

SIMLE MIDDLE SCHOOL
COURSE DESCRIPTION – 6th -GRADE 2026-2027

REQUIRED COURSES

ENGLISH 6..... Full Year - Block

Students will learn effective written and oral communication skills by studying grammar, usage, spelling, capitalization, and punctuation conventions. Students will gain experience writing informative/explanatory texts, narratives, and arguments to support claims. Gaining experience in using research to support student writing and speaking will be a focus, along with integrating media and multimedia components.

SOCIAL STUDIES 6Full Year - Block

The study begins with early civilizations in SW Asia, then moves to Ancient Greece, the Roman Empire, Ancient China, and the Middle Ages. Its foci are the importance of geography, political systems, cultural differences, and the contributions and accomplishments of these early people.

SCIENCE 6..... Full Year - Block

The focus of study for the 6th-grade science curriculum will be on two areas: Scientific Inquiry and an introduction to Physical Science. Students will begin the year learning about lab safety, the metric system, and the scientific method (areas related to Scientific Inquiry). We will then move into physical science, focusing on matter and its interactions, energy, forces, and motion. All 6th-grade students will be collaborating with one another throughout the year through labs and various projects.

MATH 6Full Year - Block

The choice for most 6th-grade students, Math 6, is aligned to the State Standards for Mathematics. Students focus on multiplying and dividing fractions and decimals and converting among fractions, decimals, and percentages. They begin writing equations and expressions and solving equations. Area and perimeter are also studied. All students will be registered for Math 6 and placed in specific math courses after math assessment scores are analyzed.

MATH 6 ACCELERATED..... Full Year - Block

Students may be placed in this course after assessment scores are analyzed.

Students in this course learn at an accelerated pace to cover all 6th-grade standards and approximately half of the 7th-grade standards. In addition to the 6th-grade topics, students extend their understanding of fractions and decimals to solve problems involving all rational numbers, including those with negative signs. Students also solve more complex problems involving proportions and percentages.

TRANSITIONAL MATH 6..... Full Year - Block

Students may be placed in this course after assessment scores are analyzed.

This class is an alternative to the core math curriculum for students two or more years below grade level. It is designed to meet individual needs and help students become proficient in mathematical concepts, computation, and problem-solving to return to the algebra-level core curriculum.

READING 6..... Full Year - Block

Students will be taught skills and strategies for both fiction and content areas. These skills and strategies will be practiced and applied across several courses of study, including mystery, realistic fiction, historical events, mythology, and others.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION 6..... Semester (Extended over the school year)

Students will engage in activities to promote the benefits of physical activity and set goals related to personal fitness. Throughout the course, they will work toward improved motor performance during modified team and/or individual sports.

DIGITAL LITERACYSemester (Extended over the school year)

Students will learn and apply technology skills. They will use technology tools to communicate and collaborate, to access and evaluate information, and to create and present relevant products. Students will also learn and demonstrate ethical behaviors and responsible use of technology tools.

ELECTIVE COURSES

BAND 6.....Full Year

Band 6 gives students their first opportunity to learn to play a band instrument. Emphasis is placed on learning the fundamentals of their instrument in a like-instrument sectional setting. Still, there are regularly scheduled full-band rehearsals each week during the class period. Students will perform in several concerts throughout the year and may choose to participate in a solo/ensemble festival. 6th-grade band students can also audition for the Simle Jazz Band during the year's second half. It is highly recommended that 6th-grade band students attend our Bismarck Public Schools Beginner Band Camp at the beginning of August to get a jump start on the band experience.

CHOIR 6Full Year

Choir 6 is a non-auditioned choir open to all 6th-grade students. Students will learn basic concepts of proper singing techniques through daily practice. Students will develop new skills individually and in a choral ensemble. Choir members can explore different music genres, music history, and music theory through vocal music literature. Members will perform in required concerts (two per semester) and have opportunities to further their abilities through optional events such as State, Regional, and National Honor Choirs and the Middle School Music Festival.

ORCHESTRA 6.....Full Year

Due to the daily class schedule, students will have the opportunity to continue discovering the fundamentals of their stringed instrument and will see accelerated improvement from 4th and 5th grade. Our emphasis is on full rehearsal, but there will also be time for like-instrument sectionals and coaching. Students will perform in several concerts throughout the year and may choose to participate in the BPS Elementary and Middle School Solo/Ensemble Festival.

The prerequisite to this class is previous string instruction in elementary schools or privately

21st CENTURY LEARNING Semester

This course will cover basic study skills, including communication, problem-solving, technology literacy, and social skills.

ART 6..... Semester

Students will have the opportunity to create works of art in a variety of art mediums with a focus on the basic Elements of Art. Students will explore beginning skills in drawing, painting, clay sculpture, collage, and more! Students will be given the power to create in a collaborative, studio-style environment where student-choice is prioritized. **Lab fee \$8.00**

FACS 6..... Semester

This comprehensive course is designed to allow students to explore and develop skills they will use daily to improve the quality of their lives today and in the future. Students will explore topics such as preparing healthy snacks, career exploration, communication skills, hand sewing, and making good life choices. **Lab Fee \$15.00**

EXPLORING WORLD CULTURES.....Semester

This is a semester course for 6th or 7th graders that explores cultures around the world through project-based learning and authentic learning experiences.

TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION..... Semester

This class will allow you to see what Technology and Engineering are about. You will learn about the history of technology and where it can take you in the future. The correlation between Science and Technology, Engineering and Problem Solving, Critical Thinking, and Design will be presented through STEM-centered activities. Students will explore Woodworking, Safety and Tool Selection, Electronics and Basic Circuitry, Energy in North Dakota, Transportation Systems, Robotics, Coding, and various other real world experiences. **Lab Fee \$20.00**

PHYSICAL FITNESS 6.....Semester

Have fun while learning to maintain a healthy lifestyle! This course will introduce students to a variety of group and individual exercise programs and activities through a combination of physical activity and classroom instruction. It will cover the basics of physical fitness (cardiovascular endurance, flexibility, and muscular strength/endurance) and teach students lifelong activities.

STEM 6.....Semester

This course will empower students to become Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math innovators. Students will follow the Engineering Design Process to create projects related to energy, robotics, computer science, and more. Sample projects will use Lego Robotics, digital science sensors, and online coding platforms. Students will also explore STEM careers.