

6th Grade Exploratory Descriptions

2009-10

Art 6: Students learn about art and realize their creative potential through interesting, problem-solving activities. Both two-dimensional and three-dimensional art forms will be explored in this class. The elements and principles of design are incorporated into the lessons. Some of the various media will be pencil, pastels, ink, felt pen, crayon, scratch board, watercolor and tempera paints, paper, yarn, beads and pottery clay. A sketchbook is required for homework assignments. Quizzes/tests will be given on art appreciation facts, videos and discussions.

Drama: Drama is a nine week introduction to Drama as a performing art, a craft that requires training in voice, diction and body language. The students will study and practice the techniques of acting through effective use of the voice and body. Developing ease and confidence in speaking before groups as well as fostering an appreciation of theater are main goals of the course.

Family and Consumer Science (Home Economics): This course addresses childhood growth and development, the changing role of the family, orientation to nutrition, laboratory safety, and food preparation. Students will also study safety in the home, interpersonal relationships, sewing skills, and clothing care. Cooking labs, sewing projects, and craft projects are some of the activities in this course. This is a fun and practical course that students can use in real life!

Health: This course is designed to help students conceptualize knowledge, attitudes, and skills related to health issues of adolescents and the precursors of adult health problems that have risk factors that may emerge during adolescence. Students will utilize health education concepts when applying health information literacy skills, enhancing intrapersonal and interpersonal communication skills, analyzing internal and external influences; and applying thinking, self-management, and advocacy skills to promote health and wellness and reduce health risks.

Computer Applications: This course is designed to teach the fundamentals of computer applications, including all aspects of word, power point, excel, and other such applications. This course will permit students to have a foundation in computer applications, and therefore, enabling success in computer courses offered in grades 7 and 8.

Physical Education (P.E.)

Our PE students participate in a variety of activities and work on their personal fitness. Everyone receives their own locker and dresses out for class. Aerobic endurance, flexibility, muscular strength and muscular endurance are emphasized. Team building and sportsmanship are also incorporated. Students will have class for a total of one semester, either 1st and 3rd quarter, or 2nd & 4th quarter.

Applied Technology (Tech Ed): The purpose of this course is to allow students to explore the world of technology. The course is divided into manufacturing, communications, transportation and construction. The students will do projects in each of these areas which will require the use of general and specialized tools. Through these projects and activities, the student will see the similarities between various technological systems and become aware of how they combine to make our technological society. Activities include: hands on experiences with tools, equipment and materials related to the content planning, designing and constructing projects, and investigating content related occupations.

Study Skills: This course is designed to help 6th grade students make the transition to middle school by equipping them with the tools necessary for academic success. Areas of emphasis will be note taking, managing time, maintaining a school planner/agenda, keeping an organized binder, test taking strategies, and developing good study habits.

Beginning Band: Students will be issued a school instrument if they do not have their personal instrument. Every effort will be made to have the students play the instrument of their choice; however, differences in lip structure will be a deciding factor in choice of instrument. Providing a balanced band with appropriate instrumentation will be the other criteria. Students will be expected to practice for 30 minutes, 6 days a week and will be given assignments from lesson books and band music supplied by the school. Percussionists will be expected to provide their own sticks with the exception of mallets for pitched instruments and for the bass drum. The purpose of this course is to introduce students to basic instrumental music techniques, melodic and rhythmic concepts and patterns, practice skills and habits, solos, ensembles, and full group rehearsals. Reeds for woodwinds, valve or slide oil for brass, and drum sticks for the percussionists (as mentioned) must be purchased by the students. Music is furnished by the school. Participation in all concerts is a requirement.

CREATIVE THINKING (Talented & Gifted)

Staff Recommendation

This course is designed to develop higher level thinking processes such as analysis, synthesis, and evaluation, research skills, problem solving strategies concerning abstract and complex issues, self awareness, and to make connections across disciplines. The purpose of this course is to provide challenging, critical, and creative problem solving opportunities for students who demonstrate high academic and creative talents. This course includes a wide variety of interdisciplinary projects and activities with extended learner outcomes. The projects and activities will require critical thinking, problem solving, inquiry training, and divergent thinking. Many projects are open-ended to allow for a variety of approaches and solutions.

READING IMPROVEMENT, Read 180

Staff Recommendation

The year-long reading improvement course is designed to provide instruction for students in grades 7-12 who are in need of remedial assistance. The scope of such instruction is generally focused on decoding strategies, basic vocabulary development, comprehension at the literal level, simplified study techniques, reading for personal pleasure, and the application of these skills to daily life. Instructional activities are delivered in a classroom/laboratory setting and include individualized lessons/counseling, peer teaching, and small group instruction. Students will use materials appropriate to their levels of reading and interests. Trade books, magazines, audiovisual materials, computers, games, and textbooks may be used for instruction.