

CHISAGO LAKES MIDDLE SCHOOL

6th Grade Course Description

Required Courses:

English / Language Arts - you will have one

- **English:** This course focuses on reading, speaking, listening and writing through the use of McDougal-Littell resources. Skill development in English grammar, usage, mechanics, and spelling is integrated with the writing process. Research skills are taught and a research paper is written in a related content area. All elements of this course are interrelated.
- **Advanced English:** This upper-level course is designed with the active reader in mind. Using the McDougal-Littell curriculum and other challenging texts, students will work at improving their reading, speaking, listening, and writing through enriched and extended lessons. Skill development in English grammar, usage, and mechanics are integrated into writing assignments. Research skills are taught and a research paper is written in a related content area. All elements of this course are interrelated. Students should be strong readers and competent writers. They must demonstrate active participation and perseverance towards becoming effective in all the skills of language arts.

Math

- **Math:** This course provides the prerequisite skills, concepts, and problem-solving processes needed to become successful in future math courses. Students will learn about operations with fractions, ratios & rates, expressions, equations & inequalities, relationships in geometry, and measurement & data.
- **Advanced Math:** This course provides a focused progression of prerequisite skills, concepts, and problem-solving processes. Students will learn about operations with fractions, ratios & rates, expressions, equations & inequalities, relationships in geometry, and measurement & data. The sixth-grade math standards will be covered at a greater depth in this more rigorous, advanced course.

Science: Sixth-grade science falls under the discipline of Earth Science. We have three general areas we study: Meteorology, Geology, and Astronomy. During the meteorology unit, the focus is on air pressure, air masses, weather fronts, and how they affect our weather and climate. The geology unit includes the history of the earth, plate tectonics, earthquakes and volcanoes. During the astronomy unit, students will learn about Earth's place in the universe. Throughout the course students will be asked to practice critical thinking skills, planning and carrying out investigations, and analyzing and interpreting data in science.

Minnesota History: Students will learn about state history and government and Minnesota's role within the larger context of the country. Students will engage in historical inquiry and study events, issues, and individuals significant to Minnesota history. The curriculum spans the early indigenous people of the upper Mississippi River region to the present day. Students will analyze how the state's physical features and location of resources affected settlement patterns and the growth of cities.

PE / Music Rotation:

Physical Education: The goal of middle school Physical Education is to provide opportunities for students to acquire the knowledge of skills necessary to become a physically healthy, active, and educated person. Students will learn to appreciate and understand the value of physical activity and its relationship to a healthy active lifestyle. Students will participate in a variety of physical fitness activities in order to obtain their optimal level of physical fitness. Students will also develop the skills and knowledge necessary to participate successfully in a variety of lifetime activities and team and individual sports. PE class will emphasize improving individual fitness levels, safety, teamwork, and sportsmanship. Units include: football, soccer, tennis, pickleball, basketball, volleyball, floor hockey, badminton, fitness activities, outdoor activities, and introduction to weight training.

Select one

- **Band:** Sixth-grade band students meet every other day all year in courses based on their respective instruments. Students will learn how to read music, vocabulary, and the skills and techniques needed to play music on their instruments. Courses are offered in flute, oboe, clarinet, alto and tenor saxophone, trumpet, trombone, euphonium, tuba, and percussion. There are two concerts where attendance is required: One in December and one in May.
- **Choir:** Sixth-grade choir is a performance-based class for students who are interested in learning music through singing. This class meets every other day for the entire year. There are two concerts where attendance is required: one in December and one in May. In choir, students gain skills in vocal technique, ensemble skills, performance technique, music foundations, and music history through the study and performance of a wide variety of choral music.

Support / Intervention

- **Reading Decoding:** In this class, students practice decoding strategies, word attack skills, vocabulary strategies, and fluency (reading automatically and with good expression) within the context of decodable text. Students work on improving reading comprehension through the use of different comprehension strategies, and vocabulary strategies. Students learn how to answer different types of test questions, and work to improve sentence writing. Progress is monitored weekly. The goal of this class is to give students the practice they need to make progress and eventually read at grade level.

- **Language Arts Interventions**: These are tailored interventions that will be designed and delivered based on the needs of the learners. Progress is monitored and when targets are met the interventions can be adjusted.
- **Math Interventions**: These are tailored interventions that will be designed and delivered based on the needs of the learners. Progress is monitored and when targets are met the interventions can be adjusted.