

SIXTH GRADE EXPLORATORIES

YEAR-LONG EXPLORATORY DESCRIPTIONS

Band 6

General Band courses help students develop techniques for playing brass, woodwind, and percussion instruments and their ability to perform a variety of concert band literature styles. These courses may emphasize rehearsal and performance experiences in a range of styles (e.g., concert, marching, orchestral, and modern) and also include experiences in creating and responding to music. Before the school year begins, each student will go through a screening process to choose an instrument to play. The sixth grade band will perform at least two concerts during the school year. Students are placed in classes based on the instruments they choose to play. No prior musical experience is necessary to take this class.

Chorus 6

Chorus courses develop students' vocal skills within the context of a large choral ensemble in which they perform a variety of styles of repertoire. These courses are designed to develop students' vocal techniques and their ability to sing parts and include experiences in creating and responding to music. You will have the opportunity to perform in winter and spring concerts.

Orchestra 6 (*used to be called Strings 6*)

Orchestra courses provide students an introduction to bowed-string instruments (violin, viola, cello, or bass) and their techniques. This course also teaches students the appropriate care, handling, and maintenance of the instruments. Formal and informal performances are included as well as experiences in creating and responding to music. No musical background is necessary. Students will perform in two concerts per year.

SEMESTER EXPLORATORY DESCRIPTIONS

Art 6

Art (grade 6) courses provide to students activities that foster creative expression, communication through artistic endeavor, and appreciation of culture and heritage. Activities may include those that enable students to refine their technique, increase their artistic vocabulary, express themselves and their world view, make connections to other content areas, develop their own aesthetic, and strengthen their critical abilities. Although typically involving the visual arts (drawing, painting, sculpture, crafts, and the like), these courses may also include other forms of art (for example, dance, music, and theater). Specific course content conforms to any existing state standards for grade 6.

AVID Survey

AVID courses encourage students to pursue college readiness (and eventual enrollment). Typically, the courses offer activities that enable students to learn organizational and study skills, enhance their critical thinking skills, receive academic assistance as necessary, and be motivated to aspire to college education.

Computer Literacy (*used to be called Skills for 21st Century*)

The course will focus on the competencies and skills students need to succeed in a predominantly digital world. Students will work through multiple units devoted to digital citizenship, information science, creative communication, along with an exploration into local and global social justice issues. Technology skills and tasks are woven into each unit as well as "soft skills" such as collaboration and controlling attention. Students who complete this course will have a toolbox of digital skills, an understanding of the rights and responsibilities of a digital citizen, ethical and accurate research skills, and typing fluency.

CTE Coding, Cyber, and IT Exploration (*used to be called Programming/Coding 6*)

Students are introduced to the world of business using the computer as a problem-solving tool. Students engage in using computational thinking as a problem solving tool, use programming concepts and methods while creating digital artifacts, and retain their interest in computing as a relevant and exciting field. Learning opportunities are presented in ways that are active, connected, and relevant to them, and promote the perception of themselves as proactive and empowered problem solvers, creators, and innovators capable of changing the world. Collaborative learning experiences at this level prepare students to work in teams and to build supportive partnerships.

CTE STEM Design & Construction Exploration (*used to be called Creative Design 6*)

Students will apply the design thinking process to examine and explore their learning around topics of personal interest to examine real-world problems. Students study technological resources through problem-solving processes and various hands-on activities. They relate the impact of technology on society, environment, and culture to future consequences and decisions. They will examine and use processes and mental models, teamwork and communication to design and create projects hinged on their personal development of life-long learner competencies as identified by Albemarle County Public Schools.

Spanish Exploratory

This course prepares students to communicate authentically in Spanish by interpreting (reading, listening, viewing), exchanging (speaking and listening; reading and writing), and presenting (speaking, writing) information on concrete topics. These courses introduce the relationships among the products, practices, and perspectives of Spanish-speaking cultures.

SEVENTH GRADE EXPLORATORIES

YEAR-LONG EXPLORATORY DESCRIPTIONS

Band 7

The seventh grade band year is devoted to the improvement of skills already learned on a particular instrument. The seventh grade band will begin the process of performing works written for band and will continue working out of a method book. The band will perform at least two concerts per year. Students will be required to practice 110 minutes a week. There will be written work and playing tests, as well. *Prerequisite: Completed 6th grade band or passed playing test given by the director.*

Chorus 7

Seventh grade chorus is a performance-based class that focuses on learning to sing one to three part vocal music, developing skills in voice production and diction, basic sight-singing, and music theory. We will explore different styles of music, including simple classic, and traditional and popular music from different cultures. You will have the opportunity to perform in winter and spring concerts.

Orchestra 7 (*used to be called Strings 7*)

Students should have at least one year of experience on their string instrument and be able to read music and perform on their instrument. This intermediate ensemble class will work on the improvement of skills learned as a beginner. Students will perform in a winter and spring concert and in an All-County collaborative performance. Participation in the beginning 6th grade class or a conference with the director is required to sign up for Orchestra 7.

SEMESTER EXPLORATORY DESCRIPTIONS

Art 7

Art (grade 7) courses provide to students activities that foster creative expression, communication through artistic endeavor, and appreciation of culture and heritage. Activities may include those that enable students to refine their technique, increase their artistic vocabulary, express themselves and their world view, make connections to other content areas, develop their own aesthetic, and strengthen their critical abilities. Although typically involving the visual arts (drawing, painting, sculpture, crafts, and the like), these courses may also include other forms of art (for example, dance, music, and theater). Specific course content conforms to any existing state standards for grade 7.

AVID Survey

AVID courses encourage students to pursue college readiness (and eventual enrollment). Typically, the courses offer activities that enable students to learn organizational and study skills, enhance their critical thinking skills, receive academic assistance as necessary, and be motivated to aspire to college education.

CTE Media, Arts, and Design Exploration *(used to be called Digital Media Communication 7)*

Students will utilize digital tools in the fields of programming and coding, game design, creative design, photography, animation and film and they will enhance their knowledge of media software and how to manipulate and design digital media.

CTE STEM Engineering Exploration *(used to be called Engineering/Technology 7)*

Students will explore the engineering design process and real-world problem solving through the use of technologies including computer-aided design software, electronics, 3D-printing and CNC machining to discover their related applications. Students make models of significant inventions that have advanced society. After studying these developments, they explore contemporary technological problems facing them, their community, or the world and apply systematic procedures to invent new products or innovations as solutions.

Drama 7

This course provides an overview of the art, conventions, and history of the theater arts. Although the courses sometimes include experiential exercises, they emphasize learning about theater processes rather than theatrical production and performance. Course topics include one or more of the following: basic techniques in acting, major developments in dramatic literature, major playwrights, the evolution of theater as a cultural tradition, and critical appreciation of the art and craft of the theater profession.

French 7

This course prepares students to communicate authentically in French by interpreting (reading, listening, viewing), exchanging (speaking and listening; reading and writing), and presenting (speaking, writing) information on concrete topics. This course introduces the relationships among the products, practices, and perspectives of French-speaking cultures.

Sculpture 7

In Sculpture class, students will work with projects which use three dimensional forms. Students will build forms using paper mache, wire, clay, plaster, cardboard, and wood. Some of the projects that will be constructed will be Giant 3D Letters, Silly Screamers (Mini-monsters), Clay Mini Buildings and/or Plaster Masks. Sketchbooks and drawings will be used for planning sculptures. This class is unique- it does not repeat projects done with 7th grade art.

Spanish 7

This course prepares students to communicate authentically in Spanish by interpreting (reading, listening, viewing), exchanging (speaking and listening; reading and writing), and presenting (speaking, writing) information on concrete topics. This course introduces the relationships among the products, practices, and perspectives of Spanish-speaking cultures.

EIGHTH GRADE EXPLORATORIES

YEAR-LONG EXPLORATORY DESCRIPTIONS

Art 8

Art (grade 8) courses provide to students activities that foster creative expression, communication through artistic endeavor, and appreciation of culture and heritage. Activities may include those that enable students to refine their technique, increase their artistic vocabulary, express themselves and their world view, make connections to other content areas, develop their own aesthetic, and strengthen their critical abilities. Although typically involving the visual arts (drawing, painting, sculpture, crafts, and the like), these courses may also include other forms of art (for example, dance, music, and theater). Specific course content conforms to any existing state standards for grade 8.

AVID Survey

AVID courses encourage students to pursue college readiness (and eventual enrollment). Typically, the courses offer activities that enable students to learn organizational and study skills, enhance their critical thinking skills, receive academic assistance as necessary, and be motivated to aspire to college education.

Band 8

This is designed to transition the students into high school level music. The rehearsal is rigorous and the music is much more challenging. Students in the eighth grade band will be required to memorize scales and perform regular playing tests. They will typically perform at least three concerts each year. Eighth grade students are strongly encouraged to try out for All-District Band. Prerequisite: complete 7th grade band or passed playing test given by the director.

Chorus 8

This is a performance-based program that focuses on singing in three and four parts, developing advanced singing skills, sight-reading and music history and theory. Students will be exposed to various styles of vocal music, including classic, jazz and popular music. Students will have opportunities to perform during a winter and spring concert, festivals and possibly honors and district choirs.

CTE Coding, Cyber, and IT Exploration (*used to be called Programming/Media/Gaming 8*)

Students are introduced to the world of business using the computer as a problem-solving tool. Students engage in using computational thinking as a problem solving tool, use programming concepts and methods while creating digital artifacts, and retain their interest in computing as a relevant and exciting field. Learning opportunities are presented in ways that are active, connected, and relevant to them, and promote the perception of themselves as proactive and empowered problem solvers, creators, and innovators capable of changing the world. Collaborative learning experiences at this level prepare students to work in teams and to build supportive partnerships.

CTE STEM Engineering Exploration (used to be called Engineering/Design/Build 8)

Students will explore the engineering design process and real-world problem solving through the use of technologies including computer-aided design software, electronics, 3D-printing and CNC machining to discover their related applications. Students make models of significant inventions that have advanced society. After studying these developments, they explore contemporary technological problems facing them, their community, or the world and apply systematic procedures to invent new products or innovations as solutions.

CTE Leadership Exploration 1 (used to be called Skills for 21st Century, Personal Life Skills)

Students explore self leadership and leadership foundations in school, family, community and career roles and responsibilities. Students explore lifelong learning and leadership skills to prepare them to be responsible self advocates, effective communicators and collaborators, responsible citizens, creative thinkers and problem solvers. Students explore individual growth, goal setting, socio-emotional learning, human development, interpersonal relationships, nutritional health and wellness, and physically active lifestyles. They also explore careers and personal finance through saving and spending practices.

CTE STEM Manufacturing and Prototyping Exploration (used to be called Mechatronics)

Students will learn how to modify and control the world around them through exploring, designing, analyzing and evaluating the systems of design, programming and electronics. Students will learn programming and electronics through the use of microcontrollers. Students will use computer-aided design software and advanced manufacturing technologies (3D printing, die cutting, CNC machining, etc.) to create physical objects. The three systems of computer programming, electronics and design will be combined to create mechanical-electrical devices that are computer controlled. Students will also explore technology-oriented careers.

Drama 8

This course provides an overview of the art, conventions, and history of the theater arts. Although the course sometimes include experiential exercises, they emphasize learning about theater processes rather than theatrical production and performance. Course topics include one or more of the following: basic techniques in acting, major developments in dramatic literature, major playwrights, the evolution of theater as a cultural tradition, and critical appreciation of the art and craft of the theater profession.

Orchestra 8 (used to be called Strings 8)

Students should have at least two years of experience on their string instrument and be able to read music and perform on their instrument. Students will perform in a winter and spring concert, an All-County collaboration, and a District Orchestra Assessment. The 8th grade orchestra is designed to make students more aware of their musical skills and to encourage ensemble participation. More opportunities outside of the classroom are available to interested 8th grade orchestra members. Participation in a beginning or intermediate orchestra in seventh grade or a conference with the director is required to sign up for this class.