



6th Grade Scheduling Information

All students will take English, mathematics, science, health and physical education, and social studies. In addition, students will select one (1) of the year-long courses (band or strings) **OR** chorus 6 and three (3) nine-week exploratory courses (to be scheduled randomly by the school, based on availability) **OR** four (4) nine-week exploratory courses (to be scheduled randomly by the school, based on availability).

Mathematics 6 and Mathematics 6 Enrichment are the math offerings. Students are placed in the enrichment course based on the prerequisites of Pass/Advanced on the previous year's SOL test and B or better in 5th grade mathematics.

We are excited about our middle school program. It provides the bridge from elementary to high school and is designed to give students opportunities for academic success. Please review this registration information with your child. If you have questions, please contact your middle school guidance department.

Descriptions of Exploratory Courses

Art 6 (nine week course)

The standards emphasize exploration. Using the elements of art and the principles of design as a framework, students will investigate a variety of experiences and concepts. Students will explore various two-dimensional and three-dimensional art media, using a variety of expressive and technical approaches. Students will understand the factors that distinguish artistic styles and that clarify the role of art in American culture. Through critical examination, students will determine how artists convey meaning through the use of forms, media, and symbols. Students will test and develop their own ideas regarding the nature of art and will encounter philosophical and ethical questions. Upon the successful completion of the visual arts standards, students will possess the skills that will allow them to evaluate the effects of various influences on the discipline of the visual arts.

General Music 6 (nine week course)

The general music standards involve students in a higher level of music concepts and the further development of music skills through singing, playing instruments, moving, and listening. The standards encourage the reading of music notation and the assimilation of previous music study toward understanding the mechanics of a music score. Students will explore the creative and expressive aspects of music through composing and arranging. Evaluation of music performances will allow students opportunities to apply music knowledge and experiences to new situations.

Introduction to Technology 6 (nine week course)

This course provides students with the opportunity to study the elements of technology and explore technological careers. Students study tools/machines, material processing, energy, information, and people. Students learn about at least one of the four systems of technology: construction, transportation, communication, and production/manufacturing. They relate the impact of technology on society, environment, and culture to future consequences and decisions.

Family and Consumer Science 6 (nine week course)

This course provides a foundation for management of individual, family, work, and community roles and responsibilities. Students focus on areas of individual growth such as personal goal achievement, responsibilities with the family, and accountability for personal safety and health. They also explore and practice financial management, clothing maintenance, food preparation, positive and caring relationships with others, and self-assessment as related to career exploration.

Keyboarding 6 (nine week course)

This course is designed for middle school students to develop and enhance touch skills for entering alphabetic, numeric, and symbol information on a keyboard. Students compose and produce personal, educational, and professional documents. This course is the foundation for success in Keyboarding and Computer Solutions.

Chorus 6 (nine week course)

Chorus 6 is a nine week course and will be taken along with three other exploratory classes such as Art, Keyboarding, Family and Consumer Science, and Technology. The Beginning Level standards are designed for students experiencing their first vocal/choral class. Beginning choral students may be found at any grade level within the elementary, middle, and secondary school setting, as prescribed by the local school district. The Beginning Level standards emphasize fundamental vocal development, traditional notation, and the introduction to ensemble singing. These standards require performance, creativity, and investigation at a fundamental level. Opportunities are provided for students to explore the relationship between music and the other fine arts and between music and disciplines outside the arts.

Beginning Band 6 and Orchestra/Strings 6 (year-long course)

Band and Strings are year-long courses and students are expected to secure instruments to use for the entire year. Some instruments may be available at the school. Also, rental information is available by contacting the music teacher. Band instruction will initially be offered in flute, clarinet, trumpet, trombone, baritone horn, saxophone, and tuba. Near the end of the first quarter of the 6th grade year, students interested in percussion will be assessed and moved, as appropriate. Students are expected to bring their music and instruments to each class. Strings instruction will include study on four instruments: violin, viola, cello, or double bass. Students will demonstrate proper care of the instrument and will be familiar with the technology of the instrument. They will demonstrate basic positions, tone production, and fingerings, and will count, read, and perform the beginning level of music being studied (VBODA Solo Repertoire, Level 1-2). Teachers will use available standard method books to deliver instruction in either homogeneous or heterogeneous class settings with limited ensemble work.