

6th GRADE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

SIXTH GRADE ELECTIVES...

You can be in the choir, band, or orchestra and play interscholastic sports in the 7th and 8th grades. There is no interscholastic sports program in the sixth grade. Be aware that if you sign up for choir, band, or orchestra you must be willing to commit to outside of school practice sessions and performances and to remain in the program for the entire year.

READING

In reading grade 6, students master previously learned language arts and reading skills in increasingly complex reading selections. They receive instruction in higher level reading skills in this required course while reading widely in classic and contemporary selections and informational texts. Students are presented strategies in an interactive environment so that they can: listen actively; speak/talk to construct; read, write, and view independently and critically.

ADVANCED CONTEMPORARY LITERACY

This reading course is designed for students possessing advanced reading skills, is a research-based course in which students apply those reading skills in problem-solving, project-based assignments requiring research. At sixth grade, this rigorous class focuses on nonfiction reading, oral presentation, and written expression. Strategies, such as Socratic seminar and student portfolios, encourage higher level thinking and discussion concerning contemporary cross-curricular issues.

BAND

Band I - This course is designed for students who exhibit an interest in learning a band instrument. In most cases, students will need to furnish their instruments and be committed to an advanced band after one year of study. Students will be placed appropriately according to instrument selection and/or proficiency level.

CHOIR

Choir I - Beginning choir builds on the knowledge, skills and understanding developed in elementary school. Students in this course will experience singing in unison and in parts, with an emphasis placed on proper vocal techniques and sight-reading skills.

ORCHESTRA

String Orchestra I - This course is designed for students who exhibit an interest in learning how to play the violin, viola, cello, or string bass. In most cases the student will need to provide his/her own instrument and be committed to achieving an established level of performance commensurate with being placed in an advanced orchestra during his/her second year of performing.

String Orchestra II - This course is designed for those string performers who have completed one or more years of study. Students will be placed appropriately according to instrument selection and/or playing proficiency.

ART

Sixth grade art provides a study of the art elements and principles through experiences with a variety of art media and tools in design, drawing, painting, sculpture, ceramics, fiber art, photographic imagery, and electronic media-generated art; identifies and compares artwork across time and culture; and evaluates artwork through discussion and critique.

THEATRE ARTS I

This is an introductory level course which allows the student to study a variety of aspects of theatre performance. Emphasis is placed on the development of individual techniques utilized in theatre performance.

DEBATE I

First semester topics: logic, persuasion, and speaking and debate formats. Competitive events covered in the class include impromptu speaking, modern oratory, and Lincoln Douglas debate. Second semester topics: philosophy, current events, and debate formats. Students in both semesters will research, write, and present original works as well as critically evaluate works from others. Competitive events covered in the class will include Student Congress, and Public Forum debate.

EXPLORATORY LANGUAGE

Exploratory language is a one semester course designed to introduce students to the language learning process and to specific languages and their cultures. The students will experience the four linguistic skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing in a language other than English.

AIM (Academic & Individual Motivation)

This class is designed as an enrichment opportunity for students to review academic concepts, seek assistance in solving academic problems, promote independent skills in time management, learn strategies for success such as vocabulary development, agenda use, binder organization, goal setting and character education.

HEALTH

This is a one-semester course designed to foster personal health and safety. It includes ways to cope with peer pressure and stress, gain knowledge concerning diseases and effects of drug use – their prevention and treatment. The human body, the functions of its systems, and the effects of pollution, nutrition, exercise, and mental health are major parts of the course. Sex education, first aid and rescue techniques, responsibility and decision-making, information about pertinent laws, government regulations, and health agencies are also covered.