



Welcome to Kirkland Middle School



6th Grade
Course Catalog
2021 – 2022

6th GRADE COURSE CATALOG

2021-2022

Your student will take the following required classes, all of which last an entire school year, in Grade 6.

English 6th

Social Studies 6th

6th Grade Math

Science 6th

Fitness & Health

Elective - Panther
Academy or Music

LANGUAGE ARTS (Part of the Language Arts and Social Studies Block)

Students develop their vocabulary and reading comprehension skills in a variety of literary and informational texts, through both in-class and independent reading experiences. They deepen what they know about texts by analyzing literary/story elements, literary devices, and text organizational structures. They learn to evaluate texts and authors and to share reading experiences with others. In writing, students build on what they have learned in previous grades about writing for different audiences and purposes, the writing process and traits of effective writing. They deepen their understanding and skills with regard to expository writing and are introduced to persuasive writing. They learn to evaluate their own writing and to reflect on their own progress as writers.

SOCIAL STUDIES (Part of the Language Arts and Social Studies Block)

The focus of 6th Grade Social Studies is the study of ancient civilizations. As they learn about ancient civilizations, students study characteristics of cultures and regions, different forms of government and economic systems, and the impact of ancient civilizations on world history. As in previous grades, students use the lenses of history, economics, civics, and geography and apply important Social Studies skills, as they read, research, explore, and learn about the world around them and their place in it.

NOTE: Students who consistently achieve and perform at a Level 4, complete all coursework in a timely fashion, and participate fully in all class activities will receive an Honors designation on their report cards.

ENGLISH LEARNER FULL YEAR (2 SEMESTERS)

The English Learner (EL) program empowers EL students to both participate in classroom curriculum and attain English proficiency through language and academic support from highly-qualified EL teachers. Students are provided with varying levels of support based on their individual needs, language proficiency level, and grade level.

MATHEMATICS

The Kirkland Middle School math curriculum is comprised of the following courses: 6th Grade Math, 6th Grade Extended Math, 7th Grade Math, 7th Grade Extended Math, 8th Grade Math, 8th Grade Extended Math, Algebra, and Geometry. These courses are consistent with the Lake

Washington School District adopted curriculum and align with the LWSD Curriculum Frameworks document and the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). Math is sequential and mastery of basic skills and concepts is essential to succeed in the next course.

All Lake Washington middle school mathematics courses are designed to teach and assess:

1. Reading and interpreting mathematical materials; writing procedures and explanations; reading and understanding directions; labeling all answers appropriately; showing all work.
2. Analyzing, displaying, reading, and interpreting data sets using graphs, charts, tables, and equations.
3. Responding to short answer and extended response questions using standardized scoring guides.

6th GRADE MATHEMATICS

FULL YEAR (TWO SEMESTERS)

6th GRADE MATHEMATICS

FULL YEAR (TWO SEMESTERS)

In this course students focus on four critical areas: (1) connecting ratio and rate to whole number multiplication and division and using concepts of ratio and rate to solve problems; (2) completing understanding of division of fractions and extending the notion of number to the system of rational numbers, which includes negative numbers; (3) writing, interpreting, and using expressions and equations; and (4) developing understanding of statistical thinking by describing and summarizing numerical data sets. Students also build on their work with area by reasoning about relationships among shapes to determine area, surface area, and volume.

6TH GRADE SCIENCE

FULL YEAR (TWO SEMESTERS)

6th GRADE SCIENCE

FULL YEAR (TWO SEMESTERS)

Students in 6th grade science develop understanding of key concepts to help them make sense of life, earth and physical science. The ideas build upon students' science understanding from earlier grades and from the disciplinary core ideas, science and engineering practices, and crosscutting concepts. The cycling of matter and energy within systems and relationships between living and non-living components of systems are recurring themes in the 6th grade year.

The science strands/modules include: Nature of Science and Growth Mindset, Impact of the Water Cycle, Impact of Weather Systems on Living Things, Humans Depend on Natural and Synthetic Resources, the Cycling of Energy and Matter in Plants, and Cycling of Energy and Matter in an Ecosystem.

HEALTH AND FITNESS

Physical Education is designed to promote a level of fitness and appreciation for our physical potential. Fitness classes are designed on a co-ed basis with activities taught in three-week units. At some time during the three years, each student will be exposed to as many sports and activities as we can possibly provide.

HEALTH AND FITNESS FULL YEAR (2 SEMESTERS)

Health and Fitness is an integrated yearlong class. The Fitness portion of the class will focus on effort, positive attitude, sportsmanship, and cooperation and will be taught through participation in team and individual sports. Each student's grade will reflect his/her ability to meet specific individual goals and corresponding point values. This method of evaluation allows each student to have control of his/her grade regardless of physical ability. Activities may include: Softball, Floor Hockey, Track/Field, Basketball, Badminton, Speed-a-way, Soccer, Volleyball and Body Conditioning. Students are required to dress appropriately and participate in class each day. The required uniform includes a KiMS Physical Education T-shirt- \$5.00 and shorts- \$7.00 (which can be purchased in the main office), socks, and tennis or athletic shoes. All personal belongings should be clearly marked for identification. The school provides a combination lock and basket to secure clothing. The charge for a lost lock is a \$7.00 fee. Special athletic equipment is provided by the school.

The Health portion of the class is designed to better inform students of issues and choices involving health. A strong emphasis is placed on personal responsibility and healthy choices that promote lifelong wellness. The following topics will be presented and discussed during the year: fitness and movement, nutrition and healthy food selection, human growth and development including peer pressure and stress management, community and consumer health, disease prevention, personal health and hygiene, substance use and abuse including refusal skills, HIV & AIDS, and personal safety including first aid.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

In order to sign up for Special Education courses a student must currently be on an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) and be identified with a learning disability or handicapping condition in any of the following areas: reading, written expression, oral expression, listening comprehension, math, social skills, adaptive skills, behavior and/or executive functioning.

SPECIAL EDUCATION LANGUAGE ARTS /READING/WRITING

Grade 6, 7, 8: Full Year (2 SEMESTERS)

FOR STUDENTS CURRENTLY ON AN IEP

Prerequisite: Must be on an IEP and identified with a learning disability or handicapping condition in the area of reading and/or writing. The curriculum focuses on grade level standards, fundamental reading and written expression, reading comprehension, as well as listening comprehension and oral expression skills. Curriculum and content are based on students' individual IEP goals and changes each year depending on student needs and ability.

SPECIAL EDUCATION MATH

Grade 6, 7, 8: Full Year (2 SEMESTERS)

FOR STUDENTS CURRENTLY ON AN IEP

Prerequisite: Must be on an IEP, and identified with a learning disability or handicapping condition in the area of math. The curriculum focuses on foundational and grade level calculation, problems solving and math fluency skills. Curriculum and content is based on students' individual IEP goals and changes each year depending on student needs and ability.

SPECIAL EDUCATION OTHER SKILLS

Grade 6, 7, 8: Full Year (2 SEMESTERS)

FOR STUDENTS CURRENTLY ON AN IEP

In order to sign up for Special Education other skills courses a student must currently be on an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) and be identified with a learning disability or handicapping condition in any of the following areas: executive functioning, organization, behavior, social skills, and adaptive skills.

Prerequisite: These classes are required for students with qualifications in the identified areas of executive functioning, behavior, social skills, and adaptive skills.

PANTHER ACADEMY

FULL YEAR (FOUR 10 WEEK CLASSES)

This year-long set of quarterly classes introduces and prepares students for middle school as well as explore the basics of Digital Media and Spanish. Each quarter, students will take one of the following classes, taking all 4 by the end of the year: Study Skills, Computer Literacy, Digital Media, and Spanish Explorations. In addition, the Panther Academy was designed to support students socially and emotionally in their transition from elementary school to middle school with a focus on meeting students, building relationships, making connections, forming shared experiences, and creating sense of community among our students in Grade 6.

STUDY SKILLS

In this 10-week long course, students work collaboratively to learn critical middle school success strategies, including personal organization; goal setting; using a planner; reading for success; how to write papers; preparing for a test; test-taking skills; setting up a study center at home, stress-reducing activities, and much more.

COMPUTER LITERACY

This 10-week course focuses on the knowledge of computer applications and best digital practices. Students will learn how to navigate and organize digital drives and explore Internet protocol. Digital citizenship practices, including safety on the Internet, will also be focus. Students will also explore Microsoft Office including PowerPoint, Word, Publisher, and Excel.

DIGITAL MEDIA

In this 10-week creative course, students get hands-on experience using a wide variety of tools and resources. Students experience an introduction to Photography, Video, and Animation with easy-to-follow projects that introduce new tools and how to integrate them into to your core classes. Students will also gain familiarity with district sponsored resources such as Britannica Images, Discovery Education Streaming, Microsoft Productivity Suite, and Adobe Photoshop. Get ready for a fun new learning experience that you can use to enhance your work in other classes!

SPANISH EXPLORATION

During this 10-week course, students will learn basic words, phrases, and foundations of the Spanish language as well as learn about the cultures of Spanish-speaking countries. Singing, dancing, and games will support this learning as well as build community between our 6th graders.

PERFORMING ARTS

FULL YEAR (TWO SEMESTERS)

BEGINNING BAND

GRADES 6, 7, 8: (FULL YEAR)

This class is for students who have no prior experience playing in band but would like to begin learning a woodwind, brass, or percussion instrument such as flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, saxophone, trumpet, horn, trombone, euphonium, tuba, xylophone, or drums. Students of any grade level who would like to begin playing an instrument may enroll, no prior experience necessary. Regular and consistent practice is an expectation of all performing group members. Class activities include full group rehearsals, sectionals, peer and self-critiques, and listening exercises. At the conclusion of this course, students will be able to: sight read Grade 1 wind band music, perform Grade 1.5 wind band music, recognize and exhibit skills used in a band ensemble, evaluate individual performance to aid improvement. Regular practice at home and concert attendance are required. If the student needs to rent an instrument from the school, the fee is \$100.

Rental instrument from the school is \$100

CADET BAND

GRADES 6, 7, 8: (FULL YEAR)

This course is appropriate for woodwind and brass students who have previously participated in an elementary band, or beginners with director permission. Students of any grade level, who would like to continue playing a woodwind, brass, or percussion instrument may enroll. Assignments include playing tests, concerts, school and community performances, and written listening evaluations. Regular and consistent practice at home is an expectation of all performing group members. Class activities include full group rehearsals, sectionals, peer and self-evaluations, and listening exercises. At the conclusion of this course, students will be able to: sight read Grade 1 wind band music, perform Grade 1.5-2.5 wind band music, recognize and exhibit skills used in a band ensemble, evaluate individual performance to aid improvement. Regular practice at home and concert attendance are required. If the student needs to rent an instrument from the school, the fee is \$100.

Rental instrument from the school is \$100

PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE

GRADES 6, 7, 8: (FULL YEAR)

This course is appropriate for any student who would like to learn to play and develop the fundamentals of playing percussion instruments. It is designed to improve the playing skills and knowledge in the areas of drums, mallets, concert percussion, drum set, intermediate/advanced rhythmic reading, percussion ensemble, sight-reading, and hand drumming. The students will gain an appreciation for complexity involved in performing music at a high level. Percussion ensemble students may also serve as the percussion sections for the Concert Band and Cadet Band and perform at band concerts. Regular practice at home and concert attendance are required.

JAZZ BAND

GRADES 6, 7, 8: (FULL YEAR)

This course is a daily class that meets before school and is taken for credit. Membership is by audition in early September and/or by permission of the director; suggested 1-2 years of previous experience on a wind instrument, piano, guitar, bass, or drum set. Recommended that the student is also enrolled in Cadet Band or Concert Band. The Jazz Band is a performance group that concentrates on large jazz ensemble and improvisation skills. The study of jazz history and related popular music styles of the past and present is also an element of the class. Assignments include

playing tests, concerts, and listening evaluations. Class activities include full group rehearsals, sectionals, peer and self-assessments, and listening exercises. At the conclusion of this course students will be able to: sight read Grade 1.5-2 jazz band music, perform Grade 2-3 jazz band music, demonstrate basic skills in jazz improvisation, analyze and evaluate individual performance to aid improvement, understand and exhibit proper preparation and rehearsal skills of a musician. The ensemble will perform in at least one concert per quarter and one festival per school year. Regular practice at home and concert attendance are required.

CONCERT ORCHESTRA

GRADES 6, 7, 8: (FULL YEAR)

This course is for students who have previously participated in an elementary or middle school orchestra, OR who would like to start playing the violin, viola, cello, or string bass! Students of any grade level may enroll. Students in Concert Orchestra will improve their string playing technique and learn skills such as tuning and shifting. Concert Orchestra performs in several concerts throughout the year. Regular practice and concert attendance are required. A fee of \$100 is required for school-provided instruments. Rental instrument from the school is \$100

CONCERT CHOIR

GRADES 6, 7, 8: (FULL YEAR)

Do you like to sing? Then this course is for you! Students will learn how to sing well, read music, build performance skills, and gain confidence. Choir members sing a variety of songs, including classical, jazz, folk, and pop music. Highlights from Concert Choir include singing in several concerts a year, taking field trips, and singing in school assemblies. No previous singing experience is necessary. Concert attendance is required.