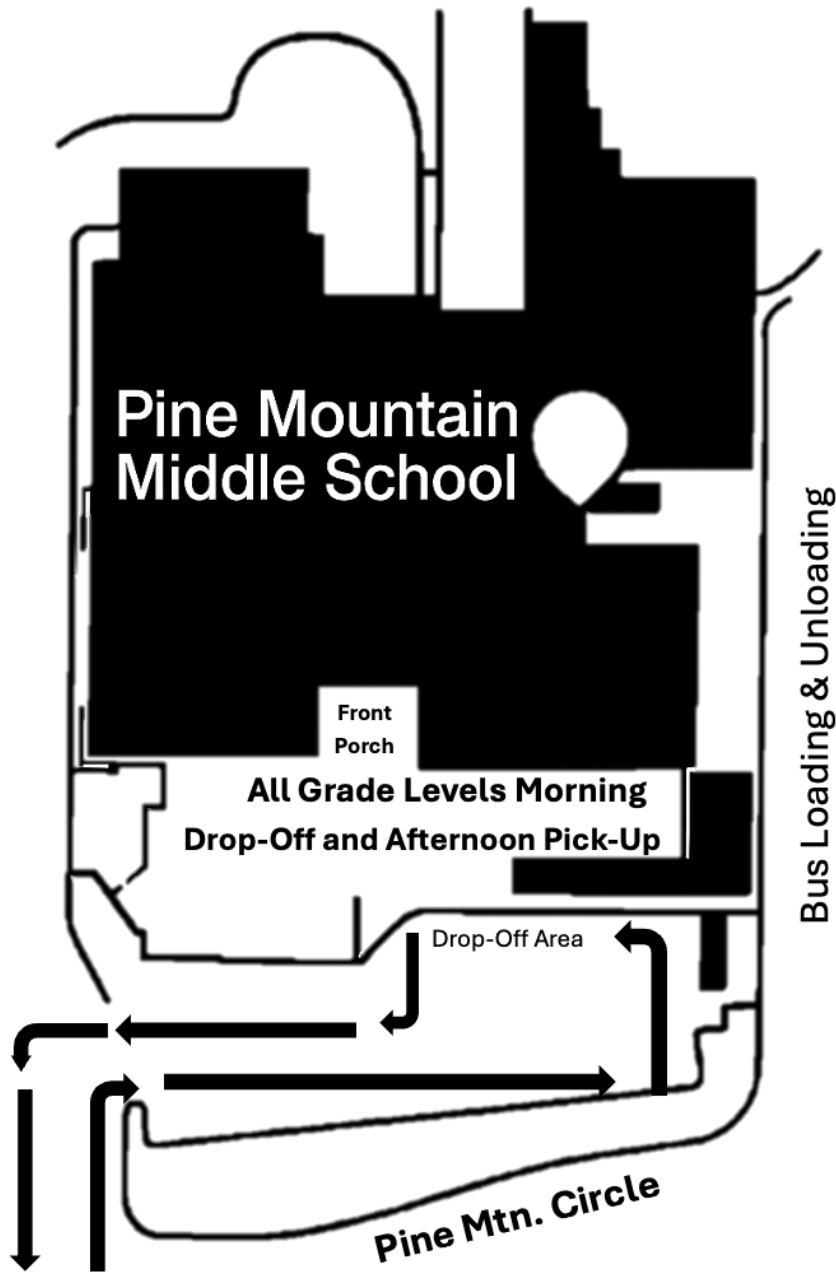
Teachers offer help sessions before tests and at other times when a student requests additional support. These sessions may take place before or after school—please check with your teacher for availability.

Pine Mountain Middle School divides the school year into four nine-week grading periods, except for 8th Grade High School credit classes, which are year-long. Report cards are issued electronically at the end of each quarter. ParentVUE is available to parents/guardians and students to access grades and attendance 24/7.

Weekly grade updates will be available each Thursday. As a result, progress reports and report cards are not printed or distributed to families.

DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP MAP

All students will be dropped off and picked up at the front of the school.



Study Hall 8:30-8:50

All students (6th, 7th, and 8th grade) who arrive on campus between 8:30 and 8:50 should use the student drop-off area. This allows students to enter the café directly for Study Hall, regardless of grade level.

Homeroom Time 8:50-9:15

All students arriving between 8:50 and 9:15 should enter through Pine Mountain Circle and proceed to the designated drop-off area.

6th, 7th, & 8th Grade Pick-Up 4:15

All 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students should turn right upon entering and proceed to the designated pick-up zone.

INTRAMURALS

Although the Intramural Program is an extension of the Physical Education class, any student may participate—you do not need to be enrolled in PE to join. Intramurals provide additional time for competitive games, individual practice, and skill-building instruction.

Activities are varied to give students a wide range of fun and engaging experiences. Because this program is connected to our PE curriculum, students must demonstrate good behavior in order to participate.

Intramurals are held Monday through Friday at 8:15 a.m. Come join the fun and stay active!

CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

Club meetings and before/after school activities will be available for students to participate throughout the school year. Opportunities to join and meeting reminders will be shared during announcements and on our website. A wide range of student clubs and organizations is provided for students.

BETA Club - The National Junior Beta Club is a student group dedicated to academic excellence, mentoring, and community service. The Pine Mountain Middle School Junior Beta Club will meet to discuss service projects within the school and the community. Beta club is a great opportunity for students to get involved, make friends, and grow as an individual through participation. National Junior Beta club is based on student GPA (Grade Point Average) and is by invitation to student based on the grade criteria. The grade criteria for Junior Beta Club is 3.25 at this time.

C.R.E.W - C.R.E.W. stands for commitment, responsibility, encouragement and worth. C.R.E.W. is a mentoring club for boys that teaches essential life skills through engaging play and activities.

FCA - Students will participate in a weekly meeting to fellowship with fellow believers and hear from dedicated community leaders on the topics of Christian faith and other important elements of the Christian belief. There will be a game to begin, followed by musical worship and ending with a message/encouragement for the week.

Games Club - Game Club will allow students with the common interest of chess an opportunity to gather and play. Chess club will occur about twice a month on Thursdays. We will meet after school from 4:15pm to 5:15pm. See a sponsor for a permission form and a list of dates.

International Culture and Cuisine Club -ICCC meets Tuesdays from 4:15-5:15 in room 1614 to share food, music, language, and ideas from around the world. We also host an International Night from the Pine Mountain community each year. Come eat, talk, laugh, and learn with us!

Journalism Club - Extra, Extra! Read All About It! The Pine Mountain Middle School Journalism Club meets on Tuesday mornings from 8:15-8:45 and creates one publication each semester. The club provides a great opportunity for students who are interested in writing, reporting and multimedia production to hone their skills and grow their portfolio. Requirements: The ability to display a passion for the written word and a drive to cover stories near and dear to the Mustang community!

Media Mustangs - This program is an opportunity for students who enjoy working in the Media Center. Responsibilities include shelving books, maintaining media center computers, and more! Applications are taken in August and January; members must maintain a B average and all satisfactory conduct grades. Training is provided. Students will be assigned a day of the week to work from 8:50 until 9:10am.

Menders & Makers - Menders and Makers will meet the first Wednesday of each month from 8-8:45am. Unleash your creativity and learn the art of visible mending, Sashiko. Practice techniques to customize clothing and create DIY gifts and crafts. A \$15 donation is requested or bring your own sewing and embroidery kit.

News Team - A daily broadcast is presented each morning at 9:15am. Students must apply for a position on the team and be able to arrive at school by 8:30 a.m. during their training period.

Show Choir - Show Choir is open to all students interested in performing and singing. The club meets Wednesday after school from 4:15-5:15pm.

Sources of Strength - Peer leaders and caring adults/advocates to impact their world through connection, hope, help, and strength. Helps prevent suicide, violence, bullying and substance abuse by training peer leaders on signs to look for and what do when things are reported to them.

Student Council - Open to all grade levels, this club is a project-based school improvement format.

MUSIC SESSIONS

Band - Meets Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday before school from 8:15–8:50 AM.

Chorus - Practice times vary. All-State audition practice meets August through November, and Show Choir meets every Wednesday from September through April. Please check This Week at the Mountain or CTLS for more information.

Orchestra - Meets Tuesday and Thursday before school from 8:15-8:50 AM.

WHAT ARE CLIMB DAYS?



CLIMB serves as our framework for implementing **PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports)**, an evidence-based approach to improving student outcomes through consistent practices and data-driven strategies.

Every Friday, students participate in a CLIMB Period divided into two sessions:

Morning: CLIMB Academic Period

Focuses on academic enrichment or remediation based on assessment data, helping students set goals and prepare for promotion.

Afternoon: CLIMB Behavior Period

Reinforces positive behaviors choices aligned with our core values, offering support and skill-building to help students thrive.

Wall of Honor

8th grade students who earn all A's for each quarter throughout their entire 3-year middle school career will be recognized by having the opportunity to leave their handprint on the Wall of Honor.

Regardless of where a student attended school during their middle school years (6th, 7th, or 8th grade), as long as they earned all A's for every quarter, they will be honored on our Wall of Honor.



PARENT TEACHER STUDENT ASSOCIATION

Our school's activities and programs would not be possible without the support of PTSA volunteers. Becoming a member of this organization allows you to stay informed about school events, participate in a variety of programs designed for parents and students, and connect with other families and educators to share ideas, concerns, and experiences.

We encourage you to join and volunteer with this valuable organization as soon as possible.

Jr. Mustang Sports and Summer Camps

In CCSD, sports programs are not run through middle schools. Athletic opportunities are available through the junior programs at the high schools. For more information, visit the Kennesaw Mountain High School website and navigate to Extra-Curricular → Athletics → KMHS Athletics Website to find your preferred sport. KMHS Junior and Middle School Athletic Opportunities Include:

- KMHS Jr. Mustangs Football
- KMHS Jr. Cross Country
- KMHS Middle School Girls Volleyball
- KMHS Middle School Cheerleading
- KMHS Jr. Mustangs Basketball
- KMHS Jr. Lacrosse
- KMHS Fastpitch Softball
- KMHS Wrestling
- KMHS Cheerleading
- KMHS Soccer Camp

Follow Us on Social Media



Let's Get Connected for Our Latest News & Updates

	@pinemountainms
	Pine Mountain Middle School Pine Mountain Middle School PTSA
	http://www.cobbk12.org/PineMountain
	David.Nelson @cobbk12.org Principal
	Caroline.OConnor @cobbk12.org Assistant Principal
	Allison.Paulk @cobbk12.org Assistant Principal

DRESS CODE

The Cobb County School District recognizes that the dress and grooming of students—both individually and collectively—are important factors in the successful operation of our educational program. One of the school's educational responsibilities is to help students understand that appropriate appearance and good hygiene contribute to their own well-being and that of others.

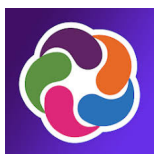
Each student is expected to maintain a standard of dress and grooming that is appropriate for the school setting. We ask for parents' support in monitoring their child(ren)'s clothing to ensure it is suitable for the classroom.

Clothing that is distracting, disruptive, or creates an unsafe situation may not be worn to school. If a student is not appropriately dressed, a parent/guardian may be contacted. The dress code applies to all school functions. Rule of "thumb":

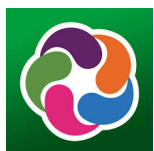
Before leaving home, look in the mirror. If you are unsure whether what you are wearing is appropriate, you should choose something else. Clothing must be modest and not revealing or provocative.

- Clothing must be modest and not revealing or provocative.
- Tank tops and halters are not permitted; however, tank tops may be worn under a jacket or sweater.
- Cleavage must not be visible.
- Clothing must be worn as intended (e.g., overalls secured over both shoulders, pants with both legs down).
- Clothing must not reveal underwear.
- Clothing must not be see-through or expose the midriff or buttocks.
- No sagging pants: all pants must be worn at the waist.
- Pajama pants and house slippers are not permitted.
- Bike shorts (spandex-type shorts) may be worn only if the buttocks are completely covered.
- Hats, stocking caps, do-rags, bandanas, sweat headbands, forehead bands, hoods, and similar items may not be worn inside the building.
- Clothing may not display or advertise obscene slogans, profanity, gang symbols, gang-related materials, or any substance illegal for minors (including alcohol, tobacco, vapes, etc.).
- Clothing or accessories that advocate, promote, or suggest illegal activity are prohibited.

HELPFUL RESOURCES



[ParentVue](#) – allows you to access your child's attendance, grade book, daily assignments, and schedule. You can also email teachers directly from the website or app. Your username and password are the same ones you created when registering your student. You can update your contacts and other information through ParentVUE at any time.



[StudentVue](#) allows students to view their assignments and grades. The app is available for download in the iTunes App Store and the Google Play Store.



Students are more successful in the classroom when parents are actively engaged in their learning. With the [CTLS Parent Portal](#), parents have access to many of the same tools and information teachers use in CTLS to monitor student progress and understanding. The CTLS Parent app is available in the iTunes App Store and the Google Play Store.



[MyPaymentsPlus](#) is a convenient app that allows parents and guardians to make secure payments for school-related expenses, such as field trips and other school activities.



[Lunch Menus](#) Lunch Menus are available monthly for both breakfast and lunch. The cost of breakfast is \$2.50 and lunch is \$3.50. The application to apply for free or reduced-price lunch is available on the Cobb County School District website. [MySchoolBucks](#) is an app parents can use to add money to their child's meal account and set up balance alerts.



Pine Mountain Middle School has an excellent website with lots of helpful information. Under [Faculty & Staff](#) you can find email addresses for all teachers and staff members.

Mr. Nelson sends out our weekly newsletter, "This Week at the Mountain," every Sunday through CTLS. Please make sure your contact information is current so you don't miss important updates.

SPECIAL HIGHLIGHTS & ACHIEVEMENTS

Top Rankings & Recognition

- 2026: Top Quartile Middle School in Georgia (U.S. News & World Report)
- 2026: Top 2% Most Diverse Public Middle Schools in the U.S. (Niche)
- Rated "A" by Niche
- Top 22% of Public Schools in Metro Atlanta

Academic Excellence

- 2025: State Math Leader in 7th Grade Growth, 8th Grade Gateway, and High School Algebra
- Multiple REACH Scholarship Recipients (2022-2024)
- 100% Gifted Certified Core Content Staff
- Opportunity for all students to earn at least one high school credit

Student Achievements

- 2025: 1st Place Cobb County Writing Fair (8th Grade)
- 2023: Regional Science Fair Winners (1st & 2nd Place)
- 2023: Georgia Tech Student Leadership Award Honoree
- 2023 & 2021: National Carson Scholar Honorees

Staff & Program Distinctions

- 2024: Middle Level Classified Employee of the Year (Cobb County)
- 2019: Middle Level Teacher of the Year (Cobb County)
- 75% of staff hold Master's or higher degrees
- 33% Microsoft Innovator Certified; 67% Gifted Certified
- Teachers ranked in Top 12% statewide

Special Programs & Awards

- 2024: National Beta School of Distinction
- 2024: Engineering & Technology Program of Excellence (ITEEA)
- 2024: 1st Place Deaf & Hard of Hearing Math Competition
- 2023-2024: Personalized Learning Leader (GA Deeper Learning Network)

Other Notables

- SAC's Accredited
- 76% increase in gifted segments
- Cobb Life Magazine's "Best of Cobb" Public Middle School (2019-2023)
- 2021: Cobb County Green School



PINE MOUNTAIN MIDDLE SCHOOL 2026–2027

Edited 5-28-26

Monday–Thursday

6 th Grade		7 th Grade		8 th Grade	
HR	9:15-9:20	HR	9:15-9:20	HR	9:15-9:20
1st	9:23-10:13	1st	9:23-10:13 <i>Connections</i>	1st	9:23-10:13
2nd	10:16-11:06	2nd	10:16-11:06 <i>Connections</i>	2nd	10:16-11:06
3rd	11:09-12:00	3rd	11:09-12:39 Lunch	3rd	11:09-12:39 Lunch
4th	12:03-1:32 Lunch	4th	12:42-1:32	4th	12:42-1:32 <i>Connections</i>
5th	1:35-2:26	5th	1:35-2:26	5th	1:35-2:26 <i>Connections</i>
6th	2:29-3:19	6th	2:29-3:19	6th	2:29-3:19
7th	<i>Connections</i>	7th		7th	
	3:22-4:13 <i>Connections</i>		3:22-4:15		3:22-4:15

Friday 7th GRADE

6 th GRADE		7 th GRADE		8 th Grade	
HR	9:15-9:20	HR	9:15-9:20	HR	9:15-9:20
1st	9:23-9:56	1st	9:23-9:56 <i>Connections</i>	1st	9:23-9:56
2nd	9:59-10:32	2nd	9:59-10:32 <i>Connections</i>	2nd	9:59-10:32
Academic CLIMB	10:35-11:15	Academic CLIMB	10:35-11:15	Academic CLIMB	10:35-11:15
3rd	11:18-11:58	3rd	11:18-12:48 Lunch	3rd	11:18-12:48 Lunch
4th	12:01-1:28 Lunch	4th	12:51-1:28	4th	12:51-1:28 <i>Connections</i>
5th	1:31-2:07	5th	1:31-2:07	5th	1:31-2:07 <i>Connections</i>
Behavior CLIMB	2:10-2:50	Behavior CLIMB	2:10-2:50	Behavior CLIMB	2:10-2:50
6th	2:53-3:31 <i>Connections</i>	6th	2:53-3:31	6th	2:53-3:31
7th	3:34-4:13 <i>Connections</i>	7th	3:34-4:15	7th	3:34-4:15



Middle School through High School Course Progression

Grade	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
English	6th Grade ELA	7th Grade ELA	8th Grade ELA	English I	English II	English III	4th English Option
English	AC 6th Grade ELA	AC 7th Grade ELA	AC 8th Grade ELA	Honors or on-level English	Honors English II or AP Seminar	Honors English III or AP Language	4th English Option (honors or AP classes)
Social Studies	6th Grade Social Studies	7th Grade Social Studies	8th Grade Social Studies	World Geography or Honors World Geography	World History or Honors World History	United States History or Honors United States History	Economics & Government or Honors Economics & Government
Social Studies	6th Grade AC Social Studies	7th Grade AC Social Studies	AC 8th Grade Social Studies	World Geography or Honors World Geography AP Human Geography	Honors World History or AP World History	Honors United States History or AP United States History	Honors Economics & Government or AP Government (Politics) & AP Microeconomics
Science	6th Grade Science	7th Grade Science	8th Grade Science	Environmental Science or Biology	Biology or Environmental Science or Chemistry	Physics	4th Science Option
Science	AC 6th Grade Science	AC 7th Grade Science	MS-HS Physical Science or AC 8th Grade Science	Honors Biology or Biology	Honors Chemistry	Honors Physics or AP Physics I	4th Science Option (honors and AP classes)
Math	6th Grade Math	7th Grade Math	8th Grade Math	Foundations of Algebra (year-long)	Geometry with Support (year-long)	Advanced Algebra with Support (year-long)	4th Math Option
Math			8th Grade Math	Algebra	Geometry	Advanced Algebra	4th Math option
Math	AC 6th Grade Math	AC 7th Grade Math	Advanced Math	Honors Algebra	Geometry or Honors Geometry	Advanced Algebra or Honors Advanced Algebra	4th Math Option (honors and AP classes)
Math	AC 6th Grade Math	AC 7th Grade Math	MS-HS Algebra	Geometry or Honors Geometry	Advanced Algebra or Honors Advanced Algebra	4th Math Option (honors and AP classes)	Advanced Math Option