

2026-2027

Middle School



Encore Course Description
Book

ART

GRADE 6

ART 6 - *This is a required class for 6th graders and meets every other day for one semester.*

Art 6 introduces students to the artistic process that includes finding inspiration, designing artwork, creating art, and reflecting upon what they have made. There will be a major emphasis on incorporating the elements and principles of design, as well as an introduction to craftsmanship. Art 6 includes studio skill development with a variety of mediums and techniques. Students will learn to use observational skills, understand and apply the concepts of space and proportion, tell stories through their art, visually document and record events, and share elements of themselves through art.

GRADE 7

ART 7 - *This elective class meets every other day for one semester.*

Art 7 continues to apply the artistic process that includes finding inspiration, designing artwork, creating art, and reflecting upon what they have made. There will be a major emphasis on craftsmanship and its importance in creating quality art. Art 7 includes skill development in a variety of mediums and techniques, as well as utilizing artistic behaviors. Students will learn to use art to communicate, solve problems, think globally, make others think, and make a difference. Students will also have the opportunity to explore temporary art.

GRADE 8

EXPLORATIONS IN ART - *This elective class meets every other day for one semester.*

Explorations in Art continues to expand upon the artistic process and craftsmanship. This course places a major emphasis on composition in art. Explorations in Art includes skill development in a variety of mediums and techniques, as well as continued development of the artistic behaviors. Students will learn to seek out resources to help further their skill development in art, work with what they have and within certain parameters, use non-traditional artmaking materials, explore themes, develop critical thinking skills through questioning, and take risks in their art.

DISCOVERIES IN ART - *This elective class meets every other day for one semester.*

Discoveries in Art continues to expand upon the artistic process and craftsmanship. This course places a major emphasis on composition in art. Discoveries in Art includes skill development in a variety of mediums and techniques, as well as continued development of the artistic behaviors. Students will learn to borrow ideas from others, create original works of art, use their art to take a stand on issues, collaborate with one another, develop an individual style, and use experimentation with a variety of mediums and techniques to further enhance their art.

BUSINESS EXPLORATION

GRADE 6

KEYBOARDING - *All 6th grade students will take this class. It meets every other day for one semester.*

Students will learn proper keyboarding techniques. The students will also work on skill building activities to increase speed and accuracy. A computerized program will be used to allow the students to individually increase their speed and accuracy.

GRADE 7

COMPUTER APPLICATIONS - *This elective class meets every other day for one semester.*

Students will be introduced to many of the Microsoft Office programs including Word, Excel and PowerPoint, as well as various other computer applications. The students will learn various tools and applications that will assist them in enhancing school projects now and in the future.

GRADE 8

BUSINESS EXPLORATION I - *This elective class meets every other day for one semester.*

This course will introduce students to the world of business. This course will enable students to participate in a hands-on experience of running a business and a school store (Viking Shop). The class will organize as a business allowing students to research a product to sell, produce the product, and organize sales.

Through this experience, students will learn how business decisions are made and how a business is run. Students will also be introduced to the stock market. Students will create a stock portfolio to invest in for the semester.

BUSINESS EXPLORATION II

This elective class meets every other day for one semester.

Prerequisite: Business Exploration I

This second semester course will apply the concepts of their first business exploration course into the world of business. Through a variety of hands-on projects, students will develop a product and marketing plan. Students will then execute that plan through various marketing materials including brochures, advertisements, and commercials. Students will also be introduced to the means through which other companies market their products, and see first-hand the processes they go through.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP/ BUSINESS STORE MANAGEMENT I & II

This elective class meets every other day for one semester.

Prerequisite: Students must complete an Application from the Business Teacher

Entrepreneurship/Business Store Management will give students a chance to learn real world aspects of running a store. Through various hands-on lessons, students will order, produce products, promote & advertise, as well as handle the financial aspects of the store. The class will not only run the store, but develop various fundraising opportunities throughout the semester.

HEALTH

GRADE 6

HEALTH 6 - *This is a required class for 6th graders and meets every other day for one semester.*

In 6th grade health, students have the opportunity to explore and practice ways to make healthy choices. In class we will learn about the different dimensions of health and what impacts them. We will examine social skills to effectively choose and differentiate between healthy and unhealthy choices within different health topics such as nutrition, alcohol, tobacco and other drugs, puberty/hygiene, communication and dealing with emotions.

GRADE 7

HEALTH 7 - *This elective class meets every other day for one semester.*

In 7th grade health, students will be challenged to demonstrate and develop personal and social responsibility skills. Students will have a goal setting unit where they will be learning how to write and set SMART goals along with dealing with setbacks and challenges in the goal setting process. The students will also be introduced to techniques in dealing with mental emotional health. In class, students will participate in hands-on learning activities each day such as: relaxation exercises, guided imagery, breathing techniques and skits. Lessons will include stress and time management, managing emotions. Lastly, students will have a social health unit discovering their values and what a healthy vs. unhealthy relationship looks like. Lessons include: Communication styles, knowing their values, love, dating, harassment and abuse, STD's, pregnancy and using value decision making process to analyze how sexual activity can impact their goals and values in life.

GRADE 8

HEALTH 8 - *This elective class meets every other day for one semester.*

During 8th grade health, students will have the opportunity to focus on their personal health and wellness. Students will be learning in-depth about nutrition, physical activity, weight management, community & online resources for health and disease prevention. Students will engage in nutrition labs, hear guest speakers, participate in physical activities and learn how to advocate for healthy choices.

MUSIC CLASSES - General (non-performance)

GRADE 6

GENERAL MUSIC

This class is required for 6th graders who do not take a music performance class. It meets every other day for one semester.

Sixth grade music reinforces the basic elements of music taught in elementary school, and applies these elements in a hands-on, creative process, so that students can express their individuality. Students will focus on the elements of music (expression, rhythm, form, melody, timbre, texture and harmony), and will compose simple rhythms and melodies. They will explore a variety of musical styles while learning about the history of music. Students will take a retrospective look at music from the Baroque period to styles of the 20th Century such as Jazz and Folk music. This class will also feature the relationship between musical and dance art forms as students participate in classic American folk dances.

GRADE 7

AMERICAN POPULAR MUSIC - *This elective class meets every other day for one semester.*

This course will explore the different styles and cultural phenomenon of music from the 1830's through to the present day. The study of American music genres and the famous musicians of these genres are incorporated into projects and classwork. American Popular Music journeys through the evolution of popular music through the genres of Ragtime, Minstrel, Vaudeville, Jazz, Country, Rhythm & Blues, Rap/Hip Hop, Pop and Rock, Motown, Disco, Folk, and others. This is a non-performance class, but a variety of projects are presented to the class throughout the semester.

GRADE 8

MUSIC LAB - *This elective class meets every other day for one semester.*

This course takes music to the next level as students are immersed in the authentic practice of playing music from other cultures. In World Music Drumming, students will be introduced to the principles and fundamental techniques of playing a variety of percussion instruments while learning songs, dances, historical and cultural information from West Africa, the Caribbean, and other countries. Students will focus on authentic drumming techniques in student-led drum circles. This class is also designed for the student who wants to learn to functionally read music and develop basic guitar and drumming skills. Students will take a "hands-on" approach to music making on a variety of instruments, including a unit on basic guitar foundation. We will cover rhythm, time signatures, bass and treble clefs, scales and chord structure while learning and creating songs. This course will also include the study of music in current events and music as it relates to history, culture and other subjects.

MUSICAL PERFORMANCE PROGRAMS

**NOTE: Band, Choir and Orchestra may only be dropped during a 2 week window BEFORE the start of the 2nd semester.*

BAND

GRADE 6

BAND 6 - *This is a year-long elective class and meets every other day for the entire school year.*

In this course students will begin instrumental music instruction in the summer before 6th grade with a four-week program that starts the last week of July and continues through the first three weeks of August. When school resumes in September, students continue individual/small group lessons once every week for twenty minutes in addition to the full rehearsals. First year instruction centers on developing tonal concepts, counting fundamental rhythmic patterns, and correct fingerings and hand position on their chosen instrument. Music performed is of a grade 1 level and occasionally 1-1/2. The 6th grade band will give 2-3 evening performances (attendance required) during the school year.

GRADE 7

BAND 7 - *This is a year-long elective class and meets every other day for the entire school year.*

In the second year of instrumental music study, students begin a combined marching program with the 8th grade band. The majority of marching band instruction takes place during the four-week summer band

program that begins in July and culminates the third week of August with the annual Holmen Kornfest Parade. When school begins, further marching band instruction takes place during the day which includes required performances. Marching band performances during the fall include the Homecoming Parade, the Oktoberfest Torchlight Parade, and the Marching Band Review Concert, which is a combined performance with the HHS marching band.

Increased scale study begins in 7th grade where quality grade 2 level, and occasionally 1-1/2 and 2-1/2 level music are studied. ALL students also complete a major unit emphasizing solo and small ensemble playing and will participate in the WSMA District Solo & Ensemble Festival in February or other approved performance. Jazz Ensemble and/or Jazz Combo are offered as after school co-curricular experiences. e Additional required performances include: evening concerts at the end of each quarter of study (typically in January, March, and May), as well as participation in the WSMA Large Group Festival in late March or early April. Individual/small group lessons continue once each week for twenty minutes each.

BAND 7 for Beginners - *This is a semester-long elective class and meets every other day (first semester only).*

Students new to band as 7th graders will join the 7th grade beginning band class. The 7th grade beginning band is designed as a small ensemble so that new band students will have an opportunity to work more closely with the instructor to learn their instrument. This class meets during the first semester, where in an expedited classroom setting the students will learn first-year basic skills on their new instrument such as hand position, posture, tonal concept, and rhythm. Band and marching music will be introduced allowing students to participate in marching performances with the 7 & 8 grade bands at the Homecoming and Oktoberfest Torchlight Parades, Marching Band Review Concert, and Winter Concert in January.

At the conclusion of the 1st semester, these students will move into the full 7th grade band for the remainder of the school year, as well as starting a weekly twenty minute individual/small group lesson.

GRADE 8

BAND 8 - *This is a year-long elective class and meets every other day for the entire school year.*

In the third year of instrumental music study, students learn about the audition process and audition for seating placement in the band. Advanced scales and technical studies are added, and top students are recommended to participate in local and state middle-level honors bands. As in 7th grade, marching band, solo & ensemble festival, WSMA Large Group Festival, and jazz study are all continued as are other occasional performance opportunities in the school district and community. The 8th grade band also performs for the school's Veteran's Day Assembly in November. Quality band literature of a grade 2-1/2 level and occasionally 2 and 3 level music is studied. Required performances include: evening concerts at the end of each quarter of study (typically in January, March, and May), the Oktoberfest Torchlight Parade and Fall Review Concert marching band performances, and Solo & Ensemble Festival in February. Individual/small group lessons continue once each week for twenty minutes each.

CHOIR

GRADE 6

CHOIR 6 - *This is a year-long elective class and meets every other day for the entire school year.*

6th grade singers will learn appropriate posture and breathing techniques while singing in a variety of musical styles, including "pop" and "show choir". We will work to develop our voices through fun warm-ups and exercises. 6th grade choir members will learn the fundamentals of healthy singing and work as a choral ensemble in preparation for 7th and 8th grade choir. Activities include performing at the HMS Veteran's Day Assembly in November, the December Holiday Concert, and our Spring Concert in May. Parents are welcome and encouraged to attend all of these performances.

GRADE 7

CHOIR 7 - *This is a year-long elective class and meets every other day for the entire school year.*

In addition to our Veteran's Day Program, Holiday Concert and Spring Concert, 7th grade singers may participate in the WSMA Solo/Ensemble Festival in February. For this event students prepare and memorize a solo song, duet, or trio and perform it for a judge who gives constructive verbal and written feedback. 7th grade choir members will also participate in the WSMA Large Group Festival where the entire choir performs for judges, receives feedback, and is followed by a live critique workshop. 7th grade choir students will also receive a 20-minute small group voice lesson once a week with the instructor. The

7th and 8th grade choirs combine at times throughout the year to form our HMS Concert Choir which sings a variety of choral literature.

GRADE 8

CHOIR 8 - *This is a year-long elective class and meets every other day for the entire school year.*

All 8th grade singers continue to learn appropriate vocal technique and hygiene to prepare them for continued success at the high school level. Students will continue to take a 20-minute voice lesson once per week with the vocal instructor and have the opportunity to participate in the Solo & Ensemble district festival in February. Again, in March the 8th choir will sing at the Large Group Festival for a critiqued performance by judges. As in 6th and 7th grades, we strive for beauty and purity of tone, correct posture and breathing, musicality and artistic interpretation. The 8th grade choir sings in all the programs listed for the 6th and 7th grade choirs during the school year.

ORCHESTRA

GRADE 6

ORCHESTRA 6 - *This is a year-long elective class and meets every other day for the entire school year.*

Students begin orchestra instruction in 6th grade. Orchestra class begins and will meet every other day during Encore time. In addition, students will have individual/small group lessons once each week for twenty minutes each. First year instruction centers on developing tonal concept, counting fundamental rhythmic patterns and proper playing technique. The students will be involved in three evening concert programs per year. Attendance and performance at these concerts is a required part of the course. Various other performances and activities may happen throughout the year.

GRADE 7

ORCHESTRA 7 - *This is a year-long elective class and meets every other day for the entire school year.*

In their second year of orchestra, instruction continues with increased scale study and progression into more challenging music. Students also complete a major unit emphasizing solo and small ensemble playing and have the opportunity to participate in the WSMA Solo & Ensemble Festival. The students will be involved in three evening concert programs per year. Attendance and performance at these concerts is a required part of the course. Various other performances and activities may happen throughout the year. Individual/small group lessons continue once every week for twenty minutes each.

ORCHESTRA 7 for Beginners - *This is a semester-long elective class and meets every other day (first semester only).*

Students new to orchestra as 7th graders will join the 7th grade beginning orchestra class. The 7th grade beginning orchestra is designed as a small ensemble so that new orchestra students will have an opportunity to work more closely with the instructor to learn their instrument. This class meets during the first semester, where in an expedited classroom setting the students will learn first-year basic skills on their new instrument such as hand position, posture, bow techniques, and rhythm. Students will participate in our Winter Concert playing a piece with 7th grade and with 6th grade. At the conclusion of the 1st semester, these students will move into the full 7th grade orchestra for the remainder of the school year, as well as starting a weekly twenty minute individual/small group lesson.

GRADE 8

ORCHESTRA 8 - *This is a year-long elective class and meets every other day for the entire school year.*

In the third year of orchestra instruction, advanced scales and technical studies are combined with more advanced literature. Chamber music and jazz study are all continued, as are other occasional performance opportunities in the school and community. Orchestra students will be involved in three evening concert programs per year. Attendance and performance at these concerts is a required part of the course. Various other performances and activities may happen throughout the year. Individual/small group lessons continue once every week for twenty minutes each.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

This is a required class for ALL HMS students and meets every other day for the entire school year.

The units have been developed around the national standards for physical education. These units will consist of individual and team activities that will be conducted in the gymnasiums, wellness center and outdoor facilities.

SPANISH

GRADE 6

EXPLORATORY SPANISH - *All 6th grade students will take this class. It meets every other day for one quarter.*

Students will learn expressions used in basic Spanish conversation. They will also learn vocabulary related to the calendar, weather, numbers, colors, emotions, some activities students like to do in their free time and foods they like to eat. We will talk about Spanish speaking countries and some of their traditions. A variety of teaching methods will be used in every course in order to reach every student's skills.

GRADE 7

SPANISH I - *This elective class meets every other day for one semester.*

This is a continuation of grade 6. Conversations will be more detailed and interesting to students. More vocabulary and language structure will be acquired in this course. Students will make projects, and present some of them. They will prepare and present skits or short videos.

GRADE 8

SPANISH II - *This elective class meets every other day for one semester. Prerequisite: 7th or 8th Spanish I*

This class is recommended for students who want to continue studying Spanish in High School. This is a continuation of Spanish I. Students will continue their acquisition of the Spanish language in all areas: written, oral, listening and reading.

SPANISH III - *This elective class meets every other day for one semester. Prerequisite: Spanish II*

Students need to earn a passing grade in Spanish II (their first semester in 8th grade) in order to continue to Spanish III, second semester. Students who complete this course successfully will be able to take an advanced placement test in May. Students will have the possibility to test out of Spanish I in high school if they obtain the set score which is 86%.

Spanish culture will be explored in every course. Respect towards cultural diversity will be emphasized in every class.

TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION

GRADE 6

TECH ED 6 - *Students who elect general music will also take this class. It meets every other day for one semester.*

In this course students will learn general woods lab safety, the proper use of a variety of hand tools, and the correct operation of the drill press, disc sander, and spindle sander. Students will then learn about bridges and will build a model truss bridge using 1/4" pine and hot glue that we will test the strength of. Students will also choose two wooden toys to construct. They will be able to choose from cars, trucks, tractors and others. Safety and reading a ruler will be emphasized throughout this course.

GRADE 7

TECH ED 7 - *This elective class meets every other day for one semester.*

In this course students will learn general woods lab safety, the proper use of a variety of hand tools, and the correct operation of the drill press, band saw, power sanders, and miter saw. Students will then design and use a variety of tools and equipment to build a CO2 powered wooden drag car and a personalized tic tac toe board. Students will also learn to program and use a laser engraver that will be used to engrave

and cut some of the pieces for their tic tac toe board. Safety and measurement will be emphasized throughout this course.

GRADE 8

TECH ED 8 - *This elective class meets every other day for one semester.*

In this course students will review general woods lab safety and measurement concepts. Students will use power and hand tools to construct a push stick, wall shelf, and cribbage board all from solid wood. Equipment that students will use include: band saws, miter saw, planer, spindle sander, drill, jointer and many other hand tools. Students will learn basic woodworking concepts such as wood grain patterns, proper use of pocket hole jigs and squaring a board. Students will also have the opportunity to use a laser engraver to personalize the projects they make.

World Cultures

GRADE 6

INTRODUCTION TO WORLD CULTURES - *All 6th grade students will take this class. It meets every other day for one quarter.*

This course introduces students to basic world geography and culture. Students will learn the names and locations of the seven continents and five oceans. Students will learn about the different features of maps and globes and the advantages and disadvantages of each. Students will contribute to the design of a class flag and rules based on their own interests and backgrounds. Cultural sharing, family heritage, and current events will all be incorporated. The rich and innovative culture of the ancient Inca, Mayan, and Aztec civilizations of Central and South America will be introduced and explored.

GRADE 7

7 WORLD CULTURES - EXPLORING AFRICA *This elective class meets every other day for one semester.*

This engaging course will take students on a journey through the diverse and fascinating cultures of Africa. Through research, interactive activities, and engaging readings, students will delve deep into the history, geography, and cultures of a specific African country. Conduct in-depth research and create informative and creative posters showcasing their chosen country. Read excerpts from "I Will Always Write Back," a powerful dual memoir exploring the lives of a Zimbabwean boy and an American girl connected by a life-changing pen pal relationship. Experience the magic of global connection by participating in a pen pal exchange with a student in another country. This class will foster global awareness, empathy, and critical thinking skills while providing students with a unique opportunity to learn about different cultures and perspectives firsthand.

GRADE 8

8 EUROPEAN CULTURES - A EUROPEAN JOURNEY *This elective class meets every other day during 1st semester.*

This exciting course will transport students across time and continents, exploring diverse cultures and historical landmarks. Students will delve into the captivating Renaissance era, learning about its art, science, and influential figures including Leonardo da Vinci and Michelangelo. Students will participate in hands-on projects, recreating inventions like portable bridges and experimenting with techniques like invisible ink and mirror writing. Pupils will embark on a virtual tour of iconic European landmarks, from the Eiffel Tower to the Colosseum, and discover the wonders of the ancient and modern world. Students will also gain a deeper understanding of the United Kingdom, exploring the unique cultures and histories of England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland. To enhance our global perspective, we'll sample savory snacks from around the world, experiencing the diverse flavors and culinary traditions of different cultures.

8 WORLD CULTURES - A GLOBAL SPRING SEMESTER *-This elective class meets every other day during 2nd semester.*

This engaging course will explore diverse cultures and traditions through a variety of themes. Students will delve into the rich history and contributions of African Americans during Black History Month. Then they will journey to the frozen tundra of Alaska learning about the Iditarod: an incredible sled dog race against the elements highlighting the remarkable resilience of the mushers and their canine companions. Additionally, they will celebrate the vibrant spirit of spring across cultures, exploring Chinese New Year, the Spring Equinox, Cinco de Mayo, and Holi: the Hindu Festival of Colors. Through interactive activities,

engaging discussions, and creative projects, students will gain a deeper understanding of different cultures, appreciate the diversity of the human experience, and develop a global perspective.

PUPIL NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

English:

The right of the student to be admitted to school and to participate fully in curricular, extracurricular, student services, recreational or other programs or activities shall not be abridged or impaired because of a student's age, race, creed, color, disability, pregnancy, marital or parental status, religion, sex, citizenship, national origin, ancestry, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or gender nonconformity.

Spanish:

El derecho del estudiante para ser admitido en la escuela y participar plenamente en el currículo, extracurriculo, servicios estudiantiles, recreativos u otros programas o actividades que no se podrán coartar o menoscabado debido a su edad, raza, credo, color, discapacidad, embarazo de una estudiante, el estado civil o paternal, religión, sexo, nacionalidad, origen nacional, ascendencia, estado socioeconómico, orientación sexual, identidad de género, expresión de género, o la no conformidad de género.

Hmong:

Txoj cai muab rau tus menyuam thaum tuaj kawm ntawv thiab thaum mus ua si ncaws pob, hu nkauj, los yog ua yeeb yam pem tsev kawm ntawv yuav tsis pauv. Txawm tus menyuam lub hnuv yug loj los me, nws yog haiv neeg twg, nws txoj kev ntseeg yog li cas, nws muaj kev tsis taus, nws lub cev xeeb tub, muaj txij nkawm li cas, yog poj niam los txiv neej, yog pej xeem los tsis yog, tuaj lub tej chaws twg tuaj, poj koob yawm txwv yog li cas, los yog tham li cas, txoj cai yuav nyob li qub.