CHRISTENSEN MIDDLE SCHOOL
2026-2027
SIXTH GRADE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

SIXTH GRADE CORE: The sixth grade core program consists of three instructional periods covering the content areas of reading, language arts and social studies. In the **Reading/Language Arts** component, students are introduced to major literary genres such as novels, plays and short stories. Students are encouraged to personalize these experiences through oral discussion and creative writing. In addition, students are instructed in the basics of written language: sentence construction, spelling, punctuation and other areas of language mechanics. Vocabulary development, comprehension and organizational skills are also emphasized.

In the area of sixth grade **Social Studies,** students study the history and geography of ancient civilizations. The cultures and history of Mesopotamian, African, Greek, Roman and Hebrew civilizations are covered. Topics are explored in depth through use of the text, special projects and oral presentations. Critical thinking, group participation, and basic study skills are emphasized.

SIXTH GRADE MATH ** This course is designed for students who are performing at the average grade level. Students in Math 6 have the knowledge and skills to access grade level standards but may at times need additional support to understand new concepts or skills. Math placement will be determined using the LVJUSD Math Placement Matrix. This matrix uses information from multiple student data sources as well as teacher recommendation to determine the best math placement.

SIXTH GRADE SCIENCE: Sixth grade students participate in a yearlong science class. They will learn and demonstrate knowledge of the scientific method by participating in hands-on labs throughout the year. The curricular focus in the sixth grade is Earth Science. Students will learn the structure of the Earth and how it has changed over time through studies of tectonics, earthquakes, volcanoes, weathering, and erosion. Students will explore weather and worldwide climates as well as oceanography.

SIXTH GRADE PHYSICAL EDUCATION: Students in 6th grade physical education participate in a wide range of endurance, physical conditioning, and individual and team sport activities. Social skills and responsibility are the focus, while motor skills and movement patterns needed to perform a variety of physical activities are introduced.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC: The Band Intermediate and Orchestra Intermediate classes are full year classes that meet daily for students who intend to continue in music. Objectives are learning to read standard music notation, learn proper tone production, and prepare appropriate grade level literature for performance. Grading emphasis is on participation, performances, and a willingness to learn. Band and orchestra students will be expected to provide their own instrument.

Band students will receive instruction on the core instruments: flute, clarinet, trumpet, and trombone. Depending on class size, progress, and instrumentation, students may be offered the opportunity to play alto saxophone, baritone, and tuba. Depending on class size and instrumentation, a limited number of students may play percussion. Students interested in percussion must audition into the section.

Orchestra students will receive instruction on cello, viola, and violin. Depending on class size, progress, and instrumentation, students may be offered the opportunity to play string bass.

Band and Orchestra students will have the opportunity to “try-out” each of the instruments at the beginning of the year before choosing an instrument. Students should not rent or purchase an instrument until instructed by the teacher. Class size and instrument choice are not guaranteed and may be limited; however, we will make every attempt to provide instruction on the instrument of choice.

VOCAL MUSIC: This is an elective course designed to introduce students to the musical concepts of tone, pitch, rhythm, and music reading. This course will offer students the opportunity to learn the basics of vocal production. As members of a choral ensemble, students will be exposed to a variety of music styles. Attendance at all performances is required. Both boys and girls are equally welcomed in this class.

Students enrolled in 6th grade band, orchestra or vocal music will have a zero period class from 7:30-8:20 a.m. every day.

If your student is interested in a music class, please be sure to mark the line on the Course Selection Form.