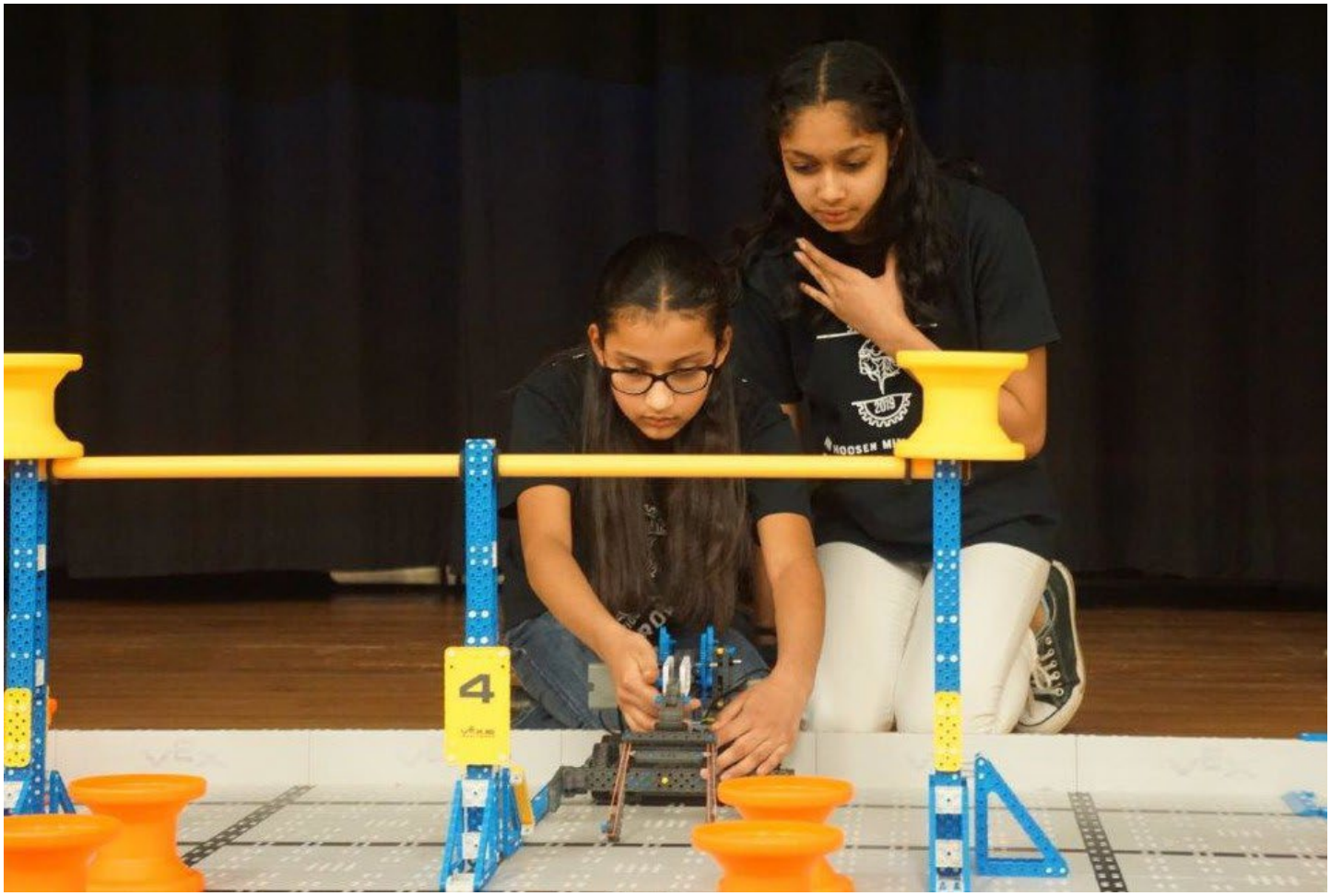
ROCHESTER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

PRIDE IN EXCELLENCE

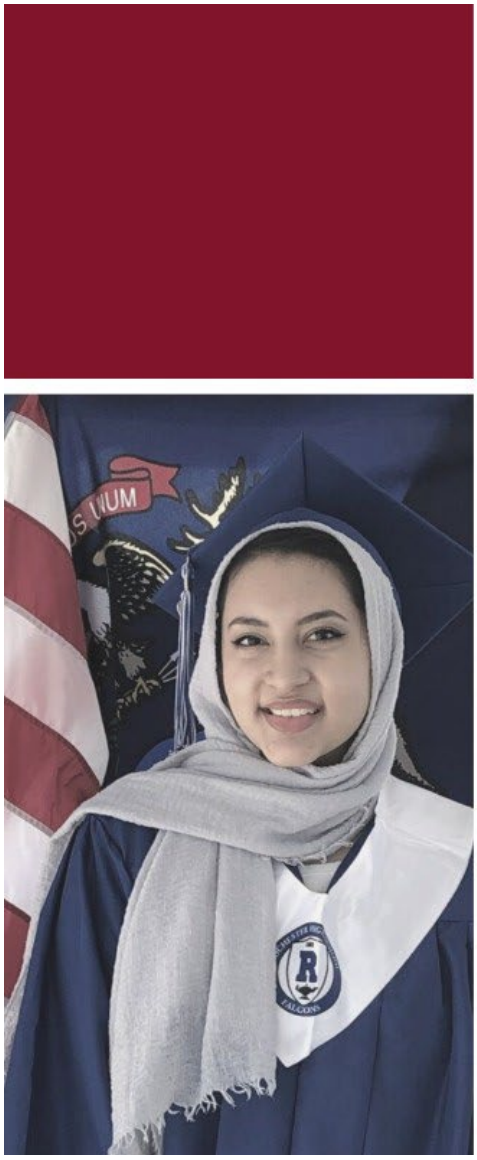
6TH GRADE COURSE CATALOG



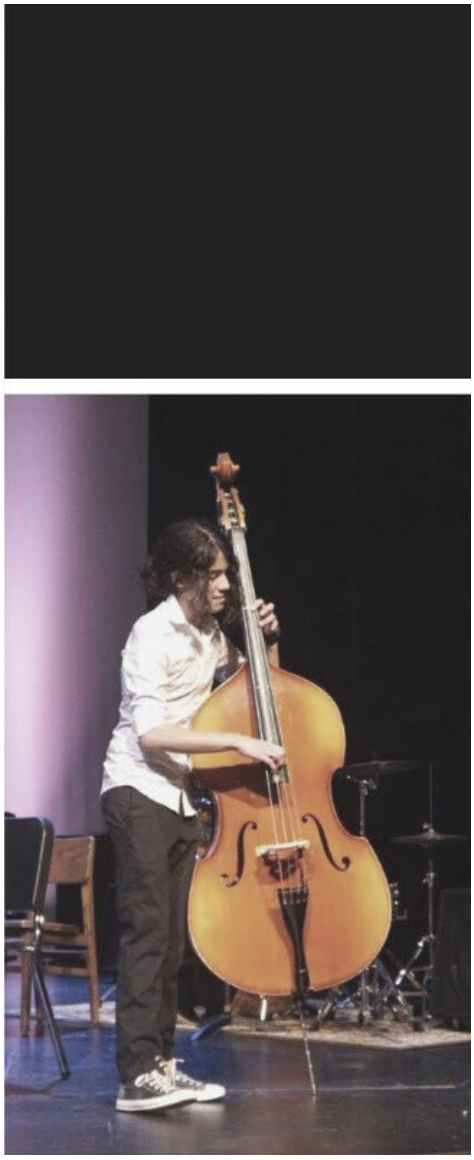
2026-2027

OUR MISSION

To provide a quality education in a caring atmosphere for students to attain the necessary skills and knowledge to become lifelong learners and contribute to a diverse, interdependent, and changing world.







The teaching and learning at Rochester Community Schools is designed to develop innovative, self-directed learners who think critically, communicate effectively, and persevere to positively impact the world.

We challenge our learners through dynamic cultural experiences to be empowered global stewards and inspire them to take what they learn and have a positive impact on their community, country, and world.

All sixth-grade students are scheduled to take the following classes:

- Language Arts
- Mathematics
- Science
- Social Studies
- Music and electives

English Language Arts

Language Arts 6 - #01006

Language Arts 6 is based on the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) for sixth grade. This course develops and implements interactive units of instruction that frame problems or questions to provide authentic purposes for students to read and write. Integrated reading and writing units explore literary analysis, argument, and research. Intentional efforts to build vocabulary and conceptual knowledge encourage students to identify, analyze, and use new vocabulary. Throughout the writing process, students generate narrative and expository pieces, including a personal narrative, a literary analysis, an argument, and a short research project. Writing mechanics—sentence structure, spelling, and grammar—are taught and reinforced through writing and revision. Students develop speaking and listening skills through group discussions and oral presentations.

Mathematics

Mathematics 6 - #04006

Mathematics 6 is based on the sixth-grade Michigan Math Standards. Students continue to develop algebraic reasoning by finding equivalent expressions and solving equations and inequalities. They will build on their understanding of rational number operations to divide fractions. Students will explore ratios and use them to solve real-world problems with rates and percentages. They will investigate negative numbers and their place on the coordinate grid. In their study of statistics, students interpret data to find

measures of center and describe variability.

Accelerated Mathematics 6 - #04016

Accelerated Mathematics 6 is based on the seventh-grade Michigan Math Standards with supplements of the sixth-grade standards as needed. Students deepen their understanding of rational number operations, equivalent expressions, solving equations, and solving inequalities with the use of negative and positive numbers. Students analyze and graph proportional relationships. Students use their knowledge of proportions and equations to solve percent problems. In their study of geometry, students investigate angle relationships and find the surface area and volume of prisms and pyramids. While studying statistics, students compare data and make inferences about two populations.

When determining placement into Accelerated Math 6, families should consider a student's m-step score, iReady percentile score, mastery of 5th-grade content, and mathematical dispositions.

Science

Science 6 - #06006

Science 6 follows the Michigan Science Standards for grades 6–8, using the Mi-STAR curriculum to engage students in problem-based learning that connects science to real-world issues. The course builds students' scientific knowledge and skills through hands-on investigations, collaboration, and critical thinking. Each unit begins with a real-world challenge that students explore through inquiry, reading, writing, and discussion. They are encouraged to draw on their own experiences, ask meaningful questions, and discover how science and engineering relate to their daily lives and communities. Through authentic investigations and design cycles, students learn to think, communicate, and problem-solve like scientists and engineers. Units focus on engaging topics such as infectious disease, energy in food, plant growth, and invasive species in Michigan ecosystems, helping students see how science can be used to understand and improve the world around them.

Social Studies

World Geography - #07006

The sixth-grade social studies curriculum focuses on world geography, exploring the physical and human features that shape our planet. Students learn how geographers use tools and spatial thinking to study patterns, environments, and human-environment interactions. They examine how geography influences culture, migration, resource use, and global connections, while also exploring issues such as globalization, trade, and how governments and organizations address challenges around the world.

Required Elective Courses

Music

Students will choose one music class for the year, Band, Orchestra, or Choir

Band 6 - #05006

Length: Full year

Music is a connection between people, building bridges in diverse populations, and is essential to the human experience. In 6th grade band, students will learn the proper assembly, care, and maintenance of their instruments while applying proper posture and embouchure in order to produce a quality sound. Critical thinking skills are engaged through the exploration of music theory concepts such as note reading and rhythm analysis and students participate in the creative process through the performance of concert band and popular music. Ensemble skills are explored and collaboration, a 21st century skill, is highly valued. Students display the high-quality work they have created in performances that take place both in and out of the classroom.

Orchestra (String Instruments) 6 - #05226

Length: Full year

Music is a connection between people, building bridges in diverse populations, and is essential to the human experience. In 6th grade orchestra, students will learn the proper assembly, care, and maintenance of their string instrument while applying proper posture to produce a quality sound. Critical thinking skills are engaged through the exploration of music theory concepts such as note reading and rhythm analysis, and students participate in the creative process through the performance of instrumental music. Ensemble skills are explored and collaboration, a 21st century skill, is highly valued. Students display the high-quality work they have created in performances that take place both in and out of the classroom.

Choir 6 - #05106

Length: Full Year

Music challenges students to cultivate self-expression and grow in intelligence. Sixth Grade Vocal Music provides a dynamic learning environment where students engage in various experiences that develop 21st Century Skills. Group and individual activities foster creativity through problem-solving and critical thinking. Students will learn appropriate vocal techniques (voice placement, vocal register, body alignment, tone, pitch, and projection) and strategies to maintain appropriate vocal health. Students collaborate to explore many styles of music through performance, creating, listening, describing, and reading music while learning to recognize the value of music and its relationship to other fields of study.

Electives

Physical Education 6 - #03006

Length: Semester

In Physical Education 6, students participate in a variety of activities to meet Michigan's Content Expectations for Sixth Grade Physical Education. Students learn motor skills and movement patterns used in such sports as basketball, soccer, and rugby. Students learn the rules and scoring for team and individual sports, such as tennis and volleyball. Students analyze their own fitness levels to determine fitness goals, aiming to meet the standards for their age group. To better understand sportsmanship, students explore personal and social behaviors that enhance participation in a sport.

Unified PE - #73009

Length: Semester

This Physical Education course combines 6th, 7th, and 8th-grade students of all abilities to create an inclusive environment for students with and without disabilities. This class is intended to help students develop fitness and sports skills in a non-competitive setting. Students will participate in developmentally appropriate activities including lifetime skills and activities, physical fitness, and sports. Students will work together to increase competence and confidence in a variety of physical activities. Through ongoing leadership opportunities, members of this course will be empowered to help create a more inclusive and accepting school environment for all students.

STEM 6 (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) - #08306

Length: Semester

In this course, students will be challenged to design and create innovative solutions to solve contemporary problems by developing their creativity and critical thinking skills. Students explore and collaborate through highly interactive projects incorporating concepts of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Some of the engaging projects found in this course include robotics, coding, game-making, rocketry, and bridge-building. Through these activities, students grow in confidence and curiosity while gaining the necessary skills for Twenty-first Century Careers.

Global Digital Leadership - #09016

Length: Semester

Students in this course will develop a positive mindset that creates a strong purpose in school by utilizing technology and leadership activities. This course will provide technology skills for students to use when they engage in projects, presentations, and online activities. Additionally in this course, students will expand their leadership abilities through collaboration, creative thinking, and presentation skills. Students will connect with local and global communities to create authentic learning experiences.

Art 6 - #05506

Length: Semester

Through the introduction of the design process, students will conceive or fashion in their mind concepts, leading to the construction of tangible, successful, art show ready products. Students will be exposed to

basic art foundations through experimentation in drawing, digital design, painting, photography, printmaking, and sculpture. Students begin to recognize the value of seeing the connection of art to designing, crafting, engineering, solving complex problems, deep learning concepts, and everyday life. Come build skills that contribute to the two trillion dollar a year industry of the creative sector.

Introduction to World Languages - #02208

Length: Semester

Introduction to World Languages is a 20-week class that provides positive exposure to language learning with emphasis on listening comprehension, speaking on a limited but meaningful basis, and learning about the cultures of the people who speak Spanish, French, and German. Students explore the role of World Languages in career choices and build readiness for language. Students expand their understanding and application of basic vocabulary, basic conversation, general pronunciation rules, the writing system, and cultural information. Students reflect on the similarities and differences among the three languages studied and English. Students develop a vocabulary of terms such as days of the week, months of the year, and personal descriptions. Students practice conversations involving greetings, introductions, leave-takings, courtesy expressions, and asking and answering simple questions.

Peer-to-Peer (Anchors) - #09610

Length: Semester

PREREQUISITE: Must complete an application and receive approval from a counselor/classroom teacher. This class will be graded as Credit (G) or No Credit (H).

Classroom peer mentor students will participate in a hands-on classroom experience to help increase inclusion opportunities in the general education setting for students with special needs. Peer mentors will model positive communication, socialization, participation, and behavior strategies that help to engage students in a variety of school settings which may include, the general education core academic courses, elective area courses, lunch experiences, and after school social activities. Peer (Anchors) will receive ongoing training and support to ensure a successful experience for themselves and for the students in which they will be supporting. Peer (Anchors) will be required to complete assignments assigned by the teacher that may include, but are not limited to: reflective journal and article writing, reflective personal journal entries, meeting with the teacher to learn about various disabilities and research based strategies, creating projects that promote social interaction with students, and a project. This class may be taken more than one semester with approval.

Supervised Study – #09596

Length: Semester

Supervised Study is a course in place of an elective that supports students with academic and executive functioning deficits. Students are placed in the course based on the previous semester's data. An individual plan is created to increase math, ELA, and/or executive functioning skills through small group/whole group instruction and support.

English Language Development

Language Arts 1 - #41015EL

This English Language Arts class is designed for multilingual students at the overall WIDA proficiency level 1.0-2.0. This course interweaves the WIDA English Language Development (ELD) Standards with the Common Core State Standards and offers sheltered instruction, allowing students to focus on ELA concepts and language acquisition content. Students receive direct instruction pertaining to all four domains of language development: listening, reading, writing, and speaking. Students participate in group discussions with support, write simple sentences and paragraphs, develop high-frequency and academic vocabulary, and read narrative and expository texts. This course takes the place of the general education ELA course, and students will be in this course for an entire academic year.

Language Arts 2 - #41016EL

This English Language Arts class is designed for multilingual students at the overall WIDA proficiency level 2.0-3.0. This course interweaves the WIDA English Language Development (ELD) Standards with the Common Core State Standards and offers sheltered instruction, allowing students to focus on ELA concepts and language acquisition content. Students receive direct instruction pertaining to all four domains of language development: listening, reading, writing, and speaking. Students participate in group discussions with support, write compound and complex sentences and longer paragraphs, develop academic vocabulary, and read narrative and expository texts. This course takes the place of the general education ELA course, and students will be in this course for an entire academic year.

Language Arts 3 - #41017EL

This English Language Arts class is designed for multilingual students at the overall WIDA proficiency level 3.0-4.0. This course interweaves the WIDA English Language Development (ELD) Standards with the Common Core State Standards and offers sheltered instruction, allowing students to focus on ELA concepts and language acquisition content. Students receive direct instruction pertaining to all four domains of language development: listening, reading, writing, and speaking. Students participate in group discussions and argumentation, write compound and complex forms of sentences and multi-paragraph essays, develop academic vocabulary with context clues, and read narrative, expository, and argumentative texts. This course takes the place of the general education ELA course, and students will be in this course for an entire academic year.

Academic Support - #41011EL

This course emphasizes academic support for multilingual students who are taking content courses. Students receive support in academic vocabulary relevant to their content area, along with content-specific reading and writing instruction. Students also develop focused literacy skills through mini-lessons designed to enhance their comprehension and communication abilities. Additionally, students are

provided with extra time to complete classroom assignments and assessments, ensuring they can engage fully with the material. Finally, this class integrates cultural studies into the class through readings, videos, and classroom discussions. This course replaces an elective. This course may be repeated with instructor approval.

Special Education

Math 1 - #21001R

This course provides systematic, explicit instruction based on conceptual development, procedural skills, and fluency practice aligned to grade-level Common Core Standards based on student need. Students are engaged in hands-on learning, differentiation, and extension opportunities. Students are directly taught strategies to build math reasoning, algebraic thinking, and problem-solving, which accelerates math learning.

Language Arts 1 - #21004R

Language Arts 1 is based on the Common Core State Standards for sixth grade. This course integrates listening, speaking, writing, and reading. With a blended approach, instruction reinforces the literacy foundation students need while strategically using authentic narrative and informational text to engage readers. This intensive instruction integrates the key foundational literacy skills necessary for both reading and writing. Vocabulary strategies are taught and reinforced through a variety of literature. The mechanics of writing, including sentence structure, spelling, and grammar, are explicitly taught and reinforced through student writing. Acquisition of rich comprehension, language, and vocabulary skills occurs by exposing students to complex text and collaborative discussions. The development of skills necessary to effectively express ideas orally and in writing are explicitly taught. This course is offered for each grade level of middle school with increasing focus on literacy and writing skills.

Learning Strategies 6 - #21046R/#21006E

Middle School Learning Strategies classes focus on five pillars: executive functioning skills, supporting core content, intervention, test taking/study skills strategies, mindfulness, and real-world application. Through a series of mini-lessons and work with current assignments, students acquire strategies to become life and career-ready. Grades are based on pass or fail.

Categorical - #39001/#79001

This course provides explicit instruction for students who are working on English Language Arts, Math, Science and Social Studies skills that align with state alternate standards (Essential Elements). Guided reading, self-selected reading, writing, and working with words are integrated into reading instruction, using a balanced literacy framework. Emphasis will be placed on building individual basic skills, as well as the practical application of reading and writing as it relates to daily living, community participation, and personal enjoyment.

Using a multisensory, systematic progression of instruction, with a problem-solving focus, math instruction allows students to be successful math learners. Emphasis is on building individual skills, as well as the practical application of mathematics as it relates to daily living and community participation. Student learning is reinforced with accessible math routines that build on the math concepts taught in class.

Life Skills incorporates a range of skills that rotate on a daily basis with the focus on building pre-employment skills (cooking, campus/classroom jobs, assembling items, and health lessons).

Science and Social Studies unit lesson plans define three levels of differentiated tasks to accommodate diverse learners. Instruction is both systematic and with a progressive learning process. The thematic units for both science and social studies are themed and include comprehensive activities for all five core competencies: reading, writing, math, science, and social studies.