

## **6<sup>th</sup> Grade Course Descriptions 2026/2027 School Year**

### **Required Core 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.

## **Required Elective Courses**

### **6th 6601 Physical Education (Required Marking Period 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 Marking Period 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.

## **Optional Elective**

### **6th/7th/8th 0008 Peer to Peer (Semester 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.

## **Arts Elective Courses**

### **6th/7th/8th 7651 Intro to Theater (Semester 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.

### **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 (Semester 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 6th Grade Art (Semester 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.

## **Other Elective Courses**

### **6th/7th/8th 7681 Intro to Spanish A (Semester 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 7636 STEM 1 (Semester 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 0007 Creative Collaboration- (Marking Period 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 (Marking Period 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 7601 Yoga (Semester 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 7606 Knight Sports (Semester 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.