



Avondale GATE

MAGNET SCHOOL

Curriculum Guide

Grades 6 - 8



Avondale GATE

MAGNET SCHOOL

6th Grade Curriculum Guide



2023-2024

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.

Required Core Class Offerings

- Math GATE 6/ Algebra 1/ Geometry
- English Language Arts GATE 6
 - Science GATE 6
- World Geography GATE 6

Avondale GATE Exploratory Class Offerings

Choose One Exploratory Track	Non-Band Students 	Concert Band 6 Students 
Exploratory Offerings	(Must Choose 4 Semesters) Options Include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical Education (1 Semester) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art (1 Semester) • STEAM Lab (1 Semester) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drama (1 Semester) • Spanish 1 (1 Year) • Intro Life Skills (1 Semester)* <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Lead the Way 6 (1 Semester) 	(Must Choose 2 Semesters) Options Include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical Education (1 Semester) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art (1 Semester) • STEAM Lab (1 Semester) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drama (1 Semester) • Spanish 1 (1 Year) • Intro Life Skills (1 Semester)* <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Lead the Way 6 (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.

[Student Scheduling Form: Complete by March 31st](#)

Avondale GATE 6th Grade Course Descriptions

Advisory Year -Long, Required

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

World Geography 6 Year -Long, Required

Students will explore the tools and mental constructs used by geographers as they study contemporary world geography. Contemporary civics/government and economics content is integrated throughout the year. As a capstone, the students will conduct an investigation of a global

issue. Using knowledge, research, and inquiry, they will analyze an issue and propose a plan for the future.

English Language Arts (ELA) GATE 6 Year -Long, Required

In this year -long course, students will complete all required English Language Arts Common Core Standards for 6th grade **and will go beyond these expectations to individually meet the needs and abilities of each student.** Over the course of the year, teachers will implement reading strategies to deepen understanding of complex literature and informational texts. Students will be expected to read at their individual levels. Writing skills will be woven throughout instruction to include personal narrative, argument, literary, and informational writing. Students will utilize technology to create, publish, collaborate and share written works. Additional skills will be obtained through the use of word study and oral presentations.

Science 6 Year -Long, Required

Students will be actively engaged as scientists and engineers as they discover the natural world and develop their problem-solving skills. Students will participate in units involving Earth and space, physical, life sciences while integrating their science and engineering practices. Students will use models to help explain phenomena, patterns, systems, and structure -function relationships.

ONE of the following Mathematics Classes Year -Long, Required:

Mathematics GATE

Students are placed in this course based on placement criteria. In this year -long course, students will complete all required Mathematics Arts Common Core Standards for 6th or 7th grade and will go beyond these expectations to individually meet the needs and abilities of each student. The critical areas for Math GATE 6 are: (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

Algebra 1

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

In

this year -long course, students will complete all required Mathematics Arts Common Core Standards for Algebra 1 and begin earning their high school credits and grades counting toward their GPA. Selection and enrollment in a high school course is a year -long commitment and may not be dropped. Students are placed in this course through a set of placement criteria. This algebra course covers the study of real numbers , solving equations, graphing of an equation on the coordinate plane, graphing parabolas, the study of exponents and radicals, solving systems of equations with two or more variables, and various operations within the study of quadratic equations. Algebra I is a high school level course and meets the Algebra I graduation requirement; therefore, the student will earn credit for passing the course.

OR

Geometry

Prerequisite: Algebra I. This course covers topics of Euclidean geometry in two and three dimensions. Students will study size, shape, and position of figures, including lengths, areas, and volumes. The course develops the relationships of points, lines, angles, surfaces, and solids, and gives strong attention to measurement formulas. Logic, proof, coordinates, and transformations are integrated throughout the course.

*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.

Project Lead the Way - 6 1 Semester

Computer Technology and Engineering Design: For sixth -grade students. An introduction to basic engineering concepts, this course provides opportunities for students to learn about programming for the physical world by blending hardware design and software development, allowing students to discover computer science concepts and skills by creating personally relevant, tangible, and shareable projects.

Physical Education 1 Semester

Boys and girls participating in sixth -grade physical education will be challenged with a variety of fitness conditioning activities that will increase their muscular strength and endurance, 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 sport 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.

Art 1 Semester

This class is an introduction to Middle School Level Visual Arts Curriculum including experiences in a variety of 2D and 3D media. No Prerequisite Required. 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. Please be prepared for rigorous thinking, problem -solving and art -activities in this middle school level art class.

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 complete science investigations, learn the engineering design process, utilize technology, learn the principles of coding, complete the Michigan Green Schools activities, design, build and operate VEX robots, and integrate mathematical computation and creative design throughout their lessons.

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.

Intro Life Skills 1 Semester

All GATE students must take the Intro to Life Skills class during their 6th, 7th or 8th grade year. 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) 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.

Advanced Life Skills 1 Semester

Prerequisite: This class is for students who have already taken Life Skills/Intro Life Skills during 6th or 7th grade. 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.

6th GRADE FULL YEAR EXPLORATORY COURSES

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

Concert Band Year -Long (2 Semesters)

Concert Band, held at GATE Magnet School, is a beginning/intermediate 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 interested in playing percussion are preferred to have at least one year of piano/percussion lessons. Students will have the opportunity to learn how to play a wind instrument or percussion instrument. Students will start on one of the following: Clarinet, Flute, Saxophone, Trumpet, Trombone, Baritone, Tuba, French Horn, Bassoon, Oboe, Bass Clarinet. Students who participate in band will need to rent or purchase a quality instrument. Enrollment in Concert Band constitutes a commitment of the student to participate in all scheduled performances. 6th GRADE WILL BE THE ONLY OPPORTUNITY FOR BEGINNING INSTRUCTION ON AN INSTRUMENT. PRIVATE LESSONS MUST BE TAKEN IN ORDER TO BE PLACED INTO BAND AFTER 6TH GRADE.

Spanish 1 Year -Long (2 Semesters)

This course will focus on developing the four language skills of speaking, listening, reading and writing. Students will engage in a variety of activities to practice and promote language learning. This course includes an overview of the geography and other cultural insights of the Spanish speaking world.

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, by mail, 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 class, they are not eligible to take classes at Avondale High School.
- High school level math classes are taken on the GATE 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. (Block schedule) They will need to choose 1 science and 1 elective option. They will be bussed back to GATE for the remainder of the day. They will only be able to take 1 exploratory while at GATE due to travel and the inclusion of an additional class at AHS.
 - In lieu of a science class, they may take an additional exploratory class at GATE.

- The student has the following options for MATH classes:
 - They will be placed by the teacher based on their academic performance.
 Class options are:
 - Pre-Algebra 8 (MS level)
 - Algebra 1 (HS level)
 - Algebra 2 (HS level)
 - Geometry (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 ↓

<p>With & Wisdom 4th grade Teacher placed based on in-class assessments</p> <p>↓</p>	<p>Big Ideas 4th grade Teacher placed based on in-class assessments</p> <p>↓</p>	<p>FOSS 4th grade No test out</p> <p>↓</p>
<p>Wit & Wisdom 5th/ 6th grade (alternating years) Teacher placed based on in-class assessments</p> <p>↓</p>	<p>Big Ideas 5th grade Teacher placed based on in-class assessments</p> <p>↓</p>	<p>FOSS 5th grade No test out</p> <p>↓</p>
<p>Wit & Wisdom 7th grade Teacher placed based on in-class assessments</p> <p>↓</p>	<p>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</p> <p>↓</p>	<p>6th grade science: Physical Science No test out</p> <p>↓</p>
<p>Wit & Wisdom 8th grade Teacher placed based on in-class assessments</p>	<p>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</p> <p>↓</p>	<p>7th grade science: Earth & Space Science 7th & 8th grade test-out assessment</p> <p>↓</p>

	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 
	Algebra 2 (HS Level) OR Geometry (HS Level) Teacher placed based on in-class assessments and prerequisite course completion 	AHS for HS Classes 7th & 8th grade test-out assessment
	Algebra 2 (HS Level) OR Geometry (HS Level) Teacher placed based on in-class assessments and prerequisite course completion	

Updated 3/2/23



Avondale GATE

MAGNET SCHOOL



7th Grade Curriculum Guide

2023 - 2024

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. Sixth 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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Math/Algebra 1/Algebra 2 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> English Language Arts <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Science/Biology <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social Studies	
Choose One Exploratory Track	<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Band Students 	<input type="checkbox"/> Concert Band 7 Students and/or Biology students 
Required 1 Semester	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Health 7 & Physical Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Health 7 & Physical Education
Exploratory Offerings - 1 Semester Each	Must choose 3 Semesters Options Include: <input type="checkbox"/> Physical Education (1 Semester) <input type="checkbox"/> Art (1 Semester) <input type="checkbox"/> STEAM Lab (1 Semester) <input type="checkbox"/> PLTW 7 (1 Semester) <input type="checkbox"/> Drama (1 Semester)	Must choose 1 Semester Options Include: <input type="checkbox"/> Physical Education (1 Semester) <input type="checkbox"/> Art (1 Semester) <input type="checkbox"/> STEAM Lab (1 Semester) <input type="checkbox"/> PLTW 7 (1 Semester) <input type="checkbox"/> Drama (1 Semester)

	<input type="checkbox"/> Spanish 1 (1 Year/2 Semesters) <input type="checkbox"/> Spanish 2 (1 Year/2 Semesters) <input type="checkbox"/> Intro Life Skills (1 Semester)* <input type="checkbox"/> Advanced Life Skills	<input type="checkbox"/> Spanish 1 (1 Year/2 Semesters) <input type="checkbox"/> Spanish 2 (1 Year/2 Semesters) <input type="checkbox"/> Intro Life Skills (1 Semester)* <input type="checkbox"/> Advanced Life Skills
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*GATE students must take intro to 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.

[7th Grade Student Scheduling Form: Complete by March 31st](#)

Seventh 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

GATE Science Year-Long

Seventh-grade students will focus on integrating four core disciplines: scientific processes, physical science, earth science, and life science. Students gain knowledge and scientific processing skills by participating in experiments and other related activities. The processes of scientific inquiry, analysis, communication, reflection, and the social implications of science are emphasized. Students learn and utilize the Scientific Method and the Metric System. In the discipline of physical science, learners study waves and energy, energy transfer, the effects of solar energy, chemical properties, elements and compounds, and chemical changes in matter. Several earth science thematic units investigate the concepts of solar energy, weather and climate, the water cycle, and the atmosphere. The year culminates with the examination of life science concepts, including the functions of cells, growth and development of living things, photosynthesis, heredity, and reproduction.

OR

Biology 1 Year-Long

Prerequisite: Placement test. Microbiology covers the following basic topics: cell structure and function, Mendelian and Non-Mendelian Genetics, and living processes of plants and animals. MACRO BIOLOGY covers the following basic topics: ecology, human impact, human diseases, body systems, and evolution. Dissection will be performed as it fits into the units of study.

GATE World History Year -Long

The seventh-grade social studies curriculum focuses on ancient world history and geography with a deliberate focus on content literacy. Students investigate human history from the beginning until around 1500. They explore major and significant changes in each era through a chronological organization. Students learn about the earliest humans and explore early migration and settlement patterns. Students examine how the emergence of pastoral and agrarian societies set

the stage for the development of powerful empires, trade networks, and the diffusion of people, resources, and ideas.

GATE English Year -Long

This course teaches students to be analytical consumers of informational and literary texts and provides a critical foundation in reading and writing narrative, informational, and argument texts. Through analysis and production of texts in these three modes, students become more adept readers, thinkers, and writers. Students are encouraged to be independent, engaged, and empowered learners who value close reading, idea generation, use of textual evidence, drafting, and revision. In reading, students are introduced to texts of increasing levels of difficulty. Using narrative texts, students practice and improve their skills in recognizing basic literary elements and terms, as well as compare literary themes, and identify the author's purpose and perspective. They monitor their reading by pausing, self-correcting, questioning, and reflecting. Students explore a wide range of literary genres including the short story, memoir, mystery, poetry, historical fiction, autobiography/biography, and informational text. A year-long Independent reading program focuses on reading stamina, close reading strategies, and oral communication skills. Students are expected to independently read a minimum of four books per trimester. Analytic and expository writing assignments provide the main vehicle for the development of composition skills, although expressive writing is also explored. Writing instruction targets the awareness of audience and purpose and the development of tighter focus, thoughtfully developed organization, more specific language and more sophisticated sentence structure. Writing experiences include personal narrative, compare and contrast, literary text analysis of both narrative and nonfiction writing (poetry), argument writing, and research. 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.

GATE Math 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: 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, exponents, inequalities, and various concepts concerning probability and statistics.

OR

Algebra 1

Students are placed in this course based on placement criteria. (Placement test must be taken) In this year -long course, students will complete all required Mathematics Arts Common Core Standards for Algebra 1 and begin earning their high school credits and grades counting toward their GPA. Selection and enrollment in a high school course is a year -long commitment and may not be dropped. Students are placed in this course through a set of placement criteria. This algebra course covers the study of real numbers, solving equations, graphing of an equation on the coordinate plane, graphing parabolas, the study of exponents and radicals, solving systems of equations with two or more variables, and various operations within the study of quadratic equations. Algebra I is a high school level course and meets the Algebra I graduation requirement; therefore, the student will earn credit for passing the course.

OR

Geometry

Prerequisite: Algebra I. This course covers topics of Euclidean geometry in two and three dimensions. Students will study size, shape, and position of figures, including lengths, areas, and volumes. The course develops the relationships of points, lines, angles, surfaces, and solids, and gives strong attention to measurement formulas. Logic, proof, coordinates, and transformations are integrated throughout the course.

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. 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 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 not 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/trimester. Any requests after the end of the semester/trimester 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 & Physical Education 7 Semester -Long, Required

This is a mandatory class for seventh -grade students. 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.

Project Lead the Way 7 1 Semester

The “App Creators” unit will expose students to computer science by computationally analyzing and developing solutions to authentic problems through mobile app development, and will convey the positive impact of the application of computer science to other disciplines and to society. Students will customize their experience by choosing a problem that interests them from the areas of health, environment, emergency preparedness, education, community service, and school culture. Because problems in the real world involve more than one discipline, the unit will introduce students to biomedical science concepts as they work on solutions for the specific problems they choose to tackle. This is an extremely challenging class meant for students who are ready to problem solve and learn to code.

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.

Physical Education 1 Semester

Boys and girls participating in seventh-grade physical education will be challenged with a variety of fitness conditioning activities that will increase their muscular strength and endurance, 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 sport rules. Indoor and outdoor activities may include; basketball, volleyball, soccer, speedball, floor hockey, softball and group games. Students will participate in fitness testing. Sportsmanship, teamwork and leadership are emphasized.

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.

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 complete science investigations, learn the engineering design process, utilize technology, learn the principles of coding, complete the Michigan Green Schools activities, design, build and operate VEX robots, and integrate mathematical computation and creative design throughout their lessons.

Intro 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 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) 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.

Advanced Life Skills 1 Semester

Prerequisite: This class is for students who have already taken Life Skills/Intro Life

Skills during 6th or 7th grade. 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.

7th GRADE FULL YEAR EXPLORATORY COURSES

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

Concert Band Year -Long (2 Semesters)

Placement in the band program will involve an audition process. This is to gauge previous experience and performance ability. All students who audition will be placed in either the intermediate band or advanced band. Participation in ALL performances is mandatory. Concert Band is a performing ensemble designed for seventh graders that will focus on intermediate level skills, techniques, and concepts in music comprehension and performance. The prerequisite for this band is participation in Sixth -grade/intermediate Band. This class will require a minimum of three performances a year, and students are highly encouraged to participate in MSBOA Middle School All State auditions as well as MSBOA District 16 Solo and Ensemble Festival.

Spanish 1 Year -Long (2 Semesters)

This course will focus on developing the four language skills of speaking, listening, reading and writing. Students will engage in a variety of activities to practice and promote language learning. This course includes an overview of the geography and other cultural insights of the Spanish speaking world.

Spanish 2 Year -Long (2 Semesters)

Prerequisite: Students must have successfully completed Spanish 1. Students will continue to work toward proficiency in the four language skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing. Students will examine the cultural practices of the Spanish speaking world.

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, by mail, 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. (Block schedule) They will need to choose 1 science and 1 elective option. They will be bussed back to GATE for the remainder of the day. They will only be able to take 1 exploratory while at GATE due to travel and the inclusion of an additional class at AHS.
 - In lieu of a science class, they may take an additional exploratory class at GATE.
- The student has the following options for MATH classes:
 - They will be placed by the teacher based on their academic performance.Class options are:
 - Pre-Algebra 8 (MS level)
 - Algebra 1 (HS level)
 - Algebra 2 (HS level)
 - Geometry (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
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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 ↓
	Algebra 2 (HS Level) OR Geometry (HS Level) Teacher placed based on in-class assessments and prerequisite course completion ↓	AHS for HS Classes 7th & 8th grade test-out assessment
	Algebra 2 (HS Level) OR Geometry (HS Level) Teacher placed based on in-class assessments and pre-	

		requisite course completion	
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Updated 3/2/23



Avondale GATE

MAGNET SCHOOL

8th Grade Curriculum Guide

2023-2024

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. Based on whether the student is a music student determines exploratory offerings.

8th Grade Course Offerings

Required Core Classes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Math 8/Algebra 1/Geometry <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> English Language Arts 8 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Science 8/Biology/Chemistry <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social Studies 8	
Choose One Exploratory Track	<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Band Students <div style="text-align: center;">↓</div>	<input type="checkbox"/> Concert Band 8 Students and/or Biology or Chemistry students <div style="text-align: center;">↓</div>
Required 1 Semester if it has not been taken in 6th-7th grade	<input type="checkbox"/> Intro Life Skills (1 Semester)* <div style="text-align: center;">↓</div>	<input type="checkbox"/> Intro Life Skills (1 Semester)* <div style="text-align: center;">↓</div>
Exploratory Offerings	<p style="text-align: center;">Must choose 3 Semesters</p> <p>Options Include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Physical Education (1 Semester) <input type="checkbox"/> Art (1 Semester) <input type="checkbox"/> STEAM Lab (1 Semester) <input type="checkbox"/> PLTW 8 (1 Semester) <input type="checkbox"/> Drama (1 Semester) <input type="checkbox"/> Spanish 1 (1 Year/2 Semesters) <input type="checkbox"/> Spanish 2 (1 Year/2 Semesters) <input type="checkbox"/> Spanish 3 (1 Year/2 Semesters) <input type="checkbox"/> Advanced Life Skills (1 Semester) 	<p style="text-align: center;">Must choose 1 Semester</p> <p>Options Include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Physical Education (1 Semester) <input type="checkbox"/> Art (1 Semester) <input type="checkbox"/> STEAM Lab (1 Semester) <input type="checkbox"/> PLTW 8 (1 Semester) <input type="checkbox"/> Drama (1 Semester) <input type="checkbox"/> Advanced Life Skills (1 Semester)

*GATE students must take intro to 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.

***If a student has tested out of MS science but has opted to stay at GATE rather than take a class at AHS, the counselor will work individually with this student to determine their schedule.

[8th Grade Student Scheduling Form: Complete by March 31st](#)

Eighth 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

GATE Science Year-Long

Eighth grade students will engage in scientific investigations that infuse engineering, math and technology throughout the year. Students will build a deep understanding of scientific concepts through collaboration, innovation, experimentation, and reasoning based on evidence. Eighth graders will be challenged to design solution based reasoning and model solutions to real world problems in the areas of environmental systems, climate change and sustainability, properties of waves, and natural hazards. Students will show their scientific understanding through investigation and dynamic scientific modeling. Emphasis will be placed on addressing real world phenomena, collaborative teams with students sharing their ideas, and defending their scientific arguments with evidence. An accelerated option will be offered within this class.

OR

Biology 1 Year-Long

Prerequisite: Placement test. Microbiology covers the following basic topics: cell structure and function, Mendelian and Non-Mendelian Genetics, and living processes of plants and animals. Microbiology covers the following basic topics: ecology, human impact, human diseases, body systems, and evolution. Dissection will be performed as it fits into the units of study.

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.

GATE US History Year-Long

The purpose of this course is to develop the student's understanding of the heritage that shared the United States as a democratic nation. United States history is surveyed from the founding of the United States to 1877 by looking at the political, economic, and social changes of our nation. The American Revolution, the formation of our national government, beginnings of the country, westward movement, the Industrial Revolution, and the Civil War and Reconstruction will be studied in detail. The course will periodically include the study of current events and U.S. foreign affairs. The study of American history also prepares students to become responsible citizens. An accelerated option will be offered within this class.

GATE English Year-Long

Students build a critical foundation in reading and writing narrative, information, and argument 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, 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.

GATE Pre-Algebra Year-Long

Advanced Pre-Algebra 8 is a rigorous pre-algebra course designed for students who learn at an accelerated pace. The course develops a deep conceptual and procedural understanding of mathematics. The critical areas for this class includes: 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

Students are placed in this course based on placement criteria. (Placement test must be taken) In this year-long course, students will complete all required Mathematics Arts Common Core Standards for Algebra 1 and begin earning their high school credits and grades counting toward their GPA. Selection and enrollment in a high school course is a year-long commitment and may not be dropped. Students are placed in this course through a set of placement criteria. This algebra course covers the study of real numbers, solving equations, graphing of an equation on the coordinate plane, graphing parabolas, the study of exponents and radicals, solving systems of equations with two or more variables, and various operations within the study of quadratic equations. Algebra I is a high school level course and meets the Algebra I graduation requirement; therefore, the student will earn credit for passing the course.

OR

Geometry

Prerequisite: Algebra I. This course covers topics of Euclidean geometry in two and three dimensions. Students will study size, shape, and position of figures, including lengths, areas, and volumes. The course develops the relationships of points, lines, angles, surfaces, and solids, and gives strong attention to measurement formulas. Logic, proof, coordinates, and transformations are integrated throughout the course.

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. 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 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 not 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/trimester. Any requests after the end of the semester/trimester 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.

Project Lead the Way 8 1 Semester

During the “Medical Detectives” unit, students will discover how health care professionals act as medical detectives to identify, treat and prevent illness in their patients. Students investigate body systems and how this information is processed. Medical Detectives analyze patients and data in community outbreak simulations. Students use observation and investigation skills learned throughout the course to solve the outbreak diagnosis for the community and report their findings.

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.

Physical Education 1 Semester

Boys and girls participating in eighth-grade 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.

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.

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 complete science investigations, learn the engineering design process, utilize technology, learn the principles of coding, complete the Michigan Green Schools activities, design, build and operate VEX robots, and integrate mathematical computation and creative design throughout their lessons.

Intro 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 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) 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.

Advanced Life Skills 1 Semester

Prerequisite: This class is for students who have already taken Life Skills/Intro Life Skills during 6th or 7th grade. 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.

8th GRADE FULL YEAR EXPLORATORY COURSES

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

Concert Band Year-Long (2 Semesters)

Placement in the band program will involve an audition process. This is to gauge previous experience and performance ability. All students who audition will be placed in either the intermediate band or advanced band. Participation in ALL performances is mandatory. Wind Ensemble is a performing ensemble designed for eighth graders 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 participation in intermediate band/6th grade band. This class will require a minimum of four performances a year, and students are highly encouraged to participate in the MSBOA Middle School All State auditions as well as MSBOA District 16 Solo and Ensemble Festival.

Spanish 1 Year-Long (2 Semesters)

This course will focus on developing the four language skills of speaking, listening, reading and writing. Students will engage in a variety of activities to practice and promote language learning. This course includes an overview of the geography and other cultural insights of the Spanish speaking world.

Spanish 2 Year-Long (2 Semesters)

Prerequisite: Students must have successfully completed Spanish 1. Students will continue to work toward proficiency in the four language skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing. Students will examine the cultural practices of the Spanish speaking world.

Spanish 3 Year-Long (2 Semesters)

Prerequisite: Students must have successfully completed Spanish 1 and 2. Students continue to work toward proficiency in the four language skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing. Students will engage in a variety of activities and projects throughout the course to develop, practice and promote language use and understanding at this level.

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For entrance to a higher GATE content area course:

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- 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, by mail, 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.
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- 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. (Block schedule) They will need to choose 1 science and 1 elective option. They will be bussed back to GATE for the remainder of the day. They will only be able to take 1 exploratory while at GATE due to travel and the inclusion of an additional class at AHS.
 - In lieu of a science class, they may take an additional exploratory class at GATE.
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 - They will be placed by the teacher based on their academic performance. Class options are:
 - Pre-Algebra 8 (MS level)
 - Algebra 1 (HS level)
 - Algebra 2 (HS level)
 - Geometry (HS level)
- If a course isn't listed above, 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
	Algebra 2 (HS Level) OR 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) OR Geometry (HS Level) Teacher placed based on in-class assessments and pre-requisite course completion		

Updated 3/2/23