



*Burlington Township Middle School*  
*at*  
*Springside*

**Curriculum Guide**  
**2017~2018**  
**Grade 6**



Burlington Township  
Middle School at Springside

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Burlington, New Jersey 08016-4000

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Dear Parents/Guardians:

The scheduling process for the 2017-2018 school year has begun. Please review the course selection documents with your child. **The Elective Request Form (last page of Curriculum Guide) is due back to their home room teacher by Friday, March 10, 2017.** Students will also visit the middle school for a tour in the spring. At that time 5<sup>th</sup> grade students will have the opportunity to walk through various portions of the middle school, including but not limited to, the gym and locker facilities, the media center, and various computer labs. They may also have an opportunity to meet members of the 6th grade staff. Guidance counselors will be on hand to answer questions and interact with the students.

The following information is designed as a resource to help you understand the courses that are offered in grade six. Since all course offerings are subject to availability of resources and staffing, our guide remains a “draft” until our final budget is determined in late spring. Please review and discuss this “draft” guide with your child to familiarize him/her with information used to prepare his/her schedule for the upcoming school year.

Our guidance staff is a valuable resource in the course selection process and they will be happy to assist you with any questions you may have. Guidance Counselors are assigned by grade level and will remain with your child until they complete middle school: Dr. Garris-Sha will be your child’s guidance counselor. Please contact our office secretary, Valerie Schwartz, at 699-4021, Ext 4013 if you have any questions about this guide or the scheduling process.

The success of each of our students is our primary goal. Therefore, we know you will assist us in making the coming year an enjoyable and rewarding experience for your child at Burlington Township Middle School at Springside.

We encourage you to become familiar with our middle school by going to our website at [www.burltwpsch.org](http://www.burltwpsch.org).

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Larry T. Penny  
Principal

# Burlington Township Middle School at Springside

## 2017-2018 Curriculum Guide

### Grade 6

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The courses contained herein are tentatively planned for the 2017-2018 school year. **Course offerings are subject to revision pending availability of staff and budgetary resources.**

## Changes to Course Selections

*During the summer months and through September 5<sup>th</sup>\*, schedule changes can be made by submitting a written request signed by a parent/guardian. **Schedule changes will be made under the following circumstances only:***

1. A required course was missing from the student's schedule.
2. An incorrect level of a course was selected.
3. Student is identified as in need of special services and his/her IEP, 504, or I&RS plan calls for schedule change(s) to accommodate individual needs.
4. A requested course was cancelled due to low enrollment.
5. Student has been identified as in need of remediation.

\* After September 5<sup>th</sup>, a student who wishes to review a schedule with their counselor should seek a pass from their teacher to visit the guidance office.

## Academic Courses – Grade 6

### **Language Arts 6**

#### *Course 0120A-YR*

In this course students explore the world of reading, writing, speaking and listening. Students engage in activities that require them to apply their knowledge of language structure by editing for language mechanics, usage, and cohesiveness. Coursework includes working independently and in groups to complete projects, learning study and organizational skills, incorporating an increasing vocabulary for speaking and writing, applying word structure and context analysis to define words, demonstrating the writing process, and identifying and extending patterns found in written and spoken language. The course emphasizes the need for students to construct meaning from, and respond to, oral communication and reading selections and to express ideas and opinions to others through speaking, writing, and illustrations. A significant level of understanding of complex skills is supported by instruction throughout this course in an effort to better prepare students for college and career readiness, rigorous common core standards, and aligned state and local assessments.

### **Math 6 \***

#### *Course 0520-YR*

Glencoe Math Course 1 focuses on five critical areas: (1) using concepts of ratios and rate to solve problems; (2) understanding division of fractions; (3) using expressions and equations; (4) geometry involving area & volume and (5) understanding of statistical reasoning. Curriculum follows the Common Core Standards along with the Standards for Mathematical Practice. The course emphasizes the need for students to make mathematical connections and to use mathematical principles to communicate, analyze, model, reason, and persevere to solve problems.

\* Students who successfully completed Grade 5 math with an “A” average and whose benchmark exam average meets a predetermined standard will be enrolled in Enriched Math 1 (*Course 0521-YR*), which provides a compacted curriculum requiring students to master the exit skills from Math 6 and also topics from Math 7. Available data measures may also be utilized to determine a student’s readiness for the rigor of this course.

### **Science 6**

#### *Course 0320A-YR*

This course will integrate the areas of earth, life and physical science through the incorporation of inquiry based units of study on weather, climate, astronomy, forces and motion. In addition, students will also develop an understanding of matter and energy as they study patterns of interactions among organisms within an ecosystem. Students will also use data and construct models to understand how environment and genetic factors determine the growth of organisms. This course will be modeled on the Next Generation Science Standards incorporating science and engineering practices and crosscutting concepts to expose students to the disciplinary core ideas through mastery of nationally identified performance expectations.

### **Social Studies 6**

#### *Course 0420A-YR*

The social studies curriculum is designed to ensure that all students will receive an understanding of world geography. This material is presented through a cultural perspective in order to assist students in their exploration of the commonalities and diversities of mankind.

## Specialized Programs

### Encore

Students are identified for participation in the Encore program for grades 4 through 12, beginning in fourth grade. Acceptance into the Encore Program may occur in any year. Selection is based on the achievement of a minimum score on a district matrix. For more information, please contact Liz Scott at [escott@burltwpsch.org](mailto:escott@burltwpsch.org)

Encore students may choose to enroll in one or two optional semester electives, Encore 6A and Encore 6B, which offer exploration of advanced units of study across the disciplines. Encore 6A includes study in Unsolved Mysteries and Debating. Encore 6B includes units for Build a City and Mock Trial. Each unit will begin with an opportunity for students to explore target content through the discovery method and will proceed with the students applying their learning through the completion of a project of their choice. Students will use problem solving skills and creative thinking as they make their way through the various units of study offered during the semester.

### Academic Assistance

Based on teacher recommendations and/or other available data, students may be scheduled for lab courses to address identified weaknesses. Lab classes are not electives and are in addition to the regular math and language arts classes. Questions about your child's enrollment in a lab class should be directed to building principal, Larry Penny.

#### Literacy Lab 6A

*Course # 0703A – YR*

This program is designed specifically for the student who has been identified as having weaknesses in literacy skill areas. Teacher input and other available data will be used to identify particular deficiencies. The needs of each individual student are met through diagnosis and remediation of specific areas of reading and/or writing. In addition to individualized instruction, students are also involved in small group instruction. In order to develop and improve literacy skills, a variety of activities are provided to assist students.

#### Mathematics Lab 6A

*Course 0709A –YR*

This program is designed specifically for the student who has been identified as having weaknesses in math skills. Teacher input and other available data will be used to identify particular deficiencies. In order to help the student improve their math skills, diagnostic materials, individualized instruction, and small group activities are provided.

## **Required Related Arts – Grade 6**

### **Art 6 – One Marking Period**

*Course 0035A*

In this course students will practice using the basic art elements to create works of art. Students will also use a variety of materials to bring their projects to life, and study famous artists.

### **Computer Studies 6 – Semester**

*Course 0199*

This course is designed to build on the student's computer skills through the use of software applications such as Word, Excel, Publisher and PowerPoint.

### **Family Life 6 - One Marking Period**

*Course 0821A*

This course is designed to help empower students to build strong life skills that promote positive personal choices. Topics will include building self-esteem, personal responsibility, interpersonal relationships, communication, bonding, conflict resolution, assertiveness, critical thinking, decision-making, resistance and refusal.

### **Music 6 – One Marking Period**

*Course 0089*

This is a general music class that teaches and encourages music appreciation and a love for music. Students participate in instruction that provides basic understanding of musical theory and elements. Delivery methods include modeling, PowerPoint presentations, individual projects and group activities.

### **Physical Education 6 -Three Marking Periods**

*Course 0802A*

Physical Education classes provide the student with activities that will help to develop the student physically, emotionally and socially. Learning situations will be diversified, ranging from group to individual instruction.

### **World Language 6: Spanish 6 - Semester**

*Course 0263*

Students will continue their World Language exploration of Spanish. Students explore conversation and written Spanish and increase their use of spoken language in their classroom setting.

### **Study Skills 6 – Semester**

*Course No. 0008A*

This is a course designed to teach students note taking, study and organizational skills, including opportunities to apply these skills to complete assignments or projects assigned in other classes. Students learn more about “how they learn” and identify strategies and skills to assist them in improving their academic performance at all levels.

## Full Year Electives-Grade 6

### **Band**

*Course No.0090*

Band is an instrumental ensemble available to students who perform at a level that meets the approval of the Band Director. Students' grades will be determined through a series of skill playing quizzes. Participation in class, lessons and evening concerts are factored into the student's grade. Those wishing to be a part of the band but who cannot yet play an instrument may have the opportunity to be scheduled for lessons by the Band Director. Once proficient on an instrument, the student will then be scheduled for the band class. ***Prerequisite: Ability to play an instrument and approval of the Band Director.***

### **Chorus 6**

*Course No. 0093*

Chorus is designed for the beginner with limited or no experience in choral singing. The student must have an earnest desire and willingness to sing. Students will also study the fundamentals of music with an emphasis on music reading. A wide variety of musical styles will be explored, and students will learn the correct performance techniques. ***One evening in the winter and one evening in spring are required, and these performances are evaluated as exam grades for this course.***

### **Orchestra-Strings**

*Course No. 0096*

String Orchestra is an all string instrument ensemble available to students who perform at a level that meets the approval of the Orchestra director. Students' grades will be determined through a series of skill playing quizzes. Participation in class, lessons, and evening concerts are factored into the student's grade. Those wishing to be a part of the string orchestra but who cannot yet play a string instrument may have the opportunity to be scheduled for lessons by the Orchestra Director. Once proficient on an instrument, the student will then be scheduled for the string orchestra class.

***Prerequisite: Ability to play a string instrument and approval of the Orchestra Director.***

The middle school community values participation in these full-year music programs. Therefore, any student who enrolls in a full-year music elective will be waived automatically from the Music 6 and Art 6 classes without parent signature. Parents are not required to complete a waiver form in this case. In addition, there are other waiver options available on the back page of this booklet.

## Grade 6 Electives (Tentative)

The following electives are tentatively planned for the 2017-2018 school year. **Course offerings are subject to revision pending availability of staff and budgetary resources.**

Students will use the elective selection sheet that follows to select their choices. Students will be asked to make multiple selections, based on eligibility and interest, and every effort will be made to honor as many requests as possible. We make no guarantees that all requests will be granted. The final school schedule will determine which courses run which semester(s).

### Electives

**Around the World in 45 Days: Course 0033A** – This semester long course meets every other day and affords students the opportunity to explore other cultures and celebrate diversity through the study of food, dance, music, art, and cultural traditions. Through this course, students will become more aware of their own culture. Students will participate in activities such as the creation of travel brochures and communicating with e-pals from around the world. Other activities may include experiencing the cuisine (food) and dining etiquette of other countries and learning to use chopsticks. Students may also have the opportunity to create crafts from other cultures. This course offers a fun way to reinforce skills learned in Social Studies. Activities may vary based on available staff.

**Ceramics: Course 0046** - This course affords serious art students opportunities to practice techniques with select media to complete required ceramics projects such as pinch pots, coil pots, and slab pots.

**Children’s Theater: Course 0006A** - This introductory course provides students the opportunity to explore drama designed for young people. Students explore the basic elements of drama, participate in dramatic exercises related to the genre of Children’s Theater and develop an appreciation for the performing arts. *This is a performance-based class where participation will be expected.*

**Creative Writing: Course 0061** - This class will offer students the opportunity to creatively express themselves through writing activities. Writing topics will focus on both student selected and teacher directed themes.

**Dance, Aerobics and Nutrition: Course 0024A** - This course includes opportunities to study and practice various styles of dance, aerobics, and nutrition. Students will participate in activities that promote a healthy life style. Dance styles ranging from international to contemporary will be included. Aerobic activities will vary.

**Intro to Keyboards: Course 0094** - This class is designed to help students learn the basics of the piano keyboard. Students have fun learning to read, play and record their music. No prior musical training is needed.

**Journalism: Course 0042A** - This course provides an opportunity to learn about the various aspects of news writing and publication. It allows students to understand the effect and impact of mass media and mass communication on the public. Students will also have the opportunity to work on the school newspaper.

**Simple & Motorized Machines: Course 0053** -This course challenges students to use their creativity through “hands-on” experiences to solve problems. Through the building of realistic motorized models with LEGOS, students develop a strong understanding of mechanical principles. This “learning by making” is based upon four educational principles - connect, construct, contemplate and continue - that ensure a complete learning experience. The simple machines explored are levers, pulleys, wheels and axles, and gears.

**S.T.E.A.M with MinecraftEDU: Course 0196A** - In this course, students will be in a learning environment that explores Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Mathematics & more. Students will embark on a massive project building the Burlington Township Middle School to scale. The course will adhere perfectly to the principles of STEAM - Define a problem, plan solutions, make a model, test the model, reflect & redesign. In this creative student centered class, the teacher will simultaneously act as a facilitator fostering active digital awareness.

**Team Sports & Cooperative Games: Course 0045A** – This course will provide students with alternative team and cooperative games that they don’t typically see in their physical education classes. Students will be challenged physically through daily activities that incorporate sportsmanship, team work and participation. The students will have a mid-term and final where they will be required to create a game and present the game to the class. Students will be challenged throughout the semester with both individual and team games.

## **Directions for Grade 6 Elective Request Form**

All sixth grade students take the following REQUIRED related arts courses unless special accommodations are granted:

- PE/Health – 3 days of a six day cycle all year
- 1 Semester of Computers
- 1 Semester of World Language- Spanish
- 1 Marking Period of Art
- 1 Marking Period of Music
- 1 Semester Study Skills

*Waiver of Required Related Arts: Students of good academic standing may be waived from one or more required related arts. Please fill out reverse side of elective request form to request a waiver.*

In addition, students will take TWO semester electives this year. Year-long courses such as Band, Orchestra-Strings, Chorus, Math Lab, and Literacy Lab count as two semester electives. A student who requests two year-long electives may be excused from one or more required related arts courses only upon permission of the counselor and administrator. In such cases students will be expected to demonstrate proficiency in the content areas for which they are excused. **Math and Literacy Labs are automatically scheduled for students who have been identified as having skill deficiencies. Students may be removed from required related arts to accommodate these academic assistance courses. Parents should contact Mr. Penny to discuss any concerns.**

Most students will take TWO electives from the list on the following page. However, to ensure that as many requests as possible are met, students are encouraged to rank UP TO NINE selections. **Use the guidelines on the following page to rank your requests.**

**Elective Request Form is due to your child's teacher no later than Friday, March 10th.**

## ELECTIVE REQUEST FORM

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

Grade 6

**Year Long Courses:** If you believe you are eligible and interested in one or more of these courses, please state your interest and eligibility below.

Example of an explanation: *I am interested in taking Band. I have played the trumpet for four years.*

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ 0090 Band (eligibility determined by Instrumental Music Department)

\_\_\_\_\_ 0093 Chorus 6

\_\_\_\_\_ 0096 Orchestra-Strings (eligibility determined by Strings Department)

Note: 0709A Math Lab 6A/B (placement determined by Guidance)

0703A Literacy Lab 6A/B (placement determined by Guidance)

**Specialized Semester Courses:** *FOR ENCORE STUDENTS ONLY* (Note: Encore students will not lose their place in the Encore program if they choose other electives.)

\_\_\_\_\_ 0040A Encore 6A-Unsolved Mysteries, Debating (must be Encore student)

\_\_\_\_\_ 0040B Encore 6B-Build a City, Mock Trial (must be Encore student)

**Semester Courses:** Please rank your choices in order of preference from the list with 1 being your first choice.

\_\_\_\_\_ 0033A Around the World in 45 Days

\_\_\_\_\_ 0046 Ceramics

\_\_\_\_\_ 0006A Children's Theater

\_\_\_\_\_ 0061 Creative Writing

\_\_\_\_\_ 0024A Dance, Aerobics and Nutrition

\_\_\_\_\_ 0094 Intro to Keyboards

\_\_\_\_\_ 0042A Journalism

\_\_\_\_\_ 0053 Simple Machines

\_\_\_\_\_ 0196A S.T.E.A.M with MinecraftEDU

\_\_\_\_\_ 0045A Team Sports & Cooperative Games

**NOTE: Every effort will be made to honor as many requests as possible. We make no guarantees that all requests will be granted.**

Parent/ Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_

For Office Use Only

8 Date Form Received: \_\_\_\_\_

**Burlington Township Middle School at Springside**  
**Guidance Office**

**COURSE WAIVER**

I have reviewed scheduling options and have made selections that require submission of a waiver request to excuse my child from the following electives for the stated reason:

Please check the scheduling request that applies to your child.

Waive from:

Allow for:

\_\_\_\_\_ Music, Art, Study Skills\*

Well organized student to have two full year music classes if music schedule permits.

\_\_\_\_\_ Music, Art, Study Skills\*, Spanish

Well organized student **in the Encore program** to have two full year music classes and 1 Encore semester class

\_\_\_\_\_ Study Skills\*

Well organized student **with all A's in 5<sup>th</sup> grade** to have one additional semester elective

**\*Families should only consider waiving students from Study Skills if the student has demonstrated good organizational and study skills and has had no history of below average grades.**

I understand that I am requesting that my child be waived from attending required related arts classes. My child and I have discussed these scheduling choices carefully and agree that waiving these classes will provide for a schedule compatible with my child's needs. If waiver of Study Skills has been selected, we have discussed the student's responsibility to seek help if they are struggling with organization, studying for quizzes or tests, or completing assignments. If during the school year there is evidence that the scheduling choices represented in this waiver request are compromising student performance in any area, a guidance counselor or administrator may discuss possible schedule changes with me and my child.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

I have discussed scheduling choices with my parent and agree with the choices we have made.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Administrative Approval:  
\_\_\_\_\_