Welcome to 5th Grade Family Information Night (Gym)





- **Amy Butson**, Assistant Principal
- **Oracio Valdez**, Counselor (L-Z)
- **Dylan Kenniston**, English Language Arts & Social Studies Teacher
- **Matt Eisenhauer**, Band and Orchestra Teacher
- **Teresa Falavigna**, Art Teacher

ISSAQUAH SCHOOL DISTRICT 411

Who Are the IMS Panthers?



Around 760 students in 6th, 7th, and 8th Grades

Feeder Elementary Schools: Clark, IVE, Sunset

Future High Schools: Issaquah High, Gibson Ek, or ISD Online

Around 100 staff members

School Colors: Maroon and Grey

Mascot: Panthers (Roar!)

The IMS Way: We Are Safe. We are Respectful and Kind. We are Responsible.

ISSAQUAH SCHOOL DISTRICT 411

Get Involved from the Start



- **ASB, Clubs & Activities**
  - **Fall**: Cross Country (co-ed), Soccer (Boys) & Volleyball (Girls)
  - **Winter I**: Basketball (Girls), Wrestling (co-ed)
  - **Winter II**: Basketball (Boys), Soccer (Girls)
  - **Spring**: Track (co-ed)
  - **Intramurals**: Volleyball, Boys Basketball
  - **Clubs**: Pride Alliance, Green Team, Crochet Club, Drama Club, Art Club, Finger Deck Club, LEGO Club, Robotics Club, Honor Society, and more!







- Joining a team or a club is a great way to get involved with school, make friends, stay active and learn new skills!
- Middle School is the perfect time to try something new!
- Clubs are formed according to student interest!

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WEB (Where Everyone Belongs)

- Program to support the transition into middle school with peer mentors
- **WEB Day Orientation on Wed, Aug. 26 (8am-12pm)**
  - District transportation may be available
  - Watch for information in June/August
- Groups of 10-12 students led by trained 8th grade WEB leaders
- Students will have opportunities to check in with their WEB groups all year for in-school and some after school activities
- WEB advisors: Carolyn Stemshorn & Morgan Pearl







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Curriculum Night

- **Thursday, September 10th, 6-8pm (tentative)**
  - Meet teachers
  - Learn about your student's classes
  - Get to know campus
  - Watch the Weekly Bulletin for details



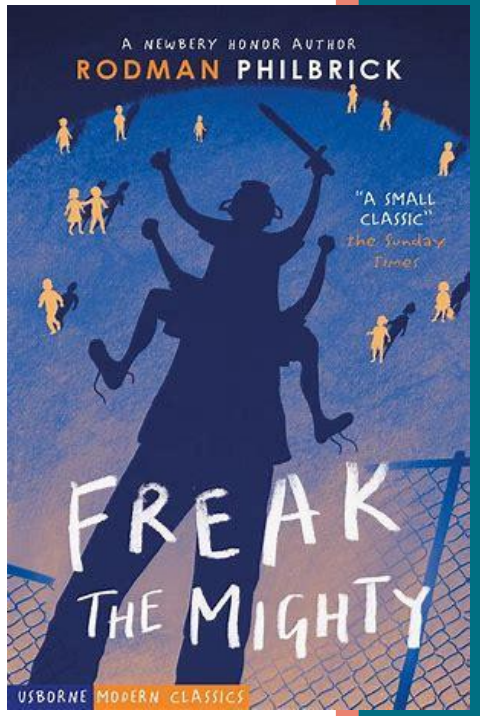


ISSAQUAH SCHOOLS FOUNDATION

ISSAQUAH SCHOOL DISTRICT 411

English Language Arts 6 (Standard)



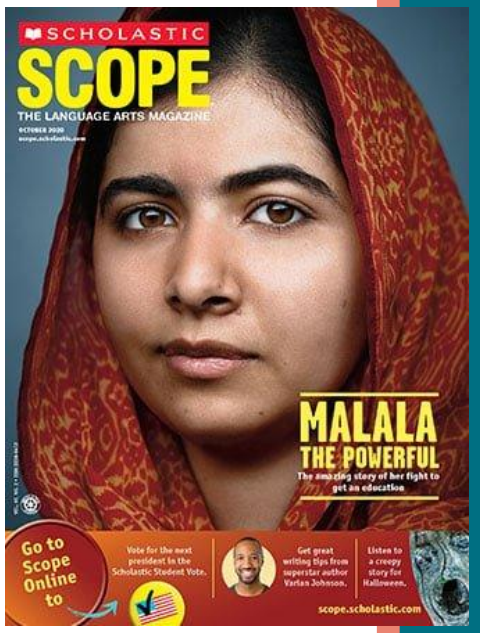


- Aligned with the Washington State Standards
- Current Curriculum: Novels and Writing Fundamentals
  - Novel units: Freak the Mighty, Identity and Hero's Journey
  - Writing units: Personal Narrative, Argumentative, Feature Article
- Explore literary forms (theme and character analysis)
  - Plays, poetry, nonfiction, fiction
- Empowering students to be effective communicators and analytical thinkers
- **New curriculum** for 2026-27

ISSAQUAH SCHOOL DISTRICT 411

Advanced Language Arts 6 (Advanced)





- Similar curriculum to English Language Arts 6
- Topics covered in **more depth**
- **Increased volume of reading and writing**
- **New curriculum** for 2026-27

Learning Recommendations:

- SBA ELA: Level 4
- Report Card Reading and Writing Grades: 4's
- i-Ready Reading Score: 4+
- Reading Above Grade Level

Course Guide: ELA

ISSAQUAH SCHOOL DISTRICT 411

Social Studies 6: Ancient Civilizations

- Aligned with the Washington State Standards
- Examine the development of ancient civilizations: **Mesopotamia, Ancient Greece, Ancient Rome, Ancient India, Ancient China**
- Analyze historical interactions between **people, geography, politics, economics, and cultures**
- Make connections with **current events/issues**
- Students **think critically, enhance social studies skills, and communicate effectively**
- **Variety of settings** (large group, small group, peer to peer, presentations, projects, writing, etc.)
- Use **documents, maps, charts, graphs, technology, multimedia platforms, and informational tools**
- **New curriculum** in 2025-26







Course Guide: Social Studies

ISSAQUAH SCHOOL DISTRICT 411

Dual Language Social Studies 6

- Students who are part of the Dual Language program from IVE, will continue the Dual Language program in 6th grade by taking a Dual Language Social Studies 6 course.
- Available to other students fluent in Spanish.
  - If interested, please contact our registrar.
- Social Studies 6 content delivered in Spanish, not an elective class.

Course Guide: Social Studies

ISSAQUAH SCHOOL DISTRICT 411

Full Year Music Electives







- **Band, Choir, Orchestra**
- **No previous experience necessary**
- Building basic individual skills to prepare students for participation in **instrumental/choral ensembles**
  - Posture, technique, tone, use of air, breath support, vowel production, diction placement of bow or stick
- Speak with teacher about options for **instrument rentals** (financial assistance available)
- **Performance opportunities** during the school year (concerts)

Course Guide: Electives

ISSAQUAH SCHOOL DISTRICT 411

Trimester Elective "Sampler" Group







- **Exploratory Art (One Trimester)**
  - Exploration of various art styles and methods: **painting, drawing, printmaking, and sculpture** related to future art electives
- **STEM Sampler (One Trimester)**
  - Exploration of different topics related to future STEM electives
    - **Coding** (Game Design)
    - **Pre-Engineering** (Design and Modeling)
    - **Robotics** (Automation and Robotics)
    - **Movie Making** (Digital Photography and Filmmaking)
- **Intro to Leadership (One Trimester)**
  - This course focuses on building skills in communication, group process, managerial, self-awareness, human relations, and project planning.

Course Guide: Electives

ISSAQUAH SCHOOL DISTRICT 411

Support Classes

- Students who need additional support (as indicated by iReady diagnostic, grades, etc.) may qualify for Study Skills, Read 180, or Math Lab Intervention classes.
  - **Potential candidates will be notified this Spring by Counselors or Admin**.
- Students who need additional support while they increase their English language skills may have a homeroom and/or one class period placement with our MLL teacher.
- These classes will take the place of their elective or PE class.
  - Can run for one trimester up to a full year.

- **English Language Development (Year-Long)**
  - Students **qualify** through statewide WIDA assessment and Home Language Survey
  - Building skills in reading, writing, listening, and speaking English
  - Questions? **Jill Santiago** (Multilingual Learner Case Manager)



Course Guide: MLL

ISSAQUAH SCHOOL DISTRICT 411

Support Classes

- **Study Skills (Trimester to Year-Long)**
  - **Skills for academic success** (organization, planning, academic skills related to core classes)
  - Time each day to focus on completing assignments from other classes
  - You may **contact your IMS Counselor** if you are interested in adding this course
- **Read 180 (Year-Long)**
  - **Supplemental targeted intervention reading course** in addition to the 6th grade ELA class
- **Math Lab (Trimester to Year-Long)**
  - **Supplemental foundational math skills course** in addition to their Math class.
  - Access to pre-teaching and re-teaching of math content & pre-requisite skills required of students to access grade level math content.



Course Guide: Electives

ISSAQUAH SCHOOL DISTRICT 411

Special Education

- Students with an Individualized Education Program (IEP) receive **specially designed instruction**
- Research supports serving students in the **least restrictive environment**
- We have a **continuum of placement options,** including:
  - **Resource ELA/Math** (taught by special education teacher)
  - **ELA 6/Math 1** (taught by general education teacher, support from special education teacher & paraeducator)
  - **Math Lab elective** to support pre-requisite course content
- IEP team develops **middle school service matrix** at annual IEP meeting (**placement** is an IEP team decision)



Course Guide: Special Services

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Please transition to the Gym for the next session.

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Course Request Process Reminders

- **Instructions & Resources** were emailed to parents/guardians February 26th
  - Tonight's CRP PowerPoints
  - Course Planning Worksheet
  - Accessing Student Email Tipsheet
  - Entering requests in Student Access – on Slide 19
- **Opens Wednesday, March 4th**
- **DUE by Wednesday, March 18th at 8:00 AM**
- If you have **questions** about what course(s) to select:
  - Review the **ISD Middle School Course Guide** (including **Learning Recommendations**).
  - Review your student's **ISD Student Test Report** (emailed to parent/guardian) and **report cards** (Family Access).
  - Speak with your student's **5th grade teacher**.
  - Join a **Q&A Zoom session** with IMS Counselors/registrar to ask questions (links emailed 2/23):
    - Wednesday, March 11th from 2:30-3:30 pm
    - Thursday, March 12th from 10:30-11:30 am
    - Link: https://issaquah-wednet-edu.zoom.us/j/9650634019



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Choose Your Own Adventure(s) 7:00-7:30pm

- **Classroom Visits** (Classrooms – see program flyer)
  - Math Pathways
  - Life Science/Pathways
  - Art, Music, Special Education, Multilingual Learners
- **Resources Meet and Greet** (Library)
  - Counselors – *see us for specific CRP questions*
  - ASB/Clubs, School Supports, Athletics, PTSA
- **Open a Locker Challenge** (1000 Hallway)
- **Meet the Panther** (Commons)

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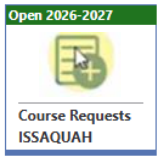
6TH GRADE 2026-27 COURSE PLANNING WORKSHEET

COURSE	COURSE SELECTION GUIDELINES		
PE 6/Health 6/PE 6	• All students take PE and Health • 2 trimesters of PE and 1 trimester of Health		
Social Studies 6 **OR** Dual Language Social Studies 6	**Social Studies 6:** • Standard 6th grade social studies course • Taught in English	**Social Studies Dual Language 6:** • Taught in Spanish • Participated in the Dual Language Program in Elementary School, and/or be literate in Spanish	
Language Arts 6 **OR** Advanced Language Arts 6	**Language Arts 6:** Standard 6th grade Language Arts course	**Advanced Language Arts 6:** • 4th grade SBA ELA Score: 4 • 5th Grade Report Card Grades in Reading and Writing: 4 • 5th grade i-Ready reading score: 4 or above	
Math 1 **OR** Math 1-2 **OR** Math 2-3	**Math 1:** Standard 6th grade Math course	**Math 1-2:** • 4th grade SBA Math Score: 3 or 4 • 5th Grade Report Card Grade: 3 or 4 • 5th grade Winter i-Ready Math score: 3 or above	**Math 2-3:** • Mastery of Math 1-2 concepts • 5th Grade Report Card Grade: 4 • 5th grade i-Ready Math score: 4.00 or above
Life Science **OR** Earth & Space Science	**Life Science:** Standard 6th grade Science course	**Earth & Space Science:** • 4th grade SBA scores: 4 or above • 5th Grade Math and Reading Report Card Grades: 4 • 5th grade i-Ready scores: 4 or above • Must take Math 1-2 or higher	
Band - Beginning Brass **OR** Band - Beginning Woodwinds **OR** Beginning Orchestra **OR** Chorus 6 **OR** Exploratory Art 6/ Intro to Leadership/Stem-Sampler	**Music classes:** • All music classes are yearlong	**Exploratory Art 6/ Intro to Leadership/Stem-Sampler:** • Each class will be in one trimester	
	Note: • Multi language Learners will have a support class in place of electives • Academic support classes will be in place of electives (based on need, cannot be chosen by student)		

ISSAQUAH SCHOOL DISTRICT 411

Enter your requests in Student Access

Sign into Student Access using your student Skyward Login & password.
Click the Course Requests Issaquah tile for the 2026-2027 school year



All available courses for your student will be listed under **AVAILABLE COURSES FOR 2026-2027**

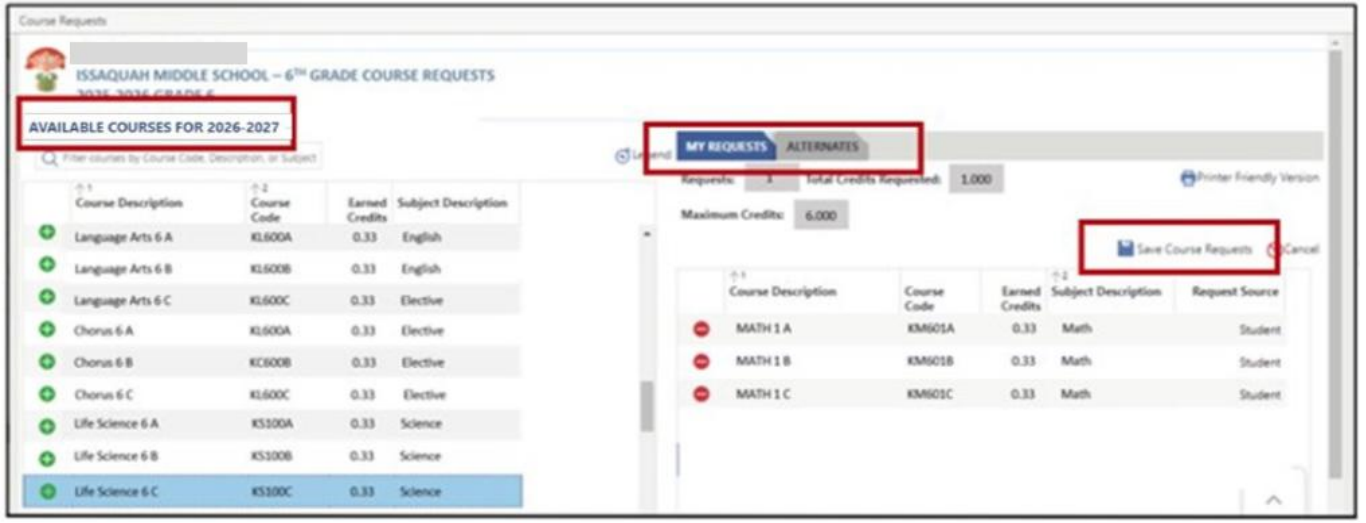
MY REQUESTS TAB: This tab will display the courses that you have requested. You will see some preloaded courses for your grade – these cannot be removed.

ADDING A COURSE: Select a course under **AVAILABLE COURSES FOR 2026-27** and click the green symbol to add your request to the **MY REQUESTS** tab. Example: Highlight Language Arts 6 A and add to My Requests. This will also automatically add Language Arts B and C – these represent all 3 trimesters of Language Arts 6.

REMOVING A COURSE: Select the course you want to remove from the **MY REQUESTS** tab or **ALTERNATES** tab and click the red symbol to remove your request.

SUBMISSION: When you have finished and the **"Total Credits Requested" equals 6**, click "Save Course Requests".

Save Course Requests

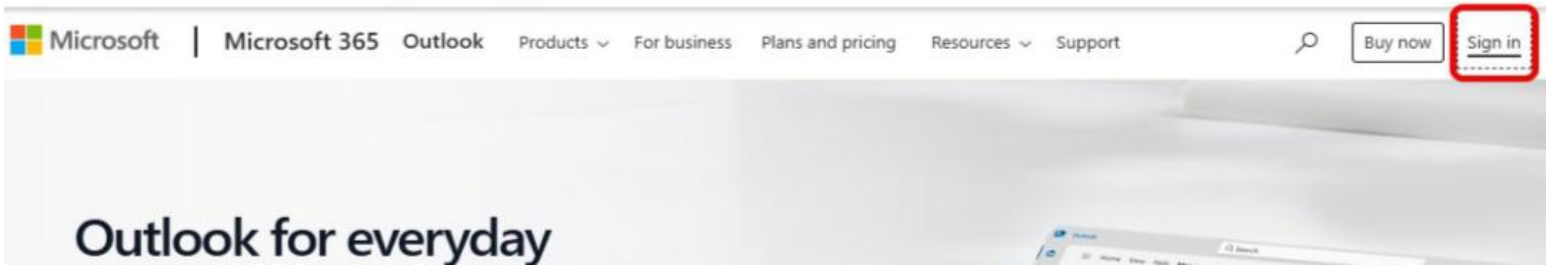


[District Website Directions]

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Accessing Student Email

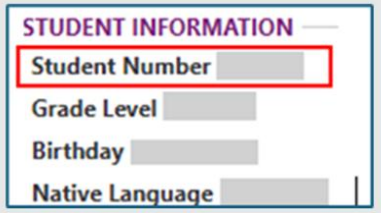
- In your internet browser of choice, type the url: www.outlook.com
- The Microsoft Office 365 page will appear. Press **Sign In,** located on the top right of the page.



- Enter your student e-mail address: First 4 letters of the last name, first 3 letters of the first name, graduating year, (username)@issaquah.wednet.edu, then press **next.**

John Smith, Grad Yr 1976	Student Username: SmitJoh76	Email: SmitJoh76@issaquah.wednet.edu

- Enter your student's password. The student password is their **Student Number**. If you do not know what your student's Student Number is, you can find this on Family Access.

Log-in to Family Access and select your student	*Select the Student Profile tile*	*Under student information you will see your student's 'Student Number'*
		

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Extra Resource:
Reading in Middle School is Important!

1. Reading is one of the best ways to help students **understand the world beyond their own experiences** – it's a way to see life through someone else's eyes.
2. Middle schoolers who read regularly tend to have stronger **vocabulary skills**, which gives them an advantage in all subjects.
3. Middle schoolers who engage in regular reading practice develop stronger abilities to **understand and interpret complex texts**.
4. Reading helps students understand **what makes writing effective** and inspires them to try out new techniques in their own writing!
5. When middle schoolers read, they start **connecting what they learn to their own lives and the world around them**.
6. Through active engagement with texts (such as questioning the author's intentions, analyzing character's motivations, etc.) students are able to sharpen their ability to **think critically**.



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