6th Grade Electives Course Descriptions

(Semester Classes)

21st Century Skills

The 21st Century Skills class is designed to integrate the Chromebook into the middle school setting. Students will learn the basics of the computer, to type properly, how to organize files on the Chromebook, how to edit photos, basic coding skills, how to make movies using iMovie, how to use research and writing skills, and use all of the abilities of keynote, pages, and numbers (only basics in numbers).

Creative Writing

This course includes written practice and responses to poetry, plays, long essays, and short stories. Students write spontaneously about a word or picture, a sound or touch, drawing from their imaginations. Students write on topics inspired by newspapers, magazines, television, events around them, and models by the masters, all of which lead to contemplation and discussion.

Current Events

Current Events incorporates Channel One to investigate and discuss events that are happening around the world. This course allows students to research and write about current events to have a more in depth understanding of both national and international news. Students also use lessons and activities provided through Channel One to expand on and reinforce topics covered. The course also helps students connect world events to everyday life and make past and present connections.

Skills and Strategies

This course is designed to explore with students how they can successfully live and work in a culturally diverse world. It helps students recognize their interests, aptitudes, and abilities, and understand adult roles (includes frequent guest speakers from a variety of career fields, roles, and workplaces). It also helps students broaden their aspirations beyond the stereotypes of gender, socioeconomic status, and ethnicity. This course integrates vocational and academic education to promote intellectual development and improve critical thinking and problem-solving skills through a variety of enjoyable activities. This is a great option to assist with students' development of social skills, personal values, and self-esteem.

YEAR LONG Classes (For All Grades)

Band

Beginning in the sixth grade, students develop in areas of responsibility, self-discipline, social skills, confidence, leadership and dependability. Being in band will give students a sense of accomplishment and pride. In addition, students will develop musical skills, which will enrich their lives. Band is a wonderful opportunity to make and interact with friends with similar interests. All band students will be carefully screened and should, with practice and effort; achieve success on his or her instrument. The amount of practice and effort on the student's part will directly reflect upon their degree of success. Parental support and encouragement are vital not only to the student's musical success now; but will also affect their appreciation of music for the rest of their lives.

If your child is in the beginning stages of band, the emphasis is on learning the fundamentals of music and the basic skills required to play an instrument. Mastery of these fundamental skills will lead to further development of higher-level skills, which will enable students to achieve great things in our band program.

The more advanced students will continue to perfect skills while learning new and more challenging aspects of music and music performance. There is a greater emphasis placed on ensemble performance at this level. Healthy competition is a larger part of this class as well. Instrumentation needs of the ensemble, the individual's attitude, conduct, playing ability, and existing openings in this ensemble will determine membership.

Chorus

This course is designed for students to explore choral music from a wide variety of cultures and time periods through study and performance. By creating, performing, and responding, students will develop basic vocal skills and sightreading techniques.

7th Grade Electives

Art
This course will provide instruction on the basic elements of art. Students will explore how to create and produce arts products, relating and connecting them to historical, current and personal events. Students will also have an introduction to history of art.

Drama
Creating, performing, responding and connecting are some of the skills students use to understand how drama communicates ideas and allows for self-expression. Students will study, write and/or perform scenes and monologues. Students will also be introduced to basic history of Drama.

Health
Heath Education is a class that provides the resources that students need to know to live a responsibly healthy life. We will focus on the physical, mental, emotional, social and spiritual aspects of health. You must choose daily to live a healthy lifestyle to stay a healthy individual!

Music Appreciation
Students will engage, through criteria set in collaboration with the teacher, in meaningful and purposeful music-making within the four Artistic Processes; creating music (improvising, composing, arranging); performing music (singing or with instruments); responding to music (listening to and analyzing); connecting music learning and experiences to the larger curriculum, other cultures and disciplines within and outside of the arts. In doing so, students will experience the following concepts of music: rhythm, melody, form, timbre, texture and harmony, style, and expression; taught by a certified music teacher.

8th Grade Electives

Career Preparedness – A (Credit based elective for High School)
The course prepares students with knowledge and skills in the areas of career development and academic planning and computer skill application. This course is a prerequisite to Career Preparedness-B.

Computer Science Discovery
Computer Science Discoveries is a full-year introductory computer science survey course for students in Grades 6-8. The course takes a wide lens on computer science by covering topics such as programming, physical computing, HTML/CSS, and data. Students are empowered to create authentic artifacts and engage with CS as

computing, HTML/CSS, and data. Students are empowered to create authentic artifacts and engage with CS as a medium for creativity, communication, problem solving, and fun.

Debate

This course will develop and improve public speaking, argumentative, and critical thinking skills in communication settings. Students will prepare and deliver speeches and participate in several of in class debates and forums on current topics. Techniques will be taught to control speech anxiety, and structure and organize information to present to a variety of audiences. As such, the fundamentals of physical and vocal delivery skills, use of language and gesturing, as well as listening skills will be learned. Please note that time requirements are given for each speech.

We Build It Better

The We Build It Better program lays a foundation for students to understand the process of developing a new product and equipping them with the skills to design and create an innovative solution to a real-world industry-based challenge. Is the program engineering, manufacturing, computer science? It is ALL of that and more! We Build It Better is an all-inclusive 18-week, industry-designed educator-developed, curricular experience that engages middle school students in a work-like STEAM environment.

Spanish – Full year Elective (High School Credit)

This course is designed for students of all levels of ability. Basic pronunciation, vocabulary, grammar, and culture are emphasized throughout the course.