Alexander Graham Middle School

Prospective Parents Packet

2026-2027

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 agmspto.org

 @agmiddleschool

Core Curriculum

Below describes the 6th grade curriculum outlined in the NC Essential State Standards. All information was taken from the Department of Public Instruction website (dpi.state.nc.us). For more specific information on each subject for 6th, 7th and 8th grade, please visit the NCDPI website: NCPublicSchools.org/curriculum.

Social Studies

In 6th grade, students will focus heavily on geography by using the themes of location, place, movement, human-environment interaction, and region to understand the emergence, expansion, and decline of civilizations and societies from the beginning of human existence to the Age of Exploration. Students will take a systematic look at the history and culture of various world regions, including the development of economic, political, and social systems through the lens of change and continuity. Students will examine similar and different factors that shaped civilizations, societies and regions in the ancient world.

Science

In 6th grade, the science curriculum focuses on integrating the three main scientific domains—Life Science, Earth Science and Physical Science—through the lens of scientific and engineering practices. Students study concepts like atoms, matter and energy, and they learn how to use models and conduct investigations. They explore Earth's systems, including its layers, weather and human impacts, and life science topics such as cells, ecosystems, and energy transfer through food webs. Students will gain a deeper understanding of science through observation, experimentation and inquiry-based learning.

Math

In 6th grade, instructional math time will focus on developing students' understanding of ratio and proportional relationships, working with rational numbers, and using expressions and equations to solve problems. Key concepts include understanding ratios and unit rates; converting between fractions, decimals and percentages; solving one- and two-step equations and inequalities; and representing data using various plots. The curriculum also emphasizes a set of Standards for Mathematical Practice (e.g., make sense of problems, reason abstractly, model with mathematics, etc.) that students apply to real-world situations. **Students have the opportunity to qualify for honors math placement** in 6th-8th grades. They can also place into Math 1 and Math 2 in 7th and 8th grades, which offer high school credit.

English Language Arts (ELA)

The ELA curriculum focuses on developing reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills through the exploration of complex themes like identity, family and morality. Students engage with diverse texts, write various forms of compositions, refine academic vocabulary, and build social-emotional competencies as they develop argumentative, informational, and narrative writing skills while integrating information from multiple sources. A core goal is to build comprehensive understanding and communication skills, preparing students for advanced studies in high school and beyond. **Students also have the opportunity to qualify for honors ELA placement** in 6th-8th grades.

Exploratory Classes and Other Offerings

- All 6th grade students can take two "exploratory" classes (electives) each semester.
- Health/P.E. is required and will automatically be assigned to every student one semester.
- If a student chooses a year-long exploratory course (band or orchestra), that fills two semester slots, so the student will only have one more exploratory choice one semester. (Health/P.E. will still be assigned one semester.)
- Students will rank all exploratory choices during the registration period, which generally begins around Spring Break in 5th grade.
- Of note, **all AGMS teachers are given the opportunity to grow their craft as educators by participating in International Baccalaureate (IB) training**, which focuses on inquiry-driven, student-centered learning rather than lecture-heavy teaching models.

Semester Long Exploratory Courses (18-week A/B classes)

Art builds upon a student's individual skills in visual art.

Drama allows students to explore theater arts through creative drama, diction, vocal expression, and audience etiquette for one quarter, and then they explore different art techniques in the other quarter.

Exploratory Spanish course provides an introduction to Spanish, emphasizing basic communication and cultural concepts. It is *not* a prerequisite to taking Spanish 1 in 7th grade, but many find it helpful.

Keyboarding and Basic Word Processing teaches students touch-typing, proper ergonomics, and fundamental keyboarding skills necessary for future academic and professional success. Students also learn to use word processing software for basic document creation, design, editing, collaboration and problem solving.

PLTW Design and Modeling provides students with opportunities to apply STEM design processes to creatively solve problems. Students learn and use methods to communicate design ideas through sketches, solid models and mathematical models. This course is offered through a partnership with Project Lead the Way (PLTW), which provides access to real-world, career-connected learning experiences.

Health/P.E. is a ***required*** semester course that combines the NC state requirements for both health and physical education.

Journalism & Creative Writing is a new course as of Fall 2026 where students can act as story architects, sleuths, and wordbuilders to create tension-filled mysteries, stories with epic plot twists and more. Students will dive into different genres and build their creative confidence, critical thinking and communication skills.

Year-Long Electives (36-week A/B classes)

Band provides beginning class instruction in playing woodwind (flute, clarinet), brass (trumpet, horns) and percussion (drums) instruments.

Orchestra provides beginning instruction in playing string instruments like the violin, viola, cello or bass.

Other Student Offerings

Media Center

The AG Media Center supports students across all grade levels through classroom research support, personalized readers' advisory, lunchtime open checkout and book clubs (including Battle of the Books). AGMS also offers collaborative reading programs with the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Library.

> Using funds raised by the Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO), AGMS was able to create a new **Student Recharge Center** within the Media Center during the summer of 2026. This is a creative, inviting space for students to relax and reset their minds, whether it's reading a book, doing yoga or connecting with friends.

AGMS House System

AGMS utilizes a "house system," which is a schoolwide peer structure designed to improve student culture, build character and foster a sense of belonging. This is one of the few opportunities where students of all grades spend time together. Similar to in *Harry Potter*:

- Students are sorted into their houses during a fun event at the beginning of the year.
- Students earn points for their house through academic effort, good character, acts of kindness and teamwork.
- Houses engage in friendly academic, artistic and athletic competitions, celebrating collective achievements rather than individual victories to build school spirit.



Clubs, Sports and Leadership Opportunities

AG TEACHER-LED CLUBS & ACTIVITIES

Beta Club
Student Council
The L.A.A.B.
Girls in P.E.A.R.L.S.
NJHS

AGTV
Art Club
Drama Club
Science Club

Battle of the Books
Odyssey of the Mind
Dungeons & Dragons
Step Team

CLUB SPORTS & CLINICS (ALL GRADE LEVELS)

Club Field Hockey
Club Rugby

Club Lacrosse – Boys
Club Lacrosse – Girls

Cross Country for Youth
Bulldog Basketball

AG SPORTS TEAMS (7TH & 8TH GRADES ONLY)

FALL	WINTER	SPRING
Cheer	Cheer	Baseball
Football	Girls' Basketball	Boys' Soccer
Golf	Boys' Basketball	Girls' Soccer
Volleyball		Boys' Track
Softball		Girls' Track

Students may also run for **Student Council** in each grade, and there are leadership positions in Beta Club and National Junior Honor Society (NJHS).

AGMS Communications: How to Contact Us and Stay in the Know

- **Main Front Desk** - Staff answer the main phone line (980-343-5810) Monday-Friday from 8am to 3:30pm.

- **Prospective Parent Questions** - Email agmsprospectiveparents@gmail.com with any questions about AGMS or Prospective Parent events.

- **Academic/Schedule Questions** - Email current 6th Grade School Counselor, Mrs. Cassie Payne, at cassiew.payne@cms.k12.nc.us.

- **AGMS PTO Website** - AG's Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) website (agmspto.org) is one to "Favorite" in your browser, as it contains comprehensive information for new & current families, quick links, school events, PTO calendar and contacts, ways to get involved, and the school store.

- **School Website** - AGMS has a website within the greater Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools site. This is where you'll find school forms, policies, contact information and much more: cmsk12.org/AlexanderGrahamMS.

- **Bulldog Bulletin** - This weekly email newsletter includes information about upcoming AGMS events. Parents can opt-in on the AGMS PTO website under "Quick Links."

- **Social Media** - Follow Alexander Graham Middle School on Facebook and Instagram to be in the know about upcoming school events, and also see pictures and videos of the amazing happenings around **@agmiddleschool**!

A Typical Day at AGMS

AGMS has a daily **bell schedule of 8:30 am - 3:30 pm**. Upon arrival, students will report to their homeroom (HR) to kickstart their day with Social Emotional Learning (SEL) "mindful moments," which help set the tone for a positive school environment each day.

There are **separate hallways for 6th, 7th and 8th grade core classes**. Sixth graders especially are kept together for the most part during their school day. This allows for an easier transition into middle school.

AGMS operates on an **A Day/B Day schedule**, so students attend ELA and Math classes every day, while Science and Social Studies rotate every other day. Exploratory courses (electives) also meet on an A/B Day rotation. Students have four blocks each day, including **Fun Interactive Time** ("FIT") – similar to recess – during their exploratory block.

Below is the current school schedule by grade:

6th Grade		7th Grade		8th Grade	
8:30 - 8:45	HR/SEL	8:30 - 8:45	HR/SEL	8:30 - 8:45	HR/SEL
8:45 - 10:10	1st Block	8:45 - 10:00	1st Block	8:45 - 10:15	1st Block
10:15 - 11:45	2nd Block	10:05 - 12:00 10:10-10:35 - 1st 10:40-11:05 - 2nd	2nd Block Lunch	10:20 - 11:50 11:25-11:50	2nd Block Exploratory FIT
11:50 - 1:55 11:55-12:20 - 1st 12:25-12:50 - 2nd	3rd Block Lunch	12:05 - 1:45 1:20-1:45	3rd Block Exploratory FIT	11:55 - 1:55 1:00 - 1:25 -1st 1:30 - 1:55 - 2nd	3rd Block Lunch
2:00 - 3:30 2:55 - 3:20	4th Block Exploratory FIT	1:50 - 3:30	4th Block	2:00 - 3:30	4th Block