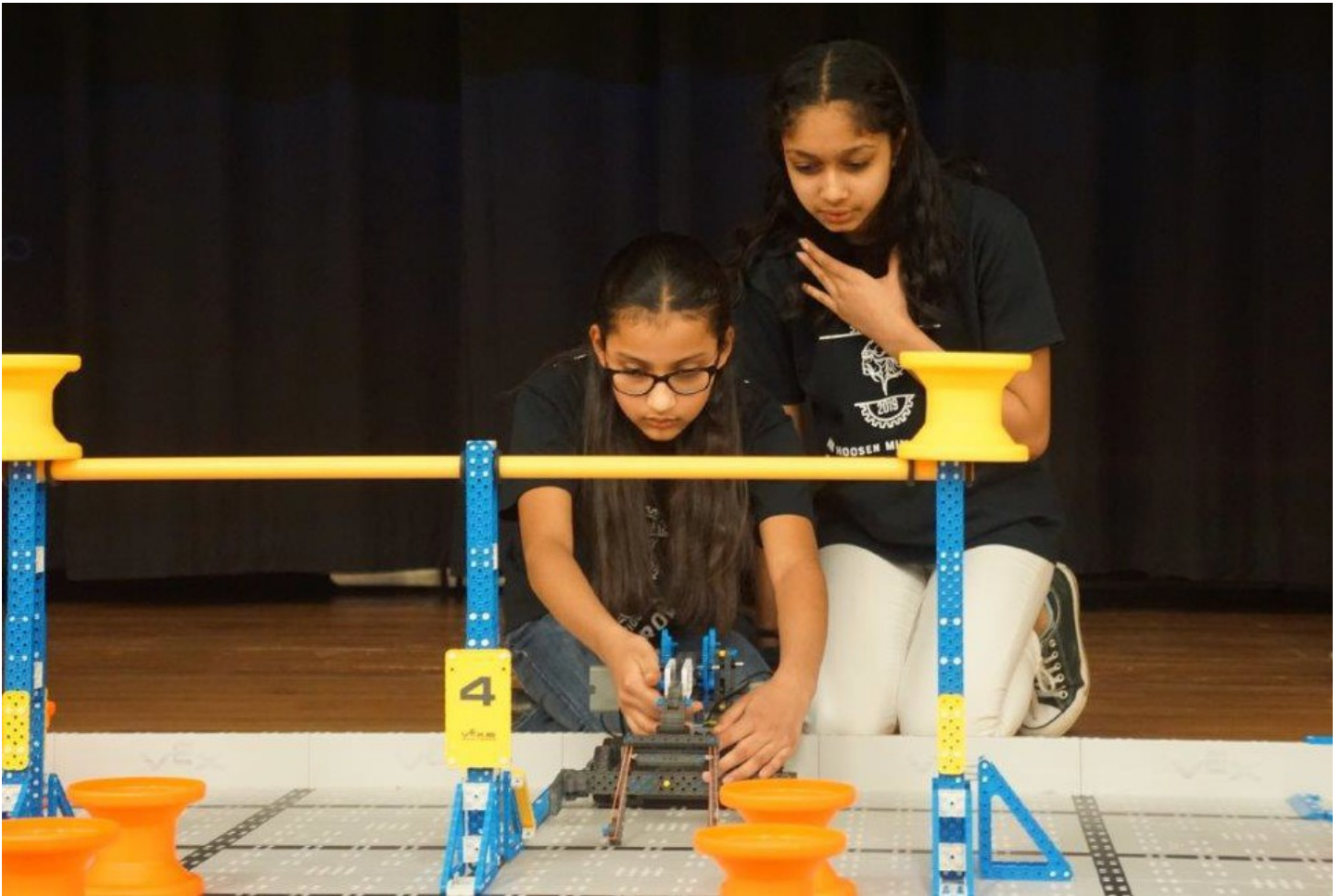




ROCHESTER
COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

PRIDE IN EXCELLENCE

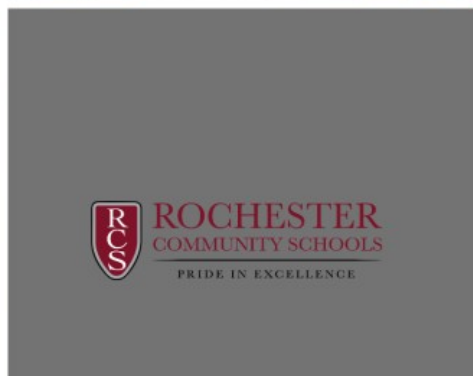
6TH GRADE COURSE CATALOG



2024-2025

OUR MISSION

To provide a quality education in a caring atmosphere for students to attain the necessary skills and knowledge to become lifelong learners and contribute to a diverse, interdependent, and changing world.



The teaching and learning at Rochester Community Schools is designed to develop innovative, self-directed learners who think critically, communicate effectively, and persevere to positively impact the world.

We challenge our learners through dynamic cultural experiences to be empowered global stewards and inspire them to take what they learn and have a positive impact on their community, country, and world.

All sixth-grade students are scheduled to take the following classes:

- Language Arts
- Mathematics
- Science
- Social Studies
- Music and electives

English Language Arts

Language Arts 6 - #01006

Language Arts 6 is based on the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) for sixth grade. This course integrates listening, speaking, writing, and reading with an emphasis on literary analysis. Students read narrative and informational text and analyze their structure, elements, and style. Vocabulary strategies are taught and reinforced through a variety of literature. Using the writing process and the six traits of writing, students write narrative and expository pieces, such as a personal narrative and an argumentative essay. The mechanics of writing, including sentence structure, spelling, and grammar, are taught and reinforced through student writing. Students develop speaking and listening skills by participating in group discussions and oral presentations.

Mathematics

Mathematics 6 - #04006

Mathematics 6 is based on the sixth-grade Michigan Math Standards. Students continue to develop algebraic reasoning by finding equivalent expressions and solving equations and inequalities. They will build on their understanding of rational number operations to divide fractions. Students will explore ratios and use them to solve real-world problems with rates and percentages. They will investigate negative numbers and their place on the coordinate grid. In their study of statistics, students interpret data to find measures of center and describe variability.

Accelerated Mathematics 6 - #04016

Accelerated Mathematics 6 is based on the seventh-grade Michigan Math Standards with supplements of the sixth-grade standards as needed. Students deepen their understanding of rational number operations, equivalent expressions, solving equations, and solving inequalities with the use of negative and positive numbers. Students analyze and graph proportional relationships. Students use their knowledge of proportions and equations to solve percent problems. In their study of geometry, students investigate angle relationships and find the surface area and volume of prisms and pyramids. While studying statistics, students compare data and make inferences about two populations.

When determining placement into Accelerated Math 6, families should consider a student's m-step score, iReady percentile score, mastery of 5th-grade content, and mathematical dispositions.

Science

Science 6 - #06006

The RCS middle school science curriculum utilizes Mi-STAR and Modeling Instruction Pedagogy. This science curriculum is motivated by a vision for the future in which science is taught and learned as an integrated body of knowledge that can be applied to address societal issues. The dimensions of NGSS are sequenced across each year and between years to create a coherent progression that builds on students' prior knowledge and skills. Each bundle in the sequence is connected to a 21st-century theme that will serve as the basis for a Unit Challenge— a problem or issue that the students attempt to solve or address throughout the course of a unit. As students progress through the curriculum, they repeatedly use the disciplinary core ideas, science and engineering practices, and crosscutting concepts of the middle school grade band. The units build on one another in a coherent fashion, assuming prior knowledge from previous units. Units include solving problems pertaining to infectious disease, metabolizing energy from food, environmental conditions affecting plant growth/reproduction, and invasive species in our Michigan ecosystems.

Social Studies

World Studies 6 - #07006

The sixth-grade social studies curriculum introduces students to various regions of the world outside of the United States. Using the five themes of geography, students explore cultural and natural features that characterize each region and trace the movement of people, ideas, and products and how they interact. Differences in governments and economies are examined as well as the role each plays in a global society. Units of study will be guided by essential questions that will lead to a better understanding of today's world.

Required Elective Courses

Music

Students will choose one music class for the year, Band, Orchestra, or Choir

Band 6 - #05006

Length: Full year

Music is a connection between people, building bridges in diverse populations, and is essential to the human experience. In 6th grade band, students will learn the proper assembly, care, and maintenance of their instruments while applying proper posture and embouchure in order to produce a quality sound. Critical thinking skills are engaged through the exploration of music theory concepts such as note reading and rhythm analysis and students participate in the creative process through the performance of concert band and popular music. Ensemble skills are explored and collaboration, a 21st century skill, is highly valued. Students display the high-quality work they have created in performances that take place both in and out of the classroom.

Orchestra (String Instruments) 6 - #05226

Length: Full year

Music is a connection between people, building bridges in diverse populations, and is essential to the human experience. In 6th grade orchestra, students will learn the proper assembly, care, and maintenance of their string instrument while applying proper posture to produce a quality sound. Critical thinking skills are engaged through the exploration of music theory concepts such as note reading and rhythm analysis, and students participate in the creative process through the performance of instrumental music. Ensemble skills are explored and collaboration, a 21st century skill, is highly valued. Students display the high-quality work they have created in performances that take place both in and out of the classroom.

Choir 6 - #05106

Length: Full Year

Music challenges students to cultivate self-expression and grow in intelligence. Sixth Grade Vocal Music provides a dynamic learning environment where students engage in various experiences that develop 21st Century Skills. Group and individual activities foster creativity through problem-solving and critical thinking. Students will learn appropriate vocal techniques (voice placement, vocal register, body alignment, tone, pitch, and projection) and strategies to maintain appropriate vocal health. Students collaborate to explore many styles of music through performance, creating, listening, describing, and reading music while learning to recognize the value of music and its relationship to other fields of study.

Electives

Physical Education 6 - #03006

Length: Semester

In Physical Education 6, students participate in a variety of activities to meet Michigan's Content Expectations for Sixth Grade Physical Education. Students learn motor skills and movement patterns used in such sports as basketball, soccer, and rugby. Students learn the rules and scoring for team and individual sports, such as tennis and volleyball. Students analyze their own fitness levels to determine fitness goals. To better understand sportsmanship, students explore personal and social behaviors that enhance participation in a sport.

Unified PE - #73009

Length: Semester

This Physical Education course combines 6th, 7th, and 8th-grade students of all abilities to create an inclusive environment for students with and without disabilities. This class is intended to help students develop fitness and sports skills in a non-competitive setting. Students will participate in developmentally appropriate activities including lifetime skills and activities, physical fitness, and sports. Students will work together to increase competence and confidence in a variety of physical activities. Through ongoing leadership opportunities, members of this course will be empowered to help create a more inclusive and accepting school environment for all students.

STEM 6 (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) - #08306

Length: Semester

In this course, students will be challenged to design and create innovative solutions to solve contemporary problems by developing their creativity and critical thinking skills. Students explore and collaborate through highly interactive projects incorporating concepts of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Some of the engaging projects found in this course include robotics, coding, game-making, rocketry, and bridge-building. Through these activities, students grow in confidence and curiosity while gaining the necessary skills for Twenty-first Century Careers.

Global Digital Leadership - #09016

Length: Semester

Students in this course will develop a positive mindset that creates a strong purpose in school by utilizing technology and leadership activities. This course will provide technology skills for students to use when they engage in projects, presentations, and online activities. Additionally in this course, students will expand their leadership abilities through collaboration, creative thinking, and presentation skills. Students will connect with local and global communities to create authentic learning experiences.

Art 6 - #05506

Length: Semester

Through the introduction of the design process, students will conceive or fashion in their minds a concept, leading to the construction of a tangible, portfolio-ready product. Students will be introduced to basic art foundations through experimentation in drawing, design, painting, and sculpture. Along with this introduction, students begin to recognize the value of seeing the connection of art to designing, crafting, engineering, etc. With this exposure to the design process, students will learn to solve problems and understand the influence that creative and innovative design has on their lives and the lives of others. Starting in 6th grade, various opportunities will be presented to expose students to careers in art through guest speakers, field trips, and university contacts.

Introduction to World Languages - #02208

Length: Semester

Introduction to World Languages is a 20-week class that provides positive exposure to language learning with emphasis on listening comprehension, speaking on a limited but meaningful basis, and learning about the cultures of the people who speak Spanish, French, German, and Chinese. Students explore the role of World Languages in career choices and build readiness for language. Students expand their understanding and application of basic vocabulary, basic conversation, general pronunciation rules, the writing system, and cultural information. Students reflect on the similarities and differences among the four languages studied and English. Students develop a vocabulary of terms such as days of the week, months of the year, and personal descriptions. Students practice conversations involving greetings, introductions, leave-takings, courtesy expressions, and asking and answering simple questions.

Peer-to-Peer (Anchors) - #09610

Length: Semester

PREREQUISITE: Must complete an application and receive approval from a counselor/classroom teacher. This class will be graded as Credit (G) or No Credit (H).

Classroom peer mentor students will participate in a hands-on classroom experience to help increase inclusion opportunities in the general education setting for students with special needs. Peer mentors will model positive communication, socialization, participation, and behavior strategies that help to engage students in a variety of school settings which may include, the general education core academic courses, elective area courses, lunch experiences, and after school social activities. Peer (Anchors) will receive ongoing training and support to ensure a successful experience for themselves and for the students in which they will be supporting. Peer (Anchors) will be required to complete assignments assigned by the teacher that may include, but are not limited to: reflective journal and article writing, reflective personal journal entries, meeting with the teacher to learn about various disabilities and research based strategies, creating projects that promote social interaction with students, and a project. This class may be taken more than one semester with approval.

Supervised Study - #09596

Length: Semester

Supervised Study is a course in place of an elective that supports students with academic and executive functioning deficits. Students are placed in the course based on the previous semester's data. An individual plan is created to increase math, ELA, and/or executive functioning skills through small group/whole group instruction and support.

Study Skills - #21046

Length: Semester

Study Skills is a special education course taken in place of an elective that provides specialized instruction designed to improve executive functioning skills. This course provides students the tools and strategies to evaluate and improve their executive functioning skills. Students will engage in individual and/or group activities designed to address school-related challenges. Placement in the course is based on IEP Team decision.