

Pioneer Middle School

Sixth Grade Course Descriptions

LANGUAGE ARTS (Regular, Advanced, and Gifted)

This course aims to provide instruction in the interaction of reading, the process and application of writing, literary analysis, and communication, in addition to information/research skills and media literacy in preparation for college and career readiness. These strands of the Sunshine State Standards are integrated throughout students' learning experiences to develop their ability to use, interpret, and appreciate spoken and written English. To be enrolled in advanced language arts, students must score a level 3 or above on their 5th grade Reading PM3.

MATHEMATICS (Regular, Advanced and GEM)

This course emphasizes understanding the multiplication and division of fractions and decimals, connecting ratios and rates to multiplication and division, and writing and interpreting mathematical expressions and equations. The course content includes geometry, measurement, number and operations, and data analysis. Placement is based on the guidelines below.

Great Explorations in Mathematics (GEM)

GEM is a rigorous and accelerated middle school program designed to meet the needs of mathematically promising students. Placement is based on FSA scores and teacher recommendations. Students should also be enrolled in all advanced courses to be enrolled in GEM.

Advanced Math is an accelerated course. Qualifications for enrollment in this rigorous and accelerated course include classroom performance, achievement test scores, grades, and the scheduling matrix provided by the county. To be enrolled in advanced math, students should score a level 3 or above on their 5th grade Math PM3. These scores, along with 5th-grade teacher recommendation, qualify students for the program, but they do not guarantee success.

Regular Math is designed for students with average ability and performing on grade level. The course continues the development of mathematical concepts and processes that can be used to solve real-world and mathematical problems.

SCIENCE

G.E.A.R.S. (Advanced Science) (Genuine Explorations, Applications, and Research in Science)

GEARS is an advanced middle school science program designed to prepare students for Biology in 8th grade. Students scoring a Level 3 or above on the Math and/or Reading portion of PM3 will be placed into GEARS). G.E.A.R.S students will master the 6th and half of the 7th-grade science curriculum in 6th grade.

Earth Science (Regular Science)

This is a comprehensive curriculum involving earth science. Benchmarks for Sunshine State Standards are incorporated into instruction at each grade level to prepare students for 8th-grade FCAT testing in science. Students must participate in the science research process, demonstrate scientific writing skills, and perform hands-on activities using appropriate laboratory procedures. Students are encouraged to save all notes and handouts from each grade level to review for the 8th grade FSA exam.

WORLD HISTORY (Regular, Advanced, and Gifted)

This course aims to enable students to understand the development of the world community within the context of history. Students will describe the emergence of early civilizations and be able to recognize significant events, figures, and contributions of civilizations. The students will examine their connections to the past to prepare for the future as participating members of a global society. To be enrolled in advanced world history, students must score a level 3 or above on their 5th-grade Reading PM3.

READING

This class is a skills-appropriate and strategy-based approach to reading. Emphasis is placed on reading, writing, research, and critical thinking. Students will be enrolled in a class based on FSA scores. Middle School students who score at Level 1 or 2 on FSA Reading will be placed into an appropriate reading class. Students who score a Level 3 or above will not be placed into reading.

ELECTIVES

BAND - BEGINNING (Full Year)

Beginning band is designed for students with limited or no musical experience. Beginning Band trains students in basic instrumental techniques, including instrument selection, tone production, note reading, and musical terms. This group will perform a minimum of two times during the year. Previous musical experience is not required.

BEGINNING CHORUS (Full Year)

Chorus is designed to offer students the opportunity to develop skills in the following areas: healthy vocal production, sight singing, ear training, music history, and performance. Students will build traditional vocal fundamentals while familiarizing themselves with the techniques behind today's popular music, such as tonality and harmony, which will prepare them for live vocal performances. No prior chorus experience is necessary to be enrolled in this class.

BEGINNING SPEECH (Full Year)

Beginning Speech is designed to introduce students to public speaking, speech writing, research, performance strategies, organization, and competitive etiquette. This course will increase students' understanding of the communication process, help students develop confidence and poise, and enhance their abilities to speak and listen effectively. Speech allows students to express their ideas and prepares them for the demands of the real world.

18 WEEK ELECTIVE COURSES:

GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES (18 Weeks)

Students will develop transferable skills that support them in their studies and their everyday life. These skills will also help prepare them for Cambridge Upper Secondary in high school and beyond. Learners develop skills through age-appropriate and engaging activities based on various topics. They explore personal, local, and global perspectives to make sense of and feel connected to the world around them. Learners make informed decisions about the information they read, hear, and see on global issues, identifying different perspectives and arguments. Topics are taught as they relate to the Cambridge Global Perspectives skills: Analysis, Collaboration, Communication, Evaluation, Reflection, and Research. These skills are learned and applied through in-class projects.

MUSIC APPRECIATION (18 Weeks)

Music Appreciation is an exciting course designed for students to develop an understanding of contemporary musical concepts as they build their musical theory knowledge through hands-on techniques. Students will become familiar with the history of different music genres, instrument origins, and important figures in music.

DIGITAL LITERACY (18 Weeks)

Digital Literacy is an exciting new course designed to cover Computer Fundamentals, Key Applications, Living Online, and additional computer skills, which will help prepare students for High School, College, and Careers.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION (18 Weeks)

Physical education is a unique course that allows students to engage their minds and bodies in an open environment that is not confined to the classroom. This program consists of team, individual, and dual sports, lifetime and leisure activities, and daily exercise.

EXPLORING ROBOTICS (18 Weeks)

A beginning course in robotics that introduces students to the “World of Robotics”. Students will design, build, code, and program robots connecting science, engineering, technology, and mathematics. {STEM} Students will be inspired to learn life skills such as teamwork which will help them build a pathway for a future full of creativity and curiosity.

ART (18 Weeks)

This course is designed to provide students with experiences in two-dimensional and three-dimensional art. Students are introduced to the elements and principles of art through various styles and materials. Art history will be incorporated into the lessons. Some of the activities are still life, portraits, and painting.

PRODUCTION TECHNOLOGY – Introduction to Wood Shop (18 Weeks)

This exploratory program allows the students to work with different materials and processes. Students will learn to use handheld tools to make exciting things from wood. They will demonstrate proper and safe procedures while working with tools, apparatus, equipment, systems, and materials. Students will perform special skills unique to manufacturing and demonstrate and apply problem-solving processes.