

6TH GRADE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

CORE CLASSES - Required

English Language Arts 6th 6th grade ELA builds upon the writing, speaking, and listening skills you mastered while in elementary school. The reading and writing done in this class will help to prepare you for the 7th grade. More importantly, this class will give you the necessary skills and confidence to *communicate* with purpose and effectiveness and to apply what you master in the classroom in order to think critically outside of the classroom. You WILL read and write every day in a workshop model. Over the course of the year, we will be reading, exploring, and composing many different genres of writing and practicing conventions and grammar. 6th graders will complete Novel Studies (The Giver and a whole school read aloud book picked new each year), explore Poetry, Non-Fiction (comprehension and structure), Grammar and Mechanics. Students will also become familiar with Argument (Essay) Writing, Parts of Speech, Text Evidence, and Response Writing. Additionally, students will complete Infographics, and study Fiction and Short Stories, Reading Strategies, Figurative Language.

STEM 6th In 6th grade STEM, our students will begin the year with an Introduction to Middle School, where they will receive lessons in time management, organization, and communicating with teachers. Students will be introduced to the skill of reading and creating graphs, and coordinate graphing. Students will have the opportunity to create a video project, and learn about flight. STEM class will also involve building gravity cars, and bridges. Students will expand their knowledge in spatial reasoning and they will develop and apply skills toward a new technology research project.

SCIENCE 6th In 6th grade science students get to explore fascinating concepts through many hands on lab activities. They first learn all about what it means to conduct lab experiments guided by the scientific method of inquiry while adhering to lab safety guidelines. Throughout the year students will learn about physical science including states of matter as well as atomic structure and the periodic table of elements. Then Students will explore life science concepts including ecosystems, energy flow, recycling of matter, and biodiversity. Finally students will end the year having learned earth science concepts including the water cycle, weather & erosion, and ocean density. In science class we have fun and get to do a lot of hands-on activities to gain deeper knowledge of subject matter, but we also take notes and assessments to ensure mastery of content.

MATH 6th Module 1: Composing and Decomposing builds upon students' knowledge of area, number properties, and volume. Students examine relationships between numbers and shapes, using area models to solve problems. Students strengthen their skills with fraction operations, and then use decimal operations to solve volume and surface area problems. Module 2: Relating Quantities builds upon students' experiences solving additive and multiplicative word problems and representing real-world situations on a coordinate plane. Students learn about ratios and proportional relationships and use various models to reason about these relationships. Students learn about percentages, unit rates, and conversion rates. Module 3: Determining Unknown Quantities builds upon students' knowledge of numeric expressions, patterns and operations developed throughout elementary school. Students use properties of arithmetic and apply them to algebraic expressions. They investigate

equations and graphs to develop strategies to make sense of and reason about unknown quantities in a variety of real-world and mathematical problems. Module 4: Moving Beyond Positive Quantities extends students' understanding of number to negative rational numbers represented on a number line and a coordinate plane. Students use a number line to order negative numbers. They build on their knowledge of plotting and interpreting in the first-quadrant of a coordinate plane to construct a four-quadrant graph. Module 5: Describing Variability of Quantities builds on students' understanding of data displays used in elementary school. Students are introduced to statistics. They calculate numerical summaries to describe a data set. Students also learn about variability.

SOCIAL STUDIES 6th In 6th grade Social Studies we focus on the Western Hemisphere. Social Studies is a fairly new concept to many 6th graders so we begin with a unit on the basics of Geography and Culture. We then move on to a unit on the United States and finish up the first semester with Canada. Second Semester we cover Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean, and South America. For each of these units we discuss geography, economy, history, and modern day. The last quarter of the year consists of one main project: country reports. Each student gets to pick a country and spends the last quarter researching that specific country. The completed project will be on display at our celebration of "Around the World Food Festival" in May. Parents, teachers, and classmates will be invited. It will consist of a display board featuring the Economy, Geography, History and People of your country, a report, and a sample of food.

*All classes are 90 minutes long unless otherwise specified.

ELECTIVE WHEEL **These classes will be assigned at random to students who are not signed up for Day 1 Woodwind Band or Bulldog Singers.*

SOC062 MIDDLE SCHOOL SUCCESS (45 min) This class will provide instruction from the Second Step Curriculum which focuses on character education. Topics covered in this class will include Empathy and Communication, Bullying Prevention, Emotion Management, Problem Solving, and Substance Abuse Prevention.

FOR013 INTRO TO SPANISH 6TH (45 min) This exploratory Spanish class will focus on culture and beginning level Spanish expressions, writing through listening, speaking, reading and writing. Concepts such as the alphabet, calendar, cognates, classroom objects and school subjects, commands, numbers, colors, greetings, and a basic understanding of Spanish-speaking cultures will be taught.

FIN010 INTRO TO DRAWING & PAINTING In this class Students will gain an understanding of what it is like to be an artist working in the drawing and painting mediums. Students will work with a variety of materials and styles to create multiple works of art.

PHY010 INDIVIDUAL & TEAM SPORTS This 6th grade class is designed to provide multiple opportunities for students at various stages of physical development to have a positive experience in physical activities. The purpose is to help students identify activities they enjoy, with the larger goal of encouraging students to be physically active for a lifetime. Through participation in group and individual activities, students develop and improve locomotor skills, cardiovascular endurance, strength, and sport-specific skills. The program promotes the spirit of cooperation, leadership, fair play, and friendly competition. Students are required to change out into physical activity clothing for this class.

PHY011 INTRODUCTION TO PERSONAL WELLNESS In this students will develop an understanding of their health and wellness, how to develop and maintain personal hygiene, and the benefits of getting the proper amounts of sleep.

PHY011S BODY SYSTEMS This 6th grade health course will focus on understanding how our body systems function. Students will learn about the many systems the human body uses to function through experiments and physical activities.

Day 2 ELECTIVES

FIN010S ART PRINCIPLES OF DESIGN In this class students will work with advanced techniques in Art. Using the Principles of design as a road map, students will create multiple works of art that incorporate various materials and ideas.

FIN209 SPEECH & STORYTELLING This introductory drama class explores different types and aspects of storytelling. Students will write their own stories, as well as work in groups to create scenes from published plays. They will gain confidence in presenting in front of an audience and will learn how to deal with vocal qualities and nervous habits. Public speaking will include writing for an intended audience and developing an effective presentational style.

PHY010A EVOLUTION OF SPORTS This 6th grade physical education course will focus on where sports originated and how they have developed over time. Students will learn the history of different sports, how they were created, and how to play them. Students are required to change out into physical activity clothing for this class.

PHY010B ADVENTURE ED This 6th grade class covers a variety of outdoor education sports and activities. Fishing, Archery, Hiking, and Geocaching.

PHY011A INTRODUCTION TO HEALTH & WELLNESS Maintaining a healthy way of living requires a balance of physical, mental-emotional, and social well-being. We will explore ways to achieve an overall state of wellness.

PHY011B INTRODUCTION TO MENTAL & EMOTIONAL HEALTH This class will provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to confront health related issues. It is designed to provide knowledge and experiences, which will enable them to make choices which will have a positive impact on their health.

SOC0601 ORIENTEERING

Students will improve their knowledge of geography as they participate in map and compass activities and compete to find points in the landscape. Students will also participate in a role-playing simulation in which they travel around the world on a treasure quest.

TEC010 DIGITAL LITERACY This course is composed of instructional modules designed to allow students to learn the touch method of keyboarding, digital literacy and computer knowledge, and basic word processing and document formatting skills.

MUSIC

MUS010S BEGINNING BAND (WOODWIND/Day 1) MUS010 BEGINNING BAND (BRASS/PERCUSSION/Day 2)

In Beginning Band, students experience music through learning how to play a brass, woodwind, or percussion instrument. Students do not need any experience in music to join this class. The band is divided into two sections: brass and percussion, and woodwind classes. The classes rehearse on separate days and combine for performances. This is a year-long course and students get to perform in 4 concerts throughout the year.

MUS201 BULLDOG SINGERS (90 min) (Day 1) The Bulldog Singers are open to all students - no matter how well you sing. We believe everyone can sing, it's just a matter of how much training or work you're willing to put into it - just like building your skills in soccer, football, art, or band. Singers are rarely asked to sing by themselves (don't believe me? Ask a current choir student!). There are 4-5 concerts throughout the school year and students will learn songs from musicals, pop and classical songs, and even sing in different languages! Also, you CAN be in band/art/PE AND in the Bulldog Singers! There are additional opportunities that are not required, but only available to students who are Bulldog Singers - like going on field trips to sing at UNC Choir Festivals, 7th and 8th graders can audition for the Colorado Middle School All State Choirs, and 8th graders can audition to be part of Singing Valentines with the high school singers.

6th GRADE ENRICHMENT *Recommendations are made for the following course based on student's learning needs and/or goals:* **MATH or READING ENRICHMENT** Students enrolled in this course will receive intense, skills-based instruction in math or reading elements expected to be mastered at each grade level. Only students who are required or recommended for intervention or acceleration will be placed in these classes.