ELECTIVE OFFERINGS FOR RISING 6TH GRADE STUDENTS
Albemarle County Public Schools

We are so excited to welcome you to Middle School next year! As we begin preparing our schedule for the next school year, we want to help you think about which courses you would like to take.

All 6th grade students have two options.

In **Option One**, students select Band 6, Chorus 6, or Orchestra 6 as a year-long class that will meet every other day for the entire school year.

- Band 6
- Chorus 6
- Orchestra 6

In **Option Two**, students will take 4 nine-week exploratory courses. Every student who selects this option will take Career Investigations and 3 courses from the list below:

- AVID 6
- Art 6
- Coding, Cyber, and IT Exploration
- Drama 6
- Music 6
- STEM Explorations
- World Language Exploratory

Please note: For Option Two, each middle school will offer three courses in the rotation. The information you provide will help identify areas of greatest student interest. Schools will use this information to determine which three courses to offer.

6th Grade Elective Offerings: Please place a mark beside any course that interests you. You will use this sheet to help pick courses on SchooLinks.

_____ AVID 6
_____ Art 6
_____ Band 6
_____ Chorus 6
_____ Coding, Cyber, and IT Exploration
_____ Drama 6
_____ Music 6
_____ STEM Explorations
_____ Orchestra 6
_____ World Language Exploratory

----------6th Grade Rotation Exploratory Course Descriptions----------

Art 6: In this course, you'll get to explore lots of different types of art! You'll learn about different cultures and art styles from around the world, which will help you appreciate art even more. You'll develop your own artistic skills and try out different activities like drawing, painting, sculpting, and crafts. As you work on these projects, you'll become better at understanding and creating art. You'll also learn how art connects to other subjects you're studying and develop your own unique artistic style. Specific course content conforms to any existing state standards for grade 6.

AVID 6*: AVID is a nationally recognized program for students who have the capability to achieve in rigorous, college preparatory courses but may currently be underachieving. The AVID elective is a year long elective that provides students with academic support and motivational activities. Students must apply for AVID and meet national and local requirements for participation. **Please note:** *depending on interest, some county schools run AVID as a year-long course. Some schools run it as a quarterly exploratory.*

Career Investigations: Students will investigate a variety of career clusters, analyze their personal assets, select career fields or occupations for further study, and create a plan based on their academic and career interests. They will also explore Albemarle County specialty centers and academies.

Coding, Cyber, and IT Exploration: Students are introduced to the world of business using the computer as a problem-solving tool. Students engage in using computational thinking as a problem solving tool, use programming concepts and methods while creating digital artifacts, and retain their interest in computing as a relevant and exciting field. Learning opportunities are presented in ways that are active, connected, and relevant to them, and promote the perception of themselves as proactive and empowered problem solvers, creators, and innovators capable of changing the world. Collaborative learning experiences at this level prepare students to work in teams and to build supportive partnerships.

Drama 6: Introduction to Theater courses provide an overview of the art, conventions, and history of the theater arts. Although the courses sometimes include experiential exercises, they emphasize learning about theater processes rather than theatrical production and performance. Course topics include one or more of the following: basic techniques in acting, major developments in dramatic literature, major playwrights, the evolution of theater as a cultural tradition, and critical appreciation of the art and craft of the theater profession.

Music 6: Music History/Appreciation courses survey different musical styles and periods with the intent of increasing students' understanding of music and its importance in relation to the human experience. Music History/Appreciation courses may focus on how various styles of music apply musical elements to create an expressive or aesthetic impact.

STEM Explorations: Students explore a wide range of STEM and technical fields through hands-on experiences that introduce them to how systems, tools, technologies, and processes work. Across areas such as engineering, robotics, coding, manufacturing, biotechnology, healthcare technologies, and skilled trades, students examine how choices affect outcomes, use

tools and data, consider tradeoffs, and refine ideas through testing and problem solving.

World Language Exploratory: Designed to introduce students to two or more languages in a single course of study, Exploration of World Languages courses provide students with general information about the spoken and written languages and introduce the relationships among the products, practices, and perspectives of the associated cultures.

----------6th Grade Year-Long Elective Course Description----------

Band 6: Band courses help students develop techniques for playing brass, woodwind, and percussion instruments and their ability to perform a variety of concert band literature styles. These courses may emphasize rehearsal and performance experiences in a range of styles and also include experiences in creating and responding to music.

Chorus 6: Chorus courses develop students' vocal skills within the context of a large choral ensemble in which they perform a variety of styles of repertoire. These courses are designed to develop students' vocal techniques and their ability to sing parts and include experiences in creating and responding to music.

Orchestra 6: Strings courses provide students the fundamentals of music and bowed-string instrument literature and techniques and may include more advanced techniques. These courses teach students the appropriate care, handling, and maintenance of musical instruments. Formal and informal performances are included as part of string instrument instructional programs as well as experiences in creating and responding to music.