

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

## **Language Arts 6**

The objective of this course is to develop students' ability to use context clues; make inferences based on text selections; Identify, compose, describe/analyze main ideas, characters and plots; Read, write and present comparative contrast essays; Demonstrate appropriate usage of oral and written sentence structure; Identify and interpret fictional versus non-fictional literary works. This entails the incorporation of cumulative and sequential multi-sensory activities that engage students while establishing skills in phonemic awareness and phonics, word recognition and spelling, vocabulary, grammar and usage. The Accelerated Reader Program is a component of this course.

## **Math 6**

This course based on the University of Chicago School Mathematics Project is entitled Everyday Math and builds upon the mathematical concepts from prior exposure to the program. The core concepts include, but are not limited to the following: Collection, Display and Interpretation of Data; Operations with Whole Numbers and Decimals; Variables, Formulas, and Graphs; Rational Number Use and Operations; Geometry: Congruence, Constructions & Parallels; Number Systems and Algebraic Concepts: Probability and Discrete Mathematics; Rates and Ratios; Geometric Concepts.

## **Science 6**

Instruction within this course will focus Variables Animal Diversity, Astronomy, Air, Human Body and a lab oriented kit pertaining to Weather and Water.

## **Social Studies 6**

Students will explore the peoples, places and cultures of world in this course. Instruction will be centered on providing individuals with information pertinent to the physical composition, historical development, cultural trends and present day issues and challenges faced by countries within Latin American, Asia, Africa, Russia and Europe. Each unit integrates various geography related activities/assignments/projects focused on past and present cultural events, bodies of water, etc.

## SPECIALS

### **Band 6**

This instrumental class is for students who have completed the 5<sup>th</sup> grade instrumental class. Rhythms, embouchure, hand position, posture, and tone production addressed in grade 5 are reinforced. Students begin learning more complex rhythms and extend the tonal range of their instruments. Students meet two times a week during their study hall and perform a spring concert in May. This is not a graded class.

### **General Music 6**

General Music 6 is based on Silver Burdett's "Making Music" textbook series and aims to build on the basic foundations of creating, performing, and responding to music.

### **Library Science**

The junior high library follows a flexible schedule. Free periods are allotted for students to select reading materials, which are selected by the librarian to foster a love of reading and support the school-wide Accelerated Reader program. Classes come to the library sporadically throughout the school year for instruction on topics involving library science and to research skills. Projects represent collaborative efforts between the subject teacher and the library teacher and meet PA Academic Standards within each subject's curriculum.

Instructional objectives for each grade level are as follows:

- Engage in lessons based on appropriate online behavior, safety and privacy (Digital Literacy Curriculum—CIPA).
- Avoid plagiarism by practicing paraphrasing and summarizing information to create a video that teaches peers about the culture of Russia (Social Studies Collaboration).
- Focusing on gathering bibliographic information, access print and electronic resources to create a PowerPoint presentation that will teach peers about a decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> century (Social Studies Collaboration).

### **Physical Education 6**

P.E. 6 is for students to develop and maintain a level of health related fitness. The course is not centered on the development of specific athletic skills. Students will participate in a variety of activities to attain a personal level of health fitness, to include cardiovascular exercises, competitive events and swimming. The course is not designed to develop specific athletic skills.

### **Visual Arts 6**

Visual Arts 6 is designed to inspire each student to greater levels of expectations. This course will emphasize the importance of an art program that is devoted to the continual learning process outside the classroom and the natural success that accompanies it. This is accomplished by creating a community of learners which involves learning teams. Students will master a variety of art processes and history which will be enhanced by the integration of technology. Self-evaluation and problem solving skills will inspire the students to a greater wonder and understanding of the importance of art in our society.

## Rotation Courses

### **Computational Thinking with Robots 6**

This pass/fail course requires students to utilize their knowledge of various mathematical algorithms to perform assigned tasks. Completion of an assigned task will result in students earning a badge. The course of study will result in students being able to write programs that guide characters, robots through various movements/patterns.

### **Essential Technology II (6th)**

Essential Technology II builds upon the basic computer skills gained in Essential Technology I. Students will build upon their basic understanding of Internet safety and ethical computer use through Digital Citizenship courses. We emphasize independent and collaborative problem solving through project based learning as students will learn and use intermediate computer skills to build, create, and design. This course will cover basic and intermediate skills related to web-based applications including Google Docs, Slides, Sheets, Draw, and Classroom and Internet Research. This class will not be limited to the use of computers. We will explore iPads and other peripheral tools as well.

### **Help Lab**

On rotation days noted as Help Lab, students will return to their homeroom during the corresponding class period. During this time, individuals may seek clarification regarding coursework or participate in extensions of learning activities.

### **InnovatED 6**

This is a hands-on, project-oriented course for students. The course is designed to address national educational standards in Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics. The goal, as a team, is to open one's mind and gain knowledge in STEAM related fields, as well as develop one's skills needed for success in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. All students will actively engage in solving real-world problems by using prior knowledge, scientific inquiry, content knowledge, and technological design. Creativity, teamwork, communication, and critical thinking are essential components of the course.

### **Technology Education 6**

During this course, students will explore aspects of the agricultural and industrial production processes; Describe how biotechnology impacts our daily living; Physical technologies of structural design, analysis and engineering. Additionally, students will be exposed to the basic tools used in mechanical drawing/CADD, sketching, measurement (to the nearest 1/16 inch) and basic three dimensional objects. Various tools will be incorporated for student use in the development of assigned projects. In doing so, safety practices will be addressed and stressed throughout the course.