6

GRADE

CENTENNIAL MIDDLE SCHOOL

GRADE 6 COURSE GUIDE



middleschool.isd12.org
763-792-5400

CENTENNIAL
MIDDLE SCHOOL
CENTENNIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 12

WELCOME

WELCOME TO CENTENNIAL MIDDLE SCHOOL!

Centennial is a vibrant community where students are encouraged to be engaged, empowered, and empathetic learners.

Middle school is such an important time of discovery and growth, when young people begin to learn more about themselves and consider the kind of young adults they want to become. Our staff is excited to walk alongside your child as they begin this stage of their educational journey.

At Centennial School District, our goal is to inspire students to create their own future. We believe every learner should finish their school years with the confidence to think bigger, achieve more, and collaborate in meaningful ways. At Centennial Middle School, we provide opportunities for students to explore who they are as learners and as members of our Cougar community.

Our mission is to ensure that every student develops the academic skills, social understanding, and emotional resilience they need to succeed—while also discovering personal interests and finding joy in learning.

To get a closer look at the learning, growth, and community spirit happening at our school, we invite you to follow along in our weekly school newsletter, *News from Centennial Middle School*, visit the Centennial School District website (**isd12.org**) for news updates and follow the District Instagram account (centennial.isd12) for a peek into all the great things happening in our schools across the district.

We look forward to welcoming you and your child into the Centennial Middle School family. If you need any assistance with the enrollment process, please don't hesitate to reach out to our office. We are eager to partner with you in the years ahead!



Sincerely,
Principal Stevens

WE BELIEVE

- Middle school is a time of growth, exploration, and preparation for young adulthood.
- Students should be encouraged to take ownership of their learning and discover their passions.
- A safe, inclusive, and caring environment helps students build confidence and resilience.
- Academics, activities, and social opportunities all play an important role in developing well-rounded learners.
- Partnerships between families and school staff are essential in guiding students through this important stage.
- Every student has the ability to achieve, contribute, and prepare for a successful future.

CONNECT WITH US

Centennial Middle School
399 Elm Street
Lino Lakes, MN 55014
763-792-5400

Office hours:	**Monday-Friday 7:30 a.m.-3:15 p.m.**
Website:	**middleschool.isd12.org**
Grades 6-8 Enrollment:	**1,634**
School day:	**8:05 a.m.-2:55 p.m.**
Principal:	**Bob Stevens**
Assistant Principal:	**Andrea Krueger**
Assistant Principal:	**Amy Smalley**
Counselors:	**Wyatt Schroeder**
	Corinna Morse
	Dawn Westanmo
Lead Teacher	**Kristen Fleming**

ABOUT OUR SCHOOL

At Centennial Middle School, our work is guided by the Centennial School District Strategic Plan, developed through collaboration with students, families, staff, and community members. This plan reflects the values of our community and ensures every student experiences a safe, supportive, and high-quality education that prepares them for the next stage of learning and beyond.

DEDICATED STAFF
Our staff is committed to the success and growth of every student. The majority of our teachers and staff have served at Centennial Middle School for many years, and a significant portion grew up in the community, choosing to return to work and raise their families here. This shared commitment honors the district's strategic plan and the "desired daily experiences" of our students, families, and staff.

CONNECTING. ACHIEVING. PREPARING.

The Centennial School District's formula for continued success is simple. We start with relationships - loving and caring for every learner who walks through our school doors. Then, we raise the bar with high expectations - a belief that each learner can and will discover success in all that they do. The result? Confident, capable learners who are prepared to accomplish their dreams and impact our community and the world.

The Centennial School District promise to every learner and family:
With an expectation of high academic performance coupled with loving and caring relationships, each learner will be seen for who they are and given what they need to find success in all that they do.

CENTENNIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT MISSION

OUR CORE PURPOSE

By providing high quality educational opportunities, emotional support, and social development, Centennial School District prepares learners for excellence in their future.



CONNECTING.

Get a sneak peek into the first day of school for 6th grade students.

Centennial School District 12 connects the communities of Blaine, Centerville, Circle Pines, Lexington and Lino Lakes through its nine exceptional schools. Centennial is the pride of our five communities with 92% of resident students choosing Centennial-one of the highest percentages in the metro.

A SENSE OF BELONGING

Feeling connected and included is central to student success. We cultivate an empathetic, inclusive, and supportive school culture where every student is known, valued, and supported. Social-emotional learning and community-building activities are embedded in daily school life.

ENGAGED FAMILIES & COMMUNICATION

Families are essential partners in their child's education. Families stay informed and engaged through:

- *News from Centennial Middle School,* a weekly newsletter, and classroom emails.
- Campus Parent Portal for attendance, grades, and reports.
- Conferences, phone calls, and volunteer opportunities.

COMMUNITY & PARENT PARTNERSHIPS

Strong partnerships with our Centennial community enhance programming, support innovative teaching, and foster a vibrant school environment for student success. Parent Association programs and events. Community foundation grants supporting innovative teaching. Collaboration strengthens student success and school culture.

Look for news stories on the web at **middleschool.isd12.org**

Follow Centennial Schools on Instagram at **centennial.isd12**.

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

We encourage all students to check out our Community Education programming and participate in co-curricular activities!

Centennial Community Education offers a variety of after-school programs designed to support your child's growth, learning, and well-being and provide enriching experiences beyond the classroom.

Youth Enrichment Classes: Seasonal classes in areas such as S.T.E.M., fine arts, athletics, and activities, designed to complement your child's interest and support their development.

Childcare: Fee-based program before and after-school as well as non-school day options.

Summer Kids Club C.A.M.P.: Programming from June to August, providing full-day care with activities and weekly field trips.

Learn more at **communityed.isd12.org** to explore programming and to register.

1,178 student participation
in after-school activities offered through Community Education for Centennial Middle School students.



ACHIEVING.

Centennial students consistently perform at high levels in academics, athletics, and activities.

INSIDE CENTENNIAL MIDDLE SCHOOL

Teams: Students are assigned to a Team of core teachers so that they can build positive relationships with peers and teachers can provide academic and social-emotional supports across the team.

Classes: Students take core academics + exploratory courses such as Art, Design & Make, Intro. to Theater, Physical Education, Music/Band/Choir, and Spanish.

Chromebook: Provided to students and used as a learning tool. Students utilize Schoology, Google, and Campus Portal to manage coursework, grades, and assignments.

Infinite Campus Parent Portal: Allows parents/guardians to better understand, monitor, and participate in the educational process with real-time access to student information for the current school year. Parents and student access announcements, assignments, attendance, fees, grades, report cards, schedules, and food service, and more.

Schoology: An integrated learning management tool that provides a digital classroom hub for communication, collaboration, work flow, and digital resources. Parent accounts allow parents/guardians the ability to stay up-to-date and "shadow" their student's coursework and activity. Much of the daily classroom experience such as course updates, content, assignments and assessments are found in Schoology.

Cell Phones: Cell phones must remain in a student's locker during the school day. Cell phones are not used during lunch, in hallways, restrooms, or classrooms.

ENROLLMENT & REGISTRATION

At Centennial Middle School, all students are placed on a Team for their core academic subjects. Placement in accelerated classes or academic support services is thoughtfully determined using a variety of factors. Families will be informed directly if their child is selected for advanced coursework or additional academic support. Core subjects, Middle School Success, Art and Physical Education are scheduled automatically—no action is needed for general registration.

In sixth grade, students help shape their schedule by choosing electives such as: Band, Choir, or STEM. A registration process will be shared with students during school to select their preferred electives.

OPEN ENROLLMENT

- Options for families outside the district to attend Centennial Schools.
- Includes eligibility, application process, and deadlines.

Learn more at **isd12.org/enroll-today**.



PREPARING.

STUDENT SUPPORT

- Cougar Connect / FLEX time - Academic support, extension, enrichment opportunities.
- Counseling and social-emotional supports.
- Family collaboration to support individual student growth.

Centennial offers engaging learning opportunities, emotional support, and social development for each of our students to help them prepare for whatever is next and beyond.



CORE ACADEMIC CLASSES FOR GRADES 6-8

Grade 6:
Math, Language Arts, Earth Science, Minnesota Studies (Teams 601, 602, 603)

Grade 7:
Math, Language Arts, Life Science, US History (Teams 701, 702, 703)

Grade 8:
Math, Language Arts, Physical Science, Global Studies (Teams 801, 802, 803)

ADDITIONAL SPECIALIST ELECTIVE COURSES

Grade 6:
Choir, Band, Physical Education, STEM, Art, Middle School Success

Grade 7:
Choir, Band, Physical Education, STEM, Art, Health

Grade 8:
Choir, Band, Physical Education, STEM, Art, Spanish

6TH GRADE SCHEDULE

Core Academic Classes: **Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies** *(Every day, all year)*	
Cougar Connect / FLEX	
Middle School Success *(A/B days with Art)*	**Art** *(A/B days with MSS)*
Elective Choice: Band, Choir, STEM *(A/B days with PE)*	**Phy Ed** *(A/B days with Elective Choice)*

LANGUAGE ARTS

ADVANCED ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS PLACEMENT
At Centennial Middle School, we are committed to helping each student thrive by placing them in courses that inspire growth and spark academic curiosity. For placement in Advanced English Language Arts, we take a thoughtful, data-informed approach each spring. Our review includes MCA results, FastBridge and CoGAT scores, classroom achievement, current coursework, and teacher insights. By looking at the whole picture, we aim to match students with learning opportunities that challenge their thinking and nurture their strengths at all levels.

Language Arts 6

This course develops students' communication skills through integrated instruction in reading, writing, speaking, and language, aligned with the Minnesota Common Core Standards. Students will build upon foundational knowledge while advancing their understanding of grammar, vocabulary, and literary analysis. Emphasis will be placed on mastery of various literary genres, effective oral expression, and the clear communication of ideas. Writing instruction will follow the Writing Workshop model and will include journal entries, essays, and creative writing pieces. Students will engage in both collaborative and independent work, using the multi-step writing process to strengthen their craft and explore the distinct elements of different writing forms.





MATH

ACCELERATED MATH PLACEMENT

At Centennial Middle School, we believe math should challenge students while building their confidence and skills. Each spring, we carefully evaluate a range of data to guide placement into Accelerated Math. This includes MCA scores, FastBridge results, CoGAT data, current and past math performance, and teacher insights. Our goal is to ensure students are placed in a math course that pushes their thinking, matches their readiness, and supports continued growth throughout the year.

Math 6

This course develops students' mathematical understanding through a focus on number sense and problem-solving, aligned with the Minnesota Common Core Standards. Students will strengthen foundational skills while exploring new concepts across a variety of mathematical domains. Key topics include operations with decimals and fractions, percents, ratios, equations and inequalities, geometric measurement (including perimeter, area, surface area, and volume), angles, and probability. Emphasis will be placed on the application of mathematical reasoning and the development of strategies to solve real-world and abstract problems.

Pre - Algebra 6

This course builds a strong foundation in essential mathematical concepts and skills, aligned with the Minnesota Common Core Standards. Students will deepen their understanding of key topics while preparing for success in higher-level math. Areas of focus include the number system, expressions and equations, ratios and proportional reasoning, percent, geometry, and probability. Emphasis will be placed on applying mathematical thinking to problem-solving and real-world situations, while strengthening both conceptual understanding and procedural fluency.



SCIENCE

Science 6

This course introduces students to key Earth Science concepts through hands-on investigations, collaborative activities, and the application of the Scientific Method. Aligned with the Minnesota Common Core Standards, the curriculum emphasizes critical thinking and real-world connections to deepen students' understanding of natural phenomena. Topics include Earth's place in the universe, Earth systems and processes, weather and climate, and the impact of human activity on the environment. Throughout the course, students will explore the relevance of science in everyday life, with a focus on sustainability and informed decision-making.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Social Studies 6

This course focuses on the study of Minnesota through the lens of geography, history, government, and economics, aligned with the 6th Grade Social Studies Standards developed by the Minnesota Department of Education. Students will build a foundational understanding of civic responsibility, economic systems, geographic tools, and historical events that have shaped the state. Key topics include the structure and functions of state and local government, the principles of federalism, budgeting and economic decision-making, and the use of geographic tools to analyze physical and human features of Minnesota. Students will also explore Minnesota's rich history—from Native American cultures and early exploration to immigration, statehood, and the state's role in major national events such as the Civil War, World Wars, and the Cold War. Emphasis will be placed on critical thinking, primary and secondary source analysis, and making connections between the past and present.



BAND



Band 6

This course introduces students to the fundamentals of playing a band instrument through hands-on instruction and active music-making. Students will learn how to assemble and care for their instrument, produce a characteristic sound, and develop foundational skills in music reading and rhythm. Instruction includes both small group and full ensemble experiences, allowing students to build confidence and collaborate with peers. Band meets every other day throughout the school year, and students will participate in two public performances as part of their summative assessment. Emphasis is placed on musical growth, ensemble skills, and the joy of performing.

CHOIR

Choir 6

This course introduces students to the fundamentals of singing and choral performance in a collaborative, ensemble setting. Through engaging instruction and group rehearsal, students will develop vocal technique, music literacy, and an appreciation for a variety of musical styles. Emphasis will be placed on healthy vocal production, listening skills, and the joy of making music together. Students will participate in three public performances throughout the year as part of their summative assessment, with performance dates shared at the beginning of the school year.

STEM

6th STEM Extensions

This course challenges students to think critically and creatively through hands-on learning in science, technology, engineering, math, and art. Aligned with academic standards, the sixth-grade curriculum includes three main units: computer science coding, renewable energy, and innovation/engineering. Students will explore sustainable energy solutions, engage in interactive coding experiences, and apply the engineering design process to solve real-world problems. Emphasis is placed on collaboration, problem-solving, and the practical application of STEM concepts in a dynamic learning environment.

ART

Art 6

This course introduces students to the elements of art through hands-on projects in both two-dimensional and three-dimensional media. Students will develop their artistic skills using a variety of materials and techniques, including drawing, painting, and sculpture. Emphasis is placed on art vocabulary, composition, and critical thinking as students create original works and reflect on their artistic process.

Art Extensions

This elective course provides students with extended studio time to experiment with diverse art materials and explore a variety of genres and styles. Meeting every other day throughout the year, the course emphasizes project-based learning, allowing students to develop their creativity and technical skills through a range of hands-on art projects. Students will engage in sustained artistic exploration while deepening their understanding of different artistic approaches.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical Education 6

This course provides students with opportunities to develop a range of physical skills while focusing on overall fitness and well-being. Emphasis is placed on health-related and skill-related fitness components through daily participation and active engagement. Students will build strength, endurance, coordination, and teamwork skills in a supportive and inclusive environment.



MIDDLE SCHOOL SUCCESS

Middle School Success: Skills for Life and Learning

This project-based course supports students in developing essential academic and personal skills needed for success in middle school. Through collaborative activities, students will build strategies for organization, time management, note-taking, goal-setting, and self-advocacy. Emphasis is placed on literacy development, effective study habits, and self-reflection. Students will engage in hands-on learning experiences that promote independence, confidence, and active participation in their education.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

ENGLISH LANGUAGE SERVICES

This program supports English Language Learners through dedicated English Language Development (ELD) classes and co-teaching in content-area classrooms. In ELD classes, students receive targeted instruction in speaking, listening, reading, and writing to build the academic language skills needed for success. Instruction is aligned with the WIDA English Language Development Standards and delivered in small groups by licensed English Language teachers. Co-teaching provides additional support by integrating language development with grade-level content, allowing students to strengthen both academic and language skills. Students remain in the program until they meet language proficiency criteria.



#Centennialproud

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