

## Welcome to Centennial Middle School's 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Course Description Book for 2011-12

This course description sheet is meant to serve as an overview for course selections in 6<sup>th</sup> grade. If you would like more detailed information please visit the BVSD website at [www.bvsd.org](http://www.bvsd.org). On the Home Page click on the "About Us" tab and on the next screen choose "Curriculum".

### **Mission Statement**

*"Centennial Middle School is a neighborhood school that embraces all learners. We provide a rigorous academic curriculum and a broad elective program supported by technology that offers opportunity for all students to reach their fullest potential. Our goal is to develop a community of learners where individual responsibility is valued in order to create a safe and respectful learning environment."*

## **Centennial Middle School** **Where Kids Are First**

**SIXTH GRADE** students are scheduled into a core academic block, two electives, and a lunch period. Students also receive specialized instruction in elective areas. Students take physical education and music. Music offerings include band, orchestra, and choir. During the second elective period students may choose between the Elective Block or a World Language.

**SIXTH GRADE REQUIRED SUBJECTS** are Language Arts, Reading, Math (Math 1, 1S, or 2S), Physical Science, World Geography I, Physical Education, Music (Band, Orchestra or Vocal Music), an Elective Block or a World Language. Elective block current offerings include Art, Computer and Physical Education- next year's offerings are to be determined.

**LANGUAGE ARTS:** Sixth Grade Language Arts builds upon elementary level instruction and demands increased skills application, academic sophistication and intellectual reasoning. Students acquire and apply language arts skills in a variety of instructional settings with particular emphasis on reading and writing improvement.

### **LANGUAGE ARTS/READING – Advanced (K07/K63)**

The sixth grade advanced language arts/reading program is comprised of two academic periods. This course addresses the fundamentals of language usage, including spelling, vocabulary, and grammar. The writing process includes prewriting, drafting, editing (peer and adult), and polishing to produce the final product. Advanced language arts moves at a faster pace than regular language arts and there is more emphasis on student independence. A variety of literary themes and genres will be explored throughout the year, including expanding skills in non-fiction comprehension and rate. Students will read a variety of choice novels from different genres, as well as a classic. Also emphasized are expository writing, creative writing, and listening/speaking skills. Grammar, word usage, mechanics, and spelling are studied at a high level.

**English as a Second Language (ESL):** We provide Limited English Proficient students with instruction in English language acquisition so that they are proficient on the state standards while valuing diversity by honoring and respecting the student and family and their diverse cultures. We strive to provide and promote effective instruction to develop English language proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing. ESL instruction is exclusively in English.

ESL students will read and understand a variety of materials and interpret literature as a record and expression of human experience. They will listen, observe, speak, and write for a variety of purposes and audiences, and to develop higher critical thinking skills. They will use grammatical and mechanical conventions of language in speaking and writing. They will apply research skills to locate, select, and make use of relevant information.

**READING:** Reading is a core curriculum class in sixth grade. The five major areas studied include reading, vocabulary development, and reading skills and strategy instruction. Both narrative and informational texts are utilized through novels, newspapers, textbooks, anthologies, and articles. Study skills are emphasized.

**Developmental Reading Workshop:** This course is designed for students in any grade who are struggling readers and are on an Individualized Literacy Plan ("ILP"). The focus is on the acquisition and consistent usage of the seven basic reading comprehension strategies. Through the use of graphic organizers and critical reading skills, students gain the ability to recognize main idea, author's purpose, and key information. Attention to vocabulary development is also a major focus. Students learn to adjust reading rate according to purpose and text form and are required to apply all strategies to a wide variety of texts. By teacher recommendation only.

**Reading Intervention:** This course is designed for students in 6<sup>th</sup> grade have significant reading difficulties and are reading at least two years below grade level. The focus is on phonics and phonemic awareness as it affects decoding at the students' developmental reading level. Most of the classroom time is divided between direct instruction, guided reading groups and independent reading at the students' instructional level. This is a semester long course. By teacher recommendation only.

**MATH:** All math classes are by teacher recommendation in consultation with parents.

**Math Support:** is designed to complement the regular sixth grade math curriculum through pre-teaching and reinforcing concepts concurrently being taught in the Math 1S classroom. The focus is on providing extensions of the classroom work as well as clarifying any misconceptions. In addition, students in Math Enrichment will receive extra instruction for, and have opportunities to practice foundation skills such as mental math and calculating with whole numbers and fractions, decimals and percents.

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade Math 1S:** Mathematics at the Sixth grade level focuses on fluently calculating with fractions, decimals and percents, finding area, perimeter and circumference of triangles, quadrilaterals, and circles and analyzing data using appropriate measures of central tendency and graphs. Problem solving, representations, reasoning, communication, and connections within and outside of mathematics underline all of the teaching and learning at sixth grade.

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade Math 2S:** Mathematics at the Seventh grade level focuses on fluently calculating positive and negative rational numbers, proportional reasoning, and linear equations and relationships. Problem solving, representations, reasoning, communication, and connections within and outside of mathematics underline all of the teaching and learning at seventh grade.

**PHYSICAL SCIENCE:** In middle level Physical Science, students will be designing and conducting scientific investigations and constructing scientific explanations based on evidence. Students will make measurements using metric units and will organize their data using bar and line graphs. Students will learn about fundamental concepts in physical science such as the particulate nature of matter, basic atomic structure, forms and sources of energy, energy transfer and transformations, the conservation of matter and energy, and force and motion. Students will also learn about the nature of science as a human endeavor.

**WORLD GEOGRAPHY I:** Sixth graders will study the Western Hemisphere focusing on the components of civilizations both ancient and modern with regional studies of Canada, Mexico, Central America, Caribbean Islands and South America. Students will examine the relationship of the United States to the other countries occupying the Western Hemisphere, and complete a detailed examination of the contributions of the Aztec, Inca and Maya.

**WORLD LANGUAGES:** Proficiency in a world language is becoming increasingly important for all students in order to participate fully in a global community. While knowledge of a world language has traditionally been a part of college preparation, the multicultural experience gained through the study of another language greatly enriches all students. New techniques in second language acquisition make this study accessible to many students. These may be taken in place of an Elective Block.

World language study may begin in grade six. Level 1A and Level 1B of a given language at the middle level are equivalent to Level I in high school. College preparatory students are encouraged to take a minimum of three levels in the same world language.

**FRENCH 1A, SPANISH 1A** – Sixth and seventh graders only.

**MUSIC:**

**Beginning and Continuing Band:** Band for 6<sup>th</sup> grade students emphasizes a balance between technical development and performance skills. This course provides an introduction to band literature, ensemble involvement, note and rhythm reading and a broad range of instrumentation.

**Orchestra and Continuing Orchestra:** Orchestra is a string-performing group where students experience technical training and opportunities for enrichment and development in individual and group musicianship.

**Middle Level Vocal Music:** Middle Level Chorus is a beginning course designed for students with treble voices. Basic vocal techniques will be explored in a wide variety of musical styles, including introduction to part singing, music reading, and theory. Culminating performances are a meaningful and mandatory component of this class.

**ELECTIVE BLOCKS:** The current elective blocks include the following: (Next years offerings are to be determined.)

**Art:** students will experiment with a variety of media to create visual art. The elements of art—line, shape, space, color, value, texture, and form—are stressed in two-dimensional or three-dimensional work. Students will begin to apply art principles—balance, pattern, contrast, emphasis, movement, rhythm, and unity—in their art expression. Students will work toward an appreciation and understanding of fine art and folk art.

**Computing:** students are introduced to a variety of technology tools and processes. Students will make text documents, create drawings, import their drawings into documents, use clip art files and Internet images, use electronic resources and the Internet, practice proper keyboarding techniques, and explore a variety of software applications. This class will cover basic hardware and software operations and help students learn to use the technology tools in their classes.

**Physical Education:** Physical education emphasizes fitness and development of basic movement skills. Emphasis is placed on building personal responsibility, good sportsmanship and leadership.

**Living Skills:** students explore aspects of their intellectual, emotional, social, and physical health/wellness. Topics include study skills, learning styles, self-confidence and identity, dealing with change/transition, coping with stress, sexual harassment, prejudice and tolerance, healthy friendships, conflict resolution, refusal skills, nutrition, puberty, human reproduction and development, and planning/goal setting. Skills are introduced through role-playing, guest speakers, videos, Socratic seminars, and experiential activities.

**Applied Technology (RIP Tide):** students will work with a partner on units that include robotics, graphic design, computer aided design, CNC programming, and wood fabrication. The units offer multi-level problem solving and enrichment activities.

**ACADEMIC SUPPORT (SPECIAL EDUCATION):** Students who have Individualized Education Plans (IEP) will register for courses with the assistance of their special education case manager so that their educational program is consistent with the goals and objectives of their IEP. This program may consist of regular education courses with some instructional accommodations, courses provided in the regular education class with a modified curriculum, and/or courses provided by the special education teacher. **Please work with your special education teacher to complete your course registration form.**

Please call the Centennial office at 720-561-5441 for further information.

**Principal**  
**Assistant Principal**

**Cheryl Scott**  
**Chris Meyer**

**Counselors**

**Debra Herschopf Kennedy**  
**Kristin Meyding-Westman**

**R<sup>2</sup>ise as Cyclones**

**Respect**  
**Responsibility**  
**Integrity**  
**Safety**  
**Empathy**