

# MIDDLE SCHOOL GRADE 6



**North Lake Middle School**

HOME OF THE BULLDOGS

**CLASS OF 2030**

# **COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

**2023 / 2024**

# North Lake Middle School

## Sixth Grade Course Descriptions

### YEAR-LONG REQUIRED CLASSES

**LANGUAGE ARTS:** The objective of this course is for students to communicate effectively using reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills. The course content will focus on a variety of genres of fiction and nonfiction texts. Students will implement strategies to comprehend reading selections and express themselves clearly and thoughtfully. Students will also write in a variety of forms for different audiences, practice the components of the writing process, and develop writing pieces in accordance with Common Core State Standards.

**CHALLENGE LANGUAGE ARTS: Students enrolling in this advanced class must meet or exceed standard on state assessments.** Students are expected to enter this course with the ability to communicate effectively using reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills. In this course, students will demonstrate their ability and willingness to work independently and collaboratively at an accelerated pace. They will implement strategies to comprehend reading selections, express themselves clearly and thoughtfully, problem solve, and work at a rigorous pace with complex texts. Students will also write in a variety of forms for different audiences, practice the components of the writing process, and develop writing pieces in accordance with Common Core State Standards.

**\*HiCap ELA: Our highly capable program is offered for students that have qualified through district assessment for Math and Language Arts. Students that are designated as Hi Cap in one or both of these areas are placed into Advanced Challenge Language Arts and/or Pre-Algebra unless they request differently.\***

**MATH:** Students build skills that allow them to communicate their thinking, make conjectures, try them out, and report on progress to refine their thinking. This course makes the transition from elementary math to pre-algebra concepts with a focus on fractions, decimals, percents, integers, rations, statistics, measurement, and geometry.

**CHALLENGE MATH: Students enrolling in this advanced class must meet or exceed standard on state assessments. Students must maintain at least a B average at semester.** Additionally, students should demonstrate strong organizational skills, be highly motivated, and be willing to consistently put forth strong effort. Challenge Math students build the skills that allow them to communicate their thinking, make conjectures, try them out, and report on progress to refine their thinking. This course uses the same topics as the Math 6 curriculum above, but at a deeper level.

**\*HiCap Math: Our highly capable program is offered for students that have qualified through district assessment for Math and Language Arts. Students that are designated as Hi Cap in one or both of these areas are placed into Advanced Challenge Language Arts and/or Pre-Algebra unless they request differently.\***

**SCIENCE:** Core ideas in life science, earth science, physical science, and engineering are intentionally arranged so that students can build their understanding over time, and can see the connections between different ideas and across disciplines. To figure out these core ideas, while building the skills that will help them make sense of the world around them, students engage in the same practices that real scientists and engineers do.

Students will develop and use models, analyze data, and make evidence-based arguments. They also learn useful ways of thinking about and making connections across different areas of science and engineering. Key units of study will include: Microbiomes, Metabolism, Traits, Reproduction, Thermal Energy, Oceans, Atmosphere and Climate, Weather Patterns, and Earth's Changing Climate.

**SOCIAL STUDIES:** The objective of this course is to learn about the many cultural groups that have influenced and contributed to the modern world. Course content will include: Culture, Geography, River Civilizations, East Asia, Greece, and Rome. Students will utilize maps and charts, identify the five themes of geography, define culture, understand geographic impacts on civilizations, and identify significant contributions to various cultures and civilizations.

**WELLNESS (PHYSICAL EDUCATION/HEALTH):** The objective of this course is to provide opportunities for students to plan, implement, and evaluate a comprehensive wellness plan. Direct health instruction will take place one week per month in a classroom setting.

## ELECTIVES

**Students have one elective choice in their schedule. Please select one of the choices from below.**

### **Choice 1: 1 Semester each of ART and TECHNOLOGY**

**ART:** This course will provide students an introduction to art history, art appreciation as well as the elements and principles of art. Students will be able to understand how the elements and principles are used in other artist's work and apply them to their own. Students will have many opportunities to learn about, appreciate and make a variety of art.

**TECHNOLOGY (COMPUTERS):** In this course students will learn to communicate using different computer/technology applications. Opportunities will be provided to effectively utilize electronic communication, develop keyboarding skills, interact with Microsoft and Google applications, utilize innovative technology, and demonstrate digital citizenship. Students will learn how to create interactive projects using various sources of multimedia. This course will also offer some basic computer gaming, computer programming and robotics.

### **Choice 2: BEGINNING BAND or INTERMEDIATE BAND - choice of one year long course**

**BEGINNING BAND:** Students will learn how to read music and play a band instrument. Music experience is not required. The basic instrument choices are: Flute, Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, Trumpet, Trombone, and Baritone/Euphonium. Percussion includes BOTH bells and snare and teacher permission is required. **NOTE: Piano, Ukulele, violin, and guitar are not part of the band.** Other instrument options may be available with permission from the teacher. The band will perform a number of different concerts throughout the year. Participation in public performances is a requirement for this class. Students enrolling in this class make a year-long commitment. Families will need to provide or rent their own instrument and purchase the cleaning supplies and band book. A limited number of instruments are available to loan to students. Rental meetings will be held at a later date.

**INTERMEDIATE BAND: Intermediate Band is for students who have a year or more experience playing a band instrument.** Students complete Sound Innovations Book One and continue to Sound Innovations Book Two. The instrument choices are: Flute, Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, Tenor Saxophone, Trumpet, Trombone, Baritone, and percussion. Other instrument options (oboe, bassoon, baritone sax, tuba, bass) are available with permission from the teacher. **Piano, ukulele, violin, drumset, and guitar are not played in band.** The Band will perform a minimum of three concerts throughout the year. Participation in public performances is a requirement for this class and are part of the grade. Families must provide or rent their own instrument, purchase the cleaning supplies and band book. A limited number of instruments are available to loan to students. Rental meetings will be held at a later date.

### **Choice 3: CHOIR - year long course**

Students will learn the fundamentals of singing, musical vocabulary, and musical notation/reading music. They will learn how to use proper vocal techniques in order to perform music expressively and to enhance individual skills. Students will learn to understand the content of the music we perform through musical analysis. Students will sing songs in different languages, styles, and cultures. The choir will perform a minimum of three concerts throughout the year. Participation in public performances is a requirement for this class.

## **SPECIAL PROGRAMS**

**These programs may replace electives or core classes listed above-for students who qualify.**

**SPECIAL EDUCATION:** Specially designed individualized instruction is offered for students who qualify for special education programs. There are different levels of support offered which is determined by the individual student's education plan.

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS (ELL):** Students for whom English is not their first language are offered instruction with vocabulary and reading. To qualify for ELL services, students take a language proficiency test.

**LEARNING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LAP) MATH AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS:** Students who are not meeting standard on state assessments in Math or English Language Arts may qualify for additional support. Students who qualify for the Learning Assistance Program (LAP) support will be notified during the summer.

**HICAP:** Our highly capable program is offered for students that have qualified through district assessment for Math and Language Arts. Students that are designated as Hi Cap in one or both of these areas are placed into Advanced Challenge Language Arts and/or Pre-Algebra unless they request differently.