

Alvarado Junior High
6th Grade Course Descriptions
2026-2027

Below are descriptions of the elective courses offered at Alvarado Junior High. Please review carefully prior to selecting courses.

Advanced Classes: Advanced classes are offered for Reading/Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies.

- Advanced RLA, Advanced Math, Advanced Science, and Advanced Social Studies
 - Recommended Masters performance level on previous year STAAR test in same subject, CTBA scores of 90 or higher, and 90 or higher class average in same subject in current year. All data is collected and reviewed by the campus to determine placements.
 - Parent/guardian signature is required.

Art: Art is an introduction to various types of media and process, through experimentation and creativity. Art includes integrating design, drawing, painting, printmaking, and art appreciation concepts.

AVID: AVID stands for Advancement Via Individual Determination. AVID is a rigorous elective class designed to prepare scholars for college by focusing on developing academic skills like writing, inquiry, collaboration, organization, and reading (WICOR). AVID scholars dedicate themselves to higher-level thinking and learning, are intrinsically motivated to maintain good academic performance and behavior, and in doing so, participate in college and career exploration activities, such as college/university field trips, community service opportunities, and guest speaker visits from different career field representatives. ***Application is required.***

Beginner Band: Admission into band is determined by an audition with the band director(s). This class is designed for scholars who have less than one year of training or who've never played an instrument before, to develop their ability in musical performance. Scholars will be given training in fundamentals of music theory as well as playing their instruments. Scholars are expected to practice outside of class and to provide their own instruments, in most cases. Scholars will be required to participate in school concerts held after school.

Choir: This course provides scholars the study of vocal and choral techniques, music theory, sight-reading, music history and literature, performance activities, and creative expression. Students will be required to participate in school concerts, UIL Solo/Ensemble contest and UIL Concert/Sight Reading and specially requested programs held after school. It is designed to enhance and build the vocal abilities of the maturing male and female voice. Scholars will be placed in courses based on their ability and skill levels.

Dance: Beginning dance is a year long elective course that will introduce scholars to the fundamentals of dance. Scholars will explore movement and begin to develop an awareness of space, time, and energy. Scholars will explore different genres of dance including ballet and jazz and will develop technique and performance skills, coordination, and creativity. This is an activity class and participants will need to dress-out daily in athletic or dance apparel which allows for full range of motion.

English as a Second Language (ESL): Scholars may be scheduled in this course based on needs. This course is designed to build on scholars' listening, speaking, reading, writing and comprehending skills of the English language through the development of literacy and academic skills.

Introduction to Theater: The goal of this course is to provide the basic foundation for the art of theater. Scholars will learn theater etiquette, basic theater terminology, examine character motivations, learn basic skills for theatrical design, stage movement, and basic acting skills through pantomime and improvisation.

Math Lab: Scholars may be scheduled in this course if they need support in math based on previous state and local assessments, or achievement throughout current and previous grade. This course is designed to improve scholars' skill deficits in math concepts.

Physical Education (PE): In Physical Education, scholars acquire the knowledge and skills for movement that provide the foundation for enjoyment, continued social development through physical activity, and access to a physically-active lifestyle. The student exhibits a physically-active lifestyle and understands the relationship between physical activity and health throughout the lifespan. This is a more recreational course geared towards scholars who do not have an interest in athletic pursuits going forward.

Pre-Athletics Physical Education: The Pre-Athletics PE course is designed to prepare 6th grade scholars for our athletics program. Scholars will learn the skills, fundamentals, rules, offensive and defensive strategies, proper use of equipment, as well as the expectations of our athletics program and UIL sports. This course focuses on the skill requirements for the following sports: football, volleyball, basketball, and track. Physicals are strongly encouraged, but not required for participation.

Spirit Squad: Spirit Squad is a campus spirit organization representing AJH at a variety of events and community functions performing spirit and dance routines. Scholars must try out for Spirit Squad at the general tryout on the dates and times communicated by the sponsor.

Tech Tribe: The Tech Tribe course is focused on the maintenance of the Alvarado Independent School District Chromebook fleet. Scholars will be expected to troubleshoot Chromebook software and hardware malfunctions, diagnose damages, perform repairs, write detailed notes about repairs, and maintain an organized workflow. Scholars will work together with their peers to accomplish these tasks. In order to be considered for this course scholars must first complete an extensive training course and an application.

Application is required.