6th Grade Course Descriptions

Social Studies
Students will explore various aspects of the Eastern Hemisphere. Topics will include the Culture and Geography of various Countries. Students will gain an understanding of the Countries in Western and Eastern Europe, Africa, Asia and Areas of the Pacific such as New Zealand and Australia. All areas of study will include how the country is affecting the world today as well as map activities to tie into the beginning chapters of the year.

English/Language Arts
This course is designed to emphasize reading comprehension, writing skills and methods of inquiry as found in the core of grammar and mechanics. The course will focus on the process of writing, skills and strategies for effective communication in all its forms. This course is aligned to PA ELA Common Core Standards.

Science
The 6th grade science class follows an integrated approach in order to meet Pennsylvania State Science Standards. Units covered in 6th grade include: Water on Earth, Forces and Motion, and Sound and Light.

Computer Science – Grade 6
The Beginning Ideas in Computer Science curriculum exposes students to the power of computer science and how it can be used to impact their lives. Students are given the opportunity to iterate and design creative solutions to problems instead of just working with paper and pencil. Students learn how to engage one another as they work collaboratively to apply their ideas with computation. The Beginning Ideas in Computer Science curriculum allows students to synthesize their natural curiosity and interests with the tools of computer science. Students will learn to use Scratch 2.0 as a programming tool, while focusing on creating interactive quizzes.

Geography
This course will study Current and historical topics through the framework of the 5 themes of Geography. Students will be asked to evaluate, synthesize, and problem solve though various projects to help them examine the world around them.

Health
Students will develop an overall understanding of the Health Triangle and how each side relates to each other. Key Components: Decision Making, Refusal Skills, Bullying, Disease Prevention

Physical Education
The Physical Education program provides each student with the opportunity to participate in a comprehensive and complete program consisting of skill development, lead up games, team sports, and physical fitness activities. The students receive instructions in rules, skills, and strategies associated with different sports as well as learning experiences involving physical conditioning activities. The students will also have opportunities to become involved in lifelong physical activities through individual sport units. The program promotes a spirit of cooperation, leadership, fair play and friendly competition.
Art

Drawing basics which includes 3D and portraiture with an emphasis on development of characters and themes. A variety of media exposure.

6th Grade Music

6th grade music seeks to expand the students’ horizons as far as musical taste and exposure. Students will be provided hands-on experience with the technology in order to gain a first-hand understanding of the cutting-edge innovations that exist in the Music Technology realm. They will be able to demonstrate how electronic music can be produced or recorded. They will research and develop ideas for musical creations. They will design and compose their own musical pieces. Such music creation will be explored for the variety of purposes in which it can be heard today: live performance, recorded performance, as a soundtrack to videos footage, along with other inventive avenues.

CHORUS (Full year course)

Sixth grade chorus is designed for entry-level singers as well as those who have achieved elementary choral skills. This is an elective course which meets and rehearses on a regular basis as part of the student’s daily schedule. The chorus will perform a mandatory holiday concert in December and a mandatory spring concert in May. Once the student enrolls in the class, he or she may drop the course only during the first 4 weeks of the school year.

Band (Full year course)

This class is open to any qualified* 6th grade student and meets daily for one forty-seven minute period and is taught by a music teacher with background in instrumental music. 6th Grade Band is designed to teach middle school band students a variety of music compositions and arrangements meant for preparing instrumentalists to play the basic skills required of a 2nd year player. Students are graded on daily participation as well as evening concerts. Students are expected to play at a certain level to enter this course (new students should see “Incoming Requirements” or contact the band director before scheduling).

Orchestra (Full year course)

The middle school string orchestra class meets daily, and performs at least two public concerts per year. The ensembles perform orchestral music of varying styles & historic time periods: from the early baroque through modern day. In order to enroll, students must be able to play an orchestral string instrument up to their grade level, as determined by the instructor.

Academic Enrichment

If you do not choose the arts (Band, Chorus, Orchestra) they will be enrolled in the Academic Enrichment course. In Academic Enrichment, students will work to enrich their knowledge of Math and English.

Middle School Gifted ACE

Students receive accelerated instruction and opportunities in advanced content with particular consideration to student’s individual interests. Instruction is differentiated and curriculum designed to meet the needs of the gifted students. Curriculum design is inclusive of key core subject ideas while offering students enrichment opportunities in individual and teaming activities. To be enrolled in ACE, students must be tested by the school psychologist and meet gifted criteria.
Students are expected to have mastered the foundations of math. Fluent addition/subtraction, multiplication/division of whole numbers, fractions and decimals skills are strongly recommended entering sixth grade.

Topics taught include integers, factors and multiples, fractions and decimals, ratios, rates and percents, algebraic expressions and equations including the use of variables, geometry concepts and data analysis skills. Depending on level of understanding throughout the course of the year remedial or enrichment work may be assigned. Accelerated Math will also introduce Pre-Algebra concepts.

Placement can be reassessed at any time and be changed with agreement of the administrator, math department, counselor, student, and parent.

*= Advanced/Proficient PSSA Score (must be above the median Proficient score), teacher recommendation with 90% or higher on class test scores and an A as the final grade. The iReady Math score will also be used to determine placement.

These are the course pathways. Exceptions to the prerequisite can be made with the agreement of the administrator, math department, counselor, student, and parent.