



ELECTIVE OFFERINGS FOR RISING 6TH GRADE STUDENTS Albemarle County Public Schools

We are so excited to welcome you to Middle School next year! As we begin preparing our schedule for the next school year, we want to help you think about which courses you would like to take.

All 6th grade students have two options.

In **Option One**, students select Band 6, Chorus 6, or Orchestra 6 as a year-long class that will meet every other day for the entire school year.

- Band 6
- Chorus 6
- Orchestra 6
- AVID 6

In **Option Two**, students will take 4 nine-week exploratory courses. Every student who selects this option will take Career Investigations and 3 other courses from the list below:

- AVID 6
- Art 6
- Coding, Cyber, and IT Exploration
- Drama 6
- Music 6
- STEM Manufacturing and Prototyping Exploration
- World Language Exploratory

Please note: We do our best to schedule students into their highest-ranked elective courses. However, there are times when we are unable to do so. If we do not have enough students register for a class, we may not run it for the next school year.

6th Grade Elective Offerings: Please place a mark beside any course that interests you. You will use this sheet to help pick courses on SchoolLinks.

_____ AVID 6

_____ Art 6

_____ Band 6

_____ Chorus 6

_____ Coding, Cyber, and IT Exploration

_____ Drama 6

_____ Music 6

_____ Manufacturing and Prototyping Exploration

_____ Orchestra 6

_____ World Language Exploratory

-----6th Grade Rotation Exploratory Course Descriptions-----

AVID 6*: AVID is a nationally recognized program for students who have the capability to achieve in rigorous, college preparatory courses but may currently be underachieving. The AVID elective is a year long elective that provides students with academic support and motivational activities. Students must apply for AVID and meet national and local requirements for participation. **Please note:** depending on interest, some county schools run AVID as a year-long course. Some schools run it as a quarterly exploratory.

Art 6: Art (grade 6) courses provide to students activities that foster creative expression, communication through artistic endeavor, and appreciation of culture and heritage. Activities may include those that enable students to refine their technique, increase their artistic vocabulary, express themselves and their world view, make connections to other content areas, develop their own aesthetic, and strengthen their critical abilities. Although typically involving the visual arts (drawing, painting, sculpture, crafts, and the like), these courses may also include other forms of art (for example, dance, music, and theater). Specific course content conforms to any existing state standards for grade 6.

Career Investigations: Students will investigate a variety of career clusters, analyze their personal assets, select career fields or occupations for further study, and create a plan based on their academic and career interests. They will also explore Albemarle County specialty centers and academies.

Coding, Cyber, and IT Exploration: Students are introduced to the world of business using the computer as a problem-solving tool. Students engage in using computational thinking as a problem solving tool, use programming concepts and methods while creating digital artifacts, and retain their interest in computing as a relevant and exciting field. Learning opportunities are presented in ways that are active, connected, and relevant to them, and promote the perception of themselves as proactive and empowered problem solvers, creators, and innovators capable of changing the world. Collaborative learning experiences at this level prepare students to work in teams and to build supportive partnerships.

Drama 6: Introduction to Theater courses provide an overview of the art, conventions, and history of the theater arts. Although the courses sometimes include experiential exercises, they emphasize learning about theater processes rather than theatrical production and performance. Course topics include one or more of the following: basic techniques in acting, major developments in dramatic literature, major playwrights, the evolution of theater as a cultural tradition, and critical appreciation of the art and craft of the theater profession.

Manufacturing and Prototyping Exploration: Students will apply the design thinking process to examine and explore their learning around topics of personal interest to examine real-world problems. Students study technological resources through problem-solving processes and various hands-on activities. They relate the impact of technology on society, environment, and culture to future consequences and decisions. They will examine and use processes and mental models, teamwork and communication to design and create projects hinged on their personal development of life-long learner competencies as identified by Albemarle County Public Schools

Music 6: Music History/Appreciation courses survey different musical styles and periods with the intent of increasing students' understanding of music and its importance in relation to the human experience. Music History/Appreciation courses may focus on how various styles of music apply musical elements to create an expressive or aesthetic impact.

World Language Exploratory: Designed to introduce students to two or more languages in a single course of study, Exploration of World Languages courses provide students with general information about the spoken and written languages and introduce the relationships among the products, practices, and perspectives of the associated cultures.

-----**6th Grade Year-Long Elective Course Description**-----

Band 6: Band courses help students develop techniques for playing brass, woodwind, and percussion instruments and their ability to perform a variety of concert band literature styles. These courses may emphasize rehearsal and performance experiences in a range of styles and also include experiences in creating and responding to music.

Chorus 6: Chorus courses develop students' vocal skills within the context of a large choral ensemble in which they perform a variety of styles of repertoire. These courses are designed to develop students' vocal techniques and their ability to sing parts and include experiences in creating and responding to music.

Orchestra 6: Orchestra courses help develop students' technique for playing strings along with woodwind, brass, and percussion instruments. These courses may emphasize collaboration through rehearsal and performance experiences in creating and responding to music.