Roy W. Brown Middle School

2026-2027 Program of Studies Grade 6

2026-2027
ROY W. BROWN MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAM OF STUDIES
GRADE 6

This booklet is designed to help students and their parents/guardians understand the Roy W. Brown Middle School sixth grade curriculum by identifying the courses offered and course content.

The grade six program is a comprehensive curriculum aligned to the New Jersey Student Learning Standards. Courses in Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies and Health/Physical Education are designed to reinforce mastery of basic skills, stimulate problem solving and critical thinking skills, and enhance self-concept. Listed in the course descriptions are general education classes, however, also available are courses dictated by students' IEPs and advanced levels of Language Arts and Mathematics. In addition to the regular course of study, students are offered enrichment courses, such as courses in world language, visual and performing arts, character education and computer science.

Students are instructed in a supportive environment during the early years of adolescence. This philosophy provides close monitoring of students' progress, enhanced parent/teacher communication, and the opportunity for an interdisciplinary curricular approach. Careful consideration is given to the development of each student's schedule. School counselors will work with the student and parent(s)/guardian(s) to create the best possible schedule. Once the schedule is set, changes are difficult to make.

In grade six, students are assigned to Language Arts Workshop and Math Workshop based upon standardized test scores and student achievement during the previous year's coursework. Workshop courses are assigned in lieu of a world language or other elective coursework. Placement in advanced Language Arts and Mathematics courses are also recommended by academic class performance, district-wide short-cycle assessments, and standardized test results. Parents/guardians who have questions about student placement should talk with their child's school counselor.

Roy W. Brown Middle School is proud to offer this curriculum for the 2026-2027 school year. The emphasis in programming consists of interdisciplinary study, concentration in study skills development, and integrated technology education. It is felt that these curricular offerings provide a broad-based educational experience which will better prepare students for high school work.

This Program of Studies is intended to assist you in selecting the best possible educational program for your child. If you have questions after reading it, please contact the School Counselor's Office at 385-8847 for assistance.

Dominick Rotante
Principal

SIXTH GRADE PROGRAM OF STUDIES
2026-2027

Sixth graders will have the following in an eight period day:

Language Arts (LA 6 or LA 6 Advanced) – 1 period

Mathematics (Math 6 or Pre-Algebra 6) – 1 period

Science 6 – 1 period

Social Studies 6 – 1 period

Physical Education/Health 6 – 1 period

Lunch/Independent Study – 1 period

Spanish 6 (half year); STEM 6 (quarter year); Financial Literacy (quarter year) - 1 period

Band 6, Strings 6, Choir 6 (full year) - 1 period

or

Visual Art 6/Drama 6/Journalism 6/Digital Literacy 6 (quarter year each) – 1 period

NOTE: WORKSHOP COURSES IN EITHER MATH OR LANGUAGE ARTS ARE SCHEDULED IN LIEU OF ELECTIVE COURSES. SUPPORT IS ALSO AVAILABLE FOR STUDENTS IN NEED OF ACADEMIC ASSISTANCE.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS
GRADE 6

LANGUAGE ARTS 6 ADVANCED
Recommendation for this class is based on student performance on the New Jersey State Assessments, STAR Reading, and grades in fifth grade Language Arts. The course is designed to challenge students to appreciate literature through in-depth studies of various literary genres. There is an emphasis on writing, collaborative learning, and creative projects. The College Board Springboard program will be used to support the development of students' reading and writing skills. Independent reading is also a major component of this academic course. The New Jersey Student Learning Standards are addressed and reinforced (speaking, listening, writing, reading, and viewing skills). Students will be involved in learning to communicate in various forms for a variety of audiences and purposes.

LANGUAGE ARTS 6
This course is designed to introduce students to the study of literary genres as well as develop their reading and writing skills. Students will learn to appreciate various modes of writing while also increasing their higher order thinking and communication skills. The College Board Springboard program will be used to support the development of students' reading and writing skills. The class allows students to participate in many activities, assignments, and projects, as well as have exposure to collaborative learning strategies. The New Jersey Student Learning Standards are addressed and reinforced (speaking, listening, writing, reading and viewing skills). New Jersey State Learning Assessment skills are also reinforced.

LANGUAGE ARTS 6 WORKSHOP
This course is designed to help students develop and refine their reading and writing skills to pass the New Jersey Student Learning Assessment and improve overall academic achievement. Instruction focuses on identified weaknesses revealed through diagnostic testing. This is not an elective course, but one which is assigned to students based on their performance on standardized tests, district exams, and teacher recommendations. Students in LA Workshop are part of the LA 6 course and have an additional period to reinforce topics learned in class and provide intensive instruction in reading and writing.

LANGUAGE ARTS ESL
The ESL Language Arts curriculum is offered solely to English Language Learners (ELLs). It is a course designed to promote language development in English by providing language practice and reinforcement of grammar, development of writing skills, and research. The ESL LA curriculum prepares the ELL student to make a transition to English content area texts. Reading, writing, speaking, listening, and viewing/media literacy is addressed according to the New Jersey Student Learning Standards in Language Arts and English Language Proficiency Standards.

PRE-ALGEBRA 6

Recommendation for this class is based on student performance on NJSLA Math, STAR Math and previous year grades in Math. This course will expand the students' knowledge of proportional concepts used in the context of geometric problems involving similarity. Students connect visual ideas of enlarging and reducing figures, numerical ideas of scale factors and ratios, and applications of similarity through work with problems. Students investigate the connections with fractions, percents, and ratios through various situations. Through a series of problem-based investigations, students explore the meaning of ratio comparison and begin to develop an intuition to articulate procedures with a variety of techniques. Other topics include linear relationships, equations and probability. Proportional thinking is connected and extended to the core ideas of linearity—constant rate of change and slope.

MATHEMATICS 6

This course reinforces the concept of fractions and their various meanings and uses. Models for making sense of fraction meanings and of operating with fractions are introduced and used, including ratios. The extensive work with equivalent forms of fractions builds the skills needed to work with ratio and proportion problems. These ideas are developed further in working with probability in which ratio comparisons are informally used to compare probabilities. Students will also study two-dimensional geometry and measurement.

MATHEMATICS 6 WORKSHOP

This course is designed to help students develop and refine their computation skills and number sense to pass the NJSLA Math 6 assessment and improve overall academic achievement. This is not an elective course, but one which is assigned to students based on their performance on standardized tests, district exams, and teacher recommendations. Students in Math Workshop are part of the Math 6 course and have an additional period to reinforce topics learned in class and provide intensive basic instruction.

SCIENCE 6

The Roy W. Brown Middle School Science program is designed to provide students with engaging experiences in the life, earth/space, and physical sciences and in technology. Both the content and the pedagogy of the science program address the unique characteristics of the middle school student and align to the Next Generation Science Standards. The science program supports National and State Science Education standards. The science program provides age-appropriate activities that allow middle school children to:

- Expand their understanding of important science concepts
- Acquire problem-solving and critical-thinking skills
- Develop positive habits of mind toward science

Earth Science and Physical Science are featured in the sixth grade science curriculum. The program develops students' basic understanding of the Earth's structure, geologic processes, Earth and human activity, as well as chemistry including properties of matter and changes in

matter. Students are encouraged to use the science and engineering practices: 1) asking questions (for science) and defining problems (for engineering), 2) developing and using models. 3) planning and carrying out investigations, 4) analyzing and interpreting data, 5) using mathematics and computational thinking, 6) constructing explanations (for science) and designing solutions (for engineering), 7) engaging in argument from evidence, and 8) obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information to understand the world around them.

SOCIAL STUDIES 6

The Grade 6 Social Studies curriculum was created to prepare students for their role as intelligent, responsible, and active citizens in our democratic society and our ever-changing world. In order to reach this goal, the sixth grade Social Studies course has been aligned to meet the standards set forth within the New Jersey State Learning Standards for Social Studies. Grade 6 Social Studies has been designed as a world history course in order to meet these goals. Students will learn to write Document Based Question (DBQ) responses to support the development of their reading and writing skills. We will cover the topics of Prehistory, Ancient Civilizations of the Fertile Crescent, Egypt, Nubia, China, Ancient Greece, and Ancient Rome. Students will gain an understanding of the world as the context for United States history and a record of great civilizations and cultures past and present.

SOCIAL STUDIES ESL

The ESL Social Studies class is offered solely to English Language Learners (ELLs). It is a course designed to make social studies comprehensive to the ELL student while promoting language acquisition in the content area. The ELL Social Studies curriculum prepares the ELL student to make a transition to the content area in the mainstream utilizing appropriate teaching strategies through the sheltered approach. The ELL students will develop and expand their English proficiency levels in the content area of social studies through the four language domains and according to the New Jersey Student Learning Standards in Social Studies and English Language Proficiency Standards. Students in Social Studies ESL will have instruction in Civics during the second semester including what it means to be an active citizen in the United States, how democracy works in government, and identifying basic human rights.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION/HEALTH 6

The Physical Education curriculum expands on the basic motor skills learned in the elementary grades by utilizing team and individual sports. Cooperative games and the Physical Best Fitnessgram health assessment program round out the curriculum to offer the students a variety of physical challenges. The Health curriculum explores social relationships, decision making skills, human growth and development, individual and community health maintenance and family living. These courses are mandatory for all students and comply with the U.S. Title IX and N.J.A.C. 6:4 regulations.

SPANISH 6 (half year)
This is a half-year course and serves as an introductory course, providing students with the basic understanding of Spanish vocabulary and heritage /culture as part of the Spanish curriculum.

STEM 6 (quarter year)
This is a quarter year course designed to provide students with engaging experiences in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Both the content and the pedagogy address the unique characteristics of the middle school student and align to NJSLS. STEM 6 focuses on the engineering design process. Students will focus on how to develop criteria and constraints for their problems so as to ensure a successful solution, explore how society is impacted by the use of the design process, analyze and interpret data to evaluate and optimize a design solution.

FINANCIAL LITERACY 6 (quarter year)
In this course, students will learn how to make thoughtful, well-informed decisions about important aspects of personal finance, such as earning income, spending, saving, borrowing, investing, and managing money

VISUAL ART 6 (quarter year)
This course is activity-centered and allows for individual expression. Development of positive aspects of attitude, cooperation, and creativity are emphasized. Art 6 has been designed to give the students a variety of experiences in drawing, ceramics, and crafts. As a result, each student will complete projects in the following areas: drawing, one point/two point perspective drawing, painting, ceramics/sculpture, crafts, and textiles. This course meets every other day.

DRAMA 6 (quarter year)
This program will introduce and develop theatrical skill, while strengthening scholars' unique talents and performance agility through a balance of process, production and performance. Dramatic aspects will include Acting, Movement, Voice, Design, Direction and Theatre History, highlighting the connection between culture and Performing Arts. Skills developed through this course support confident communication, the ability to connect and convey human experience with depth and honesty, and a proud sense of self. Students will hone habits of reflection from process through performance, and the reception and implementation of feedback to elevate their craft, enabling creativity, critical thinking, and the ability to understand, originate and evaluate live theatre.

DIGITAL LITERACY 6 (quarter year)
This course develops students' understanding of responsibilities as digital citizens and members of the school community. Through global discussions, projects, age-appropriate activities, students will learn strategies for accessing technological resources. Students will be able to identify dangers associated with the internet and social media, while exploring tools that may be utilized for a positive middle school experience.

JOURNALISM 6 (quarter year)
In this course students will learn the basics of news reporting. Students can explore how newspapers and magazines have changed their formats to online platforms to meet the needs of all readers and widen their readership in a time when print subscriptions have declined.

BAND 6
This course is a student elective for those who play band instruments. Course requirements include ensemble rehearsals and performances outside of school hours, as well as individual home practice. The repertoire for this group is designed to increase the technical facility of individual members while fostering growth in ensemble concepts. Departmental approval is required for all new students.

STRINGS 6
This course is a student elective for those who play string instruments. Course requirements include ensemble rehearsals and performances outside of school hours, as well as individual home practice. The repertoire for this group is designed to increase the technical facility of individual members while fostering growth in ensemble concepts. This class may be combined with wind and percussion players from the band to perform literature of the symphonic orchestra. Departmental approval is required for all new students.

CHOIR 6
This course is a student elective for sixth grade students who wish to sing in chorus. Course requirements include ensemble rehearsals and performances outside of school hours, as well as individual home practice. The repertoire for this group is designed to increase technical facility of individual members while fostering growth in ensemble concepts.

Note to Band and Strings students: Do NOT sign up for Choir 6 as an elective. Your choral experience will take place during your instrumental ensemble period.