

# Utica Community Schools

## Middle Schools Course Offerings

## Grade 6

**Bemis Middle School**
**Davis Middle School**
**Eppler Middle School**
**Jeannette Middle School**
**Malow Middle School**
**Shelby Middle School**

**Utica Community Schools Middle Schools 3-year plan of study**

| **6th Grade** | |
|---|---|
| English – 6A and 6B | |
| Math or Advanced Math - 6A and 6B | |
| Science – 6A and 6B | |
| World Geography – 6A and 6B | |
| Exploring Academic Success and Innovations* | |
| **Elective Options:**<br>• Band 6**<br>• Vocal Music**<br>• Community Creators<br>• Engaging with the Environment<br>• Engineering Our World | • Exploring Culture Through Creativity<br>• Exploratory Language 6<br>• Imagination to Innovation<br>• Introduction to Art 6<br>• Physical Education 6 |
| **7th Grade** | |
| English or Honors English – 7A and 7B | |
| Math, Advanced Math, or **Algebra I** – 7A and 7B | |
| Science – 7A and 7B | |
| Ancient History or Accelerated Ancient History – 7A and 7B | |
| Exploring Academic Success and Innovations* | |
| **Elective Options:**<br>• Physical Education and Health – *completion of this course is required in grade 7 or 8.*<br>• Band 7 – Full year course<br>• AVID 7– Full course<br>• Theatre 7/8** | • Vocal Music**<br>• Computer Science Discoveries I<br>• Exploratory Language<br>• Exploratory Design and Engineering I<br>• Introduction to Art<br>• Introduction to Drawing and Design |
| **8th Grade** | |
| English or Honors English – 8A and 8B | |
| Math 8, **Algebra I, or Accelerated Geometry** – 8A and 8B | |
| Science – 8A and 8B | |
| United States History or Accelerated United States History – 8A and 8B | |
| **Elective Options:**<br>• Yearbook<br>• **Human Geography (AP)**<br>• **French I**<br>• **German I**<br>• **Spanish I**<br>• Band 8– Full year course<br>• Jazz Band – Full year course<br>• AVID 8– Full year course<br>• Theatre 7/8**<br>• Vocal Music**<br>• Computer Science Discoveries I | • Computer Science Discoveries II<br>• Wood 8<br>• Exploratory Design and Engineering I<br>• Exploratory Design and Engineering II<br>• Exploring Life Skills<br>• Introduction to Art<br>• Introduction to Drawing & Design<br>• Introduction to Sculpture & Design<br>• Introduction of Photo & Film<br>• Physical Education and Health – *completion of this course is required in grade 7 or 8* |

*Required Course

**Course may be taken for 20 weeks or a full year course

"A" is the first semester part of the course, "B" is the second semester.

**Bold Courses** are High School Course – Student will receive a letter grade for the course. Grade will be reflected on transcript and count toward high school GPA.

# SIXTH GRADE

## Types of Courses

| | |
|---|---|
| **Core Level Courses:** Full year courses that are required courses in which all students are enrolled. These courses provide instruction aligned to grade-level standards and the essential knowledge and skills for each subject. | **Honors/Accelerated Level Courses:** Full year courses that provide increased academic challenge through greater depth, complexity, and pace of instruction. These courses are designed for students who are ready to engage with content at a more advanced level and may require additional independent learning and critical thinking. |

## Subject Area Courses

**English 6:** This course emphasizes the development of students' reading, writing, speaking and listening, language, and research skills. Through the study of literary and informational texts, students strengthen their grammar, vocabulary, analytical thinking, and written communication while applying the writing process to a variety of tasks.

| | |
|---|---|
| **Math 6:** The following topics are explored in this course: ratios and rates, operations with whole numbers, fractions, and decimals, numerical expressions and equations, variables and algebraic reasoning, coordinate graphing, geometric concepts involving area, surface area, and volume, and statistical reasoning and data analysis. | **Advanced Math 6:** See the Selective Classes Section for further information.<br>**Placement in this class is based on criteria established by Utica Community Schools** |

**Science 6:** This course is an exploratory science course that seeks to answer phenomena in the world around us. This course is designed to build students' curiosity of the world and increase their confidence in solving problems through questioning, investigating, and communicating their findings with a scientific community.

**World Geography 6:** This course explores world geography and early civilizations through the study of culture, economics, government, history, and human-environment interactions. Students develop geographic, historical, and civic inquiry skills while examining societies from around the world.

# Required Course

Required course indicates a course that is part of the district's required curriculum and must be completed by all students at the designated grade level.

**Exploring Academic Success and Innovations:** Exploring Academic Success and Innovation is a hands-on exploratory elective that helps students successfully navigate middle school while developing the skills needed for academic, personal, and future career success. Through the use of AVID strategies, professional skills development, artificial intelligence, digital citizenship, and project-based learning experiences, students learn how to stay organized, manage their time, set goals, and take ownership of their learning. Students strengthen communication, collaboration, critical-thinking, leadership, and self-advocacy skills while learning how to build positive relationships, support others, and contribute to their school and community.
*Pending Board Approval*

# Selective Classes

Selective classes are designed to provide each student with the support he or she requires for success. Students are assigned to these classes based on data. These classes are not options for students to choose during scheduling.

**Advanced Math 6: (Full year course)**
Prerequisite: Placement determined by data team.
The following topics are explored in this accelerated course: ratios, rates, and proportional relationships; operations with rational numbers; numerical and algebraic expressions; equations and inequalities; geometry; angle relationships; area, surface area, and volume; statistical investigations; drawing inferences from data; and probability.
**Placement in this class is based on criteria established by Utica Community Schools.**

**Math Boost - Discover, Think, Apply:** Math Boost: Discover, Think, Apply is a companion course designed to provide students with additional opportunities to strengthen mathematical understanding, build confidence, and develop problem-solving skills. Students engage in guided practice, collaborative learning experiences, mathematical investigations, and real-world applications aligned with their mathematics coursework. The course supports learners at all achievement levels by providing opportunities for reinforcement, enrichment, conceptual development, and academic growth. Students also develop effective study habits, organization, perseverance, and mathematical reasoning skills that support success in current and future mathematics courses.
**Placement in this class is based on criteria established by Utica Community Schools.**
*Pending Board Approval*

**ELA - Read, Write, Think:** Read, Write, Think is a companion course that provides students with additional opportunities to strengthen literacy skills, build confidence and develop critical thinking abilities. The course complements, but does not replace, core English Language Arts instruction by offering targeted support, reinforcement, and enrichment aligned to individual student needs.
Designed for students at all achievement levels, Read, Write, Think engages students in reading, writing, speaking, listening, discussion, research and analysis while developing disciplinary literacy skills that support success across content areas. Through guided practice, collaboration and authentic learning experiences, students strengthen communication, problem-solving and academic habits while becoming more confident readers, writers, thinkers, and communicators.
**Placement in this class is based on criteria established by Utica Community Schools.**
*Pending Board Approval*

# ELECTIVE CHOICE 1

Elective classes are those in which students may choose to enroll.

## Option A – Full Year

**Band 6 (Full Year):** This course is available to any sixth grader who wishes to learn a band instrument. Band gives students the opportunity to learn and understand musical notes, symbols, and terms, and a chance to develop proficiency on their musical instruments which will benefit their performance and listening ability. Members of this group are expected to develop and refine those skills that will lead to advancement into the 7th grade band. All members are expected to practice regularly and give their utmost dedication to the group.
**All members are required to attend all performances.**

**Vocal Music 6 (Full Year):** Vocal Music offers students a chance to perform and enjoy group singing. Students study singing, choreography, and musical theory.
**All members are required to attend all performances.**
**Course may be repeated each semester in grades 6, 7, and 8.**

## Option B – 20 Weeks

**Band 6 (Semester):** This course is available to any sixth grader who wishes to learn a band instrument. Band gives students the opportunity to learn and understand musical notes, symbols, and terms, and a chance to develop proficiency on their musical instruments which will benefit their performance and listening ability. Members of this group are expected to develop and refine those skills that will lead to advancement into the 7th grade band. All members are expected to practice regularly and give their utmost dedication to the group.
**All members are required to attend all performances.**

**Vocal Music 6 (Semester):** Vocal Music offers students a chance to perform and enjoy group singing. Students study singing, choreography, and musical theory.
**All members are required to attend all performances.**
**Course may be repeated each semester in grades 6, 7, and 8.**

**Exploratory Language 6:** The focus of this course is on introducing the student to the foreign languages of French, Spanish, German, and Japanese. In addition to the essentials such as numbers, colors, greetings, and simple nouns, the student will be using their skills of reading, writing, speaking, and listening during all four languages. Additionally, this course includes the study of the various countries and cultures related to each of the language groups

**Introduction to Art 6:** This course will encourage students to explore and express their creativity through a variety of artistic media and techniques. Students develop skills in drawing, painting, printmaking, and three-dimensional art while examining art history and the influence of art on cultures around the world. Through creating, responding to, and analyzing works of art, students build creative thinking, problem-solving, and visual communication skills while developing an appreciation for artistic expression and diverse perspectives.

**Physical Education 6:** This course emphasizes the development of lifelong health and fitness habits through a variety of individual, team, and cooperative activities. Students participate in physical activities designed to improve fitness, motor skills, movement concepts, and overall wellness. The course promotes teamwork, sportsmanship, goal setting, and responsible personal and social behaviors while encouraging students to make healthy lifestyle choices.

## ELECTIVE CHOICE 2

**Community Creators:** This hands-on exploratory elective introduces students to community planning, public services, leadership, design, and civic engagement. Through collaborative, project-based learning, students examine how communities support the needs of individuals and families through services such as education, healthcare, public safety, recreation, and transportation. Emphasis is placed on creativity, communication, teamwork, leadership, critical thinking, and problem solving as students design solutions to real-world challenges. The course culminates in the creation and presentation of a model community while providing exposure to a variety of career pathways related to community development and public service.
*Pending Board Approval*

**Engaging with Our Environment:** This is a hands-on exploratory elective that examines the relationship between natural systems, human activities, and environmental sustainability. Through interactive projects and real-world problem solving, students explore resource management, environmental challenges, and the impacts of human decision-making. Emphasis is placed on teamwork, communication, leadership, critical thinking, and research skills as students develop and present solutions to environmental, agricultural, or energy-related issues while exploring related career pathways and civic responsibility.
*Pending Board Approval*

**Engineering Our World:** This is a hands-on exploratory elective that introduces students to engineering, construction, manufacturing, transportation, and design through interactive projects and real-world problem solving. Students develop teamwork, communication, leadership, critical-thinking, and problem-solving skills while engaging in the engineering design process to research challenges, design and test solutions, and evaluate results. The course culminates in the creation and presentation of an innovative project and provides exposure to a variety of careers in engineering, skilled trades, construction, manufacturing, transportation, and emerging technologies.
*Pending Board Approval*

**Exploring Culture Through Creativity:** This is a hands-on exploratory elective that introduces students to the visual, performing, and applied arts through collaborative projects and creative experiences. Students develop creativity, communication, teamwork, critical-thinking, and problem-solving skills while exploring **artistic** expression, design, performance, and innovation. The course culminates in a student-created project or performance and provides exposure to a variety of careers in the arts, design, media, and other creative fields.
*Pending Board Approval*

**Imagination to Innovation:** This is a hands-on exploratory elective that introduces students to entrepreneurship, innovation, and creative problem solving. Through collaborative projects and real-world applications, students transform ideas into business or product concepts while developing leadership, communication, and critical-thinking skills. The course culminates in a business or product pitch and provides exposure to careers in business, innovation, and related fields while helping students explore personal interests and future career pathways.
*Pending Board Approval*