

6th GRADE ELECTIVE DESCRIPTION FORM

(2024-2025)

****Course offerings subject to change based on space, availability, staffing, etc.****

AIM (Year)

AIM is a year-long elective specifically for those students who have the goal of going to college. The class will provide academic support for your classes and teach organizational skills needed to succeed. Students will also learn about what it takes to get to college and research different colleges. If college is for you, this class is for you. Topics also include learning effective note taking skills, study techniques, and writing skills.

Beginning Band (Year)

This class is specifically designed for students who have no previous band experience and for students who have elementary band experience. Beginning/Intermediate Band is limited to wind players (flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, baritone, trombone, and tuba). Students who like to play percussion must first learn to play a wind instrument. If approved by the band director, they may apply to play percussion the following year.

Beginning Choir (Year) – for 6th grade students only

In this class, students will learn about singing and reading music notes. This is a great place to start for students who have little or no experience singing. The students will learn all about the basics so they can progress to one of the more advanced choirs. Sixth graders who want to join the 6th Grade Choir need to simply select this elective on the registration sheet. The instructor's approval is not required.

Chinese (Year)

This is an introductory language and culture course in which the basic communication skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing are taught and practiced. The students will acquire the essential Chinese language survival skills needed to function at a minimum level in the classroom, playground, local community, and countries where the Chinese language is spoken. The objective of this course is to prepare students with a solid foundation in Chinese so that students will develop the necessary skills and confidence and be ready to move on to further study.

Chinese Culture* (Course may be grouped into wheel rotation or a yearlong class)

This class explores the different aspects of Chinese Culture. Students will learn about significant worldly and historical contributions of the Chinese people, from inventions to notable figures, to important achievements. The class is designed for students who have little or no background in the Chinese language. Also being explored are introductory Chinese speaking, reading, and writing skills. Students will explore basic language elements to help them better understand and appreciate the culture.

Project Lead the Way (PLTW) – Energy and Environment/Design and Modeling (Year)

The Energy and Environment unit challenges students to think big and toward the future as they explore sustainable solutions to our energy needs and investigate the impact of energy on our lives and the world. They design and model alternative energy sources and evaluate options for reducing energy consumption. Design and Modeling (DM) provides students with opportunities to apply the design process to creatively solve problems. Students are introduced to the unit 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.

Robotics* (Course may be grouped into wheel rotation or a yearlong class)

In this class, students will be introduced to robotics and engineering principles using the LEGO Mindstorms EV3 system. They will work in small teams to design, build, and program robots to complete simple tasks and solve different challenges. In addition to robotics, students may also develop and strengthen basic computer skills (including using spreadsheets, research skills, and typing).

Intermediate Chorus – Mustang Singers (Year) – open to 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students

This class is open to those students who have some musical training. Students must be able to match pitch and know something about reading notes. Mustang Singers participate in school performances and attend a spring festival. During performances, students wear a choir t-shirt and black pants. A brief audition and the director's approval is required.

STEM* (Course may be grouped into wheel rotation or a yearlong class)

This class is a general introduction to engineering using lots of hands-on activities and projects with an emphasis on science and mathematics.

Study Skills (Grading Period)

This course is created to support students to be successful in basic and grade level skills and standards. To qualify for this class students must fulfill the criteria to enter: 1.) D/F grade in previous ELA/Math class 2.) Teacher's recommendation. Criteria are reviewed at each grading period to determine eligibility to enter or exit the class.

Student Government – ASB (Year)

Students plan school activities (dances, rallies, etc), class competitions, spirit days, and fundraisers to help fund the school activities and are in charge of the Student Store. These leaders will also plan ways to help the community like the Toys for Tots program, collecting food to donate to a homeless shelter, and setting up recycling programs. In class, students would be divided up into committees to plan the different events and activities (dances, lunch events, Color Run, charity events, Read Across America, etc.). All 6th-grade students must write a half-page essay explaining why they would like to join ASB and what ideas they have about making the school a better place. **This essay needs to be emailed to Mrs. Smith at mshearer@hlpusd.k12.ca.us by 5/20/24 and be sure to include the student name in your email.**