



6th Grade

Course Descriptions

2019-2020

Sixth grade students are assigned to a team of teachers for their core classes of English, math, reading, science, and world cultures. Each grade level has two teams. Students are required to take the following explore classes: art, computer, health, industrial technology, passports (world languages), and physical education. In addition, students will choose band, choir, or orchestra.

No school sports are available for 6th grade.

ENGLISH

Thinking, listening, speaking, and writing are covered in 6th grade English. Emphasis will be on the Traits of Writing, the writing process, spelling, grammar, punctuation, and usage skills.

ACCEL MATH

The Accelerated Math course will cover all sixth grade concepts as well as the following seventh grade concepts: developing understanding of and applying proportional relationships and developing understanding of operations with rational numbers while working with expressions and linear equations.

MATH

Grade 6 mathematics is about connecting ratio and rate to whole number multiplication and division and using concepts of ratio and rate to solve problems; completing understanding of division of fractions and extending the notion of number to the system of rational numbers, which includes negative numbers; writing, interpreting, and using expressions and equations; and developing understanding of statistical thinking.

READING

This class promotes reading skills through the use of a variety of genre. Emphasis is given to story elements, vocabulary development, phonics skills, and comprehension strategies.

SCIENCE

The sixth grade standards and indicators help students gather, analyze, and communicate evidence as they formulate answers to questions tailored to student interest and current topics that may include but are not limited to: How can energy be transferred from one object or system to another? How do the structures of organisms contribute to life's functions? How do organisms grow, develop, and reproduce? What factors interact and influence weather and climate? How does water move through Earth's systems?

WORLD CULTURES

Students examine the development of African, European, and Middle Eastern cultures. The approach is a chronological study of the lives, times, and influences of these three regions. Map skills and current events study is included.

ART: Discovering Your Personal Aesthetic

Students focus on strengthening their understanding of art structures through an increased understanding of the Visual Art Elements. At the same time, they will consider their own style and expressive response to what they are observing as they discover their own personal aesthetics that involves new friends, new experiences, and new expectations.

COMPUTER: Keyboarding Applications & Career Exploration

Students will be introduced to and refine touch method keyboarding skills. Basic word processing, spreadsheet, and presentation skills will be introduced or reviewed. Students will acquire an awareness of the various choices in occupations and determine their interests in their future. Students will match their interests to the education, training and skills required in the occupations they explore.

FCS / HEALTH

Students are introduced to the field of Family and Consumer Sciences and Health Education. Discussions focus on the Health Triangle 1) Mental Health (decision-making), 2) Social Health (getting along with others, cooperative-learning situations), 3) Physical Health (puberty, personal hygiene, eating disorders, and nutrients and healthy eating).

INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY

This hands-on introduction to technology class provides students with the opportunity to discover how it is used and how it impacts students' lives. Students complete activities based on the areas of communication, transportation, construction and manufacturing. Special emphasis is given to developing problem solving skills, through linear measurement and the study of systems and sub-systems.

PASSPORTS (World Languages)

This class explores the languages and cultures of French, Spanish, and Chinese. Students will participate in fun hands on learning activities that will get them using the language and learning about the people and countries who speak it.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical education is a required class, which meets every other day. The class exposes students to a wide variety of activities, which helps to provide the appropriate amount of vigorous physical activity that is vital for the maintenance of good health and fitness. Physical fitness testing, team sports, recreational games, rhythms, aerobics, cardiovascular training, strength enhancement, and other activities emphasize teamwork, social development, and a positive self-image. In order to participate safely, students are required to dress in appropriate P.E. attire (e.g. T-shirt, shorts, and athletic shoes). **Padlocks are furnished. A \$5.00 fee will be charged if the lock is not returned at the end of the school year.**

BAND

Sixth grade band is an introductory music course that promotes higher level thinking, organizational, and social skills. Students learn to play a wind or percussion instrument in group and sectional settings through a method book and concert pieces. Students are encouraged to supply their own instrument (we have a limited number available to rent from the school for those that qualify). The **Tradition of Excellence Book 1** and reeds (if playing a single or double reed instrument) are supplied by the student. No prior band experience is needed; however, students wishing to play percussion must audition prior to the beginning of the school year. All beginning band students are encouraged to attend summer band camp the first week in August. **Students are required to perform in 3 concerts throughout the school year.**

CHOIR

This is a choral based music class where students develop vocal and music reading skills and learn the elements of music. Listening and analyzing music from America and different cultures around the world are also stressed. Students will have the opportunity to audition for Sing Around Nebraska as well as regional, state, or national honor choirs. **Concert performance is required.**

ORCHESTRA

Sixth grade orchestra students will continue developing technical and fundamental skills on their instruments. Students must have previous string experience. Students are encouraged to provide their own stringed instrument. **Essential Elements for Strings Book 1** is used as a general reference. Students are required to complete weekly practice assignments in Google Classroom and will participate in three concerts throughout the year. In addition, students also have the option to participate in a trip to Omaha to see the Omaha Symphony. For more information, visit our website at www.kpsorchestra.org.