HORIZON MIDDLE SCHOOL
6th GRADE - COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

REQUIRED COURSES

ENGLISH 6……full year

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

SCIENCE 6……full year

Students will experience and learn about key concepts in the topics of astronomy, weather, environments, and models and designs. Timely special interest topics such as robotics may also be part of the study.

SOCIAL STUDIES 6…….full year

Study begins with early civilizations in southwest Asia, followed by Ancient Greece, the Roman Empire, Ancient China, and the Middle Ages. The importance of geography, political systems, difference in cultures, and the contributions and accomplishments of these early people are the foci.

READING 6…….full year

Students will be taught skills and strategies for reading in the content areas (non-fiction) as well as the skills and strategies for reading literature.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION 6……..1 semester (extended over the school year)

Physical education is a required course. All units are co-educational. Physical fitness testing occurs each semester. In the 6th grade, students will focus on skill development, introduction to games, and game strategies. The activities may include soccer, traverse wall climbing, softball, jogging, physical fitness, Frisbee golf, mat ball, badminton, circuit training, basketball, volleyball, winter sports- sledding/ice skating/broomball. There is also aerobics/weight training offered for all students.

DIGITAL LITERACY 6…….1 semester (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.

MATH 6……full year

The choice for most 6th grade students. Math 6 is aligned to the North Dakota State Standards for Mathematics. Students focus on multiplying and dividing fractions and decimals, and converting fractions, decimals and percent. Area and perimeter are also studied. All students will be registered for 6th grade math and will be placed in specific math courses after math assessment scores are analyzed.

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MATH 6 ACCELERATED…….full year

Students in this course learn at an accelerated pace in order to study all of the 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 percent.

****FULL YEAR - ELECTIVE CHOICES****

MATH AND/OR READING STRATEGIES ….1 or 2 semesters

In addition to core math and ELA classes, students may have the opportunity to take either Reading or Math Strategies. Each are full year intervention courses that are designed to meet the needs of students whose math and/or reading achievement is well below the proficient level. It is the goal of each course to provide strategic, targeted instruction to help students in reaching proficiency in math and/or reading.

BAND 6……. full year ** percussion fee* *School instrument (when available) rental fees*

Band meets daily. Emphasis is placed on ensemble playing, music performance and music fundamentals. The band performs throughout the year at concerts and festivals. All instrumental musicians are invited to participate.

CHOIR 6……full year

6th Grade Choir 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 as well as in a choral ensemble. Choir members are given the opportunity to explore different genres of music, music history, and music theory through vocal music literature. Members will

perform in required concerts (two per semester) with opportunities to further their abilities in optional events such as: State, Regional and National Honor Choirs and Middle School Music Festival.

ORCHESTRA 6…….full year

Orchestra is an elective full year course for students who play and/or have a desire to play string instruments. Students will be introduced to large ensemble performances while continuing to develop and improve their musical skills such as bowing techniques and vibrato, increase knowledge of literature, participate in musical performances for the school and community, and participate in district contests. Orchestra will also cover the basics of music theory, music history, composition, and improvisation.

SEMESTER - ELECTIVE CHOICES

ART 6…….1 semester **Lab Fee*

This course boosts an appreciation for art through various beginning techniques. These techniques will aid in promoting creativity through drawing, painting and clay sculpture. They will be exploring expressions with pencil, colored pencil, tempera and clays.

FACS 6 (FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE 6) …….1 semester *Lab Fee

FACS 6 is designed to help students develop essential life skills.

Students will explore three main units: **Foods**, **Sewing**, and **Life Skills**. In the **Foods** unit, students will learn the basics of kitchen safety, reading recipes, and using kitchen tools to prepare meals. The **Sewing** unit introduces students to hand stitching. They will use patterns and follow directions to complete beginner-level sewing projects that build creativity and fine motor skills. The **Life Skills** unit will focus on effective communication, leadership development, and career exploration.

TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION 6…….1 semester **Lab Fee*

This course is designed to help students understand the technical world we live in. This class is hands-on, and project based. The areas that are introduced are: Glider design challenge, Lego NXT robot programming, technical drawing and measurement, Computer Aided Design, 3D modeling, architectural design, computer graphics, Photoshop projects, Magnetic Levitation vehicles, Vinyl Cutter project, and an introduction to electronics using snap circuits.

PHYSICAL FITNESS 6……1 semester

Have fun while learning to maintain a healthy lifestyle! Students will be introduced to a variety of group and individual exercise programs and activities through a combination of physical activity and classroom instruction. This course will cover the basics of physical fitness (cardiovascular endurance, flexibility, and muscular strength/endurance), as well as teaching students lifetime activities.

STEM 6 (SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, & MATH 6).....1 semester

This course will empower students to become innovators in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. 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.

AVID 6…….2nd Semester only……(Advancement Via Individual Determination)

AVID is an elective course which provides students with an intensive preparation for higher education. AVID focuses on writing, inquiry, collaboration, organization and reading (WICOR). Students also learn strategies in organization, note taking, and goal setting to enhance skills in preparation for college. Students participate in group tutorials, college visits, team building, service learning and research. AVID is for students who have the desire to go to college and the willingness to work hard. These are students who are capable of completing rigorous curriculum with support and utilize AVID to fulfill their own potential.

Enrollment in AVID requires an application, interview, and contract. Students will be contacted in the 1st Semester.

EXPLORING WORLD CULTURES 6……..1 semester

This course explores cultures around the world through project-based learning and authentic learning experiences.