

Sixth Grade Curriculum

Required Sixth Grade Academic Courses:

Language Arts
Reading
Science
Math
World Geography
P.E.
Music

Music Options:

Mixed Choir/Music Appreciation
*Band 1
*Orchestra 1
*Students must provide own instruments.

Sixth Grade Elective Program:

Student must choose between the two options listed below.

Language Option:

This is a yearlong elective commitment.

French
Spanish

Exploratory Wheel Option:

The wheel is taught on a rotating schedule.

Some course options are listed below:

Exploratory Applied Technology TIDE
Exploratory Art
Exploratory Computers
Exploratory Drama

Description of Sixth Grade Courses:

Language Arts K06: Students will refine skills in writing expository, narrative, descriptive, and persuasive pieces. Additionally, punctuation, spelling, parts of speech, usage, and other grammatical concepts will be studied. Writing instruction will focus on utilizing the 6-traits writing assessment model.

Reading KM6: In reading, students will learn and apply reading strategies to fiction and non-fiction materials to aid comprehension. Reading skills will also be developed through analysis, discussion, and response to literature.

Science SM6: In physical science, students will be introduced to physical science including forces, energy, the atom, and ecology. Students will have a variety of experiences in science, including hands-on experiments, labs, writing using scientific method, and direct instruction.

World Geography I TM6: Students will study the Western Hemisphere, excluding the U.S. They will focus on the components of civilizations both ancient and modern with regional studies of Canada, Mexico, Central America, Caribbean Islands, and South America. Students will apply geographic concepts, as well as research, content reading, and writing to a variety of learning activities.

Math: Placement in math classes will be determined by recommendations from their students' fifth grade teachers, CSAP scores, and a math assessment given in the spring. Please see the math description page for information on the various math classes offered.

Description of Sixth Grade Music/PE Program

Courses will be offered based on enrollment, interest, facilities, and staffing or budget constraints.

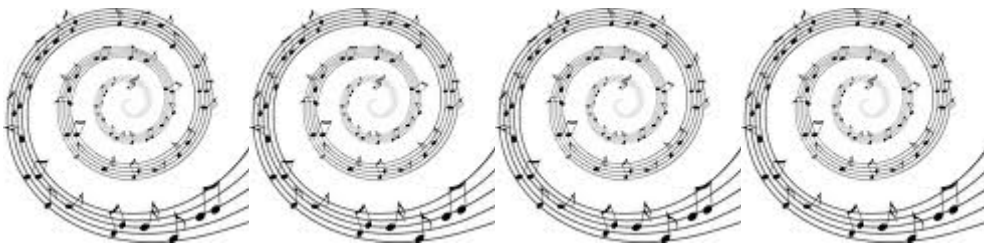
Music is taught on a rotating schedule with P.E. and will be a yearlong course.
Sixth grade students must select one type of music activity for the year.

Music Choices:

Choir/Exploratory Music N15: Students will learn to sing at a more advanced level. Proper vocal production, breath support, and tone control are emphasized. Students will sing in unison, rounds, canon, and in harmony. An opportunity will be available for students to explore music and its relationship to history, art, and society in various cultures. All students will play various rhythm instruments, which will then be used to accompany some of the choir pieces. Simple note reading will be taught. Attendance at scheduled rehearsals and performances is mandatory. Concert attire is required.

Band 1 N21: Band 1 builds upon skills taught to beginning band students. Emphasis will be placed on development of both technical and performance skills through advanced literature. Attendance at scheduled rehearsals and performances is mandatory. Concert attire is required. Student must have one year prior instrument experience. No beginning band skills are taught in Band 1.

Orchestra 1 N24: The orchestra is a performing group in which students will receive training to increase their proficiency on their chosen instrument. The development of individual and group musicianship will occur in small ensembles and string orchestra. Students will be introduced to great works of music, as well as have an opportunity to express their own creativity in music. Performances are an integral part of the class. Concert attire is required. Extra activities also include: String Camp and Solo and Ensemble Festival. (Beginning students may want to get started with an instrument before school begins, but this is not a requirement.)



PHYSICAL EDUCATION:

Physical Education PM6: The P.E. program is designed to accommodate the range of differences in skills and emphasizes individual potential. The program offers a variety of individual and group activities that develop physical skills and physical fitness along with positive social attitudes and individual responsibility. Activities to be emphasized are organized exercises, traditional team sports, individual and dual sports, rhythmic activities, and self-testing activities. Students are not required to dress out, but they are required to wear tennis shoes for their safety.

Description of World Language and Exploratory Wheel Programs

Courses will be offered based on enrollment, interest, facilities, and staffing or budget constraints.

World Language: French F1A and Spanish F7A are offered at the sixth grade level. This elective option is a full year elective which replaces the Exploratory Wheel elective. Taking a world language in sixth grade offers students an opportunity to learn a foreign language at a moderate pace allowing them time for repetition and skills mastery. In depth examination of native cultures, art forms, and food preparation is an important part of the curriculum. Students are expected to pass a cumulative first year exam with a grade of C or better in order to progress to the next level of world language. Students who begin a World Language in sixth grade may attend the high school for level two during their eighth grade year.



Exploratory Wheel Program: The following courses may be offered based on enrollment, facilities, and staffing/budget constraints. By choosing the wheel program, students elect not to enroll in a world language. All classes will meet on a rotating schedule throughout the school year to be determined. All exploratory classes are graded on the pass/fail system. The classes listed here are a sampling of the courses currently offered. Classes may be added or removed based on student interest and building constraints.



Exploratory Applied Technology TIDE J15: This is a unique class designed for hands-on learning. Students may select from over twenty projects in areas such as robotics, graphic design, CAD, laser technology, electronics, engineering, computer animation as well as traditional woodworking. In Applied Technology, students work both as individuals and as members of a team. Students will demonstrate safe and proper use of equipment and tools, complete each self-selected project, and document their work. Students will learn to lead, follow instructions, cooperate with others, and work effectively to accomplish a concrete task.

Exploratory Art A06: Students will experiment with a variety of media to create visual art. The elements of art such as line, shape, color, value, texture, and mass are stressed in two-dimensional or three-dimensional work. Students will begin to apply art principles such as limitations, dominance, subordinations, variety, balance, rhythm, and unity in their art expression. The development and application of basic techniques and skills are stressed as well as appreciation and understanding of fine art.

Exploratory Computer D06: This course is designed to introduce students to the variety of technology tools available in their school. Students will make text documents, create drawings, import their drawings into documents, use clip art files and Internet images, build a spreadsheet for data collection and create charts and graphs from that data, use electronic resources and the Internet, practice proper keyboarding techniques, and explore a variety of software applications. Basic hardware and software operations will be covered.

Exploratory Drama K96: This elective is designed to begin equipping young people with the acting skills necessary to succeed in stage productions. Students will study acting skills, stage directions, theater terminology, and character development.

Seventh Grade Curriculum

Required Seventh Grade Academic Courses:

Language Arts or **Advanced Language Arts
World Geography II
Life Science
*Math
P.E.
Health

*Please see math section to help select appropriate math class for seventh grade.

The student's sixth grade math teacher will also help make a recommendation for the student.

** Students must complete an assessment and process in order to be selected into Advanced LA.
Please see description of courses below.

Description of Seventh Grade Courses:

Language Arts K11: Seventh grade instruction will build upon skills gained in the sixth grade and will demand increased skills application, academic sophistication, and intellectual reasoning. Students will acquire language arts skills in a variety of instructional settings with particular emphasis on reading and writing improvement.

****Advanced Language Arts K12: Enrollment into this class is based upon exemplary performance in the following areas: the completion of an application, a 6th grade in-class writing assessment, and high levels of proficiency in CSAP reading and writing sections, and administrative and/or counselor approval. Enrollment may be limited.** This course is designed to develop and enhance students' skills in reading, writing, speaking, listening, and critical thinking.

The Advanced Language Arts program is designed for the student who:

- enjoys the love of reading and writing
- enjoys discussion and analysis
- thinks critically, has strong writing and grammar skills, and is willing to take risks (with view point, style, and vocabulary, etc).
- is open-minded to ideas and constructive criticism
- able to read, write and discuss topics and literature that is mature and above typical peers
- is self-motivated, independent, and able to work with teachers to complete long term projects
- is able to read at an accelerated rate with in-depth comprehension
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While students will be covering much of the same materials as the regular L.A. classes, they will be exploring reading and writing in more depth and often at an accelerated pace. This class requires intensive reading on teacher selected books with themes related to mortality, diversity of thought, geo-political concepts, etc. Expectations for all students are high and every effort is made to appropriately challenge all students. Students will be expected to apply higher level thinking skills with reading, writing, and speaking assignments. Increased demand of student's independent learning skills will be expected.

Seventh Grade Curriculum Continued

World Geography II T07: World Geography II provides students with the tools and skills necessary to analyze and interpret the world from a geographic perspective. The focus of study will be on the regions of the Eastern Hemisphere: Africa, the European Union and Russia, and Asia. Students will develop an understanding of the physical and cultural processes that shape the earth and its people and an appreciation of our roles and responsibilities as world citizens. Students will apply geographic concepts, as well as continuing research, content reading, and writing to a variety of learned activities.



Life Science SM7: Life science is the study of introductory biology including cells, genetics and kingdoms, and body systems. This course will build on the knowledge and skills students have gained in 6th grade. Students will have a variety of experiences in science, including hands-on labs, writing about science, and direct instruction.



Physical Education P07: Seventh grade physical education emphasizes physical fitness and the development of the basic fundamentals of sports. This course also develops the knowledge of rules, builds personal responsibility, and instills teamwork, good sportsmanship, and leadership. Activities in seventh grade P.E. may include the following: flag football, soccer, speed away, Frisbee, table tennis, basketball, yoga, volleyball, cage ball, floor hockey, team handball, mini tennis, lacrosse, track and field, softball, group games and physical fitness activities. Students are required to dress out and participate daily.



Health Education G07: Health Education is a part of the physical education program and students will be required to take an integrated health curriculum during the school year. Health Education is designed to be an activity oriented class and is directly related to the physical, emotional, social, and intellectual characteristics and needs of seventh grade students. This program is taught in a way that is relevant to the student's everyday life. This course includes the following units of study: substance abuse and refusal skills, communicable and sexually transmitted diseases, personal safety (assault, abuse, and violence), nutrition and components of fitness, human sexuality including review of the reproductive system, growth and development, fetal development, and abstinence.

Eighth Grade Curriculum

Required Eighth Grade Academic Courses:

Language Arts or **Advanced Language Arts
U.S. Society
Earth Science or **Honors Earth Science
*Math
P.E.
Health Education

*Please see the Math section to determine the appropriate math class. Seventh grade math teachers will help determine eighth grade placement.

** Students must apply and be selected into these honors courses. Please see description of courses below.

Description of Eighth Grade Courses:

Language Arts K31: Eighth grade instruction will build upon the skills gained in the seventh grade and will demand increased skills application, academic sophistication, and intellectual reasoning. Students will acquire language arts skills in a variety of instructional settings with continued emphasis on reading and writing improvement.

****Advanced Language Arts K32: Enrollment into this class is based upon exemplary performance in the following areas: the completion of an application, an in-class writing assessment, and high levels of proficiency in CSAP reading and writing sections, and administrative and/or counselor approval. Enrollment may be limited.**

The 8th grade advanced language arts program is integrated with the study of U.S. Society.

The Advanced Language Arts program is designed for the student who:

- enjoys the love of reading and writing
- enjoys discussion and analysis
- thinks critically, has strong writing and grammar skills, and is willing to take risks (with view point, style, and vocabulary, etc).
- is open-minded to ideas and constructive criticism, and able to self advocate with the teacher
- is self-motivated, and has the time to work on long term projects in the evenings and some weekends.

Much emphasis is placed on research and acquisition of research skills while using varied resources. Students work individually, in pairs, and in small groups to increase their skills and understanding in both language arts and social studies. While students will be covering much of the same material as the regular language arts classes, they will be exploring reading and writing in more depth and often at an accelerated pace. Books that students will read are pre-determined like To Kill a Mockingbird and students will be expected to deal with themes of religion, geo-political issues, culture, race, mores, etc. Expectations are high and every effort is made to appropriately challenge all students. Students will be expected to apply higher level thinking skills with reading, writing, and speaking assignments. Increased demands of student's independent learning skills homework and self advocacy are expected.

Eighth Grade Curriculum Continued



U.S. Society T05: This course presents the social impacts and multiple perspectives of people associated with significant events in American history. This study will expose students to the important contributions made by the many groups who shaped and continue to influence the American experience. Historical inquiry and research with both primary and secondary sources are focal points of the course. Literature and the writing process will be integrated throughout the curriculum.

Earth Science SM8: Eighth grade earth science is primarily focused on the study of the earth sciences. Earth Science is the study of geology, meteorology, and astronomy. This course will build upon the science knowledge students have gained in sixth and seventh grade. Students will have a variety of experiences in science, including hands-on experiments, labs, writing about science, and direct instruction.

****Honors Earth Science SM10: Enrollment into this is class is based on exemplary performance in the following areas: an in-class science assessment, concurrent enrollment in Algebra 1 or higher, and high levels of proficiency in the CSAP science section. Enrollment may be limited.** Students may apply for this class with permission from their current math and science teachers and administrative and/or counselor approval. Honors Earth Science is a challenging alternative to the standard 8th grade science class. This class is designed to challenge students who are exceptional in math and science. Honors Earth Science focuses on chemistry, earth science, and physics compressing information from 9th grade Physical Science into the 8th grade curriculum. This class emphasizes critical thinking, problem solving, and proper scientific investigations.

Physical Education P08: Eighth grade P.E. emphasizes refinement of skills learned in seventh grade, developing a greater understanding of game strategy and rules. Students are also provided opportunities to officiate their own games. A higher level of personal fitness is emphasized in eighth grade P.E. involving strength work and cardiovascular system. Recreational sports such as volleyball, badminton, mini tennis, table tennis, and pickle ball are emphasized at this level with the intent to promote an interest in lifetime recreational activities. In addition, an indoor challenge course involving individual and group initiatives will be presented. This will be used to bring students together to build trust, emphasizing cooperation and teamwork. Students are required to dress out for class and actively participate on a daily basis in order to be successful.

Health Education G08: Health Education is and integrated part of the eighth grade P.E. program. Health Education in eighth grade is designed to be activity oriented, and is directly related to the physical, emotional, social, and intellectual characteristics and needs of this population of students. The Health Education program is to be taught in such a way that it is relevant to the student's everyday life. This course includes the following units of study: substance abuse, human sexuality and abstinence, sexually transmitted disease, interpersonal violence, suicide, and stress management.

Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth Grade Mathematics Courses

Students will be placed in math courses based on their ability and skill level. Your current math teacher will recommend your student for placement next year. Placement tests for incoming 6th graders wishing to take an advanced math class will be administered in the spring and will also require a teacher's recommendation and advanced CSAP scores for placement.

Math 1 M05 is designed to review and strengthen skills previously covered while moving ahead into these topics: Number sense relations, probability and statistics, and geometry. Additional concepts include whole numbers and integers, fractions and decimals, coordinate systems, and data interpretation.

Math 2 M15 is designed as a continuation of Math 1. Number sense, probability and statistics, geometry, and measurement are covered in this course. Additional topics include formulas, coordinate systems, use of variables and expressions, and other pre-algebra concepts.

Math 3 M25 covers geometry, probability and statistics, and introductory algebra. It is designed to prepare students for a high school algebra class. Math 3 includes exploratory work, and many applications showing the usefulness of the topics covered. Number sense, relations, probability and statistics, geometry, and measurement are also covered.

Advanced Pre-algebra M30 is a course for 6th and 7th grade students, via teacher recommendation and counselor approval only. Advanced pre-algebra covers basic mathematical content with emphasis on the development of computational skills with fractions, mixed numbers, decimals, and percents. An introduction to concepts of algebra including working with variables, simplifying and evaluating expressions, solving equations, graphing, using formulas, operating with positive and negative numbers, and problem solving including strategies and applications is interwoven with all topics.

Advanced Algebra M35 is the study of algebraic symbolism, first-degree equations and inequalities, polynomials, rational algebraic expressions, radicals, quadratic equations, graphing, and problem solving. This course emphasizes the structure of the system while developing proficiency in manipulative skills and is designed for highly motivated and mathematically talented students.

Advanced Geometry M45 presents a thorough study of the structure of the postulation system and the development of formal synthetic proof with an emphasis on logic. It treats the topics of congruence, parallelism, perpendicularity, and properties of polygons, similarity, and the interrelations of circles, spheres, lines, and planes. This course is currently taught at LMS but may be taught at the Monarch High School if there is not enough enrollment.

Seventh and Eighth Grade Full Year Electives

Courses will be offered based on enrollment, interest, facilities, and staffing or budget constraints.



World Language:

French F1AA, F1AB and Spanish language F7A, F7B, F7AA, F7AB, F72A, F72B classes will be offered for both seventh and eighth grade students who are either beginning a world language or who are continuing with their language education. This is an opportunity for students to begin a structured world language study at the middle school level. These classes will include all world language learning skills at a moderate pace, allowing students to have time for repetition and skills mastery. Additionally, an in depth examination of native cultures, art forms, and food preparation is an important part of the curriculum. Seventh grade students are expected to pass a cumulative first year exam with a grade of C or better in order to continue with their world language selection. Please note that Level 2 world language classes in French or Spanish may be taught at Monarch High School if there is not enough enrollment at LMS for a Level 2



Concert Choir N19:

This class is for students who wish to pursue singing at a serious level. Careful attention is given to diction, phrasing, music reading, tone quality, and rhythmic accuracy. Vocal technique is highly emphasized. Three and four part harmony is also emphasized. Choral literature from all periods and styles is included. All performances are mandatory. Concert attire is required.

Band 2 N22:

Band 2 is a course that studies progressively more difficult literature that encourages continued development of both technical and performance skills. Exploration of a wide variety of musical styles and genres are stressed within a fully instrumented band. Participation in solo ensemble playing is also emphasized. Public performance is an integral part of class effort. Concert attire is required. Attendance at scheduled rehearsals and performances is required. This is a 7th grade band class.

Band 3 N23:

Band 3 is a course that studies progressively more difficult literature that encourages continued development of both technical and performance skills. Exploration of a wide variety of musical styles and genres are stressed within a fully instrumented band. Participation in solo and ensemble playing is also emphasized. Concert attire is required. Attendance at scheduled rehearsals and performances is required. This is an 8th grade band class.

Orchestra 2/3 N25:

Orchestra is a performing group in which students will receive training to increase their proficiency on their chosen instrument. The development of individual and group musicianship will occur in small ensembles, string orchestra, limited full orchestra experience, and festival orchestra. Students will also have opportunities to sign up for individual help. Students will be introduced to great works of music, as well as have the opportunity to express their own creativity in music through composition. Performance is part of the student's evaluation. Concert attire is required. Extra activities include: String Camp and Solo and Ensemble Festival.

Seventh and Eighth Grade Semester Electives

Courses will be offered based on enrollment, interest, facilities, and staffing or budget constraints.

ART:

Drawing and Painting A21: This course provides experiences in a wide range of techniques and media in the study of art elements and principles including pencil, chalk, crayon, and batik. The techniques of painting will be stressed. Visual aids and models may be used. The course will also include a study of artists and their work.

Pottery and Crafts A23: This course will cover different methods and materials used in the construction of three-dimensional forms. The student will not only study how the piece itself looks from every point of view but also how it interacts with the empty space that surrounds it on all sides.

COMPUTER LITERACY:

Computer Power D07: Students will get an overview of the power of today's technology. This course builds on previous computer skills learned. The primary focus is to advance computer skill development. Students will complete projects in word processing, spreadsheets, database, Internet, presentation graphics, and web page design and development. They will gain experience with several software programs. Students will learn efficient ways to research the Internet and become powerful yet safe Internet users. The use of digital cameras and scanners will be introduced. It is recommended that students take this course before DO8 however it is not required.

Multi Media Production D08: In this course students will design and produce multimedia presentations that incorporate text, graphics, sound, and animation. Software tools may include PowerPoint, Web page tools, Photoshop, and I movie. Students will also learn to modify digital and Internet images for use in presentations. Computer graphics, word processing, scanning, photograph editing, and page layout programs will be used to generate professional looking documents. Students will learn the elements of design, create and use advanced drawing projects, and also use publishing templates in their publication. Students will have an opportunity to create projects for other classes and will create a digital movie. Advanced computer skills are recommended as a prerequisite.

DRAMA:

Performing Arts N40:

This course will provide situations for developing poise and confidence, interacting with others, and appreciating the contribution of others. Reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills will be involved as students demonstrate and perform what they have learned. This elective is designed to begin equipping young people with the acting skills necessary to succeed in stage productions. Students will learn acting skills, stage directions and vocabulary, study several scripts, and prepare and perform many scenes during class.

TIDE-Technology- Innovation-Design-Engineering:

TIDE J20:

TIDE is a unique class designed for hands-on learning. Students may select from over 75 projects in areas such as architecture, robotics, graphic design, laser technology, digital video production, engineering, CAD, CNC lathe and mill, computer animation, and programming to name a few. Students will also have the opportunity to work extensively on more advanced woodworking projects. Projects may include but are not limited to tables, chairs, clocks, decorative boxes, and even skateboards. In Applied Technology, students work both as individuals and as members of a team. Students will demonstrate safe and proper use of equipment and tools, complete each self-selected project, and document their work. Student will learn to lead, follow instructions, cooperate with others, and work effectively to accomplish a concrete task.

Woodworking and Crafts J12:

Woodworking and Crafts is a hands-on class focused mainly on advanced woodworking projects. Students will learn about the process that goes into the design and creation of a project and will make detailed scale drawings before beginning the project. They will also learn to calculate the cost of materials and hardware. Students will experience some of the various woodcarving techniques such as relief, heraldic, lettering, and carving in the round. Students will also learn basic drafting, complete a production project, and learn the fundamentals of sharpening.

Additional Programming

English as a Second Language: Courses in English as a Second Language (ESL) provide training in general study techniques and specific language arts strategies and concepts necessary for an understanding of core content areas. Students receive specialized instruction to develop listening, speaking, reading and writing skills in English. The emphasis is on providing relevant activities to help students learn the social and academic language needed to participate and achieve in all of their classes.

Special Education: The special education teachers lend their support and expertise in the regular academic classes and work with their designated students as well as other students in that classroom. By working in the regular classroom setting on a daily basis, special education teachers can directly observe and assess students' strengths and weaknesses, and help to develop instruction for the student that is both challenging and attainable. Special education teachers work collaboratively with the regular education teachers to ensure that the student's needs are being met in the classroom and these classes have a low student-teacher ratio.

Academic Support Center: The academic support centers provide students with small group instruction by a special education teacher. They support students by teaching study skills, organizational skills and concepts, and helping them with their daily homework. Students receive social and emotional support and develop advocacy skills. Objectives for student progress are determined by goals established at various intervention meetings and parents receive progress reports to help facilitate and ensure progress. These classes are designed to maximize student achievement and work with the Response to Intervention (RTI) model for student success.

Clinic Courses: Clinic courses are offered in math, writing and reading and allow students to have extra support in these critical areas of academics. Teachers and counselors determine the placement of students into clinic classes. These support classes are designed to help students with basic skills in each area of concentration and have low student-teacher ratios to ensure success.

RISE- "Raising Instructional Skills through Enrichment". An independent before school study support center with academic tutoring taught by a trained professional. Students will concentrate on homework completion, test-taking strategies, organizational skills, and self advocacy.