

## Sixth Grade Course Handbook 2018-2019

### Core Classes

**English:** In sixth grade, students will be exposed to the ancient societies of Egypt, Greece, and Rome through the study of archaeology and Greek and Roman mythology. They will also study literature about the Middle Ages and water. Throughout the year, students will study vocabulary with Greek and Latin prefixes and suffixes and practice grammar skills in their writing. In addition, students will practice the skills of listening and speaking through sharing of their published work.

**Math:** Students in 6th grade math will start the year focusing on basic computations, estimation, fractions, and number lines. We then move on to multi step math problems, including expressions and equations. This is followed by patterns and geometry. The year is ended with statistics and probability. Throughout each of these topics, we focus on developing number sense, critical thinking, and problem solving skills.

**Science:** Students in sixth grade will focus on earth science. We will begin the year with archaeology, rocks and minerals, and the layers of the Earth. From there, we will discuss a plethora of natural disasters like earthquakes, volcanoes, then discuss astronomy and states of matter. We will then finish the year talking about water. Throughout the year, there will also be a focus on reading and creating graphs, as well as deciphering information from other scientific readings.

**Social Studies:** Students in sixth grade social studies will be engaged in the study of world history as they examine the development of civilizations. The course is designed to allow students to observe similar and dissimilar societies to their own in such a way as to broaden their understanding of people and places in an increasingly interdependent world. Students will trace the development of human society from the ancient world to modern times. Students will explore patterns of change and continuity by focusing on the expansion and decline of civilizations, patterns of geography, and development of political, economic, and societal systems. Students will also analyze and evaluate how different civilizations have influenced the modern era. Furthermore, students will work to develop skills in identifying the meaning of words, main ideas, supporting details, cause and effect, and comparison of concepts.

## **Specials Classes**

**Art:** Students will develop drawing, painting and ceramics skills while exploring various art topics. Some topics include color wheels, graffiti art, Doodle 4 Google, optical illusions, clay techniques and fiber arts. Materials such as graphite, oil pastels, colored pencils, watercolors, clay, string and more will be used.

**Band:** Have you ever dreamed of becoming a musician and starting up your own band one day? The best way to get started is to learn a musical instrument and become a part of the school band. You will have one 20 minute lesson per week with two or three other students and you will play along with your friends in a band rehearsal every other day. You will rock!

**Choir:** Want to be the next big star? Join choir! Choir is an exploratory music class where you sing and perform all types of music from modern pop songs, classical music, and music from around the world. There are plenty of opportunities for solos and fun, including going to Singing in Wisconsin and auditions for State Honors project in Madison.

**FACS:** Learn about families, food, nutrition, and cooking. You will also get in the kitchen and show off your cooking skills.

**General Music:** Learn about rhythm and melody through a variety of hands-on experiences including African drumming ensembles and playing soprano recorders.

**Health:** Students will be introduced to the dimensions of health and build skills and knowledge in each of the dimensions. Through the units, students will learn how to communicate effectively with friends, peers, and family members in various situations. Also, students will learn how to stand up to peer pressure, increase self esteem, practice goal setting, and be given the tools to apply decision making models in the tough situations they may find themselves in.

**Phy Ed:** You will change your clothes for PE class. We will do activities that will foster skill and strategic development. This will be done through individual, small group, and large group activities. Fitness activities will be incorporated in daily PE classes as well as fitness testing on a monthly basis. We will be working on setting and tracking your personal fitness data to achieve overall personal fitness goals.

**Agriculture & Technology Education 6:** Launch and learn with a pneumatic(air) and water powered rocket that can soar to hundreds of feet high. Use your “inch increment fold” to help you and your team build the correctly dimensioned paper platform or wood truss bridges that can hold hundreds of pounds. And whose aluminum barge will ‘ship’ the greatest number of pennies? As time permits, students choose from one of several projects like PVC Bluebird Houses (look like a Paper Birch tree), Jacob’s Ladder toys, Roman Arch Challenge, or other basic woods/plastics projects to learn proper and safe use of a variety of hand, electric, pneumatic powered tools and equipment.

**Agriculture Science – Everyday Agriculture:** The purpose of this class is to introduce students to the many ways that agriculture impacts their lives on a daily basis. Very few students in today's society have had direct contact with farming and food production. Even fewer have an understanding of the broad blanket of industry and career paths that are directly related to agriculture. Broad areas of agriculture will be presented and career pathways will be introduced and expanded upon. Each avenue of agriculture explored in this course is expanded upon in the agriculture science classes available as an elective to students at the middle and high school.

**AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination):** Are you determined to attend a technical college or university? Do you have goals you are driven to achieve? AVID holds students accountable to the highest standards while providing academic and social support. AVID focuses on closing the achievement gap, making college access and success available to all students. Students are chosen through an application and selection process. This class meets everyday for the entire school year and will happen during the Academy time slot.