

Guidance for Rising 6th Graders on Related Arts Selection and Sign-Up

All TSMS students will automatically be enrolled in the following classes: Math, ELA, Social Studies, Science, Express, and Study Focus. In addition to these 6 classes, students will also take an additional class of their choice each day. This document lays out the options that we anticipate offering during the 2025-2026 school year. The master schedule will not be finalized until mid-summer, so the information below is subject to change.

Related Arts Class Requests

Our related arts class offerings are laid out in the chart below. Please read through this document carefully with your child. After your child's visit to TSMS on May 2nd, you will be emailed a form you will complete to let us know what related arts classes your child is interested in taking next year. We will do our best to honor student requests, but please be aware, we are not always able to do so. Some classes are very popular and have limited seats available.

The state passed a TN code that requires all middle school students to take one quarter of Computer Science during their middle school years. We will be prioritizing enrollment for our rising 6th graders. Computer Science will not be listed as an option in the form because ALL students must take this class and will be scheduled to take it automatically.

Required Classes:	Select One:	More About Your Selection:
Math ELA Social Studies Science Express Study Focus	Related Arts Rotation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 9-weeks long• Students will take 4 different classes each year.• Computer Science is a required 9-week class.• Other related arts options include Art, General Music, PE, Empower, and Theater.
	Band or Orchestra	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Year-long• No previous experience required.• There are fees associated with these classes.• Computer Science is a required 9-week class that will be scheduled during one quarter of Study Focus.

More About the Related Arts Rotation Classes—

Related Arts classes meet every day for 9 weeks. That means students will be able to take 4 of these classes during their 6th grade year.

Art

Becky Bean becky.bean@wcs.edu

This class is an introductory course in Visual Art which builds on the content learned in elementary school. The curriculum encourages personal expression and inventive thinking through the exploration of art materials and methods. You'll be introduced to a variety of media, including ceramics, acrylic, watercolor, collage, 3D, and printmaking. Visual imagery is emphasized through the elements of art and principles of design, exploring artist statements, art history and critique.

Computer Science

Niki Folven nikif@wcs.edu & **Ashley Schmidt** ashley.schmidt@wcs.edu

Computer Science is a required 9-week class that all 6th graders will be scheduled to take. For students who select the Related Arts Rotation, that class will be scheduled during one of the four 9-week quarters. For students who select Band, Computer Science will be scheduled during Study Focus for one quarter. We will provide additional opportunities for students missing out on Study Focus to have some study hall time within the school day.

Students will engage in activities to introduce computational thinking and information-processing skills to be utilized in creating programs. They will be challenged to creatively use sensors and actuators to develop systems that interact with the environment. They will be introduced to the idea of computer programming as a study of languages, using pseudo-code instead of emphasis on specific programming languages at this stage of development. While designing algorithms and using computational thinking practices, they will code and upload programs to microcontrollers that perform a variety of authentic tasks. Students will explore connections between computer science skills and career opportunities; including how almost every occupation today requires computer literacy.

Empower

Next year we are excited to offer a new class, specifically to our 6th graders, called Empower! While still in the formative stages of development, Empower is intended to be a dynamic and engaging course designed to equip students with the essential skills they need to succeed in middle school and beyond. Through interactive lessons and hands-on activities, students will develop strong study habits, sharpen their executive functioning skills, and learn effective organization and time management strategies. This course will also focus on goal setting, problem solving, and self-advocacy to help students take charge of their learning.

General Music

Mike Gagliardo michael.gagliardo@wcs.edu

General Music combines elements of music theory, music history, and music appreciation to give students a comprehensive overview of all genres and styles of music. Students will learn about the basics of music, including pitch, rhythm, notation, and other elements, and will be able to read and write simple musical ideas. Students will learn about the instrument families and composers of music and will work in groups to compose their own piece. A songwriting unit is also included, where students will learn about the form and elements of popular music and will work in teams to create their own song.

Physical Education (PE)

Chris Binkley daniel.binkley@wcs.edu & **Andrew Hedges** andrew.hedges@wcs.edu

Physical Education is an important part of the total educational program. Students participate in physical activities that allow them the opportunity to participate in a comprehensive program consisting of skill development, team sports, and physical fitness activities. Students become aware of the social benefits of physical activity through participation. The mental and emotional benefits of physical activity become evident when an active role in physical activity is encouraged. The students will also have opportunities to become involved in life-long physical activities through individual sport units. The program promotes the spirit of cooperation, leadership, fair play, and friendly competition.

The total development of students is the goal of the educational system. Physical Education is a vital part of reaching this goal. A variety of activities are incorporated into the physical education program. Those activities include, pickleball, badminton, speedball, dual Danish rounder, kickball, dueling kickball, pin/cone dodgeball, floor hockey, soccer, volleyball, and wiffle ball.

Theater

Chelsea Craig chelsea.craig@wcs.edu

In this class, students will explore basic principles of storytelling through ensemble building, improvisation, staging and blocking, tableau, pantomime, beginning acting, and more. Throughout these units, students will develop skills in conveying meaning and emotion through movement, facial expression, voice, and imagination. Students who engage in theater arts classes and programs demonstrate higher levels of confidence, creativity, empathy, collaboration, and sense of community.

More About Year-Long Classes—

Year-Long classes meet every day for the entire year. These programs are designed for student participation 6th-8th Grade.

Band

Chris Colalillo christopher.colalillo@wcs.edu

6th Grade Band is an introduction to the band world. Students learn how to play our instrument in an ensemble setting and have the opportunity to perform multiple times during their first year. Students will have a great time learning how to play instruments with other beginners. The progress students make in 6th grade is truly remarkable. We work hard and have fun! Please note there is a fee (\$50-\$150) associated with this class.

Beginning Orchestra

Mike Gagliardo michael.gagliardo@wcs.edu

Beginning Orchestra is open to 6th grade students regardless of their previous performing experience on an orchestral string instrument (violin, viola, cello, double bass). In this class, students will learn the basics of technique and performance, the elements of music theory and history. Students will also be able to participate in two performances to exhibit the tremendous growth they will make in year one. Please note that there is a fee of \$50 associated with this class. Additionally, while not required, students are encouraged to rent an instrument that can be used for practice at home (instruments for use at school are provided).

Other Opportunities—

Choir **Ally Domschke** alexandra.domschke@wcs.edu & **Chelsea Craig** chelsea.craig@wcs.edu.

While we are not able to offer Choir as a Related Arts option to our 6th graders, we do plan to offer a 6th grade Choir Express session a few times a week! In 7th and 8th Grade, students will have the opportunity to participate in Show Choir during 7th period. Signing up for Choir Express sessions in 6th grade is a great way to get involved with Choir and begin developing singing and music skills! For more information about this opportunity, please email Ms. Domschke or Ms. Craig.

Class Requests

We will be taking Related Arts requests **May 2nd-May 13th**. Be on the lookout for an email and callout May 2nd with a link to make your requests.