

2024-2025

Sixth-Grade Curriculum Guide

Sixth-Grade

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

Sixth-Grade Required Curriculum

Language Arts 6

In sixth-grade Language Arts students use SpringBoard curriculum. SpringBoard's integrated model of instruction provides thematic units that incorporate close reading, writing, speaking and listening, and language skills. Instructional units combine both content and process by teaching and modeling the reading and writing strategies that lead to proficiency. These units emphasize the strong connection between reading and writing, while providing grammar and vocabulary instruction in context.

SpringBoard helps accelerate the full implementation of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) so all students can achieve the outcomes defined in the new standards including higher-order thinking skills, precision in reading and writing, accurate analysis and evaluation, problem-solving skills, deeper conceptual understanding, expanded academic vocabulary, and media literacy. SpringBoard asks teachers to slow down, clear away the clutter, and focus on work worth doing. With SpringBoard, students read deeply, write using evidence, and develop the critical thinking skills needed to be successful in high school, college, and beyond.

Social Studies 6

The sixth-grade social studies curriculum focuses on ancient civilizations. Civilizations that are typically covered

during the year include: Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greek, Rome, and China. 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 studying the contributions people from the past have made to our world today.

Math I – 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. Students who meet standard (Level 3 or above) in this course, at the end of the school year, have the option to move to an accelerated math pathway.

Math II – 7th Grade Math Standards (not a typical progression)

Students in Math II study 7th grade learning targets with an emphasis on problem solving, communicating mathematically, application of concepts, and building a foundation for algebraic thinking. The concepts of ratio, proportion, percent, and geometric figures are applied in algebraic contexts. Measurement formulas are extended to include spheres, pyramids, and cones. Plane geometry extensions include the classification of polygons, identification of special angles and angle relationships in polygons, as well as indirect measurement and similar triangles. Other areas covered are data analysis and statistics, graphing including an introduction to slope, and probability.

Math II/III

This challenging, fast-paced math course combines concepts from both Math II and Math III in one year, 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. This class is the typical progression for students in 5th grade HiCap math. Students who meet standard (Level 3 or above) in this course, at the end of the school year, may continue to Algebra.

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, and environmental education. Physical science incorporates the study of magnetism and electricity, force and motion, Robolab technology, and waves, including light and sound. The instruction topics are aligned with the national Next Generation Science Standards.

Health 6

Health is a required course for all sixth-grade students and is a trimester in duration. Among the topics that will be included in this course are how to resolve conflicts, friendship issues, having fun and staying safe, drug and alcohol education, environmental factors that affect health, nutrition, exercise and stress management. Also included in the course will be 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: the 5 Components of Health-Related Fitness; the fundamentals of the F.I.T.T. Principle; and where to locate eleven major muscle groups, including exercises that target each group. This course follows the Washington State Expectations for Health and Fitness. Students will be required 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 a chance of injury.

Technology Block 6

Technology is a required course for all sixth-grade students and is a trimester in duration. Embark on an exciting trimester-long adventure in Sixth Grade Tech Block! Dive into enhancing your typing skills, tackling STEM challenges, and using digital tools for effective and creative communication. Our course also features RoboLab, where you'll use Lego Spike kits to explore coding and robotics while designing and building robots to conquer exciting challenges. In addition, we'll touch on important digital citizenship skills. Assessments will measure completion of STEM challenges, digital tool proficiency, and successful robotic tasks execution, ensuring a hands-on experience that fosters essential skills in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and responsible digital citizenship. This course is an immersive exploration of STEM fields, sparking curiosity and inspiring innovation!

Sixth-Grade Electives

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.

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 ceramics, design, drawing, and painting. This class is part of a rotation with Drama 6 and Creative Writing. 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 Creative Writing.

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 2024-2025

Student Name _____

The shaded areas indicate required sixth-grade courses. The Electives Courses are where a selection must be made.

In addition to these courses, students will attend 25-30 minutes of study and organizational time (Gator Time) every day except Wednesdays.

CORE COURSES

<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 6

ELECTIVE COURSES

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

1. Band 6
2. Beginning Band
3. Orchestra 6 (includes Beginning Orchestra)
4. Choir 6
5. Art 6, Drama 6 and 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.

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6th Grade Registration Worksheet for 2024-2025

Directions for Registration

1. **This worksheet is for your information only. Students must complete the online Google Form linked on the IMS Website by Monday, April 1, 2024.**

<https://forms.gle/87LPNXhM59fV449V9>

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 27, 2024.**

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, ELL, SpEd, etc.) will be enrolled in those courses, but still need to select electives at this time.

Math proficiency testing will occur after school at your respective elementary schools on **May 29, 2024. Nomination form will be available **from April 1, 2024 until 5pm on Friday, May 10, 2024.**

<https://www.mercerislandschools.org/programs-and-services/student-learning-services/math-pathways>