

## **6<sup>th</sup> Grade Exploratory Course Descriptions**

### **Performing Arts**

\*\*If you want to play an instrument, you must begin as a 6<sup>th</sup> grader. You may not begin in 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

#### **Beginning Band 1 (Full Year)**

**Description:** This is a class for beginning students wishing to learn to play an instrument in a traditional band setting. In most cases, students can rent an instrument from the school district. Supplies must be purchased by the parent at local music vendors. Two evening concerts will be required. Regular home practice is necessary for success.

#### **Beginning Orchestra 1 (Full Year)**

**Description:** This is a class for beginning students wishing to learn to play an instrument in a traditional orchestra setting. In most cases, students can rent an instrument from the school district. Supplies must be purchased by the parent at local music vendors. Two evening concerts will be required. Regular home practice is necessary for success.

#### **Music & Fine Arts 1 (Full Year)**

**Description:** Students will learn the basic elements of music and vocal performance. School concerts, evening concerts, or other public performances may be required. Students may also be asked to purchase a choir outfit.

### **Foreign Language**

#### **Introduction to Spanish (Full Year)**

**Description:** This class is designed for beginners in the target language.

**Students will:**

- Learn the basics such ABCs, the colors, the numbers, adjectives, etc...
- Participate in "hands on activities to reinforce the material.
- Speak Spanish by giving brief presentations.
- Learn cultural events throughout the school year.

#### **Introduction to French (Full Year)**

**Description:** This class is a year-long class. It is designed to aid students in learning and practicing beginning French in an interesting and challenging way. This course will help students develop general skills in speaking, reading and writing in the target language as well. It also serves as a means for general understanding of the culture, the arts, and the people in a global society.

### **Literacy**

#### **Language Arts Enrichment (Full or Half Year LA Enrichment/Half Year PE)**

**It is recommended that students be reading at or above grade level.**

**Description:** *Literary Explorations* is a class designed for students who have a strong interest in expanding their reading experiences. This class is not a reading intervention class. Students will read a variety of selections, including poetry, short stories, and novels. Additionally, students will work through the writing process. It is expected that reading will be done independently and that students will participate in class discussions. A focus will be placed on higher-level thinking skills and presentation will be required each nine-weeks.

## **Physical Education**

**\*\*All students must take at least 1 semester of PE during middle school**

### **Physical Education 1 (Full or Half Year PE/Half year LA Enrichment)**

**Description:** Students should be ready and willing to be physically active and responsible for their own behavior at all times. Safety and respect for all and everything is a *must*.

**Activities include (depending on semester):** flag football, pickle ball, physical fitness assessments, ultimate football, volleyball, basketball, indoor soccer, team handball, badminton, floor hockey, t-seg ball, lead-up games to softball, outdoor softball, yoga, Zumba, Eclipse Ball, Hantis, Kan Jam, and Fitness Fridays.

## **6th Grade Rotation**

**All students will take of the following classes for 9 weeks. This is designed to expose students to classes they might otherwise never take, but may find that they enjoy. These classes support our Cultural and Fine Arts emphasis. Each class is taken only once and students are randomly placed within the rotation. These classes are required for all 6<sup>th</sup> graders.**

### **Exploring Theatre (9-weeks)**

**Description:** This course is an overview of acting, stagecraft, theatrical history, stage movement, costumes, make-up, and pantomime. Students may perform plays and/or read and discuss contemporary drama. Students will also learn and use safety rules and practices in theatre productions.

### **Exploration of Technology 1 (9-weeks)**

**Description:** This class exposes students to a sample of the capabilities of the computer lab. Topics covered include: touch typing, copyright, Photoshop, MS Word, Excel, and PowerPoint, Autodesk Inventor 3D CAD software, and other web based software.

### **Cultural Studies (9-weeks)**

**Description:** This course enhances our Cultural and Fine Arts Magnet emphasis. Students will learn the elements of culture, look at other cultures, and explore their own. Students will create and present their Personal Cultural project as a final project.

### **Visual Arts 6 (9 - weeks)**

**Description:** This beginner course is designed to introduce students to the elements of art. Students will be required to draw, paint, and work with clay to develop mastery of techniques and media. At the end of this course students will have a working knowledge of how the elements of art can be used to communicate ideas and feelings in artworks.

## **Application Class**

### **AVID 6 (Full Year)**

**Acceptance into the AVID program is determined by application and interview.**

**Description:** This course is for students who are college bound. While concurrently enrolled in honors or otherwise rigorous courses, student will learn strategies that will enhance their chances for success. Students learn time management, goal-setting skills, note-taking skill and strategies for test preparation.