

6TH

GRADE

2026-2027

COURSE DESCRIPTION GUIDE

REQUIRED COURSES

Core Teams

Sixth graders will be assigned to a team of teachers for the core instructional subjects of English Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies, and Literacy. Core teams share the same students, the same schedule, and the same part of the building. This provides for close personal contact between the student and his/her teachers. Core team teachers have a daily common planning period, which is used to discuss student academic and behavioral progress; to plan interdisciplinary units; and to meet with students, parents, the counselor and principals.

Literacy

Success in the area of literacy is essential to the overall development of students. Literacy instruction at NKMS is an opportunity for students to strengthen their skills as independent readers and thinkers of text, while increasing their stamina in the area of reading and writing. The ultimate goal is for students to learn the skills necessary to be successful academic readers and writers. All students will take Literacy 1st semester. Academic data will be used to determine each student's 2nd semester placement.

Wellness

The Sixth Grade Wellness Program covers the skills and objectives of physical education, fitness, and health. This year-long course will focus on teaching students how to build and maintain a strong, healthy body. This is accomplished through team/individual sports, fitness training and conditioning, and establishing positive health behaviors. Fitness testing takes place in the spring and fall.

Health instruction is an integral part of the total school curriculum and is designed to help each child understand him/herself as a physical, mental, and social being. It provides the opportunity for students to develop attitudes and good health habits. Students will be in the health classroom for two 4-week rotations each year as part of their Wellness rotation. Sixth grade content strands are social and emotional health, structure and functions of the body, and emergency care and safety.

ENCORE COURSES

Encore/Electives
The sixth grade Encore classes offered are Band or Orchestra, Art, Engineering/Technology, Music, Drama, and Introduction to World Languages. Band and Orchestra students will take two Encore classes during 2nd semester. Students not enrolled in Band or Orchestra will take 4 Encore classes.

ENCORE – FULL YEAR

6th Grade Band
The disciplines involved in the study of music demand mastery levels of intellect, memory, concentration, and emotion as well as the coordination of sensory awareness. The development of fundamentally sound habits is key to the success of a 6th grade band member. Students will explore traditional and contemporary works of music in a variety of styles and will perform two required concerts. 6th Grade Band members must successfully complete 1 year of instrumental music study or meet director approval based on musical aptitude prior to enrollment.

6th Grade Orchestra
Students will continue to learn skills in tone production, note reading (rhythmic and melodic), scales, bowings, ensemble playing and technique development. Students will learn a variety of orchestra music and the class will perform at the Winter and Spring Performance Nights. 6th Grade Orchestra members must successfully complete 1 year of instrumental music study or meet director approval based on musical aptitude prior to enrollment.

ENCORE – QUARTER

Art
Students are introduced to five art disciplines: art history, art criticism, aesthetics, art production and digital art. Students will have the opportunity to explore the basic elements of art and design through hands-on activities that involve various media techniques in both two and three dimensional projects. They will explore how the arts are incorporated in other cultures and their community.

Drama

This course is designed to provide the students a full dramatic experience. Students will learn foundational concepts like conflict and dramatic structure so they can apply those concepts to writing scripts. The students will adapt a story, write a script, rehearse and perform plays of their own creation.

Engineering/Technology

During 6th Grade Engineering students will use the engineering design process to solve problems. Students will be introduced to materials and processes that are basic to digital design and fabrication. Instruction includes the safe use of hand and power tools, when appropriate, to bring ideas to a working prototype.

Introduction to World Languages

In the sixth grade, students will gain exposure to the world languages offered at NKMS (French, German and Spanish) and gain an appreciation for other cultures. They will study customs, geography, cognates, and basic language acquisition.

Music

Students will explore music as a form of communication and expression through listening, performing, movement, and technology. Students will investigate music from many different cultures and time periods, while theory and composition are introduced.