Tres Volcanes Community Collaborative School
Course Catalog

6th grade

Required Courses

Language Arts	Mathematics	Study Skills
Social Studies	Science	PE

Electives: 1 full-year Elective

- Elective Wheel (Exploratory eSports, Exploratory Drama, Exploratory Leadership, Exploratory Art)
- Band
- Choir
- Navajo/Dine
- Orchestra
- Gifted Seminar

6th Grade Language Arts-Full Year

The 6th language arts program offers a variety of standards-based learning experiences. The program is based on sixth grade Language Arts Common Core State Standards. These standards offer a focus for instruction to ensure an adequate exposure to a range of texts and tasks. Rigor is infused through reading and studying the components of literature with increasingly complex text, both fiction and nonfiction. Students will improve their skills in English grammar, writing, vocabulary development and reading strategies, along with speaking and listening skills. Writing a correct sentence, organizing and expressing ideas clearly in all genres of writing are emphasized. This course is intended to help acclimate all sixth graders to the high academic expectations of the language arts programs at Tres Volcanes CCS.

- **Variations of Language Arts**
  - **Language Arts/ELD** - This class is aligned with the general education 6th grade curriculum; however, English Language Learners are supported with WIDA strategies and the English Language Development course. These strategies will empower the students through differentiated instructional methods.
  - **Gifted Language Arts**- Students with an IEP for gifted may be enrolled in this class.
  - **Language Arts – Special Education** – Students with Language Arts identified needs in their IEP with goal in Language Arts may be enrolled in this class.

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6th Grade Math-Full Year

This course is designed to provide a strong mathematical foundation as students transition from the concrete world of elementary mathematics to the more abstract understandings needed for algebra. There is a strong focus on developing problem-solving skills and strategies, as well as the ability to effectively communicate their mathematical thinking. In addition to learning arithmetic concepts and computational skills in ratios, fractions and decimals, students will use estimation, mental computation and applications of geometry and measurement. The course also incorporates an introduction to arithmetic operations with integers and an introduction to solving simple linear equations and inequalities.

Variations of Math

- **Accelerated Math** - This course is an alternative to regular sixth grade mathematics. It is designed for students capable of investigating mathematics in a challenging, in-depth fashion. The material addressed in this course is fast-paced, covering both 6th and 7th grade standards in a single year-long course. It is designed to prepare students for the pre-algebra curriculum in the 7th grade accelerated math class. Students with an IEP with math support may be eligible for accelerated math.

Selection Process

Students must have a Winter or Spring iReady score above grade level, and a Grade 4 PARCC score of 4 or 5 in the Math section. There must be a current teacher recommendation and an "A" or 3 or 4 in 5th grade math.

*If students struggle in accelerated math, a conference will be held with the student's family to discuss options. Students may be moved out or into this class as needed.

- **Math – Special Education** – Students with an IEP with a goal in Math may be enrolled in this class.

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6th grade Social Studies-Full Year (World History)

This course provides studies of the ancient civilizations of the Near and Far East, Greek and Roman civilizations, and continues through Medieval European life. Typically, the rise and fall of civilizations and empires are studies highlighting the legacies provided to successive societies. Sixth grade Social Studies Performance Standards (History, Geography, Civics and Government, and Economics) are included in this course.

6th grade Science-Full Year

Students will learn how to use scientific tools, techniques, methods and measurements to conduct experiments and investigations. Students will learn how to use mathematics in science, how to analyze data and graphs, how to make predictions and how to communicate their findings. The students will be working in laboratory situations or learning through hands-on activities. Science literacy and critical thinking skills are key components at all grade levels.

6th Grade PE- Full Year

This is a state-mandated requirement for middle school. The first middle school physical education experience will be one of excitement, sportsmanship, and minimal competition. Emphasis will be on basic skills in both team and individual sport activities. A daily activity program, along with assessment, will assist students in meeting District Physical Education Standards.

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ELECTIVES:

Exploratory Elective Wheel–Each class meets for 9 weeks

EXPLORATORY eSports
Students will learn the fundamentals of eSport gaming, including problem-solving, critical thinking, teammanship, and cooperation. Students will engage in friendly competition through gaming and may work on the basics of coding and video game design.

EXPLORATORY Drama
Drama is an awesome outlet for creative and diverse talents. Through presentations and improvisation, young actors will learn the freedom of expression and gain confidence on stage. Students are given the opportunity to perform plays and skits. They create commercials, monologues and various other stage, television and radio themes. An open-mind and imagination are requirements for our class.

EXPLORATORY Art
Students will engage in basic art concepts during this 9-week period. They will explore the fundamentals of color and design, creating projects that demonstrate an understanding of these concepts.

EXPLORATORY Leadership
Students will explore a Middle School leadership class that teaches strong responsibility and leadership skills to help prepare students for life beyond. Students will have opportunities in archery, physical fitness, military history, building relationships with peers, co-workers and community, STEM activities, and citizenship.

Beginning Band: Full year
This course is for students with no previous band experience. Students will learn to play a woodwind, brass or percussion instrument (flute, clarinet, oboe, bassoon, saxophone, trumpet, French horn, trombone, euphonium, tuba, percussion). The focus will be on gaining individual proficiency of their instrument as well as group performance skills. Students will perform in several concerts throughout the school year.

Orchestra: Full year
This course is for students with less than one (1) year or no previous experience playing the violin, viola, cello or bass. Basic string concepts and note-reading are introduced. Students will perform in evening concerts, assemblies and festivals as part of the course requirements. Eighth grade students may enroll for this class only with instructor approval. Previous musical experience on piano, guitar or other instruments is welcomed, but not required.

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Choir – Full year

Students will learn basic vocal technique, pitch matching, tone production and a variety of repertoire from classical, folk and pop traditions. Over the school year, students will master vocal skills in a fun and supportive environment. Performances outside school hours are considered an extension of the instructional process and are required.

- There is a course fee of $25 which covers the cost of sheet music, accompanist fees and a t-shirt. Fundraising opportunities may be provided.)

Navajo/Dine

This course supports our Native American students through language acquisition and development. Students will gain basic vocabulary and conversational language skills, and will participate in cultural events, celebrations, and field trips to gain a better understanding of Navajo/Dine culture.

Study Skills

All 6th grade students will participate in a Study Skills class. This class will start with the fundamentals of middle school: organization, communication, and expectations. As the class progresses, students will receive support tailored to their academic performance, all while continued support for the first year of middle school is provided.