PAU–WA–LU Middle School

6th Grade Course Catalog

2026–2027

PAU-WA-LU
Middle School

HOME OF THE PANTHERS

Welcome to Pau–Wa–Lu Middle School!

The purpose of the course catalog is to inform parents and students about the academic courses offered at Pau–Wa–Lu. The catalog provides information on what each course entails as well as the length and credit weight of each of those courses. It is intended that students and parents review this catalog together and make informed decisions about their course selections. School counselors are also available on campus to advise students and parents. Please feel free to contact them if you need assistance during the registration process. The middle school years are truly a unique period. Students are undergoing rapid and profound developmental changes during this time. Middle schools have the challenge of addressing both the educational and social needs of young adolescents. Pau–Wa–Lu Middle School and the Douglas County School District embrace this challenge in meeting the needs of all of our students.

6th Grade Program of Study

All 6th Graders at Pau-Wa-Lu Middle School are <u>required</u> to take the following core courses:

1. English (Year)
2. Math (Year)
3. Science (Year)
4. Social Studies (Year)
5. Advisory

Elective Choices as follows for a total of 1.5 Credits: *YL= year-long; sem = semester

- **<u>Option A:</u>** Choose **<u>TWO</u>** (2) YL elective classes (Band and PE)
- **<u>Option B:</u>** Choose **<u>ONE</u>** (1) YL elective (Band OR PE) + **<u>THREE</u>** (3) Sem Elective

CORE Classes

These are required classes

ENGLISH 6	**Credits: 1.0 / YEAR**
English 6 provides instruction in the English Language Arts strands identified by the Nevada Academic English Standards in the areas of reading, writing, listening, speaking and language. This course is designed to build knowledge and critical-thinking skills through close reading of texts; writing to support claims, to clarify ideas, and/or to develop ideas; and a range of collaborative discussions. Writing tasks emphasizing the development of specific writing types; arguments, informative/ explanatory texts, and narratives. Students will be exposed to a variety of literature and informational text utilized to deepen their ability to analyze, evaluate, and critique text independently. Students actively seek to understand other perspectives and cultures through reading and listening. Technology is used thoughtfully to enhance and integrate reading, writing, speaking, listening and language use. Students will use the adopted curriculum of SAVVAS.	

MATH 6	**Credits: 1.0 / YEAR**
This course is designed to focus on four critical areas: 1. connecting ratio and rate to whole number multiplication and division and using concepts of ratio and rate to solve problems; 2. completing understanding of division of fractions and extending the notion of number to the system of rational numbers, which includes negative numbers; 3. writing, interpreting, and using expressions and equations; and 4. developing understanding of statistical thinking.	

The use of manipulatives, mathematical tools, and technology, including calculators and computer software, is an integral part of this course.

SCIENCE 6	Credits: 1.0 / YEAR

This one-year course is designed to integrate science and engineering practices, crosscutting concepts and core ideas from the life sciences, Earth sciences and the physical sciences. The topics covered in Science 6 include Structure and Properties of Matter, Thermal Energy, Weather and Climate, Climate Change and Human Impact, From Cells to Body Systems, Genetics, and Engineering Design. Demonstrations and lab experiences that employ proper safety techniques are a component of this course. The appropriate use of technology is also addressed in this course.

SOCIAL STUDIES 6	Credits: 1.0 / YEAR

This course is an integrated language arts and social studies course focusing on ancient civilizations and the Middle Ages (Neolithic Revolution through 500 A.D.). Mythology and historical fiction are used to build critical reading skills and enhance the study of history. Students will explore various cultures, civilizations, customs and beliefs. Students practice critical thinking by interpreting primary sources and studying history through eyewitness accounts.

Full Year Electives

This elective is both Semesters

BEGINNING BAND	Credits: 1.0 / YEAR

Beginning Band is a fun elective open to anyone in 5th, 6th and 7th grade with little or no band experience. All students will do several performances throughout the year. These events may include out of town festivals, and a minimum of 3 evening concerts. It is also possible to do band and participate in after school sports. School instruments are limited. Most students will need to provide their own instrument. 5th and 6th grade band students enjoy a yearly trip to Six Flags!

INTERMEDIATE BAND	Credits: 1.0 / YEAR

Intermediate band is for 6th and 7th grade band students that have successfully completed beginning band! School instruments are limited. Most students will need to provide their own instrument. All students will be required to do several performances throughout the year. These events may include out of town festivals, and a minimum of 3 evening concerts. It is possible to do band and participate in after school sports. 6th grade band students enjoy a yearly trip to six flags, and 7th grade band students are eligible to travel to Disneyland or Universal Studios!

PE 6	Credits: 1.0 / YEAR
Girls and Boys Physical Education: This class is designed to give a well-rounded Physical Education program that includes physical conditioning and participation in a variety of sports. Students gain knowledge of each sport and improve the necessary skills for success. Teamwork is of major importance – playing together with healthy competition.	

SEMESTER Electives

These classes are half a year each (0.5 credits; one semester)

ART 6	Credits: 0.5 / SEMESTER
Sixth grade art is an exploration into the elements of art. Elements of art are the basic framework for analyzing and creating original works. Students will practice these elements in a variety of mediums including but not limited to: pencil, pen, colored pencil, marker, paper art, salt dough, and paint. The majority of the class is hands-on project based learning meaning students will be creating their own works of art to display their knowledge of the elements of art.	

FOOD & NUTRITION 6	Credits: 0.5 / SEMESTER
What's cooking? Learn to prepare foods from appetizers to dessert. Plan and prepare quick and simple meals around breakfast, lunch and dinner. Holiday foods are a special favorite of this class. This elective is designed to enhance students' basic kitchen skills and enhance their knowledge of food safety, recipe basics and nutrition.	

LOGIC & REASONING 6	Credits: 0.5 / SEMESTER
Logic and Reasoning - This course will focus on learning to use logic, reasoning and strategies to improve critical thinking and strategy skills. Students will learn and play strategy games such as chess, sudoku and sequence to sharpen their own skills. Puzzles and brain teasers will be used to sharpen students' logical thinking. We will also explore data science by collecting information to answer our own questions.	

OUTDOOR SCIENCE 6	Credits: 0.5 / SEMESTER
Outdoor science is an opportunity for sixth graders to learn how to read a map, create their own adventure park, and take a hike or snowshoe during one of our semester field trips. Have you ever wondered how to tie	

super cool knots - after all, "A not neat knot is a knot not needed". You will learn the skills needed to stay safe in the wilderness as well as how to put together a basic first aid kit. If you love a bit of adventure, this course will give you the basic skills you will need for a day hike and maybe more.