

Autrey Mill Middle School

6th grade Curriculum Night

September 3, 2019

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to the Autrey Mill Middle School Connections program for the 2019-2020 school year! Our classes offer a variety of experiences in three different areas of study: vocational education, fine arts, and personal living skills.

During this school year, your child will take a total of eight connections classes, each of which will last for nine weeks. If your child is enrolled in a music program such as band, orchestra, or chorus, four of those classes will be filled by the yearlong music class. Each class is approximately 50 minutes in length and meets five days a week. These classes are curricular subjects for which students receive grades. Materials used by students include locally adopted texts, teacher made resources, and laboratory equipment. Common Core Standards are integrated into each of the connections classes through the teaching of each subjects' curriculum standards. These standards support other academic subjects in the teaching of literacy and vocabulary.

Throughout your child's middle school career, he/she will take a variety of classes that might include: Marketing, Exploring Engineering and Technology, Video Broadcasting/Communications, Theatre, Visual Arts, Adventure Quest, Physical Education, and Health.

If your child is interested in joining band, chorus, or orchestra, please contact the music teachers so a schedule change can be made. No experience is needed to join these groups in sixth grade.

Connections classes have various curricula which call for many hands-on type activities and the use of lab equipment; therefore, it is essential that students display appropriate behavior in class. It is also expected that each student will be on time, come prepared every day, participate in class, respect the rights of others, and respect the school. (Prompt – Prepared – Polite - Present- Positive)

While each connections class may require specific supplies necessary for its curriculum, students should expect to bring notebook paper, a pencil, ink pen, their iPad, and AMMS agenda to class every day. More specific instructions about supplies will be listed in the course syllabus for each class.

We look forward to working with each of you as we “Prepare today's students for tomorrow's challenges”. Feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

The Connections and PE/Health Staff

Staff Name	Class Taught	Help Session
Wendy Wilson wilsonwm@fultonschools.org	Band	Mornings 8:00 – 8:45AM by appt.
Vanessa Edwards edwardsv1@fultonschools.org	Chorus	Monday & Friday mornings 8:00 – 8:30AM by appt.
Tim Anderson andersont1@fultonschools.org	Orchestra	Mornings 8:00 – 8:45AM by appt.
Garrison Everett everettg@fultonschools.org	Video Broadcasting/ Communications	Mornings 8:00 – 8:30AM by appt.
Jennifer McCann mccannj@fultonschools.org	Visual Arts	Tuesday & Friday (by appt.) 8:00-8:30AM
Ed Clawson clawson@fultonschools.org	Technology Education	Wednesday mornings 8:00 - 8:30AM by appt.
Shelly McCook mccookl@fultonschools.org	Theatre	Monday mornings 8:00 - 8:45am
Vanessa Yasuda yasudav@fultonschools.org	Marketing	Wednesday and Friday (by appt.) 8:00 – 8:30AM
Chelsea Lloyd lloydch@fultonschools.org	PE/Health	PE/Adventure Quest – Monday (by appt.) Health -Wednesday (by appt.) 8:00 – 8:30AM
Joy Davis davisjoy@fultonschools.org	PE/Health	PE/Adventure Quest – Monday (by appt.) Health -Wednesday (by appt.) 8:00 – 8:30AM
Jackie Larson larsonj@fultonschools.org	PE/Health	PE/Adventure Quest – Monday (by appt.) Health -Wednesday (by appt.) 8:00 – 8:30AM
Todd Shelnett shellnettT@fultonschools.org	PE/Health/AQ	PE/Adventure Quest – Monday (by appt.) Health -Wednesday (by appt.) 8:00 – 8:30AM
David Buice buice@fultonschools.org	PE/Health	PE/Adventure Quest – Monday (by appt.) Health -Wednesday (by appt.) 8:00 – 8:30AM
Chuck Mertes mertes@fultonschools.org	PE/Health	PE/Adventure Quest – Monday (by appt.) Health -Wednesday (by appt.) 8:00 – 8:30AM
Dan Kearney kearney@fultonschools.org	PE/Health	PE/Adventure Quest – Monday (by appt.) Health -Wednesday (by appt.) 8:00 – 8:30AM

Band – Band is a year-long performance-oriented class open to any interested student at the beginning or intermediate level. Students will work on the development of general music skills and the technical aspects of an instrument through a variety of music selections. Students will learn how to read music and sight-read as well as study theory, the history of music and composers. Students will learn how to play and care for an instrument. A variety of concert and performance opportunities for both large groups and individuals have been scheduled throughout the year. Students are expected to attend all scheduled performances, as this is a performance class. Beginning students will learn about all instruments before making an instrument selection for the year. Band is open to all interested students. No experience is necessary.

Chorus – Chorus is a year-long sequential class and is open to all interested students. During the year students will perform a variety of concerts during and after school. Five concerts have been scheduled to date, with additional district and statewide honor groups available. Chorus students learn and perform varying choral styles, learn different performance practices, and apply varying choral techniques; all from memory. Since this is a performance class, students are expected to attend all scheduled performances.

Orchestra – The orchestra is one of the year long fine art connections classes offered and is open to any interested student. Students will learn the basics through advanced techniques of string instrument performance. In conjunction with this they learn about the history and theory of music from many genres. Beginners through intermediate players are welcome in this performance-oriented class. The majority of our rehearsals are done during class time each day and we give two or three performances each year.

Theatre – A nine-week connections course that will introduce the student to theatre terminology, vocal development, improvisation, stage basics, theatre history and characterization. Drama class students will participate in activities and projects involving script writing and technical theatre, & creative drama in a black box setting. The class will be a forum for students to become expressive, assertive and develop self-confidence.

Video Broadcasting / Graphic Communications – This nine-week long class will introduce students to the basic concepts of the Communications career fields. Students will participate in cooperative learning simulation projects as they explore these career fields. This course facilitates basic level student led broadcast/video productions with topics that may include, but are not limited to: history of mass media, terminology, safety, basic equipment, script writing, storyboarding, production teams, planning, writing, directing, recording and editing, graphic communications, and professional ethics.

Visual Arts – Visual Arts in the middle grades emphasizes the transition from elementary school to high school level approaches to art. Students learn more about how to read artworks and express their own ideas through the “visual language” of art. Students will develop these skills through sketching, practicing techniques, observational drawings, color and painting, and sculpture. Throughout the creative process, students will be guided to cultivate skills necessary for success in art production and other areas of life. For example, students will be asked to develop multiple solutions to creative problems, exercise critical thinking skills, set and achieve “personal best” goals, self-evaluate their progress, and adjust their approach as necessary. This art class incorporates art history, aesthetics, art criticism, reading, and writing into studio-based units. Students will keep a portfolio and a sketchbook that serves as a visual verbal journal, enabling each student to acknowledge and reflect on their progress as they grow artistically.

Marketing - Using project-based learning students are introduced to the principles of marketing. The Middle School Marketing Program offers 3 sequential courses; however, they do not require a pre-requisite. 6th Grade students take the Basic Skills of Marketing course. Exploring Marketing Education is offered to 7th graders. And the 8th Grade course is Pathways in Marketing. Students have the opportunity to participate in local and state DECA (Distributive Education Clubs of America) co-curricular events and club meetings that reinforce the students’ marketing coursework and develop leadership skills.

Exploring Engineering & Technology – The goal of this problem-based learning course is to provide all students with an introduction to the principles of Engineering & Technology and its place in the modern world. This course will also help students to use technological systems effectively in their lives, thus providing a foundation for successfully integrating their own interests with potential careers and the resources of a technological society. Exploring Engineering & Technology introduces the engineering design process while looking at technological impacts on society. The course is designed to reinforce the areas of math, science, social studies, and language arts through practical application and/or hands-on activities. At the end of this course, students will understand how engineering and technology impacts them, the world around them and careers that are available to them in the field.

Adventure Quest – The Adventure Quest course is characterized by an atmosphere that is fun, supportive and challenging. Games and group problem-solving initiatives will be used to help students learn the value of teamwork, gain decision making strategies, practice leadership skills and appreciate individual differences. Students will also increase their knowledge in outdoor skills such as orienteering and camping skills. This course will challenge students to go beyond their perceived boundaries.

Physical Education – Physical Education classes offer a developmentally appropriate and comprehensive experience, focusing on the development of motor skills, physical fitness, emotional strength and maturity, values, healthful decision making and the pursuit of lifelong health and fitness. During the three blocks of Physical Education students are offered a variety of courses including fitness, individual sports, team sports, dance, recreational games, and track and field. The primary goal of the instruction is to improve motor skills and fitness levels, experience success in movement, and develop an appreciation for activity.

Health – The enhancement of health knowledge, attitudes and problem-solving skills is the focus of instruction in middle school health education. Health objectives are taught in a health/personal fitness connections class. Health education is built on a comprehensive approach with each of the following components covered during grades six through eight: nutrition, fitness, emotional and mental health, safety and injury prevention, growth and development, family and relationship skills, diseases and disorders, consumer health, environmental health, and substance abuse.

A variety of intramural sports are offered throughout the year. These rotate throughout the year and are not offered all at once. Sixth graders will have the opportunity to participate in tennis, basketball, volleyball, table tennis and other activities. There are no tryouts for these intramural sports. These teams are only offered here at school and do not travel to play other teams. Contact Dan Kearney for more information.