

Gallatin Gateway School

Middle School

Educating the Future

Welcome!

Our teaching team is thrilled to welcome you back to school! We will be greeting some new faces in our classrooms in both students and staff to start the year and look forward to getting to know all of you. This year has brought a few changes to our routines, and we will be working together as we introduce and practice these changes. With new technology, we also have the opportunity to integrate a more digital approach to our learning so that students have access to their resources from any location.

We have included course descriptions for each of our core and elective classes as well as our procedures and expectations. For grade-level or class-specific information, please contact us by email. Thank you for sharing your children with us!

Mr. Coon:	coon@gallatingatewayschool.com
Ms. Davis:	davis@gallatingatewayschool.com
Mrs. Dierenfeldt:	dierenfeldt@gallatingatewayschool.com
Mrs. Grafel:	grafel@gallatingatewayschool.com
Mrs. Hetherington:	hetherington@gallatingatewayschool.com
Miss Jaeger:	jaeger@gallatingatewayschool.com
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Visit our websites for additional information through the staff directory:
<https://www.gallatingatewayschool.com/Staff-Directory/>

Sixth Grade

Science: Mrs. Malott (Homeroom)

This is a general Science course designed to provide students with a sequential instruction of science skills mandated by the Montana Science Content Standards. We focus on earth science in sixth grade including layers of the earth, plate tectonics, rocks and minerals, and continental drift.

Math: Mr. Coon

This course is designed to provide students with a sequential instruction of math skills mandated by curriculum and state standards through the use of the CMP3 program. The five topics include: factors & multiples, ratios & rational numbers, fractional operations, two-dimensional measurement, decimals & percents, introduction to algebra, and data analysis.

English/Language Art: Mrs. Dierenfeldt

In ELA, we value the learner's perspective and provide rigorous learning experiences to promote higher achievement and develop the skills needed for academic and life success. Topics are explored through interactive, engaging, and relevant learning environments through readings, meaningful activities, and purposeful performance tasks. This course encourages social collaboration as well as student ownership of learning through goal setting, choice, and reflection. A variety of texts are used to promote literacy and critical thinking and a wide range of writing skills will be developed through this course.

Social Studies: Ms. Davis

In sixth grade, we focus on geography and history as we explore early civilizations of the eastern hemisphere including Greece, Rome, and Medieval Europe. As we build knowledge of our world, 6th graders develop *problem-solving* and *critical thinking skills* to *draw conclusions* and *make decisions*. The foundation for this course is based on 1) The College, Career, and Civic Life (C3) Framework, 4) Montana Common Core Standards in English Language Arts in History/Social Studies, and 5) Essential Understandings Regarding Montana Indians.

Seventh Grade

English/Language Arts: Mrs. Hetherington (Homeroom)

Students will explore all facets of English/Language Arts. During these 90-minute classes, students will read a wide range of materials, explore writing strategies and mechanics, develop their vocabularies, and practice their public speaking skills. As well, students will sharpen their research and presentation skills during fourth quarter when we conduct our annual independent study project (also known as “Genius Hour.”) Throughout the year, students will be expected to read independent selections along with assigned readings from the MyPerspectives curriculum program.

Math: Mr. Coon

This course is designed to provide students with a sequential instruction of math skills mandated by curriculum and state standards through the use of the CMP3 program. The five topics include: two-dimensional geometry, integers & rational numbers, understanding similarity, ratios, rates, percents, and proportions, linear relationships, probability & expected value, three-dimensional measurement, data & statistics.

Science: Mrs. Malott

This is a general Science course designed to provide students with a sequential instruction of science skills mandated by the Montana Science Content Standards. In seventh grade, we focus on biology including classifying organisms and dissection of frogs.

Social Studies: Ms. Davis

In seventh grade, we focus on geography and history as we explore Pre-Columbian civilizations of MesoAmerica in the first semester. The second semester follows the history of Montana from early tribes through the 19th century. The foundation for this course is based on 1) The College, Career, and Civic Life (C3) Framework, 4) Montana Common Core Standards in English Language Arts in History/Social Studies, and 5) Essential Understandings Regarding Montana Indians.

Eighth Grade

Social Studies: Ms. Davis (Homeroom)

In U.S. History we explore the period of the Revolutionary War through the Civil War and Reconstruction. As we review the founding documents and significant moments throughout our nation's history, we prepare students for informed and engaged futures. The foundation for this course is based on 1) The College, Career, and Civic Life (C3) Framework, 4) Montana Common Core Standards in English Language Arts in History/Social Studies, and 5) Essential Understandings Regarding Montana Indians.

Math: Mrs. Malott

The 8th Grade Mathematics is designed to provide students with the knowledge to interpret algebraic expressions, formulas and equations, transformations and geometry, mandated by curriculum and state standards. This course follows the Montana State Standards along with the Eight Mathematical Practices. Pythagorean Theorem, symmetry & transformation, coordinate planes, exponential functions to prepare students for high school.

ELA: Mrs. Hetherington

Students will explore all facets of English/Language Arts. During these 90-minute classes, students will read a wide range of materials, explore writing strategies and mechanics, develop their vocabularies, and practice their public speaking skills. As well, students will sharpen their research and presentation skills during fourth quarter when we conduct our annual independent study project (also known as "Genius Hour.") Throughout the year, students will be expected to read independent selections along with assigned readings from our new myPerspectives ELA curriculum.

Science: Mrs. Malott

This is a general Science course designed to provide students with a sequential instruction of science skills mandated by the Montana Science Content Standards. In eighth grade, we focus on physical science including molecules, the periodic table, kinetic & potential energy, and laws of motion.

Electives

Spanish

Learning a second language can be both exciting and fun. As we study Spanish, we will not only learn to communicate with Spanish speakers, but will also learn about their cultures and daily lives. Language learning is a building process that requires considerable time and practice, but it is one of the most rewarding things we can learn in school. We will be learning Spanish using two curriculum programs: *Realidades* and *Adióstextbook* which are also used in the local high schools. Students will apply their language skills through culturally-authentic projects, readings, speaking and writing, videos, music, and a variety of cultural activities. Eighth graders that show proficiency in the Spanish language will have the opportunity to start high school in the Spanish 2 class with teacher approval.

Journalism

This class introduces students to the concepts of writing and reporting information to be communicated through various methods including newsletter articles, GBS news segments, and collaboration with the GGS yearbook. In journalism, students will report on topics ranging from current school events, sports, interviews, opinion, and self-selected subjects to explore a wide range of writing styles. Audiovisual skills and photojournalism are incorporated through the weekly production of the GBS News.

Tech

This is a general technology course designed to provide students with a sequential instruction of Technology skills mandated by curriculum and state standards. In this technology class, students will be focusing on these main concepts; Business Fundamentals, Career Readiness and Digital literacy, Google Applications, Microsoft Office 2019, and Robotics Constructions and Programming.

Art

Students explore a variety of media as they build their skills in drawing, painting, graphics, calligraphy, and sculpture. We introduce and elaborate upon ideas about color, perspective, and design. Over the course of the semester, we discuss artists and artwork to develop the four strands of art education: art appreciation, art history, art production, and art criticism. Lessons offer the opportunity for students to express their personal ideas and creativity. Instruction is based on the Montana Standards for Arts. Required equipment: sketchbook, folder, and ruler.

Safety Precautions: In the art room, we will follow a seating chart that will accommodate appropriate distancing requirements. Clear dividers may also be used for additional protection. Seating areas will be sanitized before and after student use. Upon entering and prior to leaving, students will wash their hands in the art room sink. Each student will provide a personal sketchbook and folder to store in their backpack. Any art supplies needed for lessons will be individually prepared by the teacher so that no supplies are passed between students. Materials in the art room will be sanitized before the next class.

PE/Health

As you know physical education is an important component of your child's development. Students will be participating in physical education daily for one semester. These classes will consist of physical activities that address fitness, motor performance, and cognitive learning. All lessons taught in gym are aligned with the National physical education standards. Students are expected to give their best effort, follow directions, exhibit listening skills, follow rules during an activity, display good sportsmanship, behave respectfully towards others, and arrive appropriately prepared for class. Required equipment: clean indoor/gym shoes and athletic clothing adhering to dress code.

Safety Precautions: All PE equipment used by students will be cleaned directly after each use. Equipment will be cleaned with either a bleach mixture or a disinfectant, depending on the type of equipment used. Students may use the locker room to change clothing for class. Belongings may not be stored in lockers.

Music

Band and choir classes will meet every day for 49 minutes. Our band, choir, and guitar curriculum focuses on the elements of expression, rhythm, form, melody, timbre, texture, and harmony to create a musical product. These concepts will be taught and expanded upon as the student matures and is able to understand these concepts in greater detail. We will learn these concepts through the different avenues of expression such as singing in the choir and playing their instrument in the band. Students will also explore the world through the music of other cultures and will also perform in at least one formal concert each year and other smaller more informal concerts throughout the year. Required equipment: instrument and related supplies, i.e. reeds, picks, etc., instrument music book, folder.

Safety Precautions: All music materials used by students will be thoroughly cleaned directly after each class, this includes but is not limited to: instruments, music stands, chairs, risers, and instrument cases. Masks must be worn by all students and staff in a performing arts room – even while playing instruments when possible – and that no talking should be done without a mask on. Study statistics indicate limiting rehearsal times to 30 minutes or less significantly reduces the quantity and spread of aerosol among the individuals involved. Our remaining time in the class periods will be dedicated to cleaning/disinfecting and non-performance activities if time permits.

Daily Materials	Grading Procedures
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Backpack ● Water bottle ● Planner ● Textbook ● Notebook ● Graph Paper ● Pencil & Eraser ● Pen ● Calculator ● Protractor ● Ruler ● Highlighter ● Loose-leaf Paper ● Independent Reading ● <i>Additional materials may be needed for specific courses.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All assignments will be available on Google Classroom for each class. ● Graded on daily assignments, projects, quizzes, and tests. ● Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the due date unless previous arrangements have been made. ● Assignments must be legible and include a heading in the upper right-hand corner: <i>Name, Date, Subject, Assignment</i> or submitted via Google Classroom as directed. ● Check PowerSchool & Google Classroom regularly for grades updated weekly. <i>(Both students and parents may log in. Please call the office for more information.)</i> ● Late work is accepted for 10% off after 1 day, 20% after 2 days, and 50% for any additional day after its due date.

Absences and Make-up Assignments

In the event of an *unexpected* absence, it is your responsibility to complete missed assignments and collect notes and handouts. You will have an additional day to complete the work after you have been absent. After that day, any missing assignments will be accepted with a late penalty.

If you are aware that you will be absent from school, speak with your teachers prior to your absence to complete assignments and schedule make-up dates for quizzes, tests, and projects. It is the responsibility of the student to manage make-up assignments.

Planners

As a part of the process to develop strong organizational and time-management skills, all middle school students will be provided with and required to use a planner for the school year. Homeroom teachers will be working with the classes at the beginning and end of each day to structure this process, and it will be taken home for a nightly parent signature. The grade for this task will be taken in the student's homeroom gradebook. Please refer to the planner for upcoming events and reminders as well as assignments.

Chromebooks

Each student will have a Chromebook assigned and checked out to them for the school year. The computers will be used in each class and must be treated with care and responsibility. Students are expected to use technology appropriately and only for assigned purposes. The Chromebooks will be stored in the homeroom classroom and must be sanitized and returned at the end of each school day.

Water Bottles

Our drinking fountains will only have the water bottle refill feature to maintain the health and safety of our school. Students will need to bring a water bottle from home that may be refilled during the day. Please send water bottles to school already filled to reduce the amount of time spent in hallways. Our students will take their water bottles to all classes, recess, and lunch. While the outside of water bottles can be sanitized at school, students need to take them home to be washed, daily.

Behavior Guidelines

In words and actions, students are expected to be **safe, responsible, and respectful. They are responsible for how they impact others.** In middle school, we expect our students to develop independence in managing their schedules, materials, assignments, and communication with teachers. We value our time in the classroom and require that students are ready to learn and respect this time. Our teachers will communicate with you by phone or email regarding any concerns. For specific disciplinary behaviors, please refer to the Student-Parent Handbook.

Standard Sanitation and Safety Precautions

Our school has a comprehensive schedule of sanitizing and expectations for cleanliness. Please see Gallatin Gateway's Roadmap to Reopening for detailed information:

<https://www.gallatingatewayschool.com/COVID-19/index.html>

Here is what we are doing in our classrooms:

- Monitor temperature checks
- Assign a seating chart- *Desks will be sanitized after student use.*
- Arrange seating to maximize physical distance
- Utilize clear dividers for additional protection
- Check out textbooks and Chromebooks to individual students- *Sanitized after student use*
- Students will provide and use their own supplies.
- We will not be sharing books, supplies, computers, etc.
- Requiring hand washing
- Sanitizer dispenser available
- Reducing trips to lockers- *Students will carry materials in a backpack into class.*
- Developing schedules to reduce hallway traffic
- Scheduling physically-distanced outdoor learning opportunities.

This disclosure document is in accordance with and in addition to the rules and policies set forth by the Gallatin Gateway School Student and Parent handbook.