

2023-2024

Sixth-Grade Curriculum Guide

Sixth-Grade

Core	Trimester each	Arts Elective
Language Arts 6	Tech Block or Spanish 6	Art 6/Drama 6/Writing 6
Social Studies 6		Band 6
Math I or Math II/III	PE 6	Beginning Instruments
Science 6		Choir 6
	Health 6	Orchestra 6

Sixth-Grade Required Curriculum

Language Arts 6

Sixth-grade Language Arts focuses on literacy skills of reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Students read a variety of genres, including short stories, graphic novels, informative texts, and novel studies of *The Giver* by Lois Lowry and *March: Volume 1* by John Lewis. Students also will compose various writing pieces, including shorter, on-demand text-based responses and longer essays and research papers.

Social Studies 6

The sixth-grade social studies curriculum focuses on ancient civilizations. Civilizations that are typically covered during the year include: Mesopotamia, Egypt, India, China, and Greece. Students also learn about the origins of monotheistic religions, including Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Our basic text, *World History: Great Civilizations*, examines these cultures through the various aspects that define a civilization, (e.g., trade and food supply, social classes, specialization of labor, formation of government, and culture). Students study, compare, and contrast characteristics of these ancient civilizations, as well as study the contributions people from the past have made to our world today.

Math I (formerly called Math 6) – 6th Grade Math Standards

A major goal of Math I is to provide students with a solid foundation for exploring and understanding algebra and geometry concepts as they move from elementary to middle school. Central topics include ratio concepts and use ratio reasoning to solve problems; rational numbers and their operations; number theory; and expressions, one-step equations and inequalities. Students will explore the area of non-rectangular figures, area models, and the coordinate system. Other areas covered are problem solving, data analysis, measurement, and number sense. Communicating about mathematics, both verbally and in writing, is emphasized during instruction. Students will be encouraged to reason and communicate with each other about skills and ideas in mathematics that lead to conceptual and computational development. Much effort is made to link learning to real life applications of mathematics. This class is the typical progression for students in 5th grade math.

Math II/III – 7th and 8th Grade Math Standards

This challenging, fast-paced math course combines concepts from both Math II and Math III, offering a comprehensive overview of algebraic methods and functions. Through exploration of linear functions and more complex equations and inequalities, students will be introduced to the formal methods of algebra and develop their ability to model mathematical problems using graphs and equations. In contextual situations, they will learn to interpret the slope of various functions and explore the properties of geometric figures, using their understanding of sides and angles to find unknown measures. To prepare for high school-level math courses, students will also delve into key topics such as scientific notation and exponents, gaining a better understanding of the real-number system and its sets of numbers, including rational and simple irrational numbers. Throughout the course, students will hone their reasoning and problem-solving skills, moving more deeply into the symbolic world of algebra and learning to communicate mathematical ideas effectively. By making generalizations, drawing logical conclusions, and verifying the reasonableness of their solutions, they will develop a strong foundation for success in higher-level math courses.

Science 6

Sixth-grade science students conduct scientific investigations to expand their understanding of the natural and physical world. Instruction includes hands-on activities, reading, writing and research. Students begin to develop science process skills such as predicting and testing hypotheses, collecting and interpreting data, and evaluating their results to show conclusions. Life science incorporates the study of ecosystems, ecology, solar energy/energy transfer, and environmental education. Physical science incorporates the study of magnetism and electricity, force and motion, Robolab technology, and waves, including light and sound.

Health 6

Health is a required course for all sixth-grade students and is a trimester in duration. Among the topics included in this course are how to resolve conflicts, friendship issues, safety, movement/exercise, drug and alcohol education, environmental factors that affect health, nutrition, exercise and stress management. Also included in the course are changes during puberty and the Washington State mandated teaching of HIV and AIDS education.

PE 6

PE is a required course for all sixth-grade students and is a trimester in duration. Along with various team and individual activities, students in sixth-grade PE will learn the following: *Phases of a Workout, The 5 Components of Health-Related Fitness, and the fundamentals of the F.I.T.T. Principle*. This course follows the Washington State Expectations for Health and Fitness. Students will be encouraged to change into an IMS, PE uniform. This uniform has not changed for many years. We encourage students to reuse previous uniforms from siblings or family members. Students are also required to wear supportive athletic shoes to decrease the risk of injury.

Technology Block 6

Students will learn basic keyboarding and computer skills as well as how to appropriately navigate through today's information-rich society. Some of topics covered include PowerPoint, PicCollage, Digital Citizenship, and basic programming. Sixth-grade students can take a trimester of this introductory course in order to learn valuable skills that will support their future technological experiences at IMS. Students will either choose Tech Block 6 or Spanish 6 as an option in sixth-grade.

Spanish 6

Spanish 6 is a trimester course. This is a basic introductory class. It is a class that is oriented more towards the studying of the Spanish speaking cultures as opposed to the Spanish language itself. We do learn some basic vocabulary and basic grammar rules of the Spanish language. Whether or not students take Spanish 6, they can still enroll in either Spanish, Chinese, or French in 7th grade. Spanish 6 is not part of the high school world language program.

Fine Arts Experience

To support a broad-based fine arts experience in sixth-grade, students have a choice between the Fine Arts Experience or a Music Course. Students who choose to take the Fine Arts Experience will take one trimester of Art 6, one trimester of Drama 6, and one trimester of Creative Writing 6.

Art 6

Sixth-grade Art offers exploration in a variety of media and art styles. Students will have a chance to develop their artistic flare in drawing, design, ceramics, and painting. This class is part of a rotation with Drama 6 and Enrichment. This course has a supply fee.

Drama 6

This class serves as an introduction to Theatre. The emphasis is placed on building ensemble skills, creating character, developing basic group scenes, and feeling comfortable about performing in front of others. This class is part of a rotation with Art 6 and Enrichment.

Creative Writing 6 (formerly called Enrichment)

Sixth-grade Creative Writing focuses on writing for fun! Through daily writing and special units like poetry and short stories, students focus on the craft of writing, how to use language to become better storytellers, and how to harness the power of words to express themselves.

Music Courses

To support a broad-based fine arts experience in the sixth-grade, students have a choice between a Music Course or the Fine Arts Experience.

Band 6

The sixth-grade Band is offered for students who have participated in fifth-grade band. The sixth-grade Band offers a skill-based curriculum that focuses on developing fundamentals of successful performance. These include developing proper posture, embouchure, hand technique, articulation skills, and reading music. The skills of performing with a steady pulse and using accurate counting are emphasized. Development of characteristic tone and playing with dynamic variation in appropriate musical style is emphasized as well. Students learn to play in the ensemble and to watch the conductor. Students who have not taken fifth-grade band may join the Beginning Instruments class.

Beginning Band Instruments 6

Students who did not start an instrument in the program as a fifth grader have an opportunity to start an instrument in the Beginning Instrument class. Students must be willing to complete the 5th and 6th grade books during the year. Students will join sixth-grade band in the third trimester. Please note that percussion opportunities are not available in this Beginning Instruments class.

Choir 6

Choir is an offering for any students interested in exploring music through singing with others. There is a focus on growth through collaboration with peers, and students perform music from a variety of styles. This includes art songs, folk songs, and choral repertoire from a variety of cultures, along with opportunities to explore musical theatre and pop. Musical skills such as breath, resonance, music reading, and singing in 3-part harmony are developed throughout the course of the year. Choir students have the opportunity to perform for their school community at assemblies, for other middle school choirs at the Eastshore festival, for their friends and family at concerts, and participate in other activities throughout the year such as Fine Arts Showcase and the All-District Choir Festival. Fee: t-shirt, concert black attire (students choose their attire, following concert black guidelines).

Orchestra 6

The sixth-grade Orchestra is offered for students who have participated in fifth-grade Orchestra; or who would like to start as a beginner in sixth grade. We will differentiate instruction to accommodate each student. Typically, beginner students are able to join the larger group to perform by the winter concert cycle.

The sixth-grade Orchestra offers a skills-based curriculum that focuses on developing fundamentals of successful performance. These include developing proper tuning procedures, listening for accurate intonation, deciphering rhythmic notation, playing in a variety of keys, improving tone quality, and expanding music-reading skills. The skills of performing dynamic variation in appropriate musical style are emphasized as well. Students learn to play in the ensemble and to watch the conductor. Several concerts and events are presented throughout the year.

6th Grade Registration Worksheet for 2023-2024

Student Name _____

The shaded areas indicate required sixth-grade courses. The unshaded area indicates where a selection must be made.

CORE COURSES

Circle either Tech Block or Spanish in the box below

<i>Trimester</i>	<i>Trimester</i>	<i>Trimester</i>
Language Arts 6		
Social Studies 6		
Science 6		
Math Course (TBD)		
PE 6	Health 6	Tech Block or Spanish (circle one)

ELECTIVE COURSES

Circle one (1) of the following options for your Fine Arts selection

1. Band 6
2. Beginning Band
3. Orchestra 6
4. Choir 6
5. Art 6, Drama 6 and Creative Writing 6

PLEASE NOTE: The order in which the classes are displayed above IS NOT an indication of the period or trimester the course(s) will be offered in the actual schedule.

6th Grade Registration Worksheet for 2023-2024

Directions for Registration

- 1. This worksheet is for your information only. Families must complete the online Google Form linked on the IMS Website by Monday, April 3, 2023.**
<https://ims.mercerislandschools.org/academicsprograms/23-24-elective-registration>
 2. The IMS registrar will enter the elective choices for each student into the computer scheduling system.
 3. If families have questions about the registration process, there will be a station devoted to registration at “Gator for a Night” on **Wednesday, March 22, 2023.**
 4. Parents should notify IMS Counselors Dru Klein (students with the last name A-G) at 206-230-6153, Janet Goldstein (students with the last name H-O) at 206-275-5958 or Jayna Dash (students with the last name P-Z) at 206-230-6098 or IMS Registrar Marcy Berejka at 206-230-6160, if they have questions.
- *Students who are in specialized programs (HiCap, ELD, SpEd, etc.) will be enrolled in those courses at a later date, but still need to select electives at this time.
- **Math proficiency testing will occur at IMS on **May 31, 2023 from 2:45-5pm for current 5th graders.** Nomination form will be available **until 5pm on Friday, May 12, 2023.** <https://www.mercerislandschools.org/programs-and-services/student-learning-services/math-pathways>