

# 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS 2020-2021

## ELECTIVES

### BEGINNING ORCHESTRA

Length: Full Year

Prerequisite: None

Open to all 6<sup>th</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup> grade students who are interested in learning to play the violin, viola, cello or string bass. Students will play classical, folk, and bluegrass styles on their instruments while also learning music theory, history, note reading, sight singing. The beginning strings will participate in an elementary recruitment tour and multiple evening performances.

### CHOIR

Length: Full Year

Students learn teamwork and cooperation by performing together vocally. Skills they learn include matching pitch, correct posture, as well as understanding basic music reading and theory. They will learn to sing various styles of vocal music such as jazz, pop, and classics in up to 4 parts at a time. Performance opportunities are at school assemblies and concerts (approximately three times per year.)

### BAND

Length: Full Year

6<sup>th</sup> grade band is designed for students who wish to start learning a band instrument. Students with previous band experience can also take the course. Students will learn proper tone production, rhythmic accuracy, and note accuracy and basic music theory through individual practice, ensemble rehearsals, and performances. Participation in performances will constitute part of the student's grade. This course has a dress code for all performances. Instruments offered are: clarinet, flute, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, euphonium, French horn & tuba. Drums are not initially offered.

## REQUIRED COURSES

**EXPLORATORY WHEEL:** Every nine weeks, students will rotate through each of the following:

### COMPUTERS SKILLS

In this class, students will learn what it is to be a responsible digital citizen, what "being safe online" really means, and the harm that cyberbullying causes to everyone involved. In addition, students will investigate how to determine if a website is reliable, how digital footprints can affect their future, how to avoid costly scams and other current digital citizenship topics. Students will be asked to make several group presentations and participate in interactive discussions.

### WORLD LANGUAGE

This class is an introduction to both French and Spanish. The class will mostly address speaking and listening with some reading and writing in French and Spanish. Students will learn to communicate in French and Spanish on topics such as self, classroom, family/pets, activities and body parts.

### ART

This is a hands-on introductory course emphasizing knowing and using the elements of art effectively. The students will use line, shape, color, texture, form, space, and value to thoughtfully compose works of art. Students will explore art through a study of master artists and application of their learning. Students will present their work to each other in a safe and positive setting. No previous drawing experience is needed to succeed.

### STUDY SKILLS

In this class, students will learn strategies for note taking, how to study for tests and organizational skills.

**LANGUAGE ARTS**

Length: Full Year

Prerequisite: None

Sixth Grade Language Arts is designed to further develop written communication skills. Curriculum includes instruction in narrative, descriptive, expository, and persuasive writing. Students will be taught the parts of speech, sentence structure, paragraph form, grammar, and mechanics. Research skills will be introduced.

**6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE MATH**

Length: Full Year

Prerequisite: None

Math students will recognize, describe, and extend patterns, apply order of operations, and name and classify geometric shapes. Students will understand and apply concepts relating to factors, multiples, and negative numbers. Working with fractions, decimals, and percents and converting between these 3 forms are skills developed in 6<sup>th</sup> grade math. Students will leave 6<sup>th</sup> grade math with strong fraction and decimal skills.

**SOCIAL STUDIES**

Length: Full Year

Prerequisite: None

Sixth grade Social Studies will focus on learning about the geography, history, and cultures of the worlds from pre-history to our world today. It will include the study of Mesopotamia, Ancient Egypt and Nubia, the Indus River Valley, Ancient China, Ancient Greece, and the early civilizations of the Aztecs, Incas and Mayas. Map and globe skills, reading tables and graphs, current events and political cartoons will also be covered. Numerous art projects will be used to extend the curriculum, as well as independent projects.

**SCIENCE**

Length: Full Year

Prerequisite: None

In 6<sup>th</sup> grade science, we have multiple units of study. Our curriculum will focus primarily on: physical and chemical properties of matter, the characteristic properties of forms of energy, the types and components of cells, human body systems, the layers of the earth and rock cycle, properties of objects in the solar system, types and properties of waves, electricity and magnetism, how individual organisms and populations in an ecosystem interact, and the water cycle.

**PE/HEALTH**

Length: Full Year

Prerequisite: None

In this class students participate in PE for 27 weeks and rotate to Health for 9 weeks. The 9-week Health course is designed to help you gain knowledge and understanding of how to develop a healthy lifestyle now and in the future. We will be actively involved in developing strategies for leading a life that is healthy and productive. Topics that are covered: Responsible Decision Making, Nutrition, Physical Fitness, Community health, Alcohol, Tobacco and Illegal drugs.

**INTERVENTIONS – Replaces Electives – Placement Determined by Teachers****MATH LAB**

Length: Semester or year-long determined by test scores

Prerequisite: Students will be chosen based on a variety of data; school assessment data, ACT Aspire, Smarter Balanced, Easy CBM, and teacher recommendation.

**LANGUAGE ARTS LAB**

Length: Semester or year-long determined by test scores

Prerequisite: Students will be chosen based on a variety of data; school assessment data, ACT Aspire, Smarter Balanced, Easy CBM, and teacher recommendation.