

FHSD

Middle School Enrollment Guide 6th Grade

**Francis Howell
School District**



LEARNING TOGETHER

2024 – 2025

**Francis Howell School District
801 Corporate Centre Dr.
O'Fallon, MO 63368
636-851-4000**

<https://www.fhsdschools.org>

FRANCIS HOWELL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Dr. Amie Bemke, Principal

Mission Statement

Empowering students to be lifelong learners prepared for the future.

Vision Statements

Empowering students today so they are prepared for the future requires the District to:

- Maintain high expectations so students continuously grow and experience success as they prepare themselves for college and career.
- Equip students with necessary life skills including collaboration, communication, critical thinking, creativity, citizenship, and character.
- Provide authentic and engaging real-world learning experiences in a technology rich, flexible, and inclusive environment.
- Prepare students to take responsibility for their learning.
- Develop collaborative, resourceful partnerships where families and our community unite to be responsible for sustaining high quality schools.

District Policy Against Discrimination

It is the policy of the Francis Howell School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, sex or disability status in its educational activities or employment practices.

Inquiries related to race or sex discrimination should be referred to the District's designee for Title VI and Title IX compliance. Inquiries related to disability status should be referred to the Director of Alternative Learning. Their offices are in the Francis Howell Administration Building, 801 Corporate Centre Dr. O'Fallon, MO 63368 (636) 851-4000.

Alternative Learning

The Francis Howell School District offers a broad range of services to accommodate the educational needs of students in the community that are identified with an educational identification. Please refer to the Alternative Learning section of the course listings for a list of some available services. In addition to the listed courses, there are also supportive services for all core academic areas.

Prior to a student receiving special education services, an individual comprehensive evaluation in the areas of intelligence, behavior and related areas must be completed. Eligibility must first be determined through the evaluation process, an individual education program must be developed, and then parent permission secured before placement is final.

FRANCIS HOWELL SCHOOL DISTRICT MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE ENROLLMENT GUIDE 2024-2025

SIXTH GRADE COURSE SELECTIONS

The middle school day consists of **seven** courses. Five of the courses are required. The following **five** full-year courses are required of all sixth grade students:

1. English Language Arts 6
2. Math 6 or Pre-Algebra**
3. Earth Science 6
4. Geography 6 (Social Studies 6)
5. Physical Education and Health 6

*Core classes will be automatically uploaded based on recommendations.

****Students are placed into Pre-Algebra based on multiple data points and may not waive into this course due to grade level accelerated content presented in course. See Page 4 for more information.**

This leaves **two** periods in a normal day to complete the student's schedule. This can be accomplished by selecting option **A**, **B**, or **C**:

- Option A: Select Exploratory Wheel A *and* Select Exploratory Wheel B (each class is one quarter)
Exploratory Wheel A, Semester 1 must be selected along with Exploratory Wheel A, Semester 2
Exploratory Wheel B, Semester 1 must be selected along with Exploratory Wheel B, Semester 2
- Option B: Semester 2 Select one of the Exploratory Wheels *and* a year-long course
- Option C: Select two year-long courses

EXPLORATORY WHEELS FOR SIXTH GRADE

Students must register for both semesters

If registering for only one of the exploratory wheels (Option B) you must choose both semesters of the same wheel.

NOTE: The courses within each wheel may need to be altered due to staffing and enrollment variables.

EXPLORATORY WHEEL 6A

Semester 1 #0671390

Semester 2 #0671391

PLTW Design & Modeling
Family & Consumer Sciences 6
Music Production & Technology 6
Speech and Drama 6

EXPLORATORY WHEEL 6B

Semester 1 #0671395

Semester 2 #0671396

Art 6
Industrial Technology 6
PLTW Innovative Technology Design 6
World Cultures 6

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YEAR-LONG ELECTIVES COURSES

Students must register for both semesters

Beginning Band	Semester 1: 7871331	Semester 2: 7871332
Choir 6	Semester 1: 0671201	Semester 2: 0671202
Spectra 6 (Must Qualify)	Semester 1: 0673001	Semester 2: 0673002

NOTE: In order for a student to achieve their greatest potential academically and socially, a student may be placed in a Reading Intervention, MATH 180 or a support class. This course will take the place of option A, B, or C. Parents will be notified by letter before the end of the year if their student has been placed in one of these courses.

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6TH GRADE REQUIRED COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 6

This course is designed to further develop and strengthen reading and writing skills to ensure college and career readiness. Students will explore enduring understandings that characterize the literature students read through volume reading and volume writing. Fiction categories will include short stories, novels, poetry, and drama. Non-fiction categories will include auto/biography, essays/speeches, newspapers/magazines, print/electronic resources and poetry. They will also demonstrate their comprehension of these understandings by writing formally and informally - including argumentative, narrative, and informational writing. Becoming confident speakers and active listeners is a main focus of both small group and large group instruction. Students will also develop digital and informational literacy skills as well as research skills.

MATH 6

Math 6 is the first of a three-year sequence of courses designed to prepare students for a rigorous college preparatory high school mathematics course. Students in Math 6 will use problem-solving strategies, questioning, investigating, analyzing critically, gathering and constructing evidence, and communicating rigorous arguments to justify their thinking. This course helps students develop multiple problem-solving strategies and recognize connections between concepts.

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to: collect, organize, and display data in multiple ways, analyze data using measures of central tendency, represent data sets using various methods and analyze how changes in data impact the representation, present and compare quantities using manipulatives, diagrams, and number expressions, represent multiplication using rectangular arrays, represent integers on number lines and with manipulatives, make sense of multiple representations of portions (decimal, fraction, percent) and convert from one form to the other, compare fractions and generate equivalent fractions, recognize ratios in tables and graphs and solve corresponding problems, use ratios to describe relationships with similar plane figures and other situations, use models and standard algorithms for computations with fractions and decimals, simplify variable expressions by combining like terms and using the distributive property, evaluate variable expressions and solve simple equations and inequalities, solve distance, rate, and time problems, solve percent problems including those with discounts, interest, and tips, compute area, surface area, and volume of rectangular solids, and represent solids using nets.

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PRE-ALGEBRA*

6th grade students entering Pre-Algebra have already shown proficiency with 6th grade mathematics content and standards. Pre-Algebra is a compressed accelerated pathway designed to prepare students to take Algebra in 7th grade. This course includes all of the Math 7 content and most of the Math 8 content. On a daily basis, students in Pre-Algebra will use problem-solving strategies, questioning, investigating, analyzing critically, gathering and constructing evidence, and communicating rigorous arguments to justify their thinking. Learning objectives include: mastery of solving inequalities and equations, proportions and percents, statistics and angle relationships, circle and volume, and most of Math 8 learning objectives.

****6th grade students taking Pre-Algebra are skipping the entire Math 6 curriculum. Students must meet specific criteria to be placed into the course. It cannot be selected by students who do not meet this criteria. Students who meet the criteria will be notified. There will be no waivers into Pre-Algebra due to the grade-level accelerated content presented in the course. Misplacement into Pre-Algebra can produce significant gaps in learning.***

The District considers many criteria when identifying 6th graders for placement into Pre-Algebra, including achievement levels on MAP tests, the Iowa Test, and other math screening tools. 5th grade teachers may also recommend students for placement. Parents may also contact their student's 5th grade teacher to request that the District administer another screening assessment to see if their student qualifies for placement.

EARTH SCIENCE 6

This course is designed to have students explore the many facets of Earth Science through the use of scientific inquiry, technology and hands-on activities. The course focuses on three main topics: study of Earth's surface and forces that change it, study of weather, climate and factors that affect them, and study of our solar system and interactions of objects in it. Scientific inquiry and the environment are embedded into each unit. Students are encouraged to ask questions, explore questions, and assess the effects of human activity on Earth's resources and systems.

SOCIAL STUDIES - GEOGRAPHY 6

This course will explore geography around the world. Students will use the tools of social science and apply geographic skills to analyze human behavior in relationship to the impact their physical environment has on their culture. The course will focus on the effects geography has on the government and economics in the major regions of the world.

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PHYSICAL EDUCATION & HEALTH - 6

This course is designed to refine basic skills and skill combinations in a variety of sports-related settings. Students are expected to participate in moderate to vigorous physical activities in a variety of settings and will develop an understanding of the fitness components and how they relate to their overall fitness. Students will develop health-related cooperation skills to accomplish group and team goals through the use of competitive games. Activities may include recreational games and sports, team sports and lead-up games, rhythm, and personal fitness and exercise.

Consumer, personal, and family health curriculum will be incorporated into the 6th grade PE/Health curriculum periodically throughout the year. The health portion of the curriculum is designed to increase student knowledge of body systems, personal well-being, and social well-being throughout the year. Students will understand the health triangle (mental, social, and physical health) and the balance necessary to maintain overall health and wellness.

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EXPLORATORY WHEEL

Students must register for both semesters

PLTW DESIGN AND MODELING 6

Course Number: 0671503

Design and Modeling (DM) provides students opportunities to apply the design process to creatively solve problems. Students are introduced to the problem in the first activity and are asked to make connections to the problem throughout the lessons in the unit. Students learn and utilize methods for communicating design ideas through sketches, solid models, and mathematical models. Students will understand how models can be simulated to represent an authentic situation and generate data for further analysis and observations. Students work in teams to identify design requirements, research the topic, and engage stakeholders. Teams design a toy or game for a child with cerebral palsy, fabricate and test it, and make necessary modifications to optimize the design solution.

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES 6

This course is designed to introduce students to foods and nutrition and provide opportunities to prepare food. Students will become familiar with proper use of hand sewing equipment and will complete a sewing project to take home. This course will encourage students to become responsible citizens and leaders within their family, community, and school settings.

MUSIC PRODUCTION AND TECHNOLOGY 6

This course is designed as hands-on class for beginning to advanced musicians that will show students how to produce and record music and other audio projects using digital tools, with final products that are sharable online. Topics will emphasize technology and may include songwriting, digital recording, and basic audio engineering skills. Students will create, present and perform works while exploring music fundamentals through inquiry-based learning activities using programs such as GarageBand.

THEATRE ARTS 6

This course is designed as an exploratory class that will improve the students' self-confidence when presenting themselves in front of an audience. Students will learn to explore, express, and connect with others and the world around them. This class includes various types of acting, improvisation, theatre games, individual and group projects, presentations, communication, media, and technical theatre. 21st century skills taught in Theatre Arts can help students across many classes.

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ART 6

This course is designed as an introduction and exploration of artistic expression, techniques and studio processes. Students will create, respond to, present, and connect their ideas while developing artistic skills and behaviors. Discovering new ways to use familiar art media, students are encouraged to surrender to the creative process. Media may include graphite, pastels, paint, or clay. Growth will be measured through active participation, studio work and portfolio production.

INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY 6

This course provides foundational skills that can help propel students into career pathways in in-demand construction trades and manufacturing industries. Students will learn how to apply introductory concepts in tools, measuring, and problem solving to safely and accurately complete basic woodworking projects.

INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY DESIGN

This course is designed as an entry-level technology course that will engage students in a variety of aspects including, but not limited to, the use of emerging technological tools, computer programs and applications. Students will learn using communication and creativity through a variety of lessons and activities designed to promote learning.

WORLD CULTURES 6

This course is designed as an exploratory course that will introduce students to the cultures of French, German and Spanish speaking regions. Emphasis is on understanding the components of culture, recognizing cognates (borrowed words), and basic vocabulary in each language. This course is not a prerequisite for 7th grade World Language Discovery.

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YEAR-LONG ELECTIVES

Students must register for both semesters

BEGINNING BAND

7871331 Semester 1
7871332 Semester 2

This course is designed for any 6th grade student. Beginning band meets daily for the entire school year. No previous instrument skills are required and students are taught all they need to know to successfully play an instrument. Two concerts are presented for friends and family at school in the evening but no solo playing is required for the performance. While learning to play an instrument students learn to read and perform music, develop lifelong skills such as responsibility, goal setting, and teamwork. An instrument selection and information night is provided by each school to help parents and students choose the best instrument. While a student can join band after 6th grade, the best experience is with your peers.

CHOIR 6

0671201 Semester 1
0671202 Semester 2

This course is designed as an introductory performance class. This elective is open to anyone who enjoys singing. However, minimal ability to match pitch and sing a simple melody is expected. Course work will include learning basic breathing and vocal techniques through rehearsing, listening, and use of the concert text. Written assignments and tests, as well as performance tests and common assessments will be administered throughout this course. This group will prepare and perform two major concerts using unison and two part music during the year. Special concert attire may be required by the instructor.

SPECTRA 6 (for students enrolled in Gifted Program)
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0673001 Semester 1
0673002 Semester 2

This course is designed as a daily elective course for middle school students in the gifted program. Curriculum focuses on the 21st Century skill areas: communication, collaboration, creative thinking, and critical thinking. Students learn how to create a culture, film and edit videos, and delve into the world of Crime Scene Investigation, as well as other hands-on challenges. The course also supports social-emotional needs that are common in gifted adolescents. Students are encouraged to advocate and become leaders in their education.

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ENGLISH FOR SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES (ESOL) PROGRAM

The ESOL program at the middle school level supports English Learners (ELs) acquiring the skills to communicate effectively in English in the areas of reading, writing, speaking, listening, viewing, and presenting. Students study curriculum-based content while focusing on English language learning. Students who qualify for ESOL services may receive ESOL instruction and support based on their needs. Students attend regular content area classes with their age-appropriate peers.

ESOL Support

This class is designed to help English Learners improve their academic language skills. Students will receive direct instruction in the structures of writing, reading strategies, and vocabulary building, as well as listening and speaking skills. The ESOL teacher collaborates with regular classroom teachers to provide academic support and homework help for the English Learner to be successful while gaining proficiency in English.

MIDDLE SCHOOL SUMMER SCHOOL READING AND MATH ASSISTANCE

Parents of students entering grades 6-7-8 needing assistance in Reading and Math will be contacted about the middle school summer school program. Students who are identified as needing additional assistance in reading and/or math will have the opportunity to enroll.

For additional information about the Middle School Summer School, please contact FHSDsummerschool@fhdschools.org or call (636) 851-4012.

MISSOURI COURSE ACCESS PROGRAM

(MOCAP)

The Francis Howell School District participates in the Missouri Course Access Program (MOCAP). Virtual instruction can be an effective option for some students. There may be courses available either through a district-provided virtual option or through the Missouri Course Access Program (MOCAP). More information about virtual courses can be found on our website at: <https://goo.gl/TmFoSu>.

The District will accept all MOCAP course credit earned in grades 9-12. In awarding credit and assigning grades, the District will apply the same standards for awarding credit and grade assignments that are applied to courses completed in the District's traditional curriculum. Students and their parent(s)/guardian(s) should meet with their school counselor if interested in MOCAP courses.

Once a semester has begun, it is very difficult to facilitate a change in format between in-person and virtual instruction or vice versa. For this reason, students and families may request a change in format within the first ten (10) days of the semester.

Full-Time Virtual Students

With the passage of Missouri House Bill 1552, state law now mandates that under certain conditions, full-time virtual students must withdraw from Francis Howell and enroll in the district that hosts their virtual program. This only applies to a handful of "hosted" virtual programs. These "hosted" programs are listed below. Current FHSD students must complete the enrollment process for the district that hosts the virtual program and will then be withdrawn from the Francis Howell School District. This only applies to full-time virtual students.

Hosted Virtual Programs

Full time virtual enrollment requires withdrawing from FHSD and enrolling in the host district.

- At Home Virtual Program (Mehlville School District)
- Greenways Academy (Boonville R-I School District)
- LAUNCH (Springfield Public Schools) – Through the FHSD partnership with LAUNCH, students may remain in FHSD if they take a full-time course load. They may also choose to withdraw from FHSD and enroll directly with Springfield Public Schools.
- Missouri Connections Academy – "MOCA" (Sturgeon R-V School District)
- Missouri Digital Academy – "MODA" (Laquey R5 School District)
- Missouri Virtual Academy – "MOVA" (Grandview R-II School District)
- Mizzou Academy (University of Missouri)
- R7 Online Academy (Lee's Summit R-7 School District)

The above list of DESE-approved host programs is routinely updated and can be found at <https://mocap.mo.gov/>. Current FHSD students who are interested in being a full-time virtual student in one of the hosted programs listed above (with the exception of LAUNCH) must withdraw from FHSD and enroll as a student in the identified district. New students who reside in FHSD and who wish to attend one of the above-listed programs as a full-time virtual student must first enroll as a student in FHSD to become established as a student in the State of Missouri. Thereafter, they must withdraw from Francis Howell and enroll in the Missouri district that hosts that virtual program.

Full-time virtual students who wish to maintain enrollment in the FHSD must choose courses from other vendors with whom FHSD has virtual partnerships, including EdOptions Academy, Edgenuity, LAUNCH (due to the District partnership), Imagine Learning, Florida Virtual School, or Michigan Virtual. Alternatively, if a full-time virtual student takes courses from multiple virtual vendors, then the updated law mandates that they remain students in FHSD. Students interested in this option should contact their school counselor.

Part-Time Virtual Students

Lastly, students who wish to take some, but not all of their courses in a virtual environment will remain enrolled in FHSD. They can take courses from any of the above-listed vendors or any DESE-approved and accredited vendor. Students interested in taking virtual courses should contact their school counselor.