

Gower Middle School Sixth Grade Course Selection 2024/2025

Sixth Grade Band

Sixth grade band students will participate in the Concert Band. Concert Band students will have a variety of performance opportunities throughout the school year. Performances include: the high school marching band showcase, parades, festivals, school events, concerts, and solo & ensemble contests. Sixth grade concert band members will also have the opportunity to participate in Junior Jazz Band and/or Flag Line, with additional performance opportunities throughout the year. Sixth grade percussion and mallet students will have the opportunity to participate in Drumline and Percussion Ensemble. Band curriculum includes concert material, as well as the introduction of Essential Elements Book Two.

Sixth Grade Foreign Language

Spanish I is an introduction to the Spanish language and is a teacher driven course. *Realidades Level 1* is the textbook used for this class. Students will develop listening and speaking skills. Reading and writing exercises will also be a part of this foreign language class. Students will be introduced to actively speaking Spanish through many oral exercises. The customs and cultures of Spanish speaking countries remain a central element in this class.

Spanish I, II, and III: Three consecutive years of Spanish classes (Spanish I, II, and III) are offered to 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students. Students must take these courses in order, but may begin to take them in 6th, 7th, OR 8th grade.

High School Spanish Placement: Hinsdale South and Central High Schools will place students in the appropriate level of Spanish based on a writing sample (and possibly a multiple choice skills test). They will recommend that students who took Spanish in 6th and/or 7th grade, but are not enrolled in any Spanish class during 8th grade would choose a language other than Spanish as freshmen. They currently offer French, German, and Latin as alternatives.

German, French, Mandarin Chinese

Students can also choose to take German, French, or Mandarin Chinese (full year, online course through partnership with Middlebury Interactive Languages).

- **Online**~Students have a foreign language class period scheduled every day with a Gower staff member who is expected to serve as a facilitator as the student progresses at their own pace through the program. This course entails listening, speaking, writing, working with a Middlebury online instructor, and access to an interactive community board. This course will be taken as an independent study and is student driven. The grade received in this online course will not be reported on the student's quarterly report card. Parents will have access to the Middlebury website in order to check their child's progress.

Sixth Grade Cycled Specials (students will take all four classes, one per quarter):

Music Around the World: Sixth grade students will explore music around the world through the curriculum World Music Drumming & Quaver Music as well as other supplemental materials. Students will participate in percussion ensembles, which allows them to experience music of many cultures through performance on authentic instruments. They will also analyze and discuss the similarities and differences of music from different regions, as well as make connections with other cultural elements. Students will have several opportunities for music composition, both individual and with other students in the class. Students will also learn how to play chords and chord-based songs on the ukulele.

Family and Consumer Science: Sixth grade students will explore the art of hand and machine stitching by producing a sewing project. These students will also examine their diet as they learn the basics of proper nutrition. Students will also explore the culinary field and then work in teams to make fun and tasty snacks using proper measuring techniques.

STEM (Science Technology Engineering Mathematics): Students will engage in a variety of engineering challenges. In addition to the engineering challenges students will design, build, and fly their own functioning quadcopter drones. They learn about the physics of flight and perform experiments to understand how flight is achieved. Students will learn about flight dynamics such as yaw, roll, and pitch, by participating in drone games to develop their piloting skills.

Art: Sixth grade students will learn techniques used with drawing pencils, chalk pastel, oil pastel, clay, tempera paint, and watercolor paint to implement those skills into a successful artwork. Students' projects will promote independence, decision making, problem-solving, and creativity. Students will use a variety of materials and continue to build on their knowledge of the elements of art and principles of design.

Study Hall

Year long study hall period supervised by a Gower staff member. Study hall may be selected as an elective period in cases where a student has chosen not to enroll in Band, Foreign Language, or the Quarterly Cycled Classes previously described. Students/Parents are encouraged to consider selecting an academic course in place of a study hall to increase a student's exposure to a variety of content areas prior to middle school graduation.