



6th Grade Core Academic Program

1. **Mathematics (Honors and A-Level):** The sixth grade math curriculum moves through a series of units, addressing concepts through appealing and engaging problems that align with the New Jersey Learning Standards for sixth grade. The curriculum focuses on the applications of basic skills to solve multi-step problems, as students observe and generalize patterns and relationships, a process vital to acquiring a solid understanding of mathematical ideas. The sixth grade mathematics program enables middle school students to become better learners, strategists and communicators. Sixth graders have Math class every other day with assigned homework each night they have class.
2. **English Language Arts (Honors and A-Level):** Language Arts 6 is an integrated study of reading and writing that builds on previously acquired skills and aligns with the sixth grade New Jersey Learning Standards. The purpose of the program is to develop students' competencies in reading and writing with a variety of texts while encouraging their life-long interest in all of the language arts as they gain insights into the world around them. Reading instruction is based on genre based units that progress by marking period. Writing instruction is linked to topics and issues arising from reading texts and encourages students to address all aspects of the writing process. Students are required to write, revise, and enhance one "Night Write" for homework each week. "Night Writes" are assignments in which students write responses to open-ended questions in response to the text(s) they are reading. English Language Arts meets every day.
3. **Social Studies:** The sixth grade social studies curriculum challenges students to use learning from the study of the United States following the American Revolution to analyze and solve current issues. Students work through project-oriented challenges within four units: A New Republic; Growth of a Nation; A Country Divided; and Active Citizenship. Social Studies meets every other day. Students are required to complete a Night Write in Social Studies once every other week. The Night Writes ask students to summarize and compare nonfiction texts.
4. **Science:** In the sixth grade, students study Earth Science. Students will explore cross cutting concepts across science disciplines in an inquiry learning environment. The material covered in these areas will be a foundation for success in subsequent science courses. Science meets every other day. Students are required to complete a Night Write in Science once every other week. The Night Writes ask students to summarize and compare nonfiction Science texts.
5. **Physical Education and Health:** All FMS sixth grade students are scheduled into Physical Education every other day for a full 80 minute block. Students participate in fitness activities, team games, and other units built around lifetime sports such as golf, archery, and yoga. All sixth grade students receive one marking period of Health class. During that marking period, they do not take Physical Education.
6. **World Language or Academic Enrichment Math:** In sixth grade students are placed either in World Language or in an Academic Enrichment Math Course. Here is a description of both:
 - a. **World Language:** The grade six Spanish, French and Italian course is the first year of a three-year language program. The program's philosophy is to provide an emphasis in all four communicative areas: listening, speaking, reading, and writing, as well as an overview of the culture.
 - b. **Academic Enrichment Math:** Academic Enrichment Math is designed to provide students who are below grade level in math with additional time and support to strengthen their core math skills. Academic Enrichment Math is taught in most cases by the child's regular math teacher. Once students demonstrate that their math skills are at grade level, they are moved into a World Language course.

6th Grade Related Arts Program

All FMS sixth grade students participate in a comprehensive Related Arts program that includes Music, Art, and Technology classes. The sixth grade Related Arts program consists of two forty minute classes every other day.

Music Ensembles:

Students first have the option to participate in one or two of our music ensembles (Band, Orchestra, or Chorus). Students are not required to have played an instrument in elementary school in order to participate. Students who sign up to be part of Music, Band, or Chorus have it as a scheduled 40 minute class every other day for the entire year. They also are pulled out of class once per week for small group lessons. Students who take Band, Orchestra, or Chorus are expected to practice at home and participate in the Winter and Spring concerts.

Related Arts Cycle Classes:

- I. Students who participate in **one of our music ensembles** are enrolled in a quarterly rotation of the following four classes which meet for forty minutes every other day:
 - A. Drawing With Depth (General Art A) - one marking period
 - B. Creating Value in Art (General Art B) - one marking period
 - C. Industrial Arts (Design Through Woodworking) - one marking period
 - D. Navigating Digital Systems - one marking period

- II. Students who **do not participate in our music ensembles** are enrolled in a quarterly rotation of the following four classes which meet for forty minutes every other day:
 - A. Drawing With Depth (General Art A) - one marking period
 - B. Creating Value in Art (General Art B) - one marking period
 - C. Industrial Arts (Design Through Woodworking) - one marking period
 - D. Navigating Digital Systems - one marking period

And also are enrolled in the following two semester classes which meet for forty minutes every other day:

 - A. Foundations of STEM - one semester
 - B. Graphic Illustration - one semester

- III. Students who **participate in two of our music ensembles** receive those two music ensembles as year-long forty minute classes and are not enrolled in the Related Arts cycle classes listed above