

**Lopez
Middle
School**

Elective
Descriptions
2008-2009
Grade 6



FULL YEAR ELECTIVES

You can be in the choir, band, or orchestra and will be able to 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 remain in the program for the entire year.

Band I (Beginning) –No experience necessary to join beginner band! This course is for students interested in a full year elective of band in which they begin their musical journey towards excellence. Most students will need to furnish their instruments, though some larger/more expensive instruments are available through the district. Classes are divided into homogenous (or like) instrument classes. Ex. All flute players are in one class. Instrument choices include: Flute, Oboe, Bassoon, Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, Trumpet, French Horn, Trombone, Euphonium/Baritone, Tuba and Percussion.

Students will perform many times throughout the year, including: a demonstration concert in the fall, a holiday concert, a spring concert, possible formation of a beginner honor band, and competition in UIL Solo and Ensemble contest. Students will audition at the end of their sixth grade year for placement in Band II or Band III for the next school year. **A band program fee may be collected.**

Choir: The 6th Grade Choir is a non-auditioned group open to any 6th grader who would like to sing and perform. Students build on music skills developed in elementary school. Students continue to develop their vocal technique, music reading skills performance, confidence and appreciation for the arts. Many styles of music are performed, including sacred, secular, classical, pop and show-tunes. Attendance at approximately four evening performances is required throughout the year. Additionally, a limited number of rehearsals outside the school day are mandatory. Required uniforms are purchased from the school. Opportunities for personal achievement are encouraged with participation in the NEISD Solo and Ensemble Contest.

Orchestra I (Strings) (Beginning Level) - Beginning Orchestra is for students having an interest in learning to play the violin, viola, cello or string bass. No previous musical experience is required, as students will learn and develop the basic technical skills of playing a string instrument, along with learning to read musical notation and rhythms. Most students will need to provide their own instrument, although the school has several instruments available for loan for a minimal yearly maintenance fee.

Students will perform in several concerts during the year and also have the opportunity to participate in the NEISD Solo and Ensemble Contest. All orchestra members will also be able to audition for placement in one of our advanced orchestras at the end of their sixth grade year.

Orchestra II (Strings) (Advanced Level) – This course is designed for sixth grade string students who have one or more years of experience on their instrument. Students in this class will continue to work on their technical skills through a variety of performance opportunities.

Orchestra members in this class will perform in several concerts during the year, including UIL Orchestra Concert and Sight reading Contest, and also have the opportunity to audition for the TMEA Region Orchestra and participate in the NEISD Solo and Ensemble Contest.

HALF YEAR (SEMESTER) ELECTIVE COURSES:

Exploring Visual Art: Sixth grade art provides the student a creative hands on approach to learning. A study of the art elements and principles will be explored through the creation of two-dimensional and three-dimensional artworks. Media may include: drawing (marker, pencils, pastels), painting (tempera, watercolor), printmaking, clay (ceramics), sculpture and fiber art. Artworks and cultures are studied through evaluations, discussion, and critiques. **In lieu of a supply list, a \$5.00 art fee will be collected.**

Theatre I: This semester course, designed to encourage an appreciation and understanding of theatre arts, introduces sixth grade students to the study of drama. Many elements of theatre are presented including pantomime, characterization, acting, physical and vocal performance techniques, a basic introduction to technical theatre, and an overview of theatre history. This is a performance oriented class for students interested in acting and working on stage. Theatre I students are encouraged to participate in the many extra curricular activities within the theatre program throughout the year.