

## **6th GRADE ELECTIVE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

### **YEAR-LONG PERFORMANCE MUSIC CLASSES:**

**BAND:** This year-long class is designed to develop skill in instrument playing, as well as increase musical understanding through performance. The main emphasis at this level is on basic skill development, note reading and rhythmic accuracy. Band students may also sign up for a rotation with choir, but continued rotation will be subject to a successful review at the end of the first trimester.

**CHOIR:** If you like to sing, Choir is the perfect place to develop your skills while enjoying the sound of voices in harmony together. This year-long class covers a variety of musical styles and increases understanding through musical performance. Students progress in vocal technique, the ability to sing independent harmonies, and proficiency at music reading.

**ORCHESTRA:** This year-long class is designed to develop skills in instrumental playing as well as increase musical understanding through performance. The emphasis is on basic skill development, note reading and rhythmic accuracy. Orchestra students may also sign up for a rotation with choir, but continued rotation will be subject to a successful review at the end of the first trimester.

### **SIX-WEEK ROTATION CLASSES:**

**ART 6:** Students survey the basic artistic elements of drawing, painting, and color theory. Students learn to communicate at a basic level in two-dimensional and three-dimensional art. Through hands-on work and study they design and produce basic analyses of works of art.

**ART II :** Students learn to use various painting and drawing media and acquire the skills necessary to create works of their own. Students complete projects, which emphasize the specific design elements of line, shape, space, color, and value. Students also produce several projects in clay and sculpture through which they learn about form, function, and construction.

**DRAMA:** This class offers an introduction to various aspects of the performing arts. Students explore and experience storytelling, pantomime, improvisation, and skits. Classes are interactive and allow students to “find their voice” and perhaps discover new areas of creative expression that they are able to use in other classes and activities.

**FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCE 6:** Healthy eating and nutrition are taught with a hands-on emphasis. Students learn basic cooking skills and how to make healthy food choices by preparing and eating healthy recipes. Managing money, making financial decisions, and career exploration are also taught.

**INFORMATION SKILLS 6:** Students will practice digital research skills: evaluating website reliability, navigating eBooks, gathering information from digital sources, citing digital sources, creating projects using Google applications, and presenting their findings to class. A digital citizenship unit includes the following topics: your digital footprint, appropriate use of social media, online gaming, cyber safety, and stopping cyber bullying. In addition, students will improve their keyboarding skills toward the goal of 30+ words per minute.

**TECH ED:** In this course, 6th Grade students are introduced to basic engineering topics. Design theory, CAD skills, construction practice, and product testing. Students also practice technical reading and communication skills. Students work in an environment that promotes a growth mindset, and encourages students to practice non-academic skills that foster skills such as perseverance, problem solving, and managing frustration to complete tasks. This class is computer intensive and basic computer skills are taught and reinforced.

**TECH ED II:** This is a 6th grade course. Students are introduced to basic computer science topic (input, process, output, hardware, software, etc). The concept of computer coding will be introduced and practiced, and students will become familiar with variables, loops, functions and other coding concepts and see examples of their application.

**MATH CHALLENGE:** This class is an additional offering to the required mathematics class. Included will be mathematical reasoning skills with an emphasis on spatial visualization and spatial reasoning and/or statistics and probability.

**READING / WRITING CHALLENGE:** The class will enhance their reading, vocabulary, and comprehension skills. In addition, students will enrich their writing skills by focusing on descriptive and narrative writing.

**THEATRE/DRAMA II:** This class offers a more in depth look at the production process. Students will learn the rules of Improvisation and ultimately work with small scripts to prepare for a performance.

**WORLD MUSIC 6:** An active music class exploring the cultures of the world through music. Students play drums, percussion instruments, sing, dance, listen, read, and compose music through the study of Africa, Latin America and Native North America. At the end of our instructional time together we have a performance and cultural potluck.

**WORLD OF WORK:** Students get a broad introduction into contemplating career options and becoming responsible for paying for their own basic living expenses. Students study qualities and requirements of various career. Many career areas are explored, along with how to get and keep a job.

**WORLD LANGUAGE: French, German and Spanish** are offered in grades 6, 7, and 8. Students have the opportunity to study 1, 2, or all 3 of the languages in 6th and 7th grade. Students will develop communication skills, vocabulary, cultural knowledge and global awareness through songs, videos, games, readings, and hands-on activities.