

6th Grade Course Descriptions 2023/2024 School Year

Required Courses

6th 611 Social Studies (Full Year Course)

Students will explore the tools and mental constructs used by geographers as they study contemporary world geography. They will examine the relationships between people, places, and environments. They will also develop the qualities needed to be a good citizen in our country. Current events will be used to support all of these concepts.

6th 616 Language Arts (Full Year Course)

Students will fine-tune their writing skills using the six traits of writing: ideas, organization, sentence fluency, word choice, voice, and conventions. Genres of writing will include narrative, informative/explanatory, and argumentative essays. Grammar will be woven into the curriculum. Speaking and listening are components of the course which will require students to give oral presentations during the year. In addition, students at all reading levels will grow in the understanding and application of reading strategies. Class instruction and assignments are connected to the English Language Arts common core curriculum.

6th 624 Math (Full Year Course)

This course is for sixth grade students and is designed to apply math skills learned in elementary school as well as learning more complex concepts so they can be successful in future math courses. Topics of study will include: order of operations (including exponents, fractions & decimals) ratios, percentages, positive/negative integers, beginning Algebra, statistics and finding volume and surface area of three-dimensional figures.

6th 631 Science (Full Year Course)

Sixth grade students will dive into the revealing world of Earth Science. Students will use the scientific process, the rock cycle, plate tectonics, weather, and space to discover the similarities and patterns that exist in the world around us and the impact humans have on these systems. Emphasis will be on hands-on inquiry, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills.

6th 632 Accelerated Science (Full Year Course)

Sixth grade students who wish to complete middle school science courses at an accelerated pace will explore the world of Earth Science. This course will include the same content as 6th grade science, but will be completed in two trimesters rather than three. During the third trimester, students will begin the first trimester of 7th grade science, diving into life science including cells, body systems, and organisms. If a student elects to stay in accelerated science courses, they will be able to finish all three years of middle school science in two years. Students in accelerated courses should expect to do work and research outside of the school day. Prior approval is needed to enroll in this course. Please see your science teacher or student services for more information.

6th 6601 Physical Education (Required Trimester Course)

This class will emphasize physical fitness throughout the trimester, and allow students to further develop their health and skill related fitness, along with team and individual sports skills. Students will be encouraged to engage in healthy lifestyles, and challenged to improve their personal fitness levels and baseline scores on monthly fitness assessments.

6th 688 Tech (Required Trimester Course)

In this required 6th grade technology class, students will become familiar with our new Learning Management System (LMS), Canvas. The course will introduce students to many shortcuts on the Chromebook, proper email etiquette, their digital footprint, how to stay safe and secure online as well as how to digitally collaborate with others. We will end the trimester with a Digital Storytelling project. Throughout the course, students will learn the correct typing format to increase their typing to 25 words per minute.

Elective Courses

6th/7th/8th 7651 Intro to Theater (Trimester Course)

This class will begin with the study of theater from a historical perspective, including theatrical terminology and the study of classic plays. Students will participate in daily skits, perform various plays, write a play of their own and gain exposure to various theatrical styles. During the course of the semester the students will also produce several productions and perform them for an audience. Students will be involved in all aspects of productions, with responsibilities ranging from set design, props and costumes, backstage work, and acting.

6th/7th/8th 7658 Intermediate Theater (Trimester Course)

This class will continue with the study of theater from a historical perspective, including theatrical terminology and the study of classic plays. Students will participate in daily skits, perform various plays, write a play of their own and gain exposure to various theatrical styles. During the course of the trimester, the students will also produce several productions and perform them for an audience. Students will be involved in all aspects of productions, with responsibilities ranging from set design, props and costumes, backstage work, and acting. In addition to these performances, Intermediate theater students will have the opportunity to study Shakespeare. They will study a wide variety of his works and come to a more complete understanding of the world's most famous playwright. Drama students will also have the opportunity to attend "Being There" field trips and experiences such as plays and musicals.

6th/7th/8th 7655 Advanced Theater (Trimester Course)

This class will continue with the study of theater from a historical perspective, including theatrical terminology and the study of classic plays. Students will participate in daily skits, perform various plays, write a play of their own and gain exposure to various theatrical styles. During the course of the trimester, the students will also produce several productions and perform them for an audience. Students will be involved in all aspects of productions, with responsibilities ranging from set design, props and costumes, backstage work, and acting. The Advanced Theater class will focus on putting together a larger production that will involve all students in a final public performance. Advanced Theater students will also have the opportunity to attend "Being There" field trips and experiences such as plays and musicals.

6th/7th/8th 7681 Intro to Spanish A (Trimester Course/NON HS CREDIT CLASS)

This twelve week class is designed to give students in 6th, 7th, or 8th grade a solid working vocabulary. The primary goal is to develop the skill of understanding spoken Spanish while exposing students to the most commonly used words. The secondary goal is to gain skill in reading comprehension. Sharp listening skills and an attitude to try something new are beneficial in this course. There is weekly homework and some individual projects may be assigned as well. While some of the basics like colors, numbers, and alphabet will be covered, the majority of the class consists of immersion through storytelling. This introductory course should provide students an opportunity to discover the language and determine any future interest in a foreign language. **This course is required before taking Intro to Spanish B.**

6th/7th/8th 7584 Intro to Spanish B (Trimester Course/NON HS CREDIT CLASS)

This twelve week class is designed to continue the development of a working vocabulary for students in 6th, 7th, or 8th grade. The primary goal is still to develop the skill of understanding spoken Spanish while exposing students to more of the most commonly used words. The secondary goal is to build more skill in reading comprehension. Sharp listening skills and an attitude to try something new are beneficial in this course. In this course, the focus will continue with listening and reading but also include more writing and speaking as students' skills emerge. There is weekly homework and some individual projects may be assigned as well. The majority of the class consists of immersion through storytelling. This introductory course should provide students another opportunity to discover the language and determine any future interest in a foreign language. **This course is highly recommended before taking Spanish 1.**

6th/7th/8th 7636 STEM 1 (Trimester Course)

All you builders and makers out there, this class is for you! This class focuses on STEM projects involving robotic build and control, simple machine projects, robotic programming, and structural design. Students will have the opportunity to work with a variety of maker tools, as well as using 3D design software for the possibility to work with a 3D printer. Get ready to innovate, create, and compete in a teamwork environment.

6th/7th/8th 7637 STEM 2 (Trimester Course)

This class will build upon the concepts introduced in STEM 1 and introduce new concepts that prepare students for STEM/Applied Technology classes in the future. STEM 2 features a hands-on learning environment which will feature curriculum that looks deeper into 3D printing, wind power, electric circuits, and structure design! Students will build on their communication skills and develop a mindset of flexibility, perseverance, and innovation in a competitive team environment. Get ready to get working with your hands and building your ideas!

6th/7th/8th 7638 STEM 3 (Trimester Course)

This class is an extension of the STEM 2 class. It features more project-based, hands on learning opportunities with units involving flying drones, solar energy, water rockets, and gliders! Students will build on their communication and collaboration skills, as well as continuing to develop a mindset of flexibility, perseverance, and innovation in a competitive team environment. Keep your eyes up and get ready to fly your creations in the STEM 3 class!

6th/7th/8th 7657 Teen Leadership (Trimester Course)

This class will be offered to 6th, 7th and 8th graders. Teen Leadership prepares students for success in all they pursue, in and beyond school. The course follows an Illustrated Student Manual and Comprehensive Course Guide that includes activities, handouts and daily lessons. Students will learn more about who they are, how they can support others and build a safe and responsible community. The practical skills taught in this class will help our students become leaders in the building and in life.

7672 Beginning Orchestra 6th/7th/8th (Full Year Course)

This class is open to any student who would like to learn the violin, viola, cello, or bass. Students can advance from this class into the intermediate or advanced orchestra, as their performance progresses. This class will center around basic posture, note and rhythm reading, and learning to perform with a piano, and later with a conductor. Students will learn how to tune their own instruments, and perform alone and with others. Students are expected to take this class as a year-long course, unless they progress to the intermediate group before then. Rental instruments are affordable, and students with financial hardships have the opportunity to borrow from the school upon request. Open your child's eyes to the wonderful world of music with knowledge from one of these beautiful instruments.

7644 Beginning Band 6th/7th/8th (Full Year Course)

Students in beginning band will begin the process of learning to play a band instrument (woodwind, brass, or percussion). We will learn about the construction of written music and how it applies to the physical aspect of playing an instrument. As part of the curriculum the band will present multiple performances throughout the school year. This class is a year-long course and students are expected to continue through the entire school year.

6th 653 Choir (Trimester Course)

The 6th Grade Choir is a great elective for all students. Membership in choir provides a powerful community experience. Students receive beginning vocal training and develop a love for music. Students learn to read music, count rhythms, and other important elements of music, as well as perform a wide variety of musical styles. As a part of the required curriculum, the choir will present evening concerts. The choir also participates in community service projects and assemblies. There is also the potential for solo opportunities throughout the year.

6th 607 Art (Trimester Course)

Our goal in 6th Grade Art is to develop and communicate personal ideas in art, observational drawing, color and painting, self-evaluation and habits of mind necessary for success in art production and other areas of life. The course incorporates art history, aesthetics and art criticism into studio-based units.

6th/7th/8th 7610 Environmental Studies Lab (ES-Lab) (Trimester Course)

In this class, students explore the various roles of environmental engineers, including: environmental cleanup, water quality, groundwater resources, surface water and groundwater flow, water contamination, waste disposal and air pollution through research as well as hands-on labs. There is an outdoor element to the class where we head outside to identify plants, forage, test water quality as well as maintain the Knight Hike.

6th/7th/8th 7601 Yoga (Trimester Course)

Whether you would describe your body as bendy or you feel stiff as a board, yoga will help relax your muscles and revitalize your spirit. In this 12-week class, students will be guided through the basics of yoga. They will learn both basic and advanced poses based on their individual needs and abilities. Students will also be taught proper alignment of those poses. Students will learn the benefits of yoga both on and off the mat in spirit and mind. This class is good for non-athletes and athletes, no matter what your flexibility is. Studies show that yoga has been proven to reduce and eliminate stress and improve concentration.

6th/7th/8th 0007 Creative Collaboration (Trimester Course)

This class is heavily focused on teamwork, outside the box thinking and the ability to problem solve. Students will be placed in a team and presented with a “problem” which they must solve in a positive and creative way. Each team must create every part of its “solution” by writing a unique script, building sets, creating props, and designing costumes all while working together.

6th/7th/8th 0006 Cultural Studies (Trimester Course)

Students will spend time learning about cultures of our world both through research, projects as well as a portion with our Virtual Reality viewers and the Google Arts and Culture App. Our Google Virtual Reality student devices will help us take a closer look at what makes us human: our capacity for creativity and the way we live together. Explore digital artworks, experience festivals and events around the world, if you are interested in learning about places other than where we live this is the right class for you.

6th/7th/8th 0001 Computer Programming 1, Digital Game Design (Trimester Course)

Have you ever thought about going beyond just playing video games and designing your own game? Then this class is for you! Students will be learning the basics to software application design and development through game design! Class instruction will be centered around STEM concepts as they relate to computer program design. Programming concepts will include the software design apps like Gamestar Mechanic as well as learning block coding through the Scratch programming language. By the end of the course students will have a better understanding of digital programming, an essential skill in many 21st century careers.

6th/7th/8th 0004 Life Skills (Trimester Course)

Have you ever thought about learning some basic life skills such as cooking, basic sewing, practicing mindfulness and meditation, budgeting, and organizing? In this new Healthy Living class, we will take a look at and practice making choices that will help set you on your way to enjoying an all-around healthier lifestyle. Some of the units we will experience will be Food and Nutrition, Budgeting and Economics, Health and Hygiene, Mending, Mindfulness, and Organization. If any of these units sound interesting to you, then don't miss signing up for this trimester course. We wouldn't want to have it without you!

6th/7th/8th 0008 Peer to Peer (Trimester Course)

The Peer to Peer Support Student is assigned to the program daily during their scheduled class period and follows the same schedule for one trimester. The primary responsibility of a Peer to Peer Support Student is to model age appropriate behavior for the student with the I.E.P. The Peer to Peer Support Student may provide peer support to his/her assigned student in the areas of organization, social skills, and academics during the scheduled class period. The Peer student is expected to participate in training, follow school and classroom expectations, journal, complete a trimester-end project, and participate in case-conferences throughout the trimester.

6th/7th/8th 7640 History of Rock N Roll- Part 1(Trimester Course)

Let's Learn about ELVIS! This class will guide you through time to the “King of Rock N Roll”, and see why he earned the famous title. Music is very powerful, and ALL of the music we listen to stems from this time in history. Students do not need any prior musical experience to enjoy this course. Take “From Rock N Roll to Rock” to expand to the next era of listening!

6th/7th/8th 7647 From Rock N Roll to Rock- Part 2 (Trimester Course)

Music of the 1960's

Bring on the Bands! Girl and boy bands became the center of all music during the 1960's, as the era of Elvis came to an end. Join us to listen daily to music from the Beatles, The Rolling Stones, and explore the beginning of the Jackson 5! Students do not need any prior musical experience to enjoy this course. It is highly suggested to take the History of Rock N Roll, Part 1 first, and then "The Heart of Rock" after to create a full year of Rock N Roll excitement!

6th/7th/8th 0005 The Heart of Rock, Music of the 1970's and 1980's- Part 3 (Trimester Course)

Take a leap into disco with groups like the Bee Gee's and ABBA, and heavy metal with groups like Queen and Led Zeppelin, among others. Explore the heart of King of Pop, Michael Jackson, as we dive into the music of the 70's and 80's. Students do not need any prior musical experience to enjoy this course. It is suggested to take the History of Rock N Roll, and "The Heart of Rock " to help understand where these groups got their influences from.

6th 7606 Knight Sports (Trimester Course)

This activity class centers on learning and playing team and individual sports, both traditional (basketball, badminton, volleyball, etc.) and non-traditional (eclipse ball, mat ball, team handball, etc.). Focus will be on healthy competition in small-sided games/tournaments, and on learning to exemplify Knight Pride through sportsmanship and fair play. Classes may be multi-grade or separate for each grade based on enrollment.