

**EISENHOWER MIDDLE SCHOOL  
PLANNING FOR SIXTH GRADE  
2009-2010**

**LOOKING AHEAD**

Sixth grade is a new and important phase of your education. You will have the opportunity to improve skills you have learned and to gain new skills that you will need for the courses and activities that are ahead of you. Sixth grade is the time to begin establishing the study habits you will need to attain your future goals. It is a time for exploration. Make the most of these opportunities.

**REQUIRED COURSES**

As a sixth grade student, you will be required to take the following courses:

- English .....All Year
- Reading.....All Year
- Math.....All Year
- Science.....All Year
- Social Studies.....All Year
- Physical Education/Health...All Year
- AIM ..... All Year
- Elective.....One All-year or two semester electives

**PRE-AP CLASSES** - At the sixth grade level PreAP or advanced classes are offered in English, reading and math. Students desiring to enroll in these advanced classes should have good study habits, a high level of motivation, a positive attitude toward the subject area, good attendance, and a willingness to accept the challenge and time commitments required of these classes. **IN ORDER TO BE ENROLLED IN PRE-AP CLASSES, THE STUDENT WILL BE REQUIRED TO RETURN A COMMITMENT FORM SIGNED BY BOTH THE PARENT AND THE STUDENT.**

**GT CLASSES** - Extended learning classes (GT -gifted/talented) are offered for English and math. GT classes are not listed on the current choice card because students must be tested before qualifying for these courses. If you are interested in testing for GT, please contact the counselor at the elementary school where your child attends. Testing generally occurs late in the spring semester of 5<sup>th</sup> grade at the child's elementary school. Eisenhower counselors will be notified in May of all students who have tested and qualified for placement in GT (gifted/talented) English or math classes.

**ACCELERATED INDIVIDUAL MOTIVATION (AIM)** –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. Students who do not pass the reading or math portion of the TAKS will take an enrichment class in lieu of AIM.

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION** - This course will include instructions and opportunities in physical fitness development to improve the quality of life, motor skills that develop positive body image, and skills related to games and sports.

**HEALTH** – This course is 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.

**PROMOTION REQUIREMENTS IN MIDDLE SCHOOL** - The North East Board Policy regarding grade promotion reads:

*Promotion to the next grade level shall be based on an overall average of 70 or above for all subject areas and a grade of 70 or above in Language Arts (English and reading), mathematics, social studies, and science. Students in grade 8 must pass TAKS reading and TAKS math in order to be promoted to grade 9.*

## **SIXTH GRADE ACADEMIC CLASSES**

**ENGLISH 6 PRE AP** - English 6 Pre-AP is differentiated from the regular program through the selections of literature and in the challenges presented to students in all areas of study. The Junior Great Books Program is the nucleus of this English course. The scope and sequence covers (1) language, grammar & usage, beginning logic; (2) literature and personal meaning; (3) sentence combining, multi- paragraph papers & editing skills; (4) oral presentations & listening skills; (5) study skills, library reports, and research.

**ENGLISH 6** - English 6 provides opportunities for students to make the transition from elementary to middle school in these language arts skills: writing, reading, viewing, speaking, listening, and producing. The scope and sequence covers (1) language and grammar; (2) literature; (3) sentence combining, paragraph development & editing skills; (4) oral presentations & listening skills; (5) study skills, library reports, & beginning research.

**ADVANCED CONTEMPORARY LITERACY (Grade 6)** - This reading course, 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 in and reading of a wide variety of non-fiction materials. 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.

**READING 6** - 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 in format 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.

**MATH 6 PRE AP** - This course emphasizes pre-algebra skills and concepts such as variables, writing and solving equations, and problem solving. The full range of topics needed for the successful study of pre-algebra in seventh grade is covered in this course. To be successful in this course a student must have a firm foundation in the operations of whole numbers, decimals, and fractions.

**MATH 6** - This course is designed to be a transition from the concrete mathematics of elementary school to more abstract middle-level mathematics. The use of manipulatives is still emphasized to provide students with a concrete basis for most topics introduced. Concepts to be covered include a review of basic operations, place value, metric and customary measurement, basic geometry, the number line and coordinate plane, and elementary probability and statistics. Real-world applications of the concepts will be used throughout the curriculum.

**SCIENCE 6** - This course uses lab and field investigations, the inquiry and scientific method, and the tools to gain problem-solving techniques while learning concepts such as the Laws of Newton, causes of earth movements, and volcanic activities; understanding chemical combinations and properties, environmental issues; sources of energy and its effects in systems; structure and function applied to living and non-living systems; genes and stimuli affecting change in living and non-living responses; the solar system and space travel, the parts, movements, and cycles of rocks, water, and air.

**SOCIAL STUDIES 6** - Students study people and places of the contemporary world. Societies selected for study are chosen from the regions of the world. The concepts of limited and unlimited government are introduced, and students describe the nature of citizenship in various societies. Students compare institutions common to all societies.

## INFORMATION REGARDING ELECTIVES

### SELECTION OF AN ELECTIVE

**Please choose electives with care. Once choices have been made, changes will not be permitted. Students enrolled in an all year elective will be required to remain enrolled for the full year. Therefore, it is recommended that you:**

1. Consider your interest and your abilities.
2. Study the description of the electives.
3. Discuss your choices with your parents.

### ALTERNATE ELECTIVES

**You will be given your first choice elective if at all possible. However, if it is necessary, you will be placed in your alternate choice, so choose carefully. Alternate choices will be used in the case of a scheduling conflict. Electives of insufficient size will not be able to be offered and alternate choices will be used.**

### ELECTIVE PURPOSE STATEMENT

The purpose of elective classes in middle school is to explore a variety of interests, and they are designed to meet the State TEKS as well as the North East Standards. Although electives can be considered fun to attend they require commitment: homework, tests, outside activities, projects, and performances. Grades earned will be used to determine eligibility for extra-curricular activities. Elective grades are also used in computing overall averages required for promotion.

## 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE ALL YEAR ELECTIVES

**PLEASE UNDERSTAND A COMMITMENT MUST BE MADE FOR ALL YEAR ELECTIVE PROGRAMS. CHANGES AT THE SEMESTER WILL NOT BE MADE.**

### BEGINNING BAND-ALL YEAR

This course is designed for those 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. **Note:** No previous music training or band experience is necessary. Students and parents **must** meet with the band directors to determine which instrument the student will play and to receive information about renting or purchasing an instrument. Students will be placed in separate classes for each instrument to facilitate specialized instruction. Enrollment is limited for particular instruments in accordance with typical band instrumentation. Students who wish to enroll in the percussion class will be required to meet certain criteria as outlined by the band directors.

### STRINGS I / BEGINNING ORCHESTRA - ALL YEAR

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. **Note:** Membership in this orchestra is open to any 6<sup>th</sup> grade student with no previous orchestra experience.

### STRINGS II / CONCERT ORCHESTRA-ALL YEAR

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. **Note:** This orchestra is open to all incoming 6<sup>th</sup> grade students who have successfully completed Elementary Strings. Students will be encouraged to perform in Region Orchestra, UIL, and Solo and Ensemble Contests. Performances will be broad, including: elementary schools, assembly programs, special programs, and contests. There will be a uniform and a number of required performances.

### **CHOIR - ALL YEAR**

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.

**Note:** All sixth graders that are interested in learning to sing and perform may join all year choir. Students will participate in several performances throughout the year including, Fall Concert, Holiday Concert, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Musical, and Pop Show. Performance possibilities will be broad, including: elementary schools, assembly programs, and contests. There will be a required uniform and a number of required performances.

## **6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE SEMESTER ELECTIVES**

**IF STUDENTS DO NOT CHOOSE A FULL YEAR ELECTIVE, THEY MAY CHOOSE 2 OF THE FOLLOWING SEMESTER (HALF YEAR) ELECTIVES.**

### **ART – SEMESTER**

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.

### **THEATER ARTS - SEMESTER**

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

### **CHOIR - SEMESTER**

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.

**Note:** The music class will combine with 6<sup>th</sup> grade choir to sing in 2 concerts per semester.