



BENTON INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

SIXTH GRADE COURSE SELECTION FORM



Dear Incoming Sixth Grade Parents and Students,

It is hard to believe that it is time to start preparing for next year! This document provides some important information about 6th grade scheduling which is slightly different from 5th grade. Our sixth grade students are enrolled in six classes. Three of those courses are automatically scheduled for each student- *Social Studies, Science, and P.E.* The other three course options will be the student's choice of elective and the option to take APP ELA and/or APP Math or the standard grade level ELA and Math courses. Information about elective choices and Advanced Placement Preparation (APP) courses is attached. After reviewing the elective course offerings and APP information, please make the course requests in OnCourse using the detailed instructions provided at the end of this packet by **May 15th**.

Please understand that every effort will be made to accommodate your first choice; however, staffing or scheduling conflicts may make it necessary to move to your alternate choice. Once the deadline has passed to make course requests, elective selections cannot be changed. **NO SCHEDULE CHANGES WILL BE MADE ONCE THE SCHOOL YEAR BEGINS.**

If you have any questions, please contact our 6th grade counselor by email at heidi.cooper@[bossierschools.org](mailto:heidi.cooper@bossierschools.org) or by phone at 549-5322.

BENTON INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

SIXTH GRADE ELECTIVE COURSES

BEGINNING BAND:

This course emphasizes the performance of required music on the state performance guideline list. Co-curricular activities are included as part of academic requirements in this performance class. Band fee is \$30, and it includes a band shirt and method book. Note: No prior music experience necessary. Students need to secure their own instrument via renting or purchasing. Certain instruments are made available through the school (French horn, tuba, baritone, and some woodwinds) with a rental fee. A mouthpiece must be purchased for school owned instruments.

CYBER FUNDAMENTALS 1:

Cyber Fundamentals introduces students to the foundational concepts of security, coding, and robotics through project-driven, hands-on modules. By integrating the LEGO based NXT and EV3 robots, students learn the basics of block-based and text-based programming and how they interact with sensors and robots. Cyber Fundamentals also explores the idea of a cyber society through liberal arts and technology crossovers. The fee is \$30 and covers the cost of course materials.

BEGINNING SPANISH:

This course helps students develop skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing as well as common vocabulary and grammar patterns. Students will experience the cultures of Spanish speaking people both abroad and in the U.S.

ART:

This course enables students to gain a basic working knowledge of the fundamental aspects of art. Fee is \$30. An additional supply list will be given.

SUCCESS STRATEGIES:

Success Strategies is a course where students can receive instruction to reinforce literacy skills in reading, writing, and critical thinking. Lessons are tailored to support students' diverse needs at all academic levels. Students will set learning goals in order to master skills that will prepare them for the next grade level. Lessons will include learning tasks, and with the integration of technology, students will practice literacy skills, acquire various perspectives and experiences, and increase their academic performance.

Note: Students will not see an option to select this course. Students are selected for this course based on pre-established criteria.

Benton Intermediate School

6th Grade ELA & Math APP

Advanced Placement Preparation (APP) courses are academically advanced courses designed to challenge motivated students to understand rigorous content more deeply. The coursework requires students to engage in independent and analytical assignments and to complete a substantial amount of work outside of class. The curricula for the courses are built on the core academic curriculum following the Louisiana State Standards. Enrollment into APP coursework is open to any student who is interested in a challenging and rigorous curriculum. Students may enroll in APP for both Math and ELA, for either Math or ELA, or for neither. Please read the expectations and characteristics of successful APP students prior to making your decision.

APP Language Arts Expectations:

ELA APP students will be expected to meet the requirements of the sixth grade Guidebook curriculum, as well as an increased focus on literary analysis in reading, writing, and speaking. APP classes will also be expected to complete analytical readings of additional literary texts **independently** and use analytical literary terms in both writing and speaking. **The homework load for this class is intensive.** Students should be prepared to invest significant time and effort completing the additional readings, writing assignments, and projects. It is imperative that students are motivated to work hard and devote ample time to text analysis.

APP Math Expectations:

The APP courses for 6th grade Math are designed to accelerate students beyond the sixth grade Eureka curriculum. Students will be exposed to and assessed on sixth and seventh grade standards over the course of the year. This course is perfect for students who wish to be challenged with more rigorous content/assessments and for those students who excel in a fast-paced learning environment. Students choosing APP Math should be aware that from time to time multiple lessons may be taught during a single 71-minute class period as dictated by the Bossier Parish APP Pacing Guide. Students may have daily homework or assignments that will need to be completed outside of class independently.

Students who experience success in 6th grade APP courses typically exhibit the following personal and academic characteristics.

Personal Characteristics:

- Willingness to frequently work outside of school hours
- Desire to excel in a fast-paced environment
- Work well in collaborative peer groups
- Intrinsic motivation to complete tasks
- Ability to complete work independently in the event of absences
- Excellent study and organizational skills
- Strong sense of responsibility

ELA Academic Characteristics:

- LEAP assessment scores of Mastery or Advanced in ELA
- A score of 85% or higher in all ELA classes without the support of a regular tutor
- Proficient oral and written communication skills

Math Academic Characteristics:

- A score of Mastery or Advanced on previous Math LEAP assessments
- A score of 85% or higher in previous Math courses without the support of a regular tutor

Please feel free to reach out to your child's current ELA or Math teacher if you have any additional questions regarding APP classes and your learner!

COURSE REQUEST INSTRUCTIONS

Login to the student portal in OnCourse

Click on the COURSE REQUEST icon (left hand side)



Click on Add Course Request button

Select your elective course by clicking on the green **ADD** button next to the course you want. This should be your 1st choice elective.

Click on the down arrow under details to Add Alternates to enter your 2nd choice elective

Click on the green **Add** button next to your 2nd choice elective

You should see your 1st choice elective and a (1) under ALTERNATES.

Click on Add Course Request button

Click on the **Add** button next to your choice for your ELA course. (ELA 6 **OR** APP ELA)

Click on the **Add** button next to your choice for your Math course. (Math 6 **OR** APP Math)

All of the courses you added will display. If you made a mistake, just click on "REMOVE". You can go back add the correct course by clicking the green Add Course Request button.