

# **Friendswood Junior High**

**6th Grade Center**

**2020 - 2021**



***Mustangs***

**Academic Planning  
Guide**

# **ACADEMIC PLANNING GUIDE**

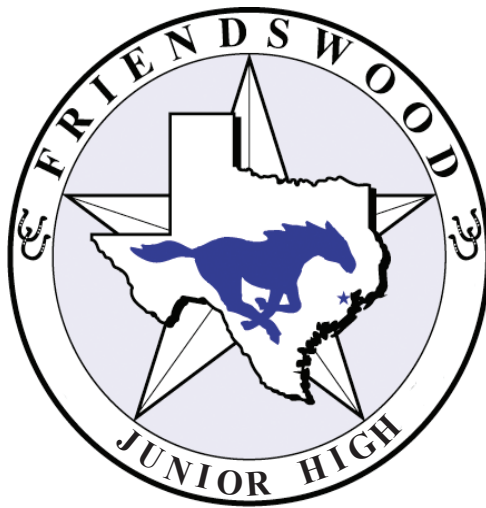
**2020 - 2021**

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# **SIXTH GRADE PROGRAMS**

## **Gifted and Talented Program**

The students in the Gifted and Talented Program experience training in creativity, critical thinking, problem solving, and logic. Classes provide accelerated and enriched content. G/T students may participate in Pre-AP Language Arts and Advanced Math. Participation in the G/T program is based on a referral, screening, and selection process.

## **Special Education Program**

The special education program provides a comprehensive program for each student between the ages of three and twenty-one who meets eligibility requirements. Students eligible for special education may have physical, intellectual, emotional or learning disabilities. Students with visual or hearing disabilities shall have available a free, appropriate education from birth through age 21.

Consideration of a student's eligibility for special education services is initiated by a referral that may be made by the parent(s), school personnel or outside agency. In all cases, parental permission is required for participation.

The program operates under state guidelines for admission, program content, and dismissal from the program. Students and parents who are interested in this program should contact the counselor at the individual school campus.

The courses that a student takes will be determined by a campus committee (ARD/IEP committee), which includes the parent.

## **English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)**

All students who register in this school district will complete a home language survey form. If this survey indicates that a language other than English is spoken in the home or is spoken by the student most of the time, the student must be referred to the ESOL teacher or consultant for evaluation. Tests will be administered, and students who are found to be limited English proficient (LEP) will be served through an ESOL program. The ESOL program, which focuses on intensive development of listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills in English, is offered to eligible limited English proficient students at Friendswood Junior High.

## **Dyslexia Program**

The students in the dyslexia program receive developmentally appropriate materials and instruction that are in compliance with the Texas Education Agency's Dyslexia Handbook. Students who meet the district's criteria for dyslexia may be served in a supplemental program or the student may be served in the regular classroom with accommodations.

## **PreAP Program**

Friendswood ISD participates in the Advanced Placement (AP) Program sponsored by College Board ([www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)). PreAP courses offered at the junior high and high school prepare learners for AP courses at the high school, which are equivalent to first year college courses and are intended for students who possess proven ability, interest, and motivation to handle the extra workload and study requirements. The decision to take a PreAP course at the junior high should not be taken lightly. It is strongly recommended any student considering PreAP courses seek advice from his/her counselor, parent(s), the course instructor, and current students enrolled in the particular PreAP course of interest. Student involvement in extra curricular activities and available time outside of class should also be factored into PreAP course selection.

When considering PreAP courses, students must carefully consider the extra time commitment the courses entail. By definition, PreAP courses are demanding and require extensive homework and self-directed study. Therefore, a strong degree of motivational, organizational and time management skills are critical. As a result, extra points are awarded onto a student's grade point average for every PreAP and AP course taken at the high school.

PreAP courses taken at the junior high do not count towards high school GPA. Students participating in PreAP courses at the junior high are expected to maintain at least a 75 average. Failure to do so may lead to removal of the student from the PreAP class. Students do not have to be gifted and talented to enroll in PreAP classes.

In an effort to place students in appropriate level classes, admission criteria have been established for PreAP courses, which include: past performance, teacher recommendation, parental approval, and in some cases administration approval. Should a student register for a PreAP level course which his/her current teachers cannot recommend, parents will be asked to sign a Parent Override Form indicating they understand the student is applying for a course which is deemed inappropriate for the student at this time. Students receiving a parent override will be responsible for all course requirements, including summer reading.

When a Parent Override Form is complete, it is imperative to understand a schedule change will not be made until the end of the first nine weeks, or when there is no appropriate level to move down, a change will not be made until the end of the first semester.

AP courses prepare students for the Advanced Placement examinations given by College Board in May. An advanced score, determined by the individual universities, on an AP exam can result in a college or university awarding credit, exempting from courses, or advanced standing. It is the student's responsibility to research the individual colleges to better understand their policies in awarding AP credit. Please note there is a fee for each AP exam.

## **Promotion and Retention**

To be promoted from one grade level to the next in grade 6, a student must have an overall average of 70 or above for the year in all courses taken. Averaging the final numerical grade for all courses taken derives the overall average. In addition, students must have an average of 70 or above in English Language Arts and Mathematics.

The District shall notify the parent or guardian of students who have not successfully completed a course as soon as possible.

Grade assignment shall be at the discretion of the District in the event the student passes some, but not all courses.

# SIXTH GRADE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

## LANGUAGE ARTS

### **6th Language Arts**

Students will address the reading and language arts Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for 6th grade through reading novels, short stories, various types of non-fiction, poetry and drama. The course includes vocabulary development and integrates composition with literature. Composition emphasizes the construction of multi-paragraph papers and instruction in an understanding of the writing process. Technical proficiency in spelling, capitalization, punctuation and usage are developed through specific skill work as well as editing and polishing pieces of writing.

### **6th Pre-AP Language Arts**

The student who meets the criteria for this course will study the same basic Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills required for the grade level. The advanced content for this academic course will expand the student's learning opportunities in a more challenging way and in greater depth. The student will be expected to employ critical thinking skills and may be required to read additional and/or different novels, short stories and poetry. A greater emphasis is placed on writing style and variety of sentence and paragraph construction in writing project assignments. The course includes extensive vocabulary development. Work outside the classroom is required.

### **Level Changes:**

Students who wish to move from a regular level class to a Pre-AP level class must have the following items:

Matrix Criteria Met

**OR**

Parent Override Form

\*There will be no schedule changes out of Pre-AP English Language Arts until the end of the first nine weeks.

\*In Pre-AP, if the first 9 weeks average is less than 75 it is recommended that the student and parent meet with the counselor and teacher to discuss returning to a regular class.

# MATHEMATICS

## **6th Math**

The 6th grade course is designed for grade level students who have passed 5th grade STAAR in math. Higher-level applications and problem solving skills are emphasized. Some Pre-Algebra objectives with emphasis on STAAR objectives and Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) are covered in this one-year program.

## **7th Math for 6th Grade**

Prerequisite: Meeting the District's criteria for higher-level math on the Mathematics Acceleration Placement Matrix or scoring 80% or above on credit by exam.

This course covers the 7th grade math Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). The focus is on all of the 7th grade objectives with most of the 6th grade objectives and some 8th grade Pre-Algebra objectives covered. This course is designed to prepare students for Pre-Algebra in 7th grade and possibly Algebra 1. It is a rigorous, fast-paced math course with a focus on higher-level application and problem-solving. If your child's average falls below an 80, your child may be moved to an appropriate level math class.

## **Pre-Algebra for 6th Grade**

Prerequisite: Meeting the District's criteria for higher-level math on the Mathematics Acceleration Placement Matrix.

This course covers the 7th grade math Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). The focus is on all of the 7th grade objectives with some of the 6th grade objectives and most of the 8th grade Pre-Algebra objectives covered. This course is designed to prepare students for Algebra 1 in 7th grade. It is a rigorous, fast-paced math course connecting 7th and 8th grade concepts with a focus on higher-level application and problem-solving. If your child's average falls below an 80, your child may be moved to an appropriate level math class.

# SOCIAL STUDIES

## **6th World Cultures**

The central theme in sixth grade social studies is world cultures, with emphasis on relationships between people and their environments. While the concepts are drawn from history and the way people live, primary focus in this curriculum is geography. This focus provides students with a framework for studying local, regional, national and global issues. This curriculum gives the student an understanding of the interdependence of the world in which they live.

# SCIENCE

## **6th Science**

6th grade Science is a course taught in a lab setting covering topics in Physical Science, Life Science, Chemistry, as well as Earth and Space Science. Hands-on lessons on matter, force and motion, and energy are taught with smaller units of study on chemistry, classification of living things, plate tectonics, the solar system, and space exploration. The curriculum is based on the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills and incorporates hands-on labs, STEM lessons, and technology.



# WELLNESS (Physical Education)

Wellness puts an emphasis on activities that increase the development of movement skills, rhythm, and perceptual awareness skills. Students are given the opportunity to participate in individual and team sport contests. Skills, sportsmanship, and safety are discussed and practiced during each unit. Students learn rules and strategies during each unit. Developmental activities are done during each class in an effort to improve strength, flexibility, power, agility, coordination and cardio-respiratory endurance. Fitness testing is done with each student. Health education will be integrated into the course of study. **\* All 6th grade students are required to take Wellness.**

## ELECTIVE CHOICES - 6TH GRADE

### **Art - Year Long**

This class is available to 6th graders interested in art. A foundation of art concepts and artistic styles will be covered in this visual art class. Elements of design, as well as the principles of composition, will be taught through various art projects that may include printmaking, sculpture, paintings, portraiture, and various drawing artwork. Use of materials and exposure to professional artwork and major artists will help students make independent decisions for their individual growth.

### **Beginning Band - Year Long**

This class is available to any 6th grade student interested in learning how to play a band instrument. No previous musical experience or training is required to join beginning band. Instrument selection will take place after Spring Break and an informational letter will be sent home explaining the selection process. Each student will need to provide his/her own band book and instrument. A few specialized instruments may be available through the school. Students will perform at least two concerts during the school year.

### **Choir - Year Long**

Open to all 6th graders interested in singing, no audition required and no prior experience is necessary. This ensemble will learn how to sing unison and two-part music on pitch, will learn musicianship skills and pitch control, and will begin to learn to sight-read music. Female students will be expected to gather a basic black traditional performance ensemble. Gentlemen will purchase a blue polo shirt through the school and will be expected to gather black pants and black shoes. Students will perform in various concerts on and off-campus and can partake in several social events a year.

### **6th Theatre Arts - Year Long**

This class is available to 6th grade students interested in the fundamentals of Theatre Arts. Students will explore and study the disciplines of Theatre through a variety of activities that include solo/duet acting, pantomime, puppetry, monologues, improvisation, play production, and much more. All required rehearsal and performance times are within the normal school day; no after school or weekend rehearsal is required. Performance times are within the normal school day; no after school or weekend rehearsal is required.

## Assurances

The Friendswood Independent School District is an equal opportunity employer and offers equal education opportunity employer and offers education opportunities, as requested by Title IV of the Civil Rights of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendment of 1972, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended. The Friendswood Independent School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, or handicapping condition in the employment, assignment and promotion of personnel nor in the admission of students to any educational program or activity, except as may be authorized by law or regulations. Friendswood Independent School District will take steps to assure that lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission and participation in all educational and Career & Technical Education programs