

## SIXTH GRADE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

### Core Academics

#### **English Language Arts:**

##### ***Language Arts 6 - #01006***

*Language Arts 6* is based on the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) for sixth grade. This course integrates listening, speaking, writing and reading with an emphasis on literary analysis. Students read narrative and informational text and analyze their structure, elements, and style. Vocabulary strategies are taught and reinforced through a variety of literature. Using the writing process and the six traits of writing, students write narrative and expository pieces, such as a personal narrative and the argumentative essay. The mechanics of writing, including sentence structure, spelling and grammar, are taught and reinforced through student writing. Students develop speaking and listening skills by participating in group discussions and oral presentations.

#### **Mathematics:**

##### ***Mathematics 6 - #04006***

*Mathematics 6* is based on the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) for sixth grade mathematics. Students continue to develop algebraic reasoning, computer basic operations with integers, decimals, fractions and percent. Students expand on their understanding of ratios, statistics and probability. In their study of geometry, students create and interpret graphs and tables and find patterns in number sequences. Students find volume and surface area of shapes.

##### ***Accelerated Mathematics 6 - #04016***

Students may be recommended for *Accelerated Mathematics 6*, based on mathematics scores, common assessment scores and a mathematics abilities test. From the sixth grade curriculum, students develop algebraic reasoning including equations and inequalities, compute basic operations with integers, decimals, fractions and percent and apply it to percent of increase and decrease. Students expand on their understanding of ratios, by exploring rates, similarity and proportions. In their study of geometry, students create and interpret graphs and tables and find patterns in number sequences and functions. Students identify patterns in geometry and identify congruence, transformations and symmetry. Students find perimeter, volume, area and surface area of shapes. Students collect and display data in a variety of ways.

*(Students will be considered for Accelerated Mathematics 6 based on assessment scores.)*

#### **Science:**

##### ***Science 6 - #06006***

*Science 6* integrates the Michigan Science Standards for Physical Science, Life Science, and Earth and Space Science. Students focus on refining their inquiry skills and proper use of laboratory equipment and lab safety. Students investigate the properties of matter and energy through numerous lab experiences and real-life science and engineering challenges. Students identify types of chemical bonding, chemical reactions and chemical compounds. In their study of living things, students investigate the growth and development of living organisms, as well as the relationships between organisms in ecosystems. Students explain the water cycle and the interaction between living and nonliving components.

#### **Social Studies:**

##### ***World Studies 6 - #07006***

The sixth grade social studies curriculum introduces students to various regions of the world outside of the United States. Using the five themes of geography, students explore cultural and natural features that characterize each region; trace the movement of people, ideas and products and how they interact. Differences in governments and economies are examined as well as the role each plays in a global society. Units of study will be guided by essential questions that will lead to a better understanding of today's world.

### **Required Elective Course - Students will choose one Music class for the year, Band, Orchestra, or Choir**

##### ***Band 6 - #05006 – Full Year***

Music is a connection between people, building bridges in diverse populations and is essential to the human experience. In 6<sup>th</sup> grade band, students will learn the proper assembly, care, and maintenance of their instruments while applying proper posture and embouchure in order to produce a quality sound. Critical thinking skills are engaged through the exploration of music theory concepts such as note reading and rhythm analysis and students participate in the creative process through the performance of concert band and popular music. Ensemble skills are explored and collaboration, a 21<sup>st</sup> century skill, is highly valued. Students display the high quality work they have created in performances that take place both in and out of the classroom.

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### ***Orchestra (String Instruments) 6 - #05226 – Full Year***

Music is a connection between people, building bridges in diverse populations and is essential to the human experience. In 6<sup>th</sup> grade orchestra, students will learn the proper assembly, care, and maintenance of their string instrument while applying proper posture to produce a quality sound. Critical thinking skills are engaged through the exploration of music theory concepts such as note reading and rhythm analysis and students participate in the creative process through the performance of instrumental music. Ensemble skills are explored and collaboration, a 21<sup>st</sup> century skill, is highly valued. Students display the high quality work they have created in performances that take place both in and out of the classroom.

### ***Choir 6 - #05106 – Full Year***

Music challenges students to cultivate self-expression and grow in intelligence. Sixth Grade Choir provides a dynamic learning environment where students engage in various experiences that develop 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills. Group and individual activities foster creativity through problem solving and critical thinking. Students will learn appropriate vocal techniques (voice placement, vocal register, body-alignment, tone, pitch, and projection) and strategies to maintain appropriate vocal health. Students collaborate to explore many styles of music through performance, creating, listening, describing and reading music while learning to recognize the value of music and its relationship to other fields of study.

## **Semester Long Electives**

### ***Art 6 - #05506 – One Semester***

Through the introduction of the design process, students will conceive or fashion in their mind a concept, leading to the construction of a tangible, portfolio-ready product. Students will be introduced to basic art foundations through experimentation in drawing, design, painting, and sculpture. Along with this introduction, students begin to recognize the value of seeing the connection of art to designing, crafting, engineering, etc. With this exposure to the design process, students will learn to solve problems and understand the influence that creative and innovative design has on their lives and the lives of others. Starting in 6<sup>th</sup> grade, various opportunities will be presented to expose students to careers in art through guest speakers, field trips, and university contacts.

### ***Global Digital Leadership - #09016 – One Semester***

Students in this course will develop a positive mindset that creates a strong purpose in school by utilizing technology and leadership activities. This course will provide technology skills for students to use when they engage in projects, presentations, and online activities. Additionally in this course, students will expand their leadership abilities through collaboration, creative thinking, and presentation skills. Students will connect with local and global communities to create authentic learning experiences.

### ***Introduction to World Languages - #02208 – One Semester***

Introduction to World Languages is a 20-week class that provides positive exposure to language learning with emphasis on listening comprehension, speaking on a limited but meaningful basis, and learning about the cultures of the people who speak Spanish, French, German and Chinese. Students explore the role of World Languages in career choices and build readiness for language. Students expand their understanding and application of basic vocabulary, basic conversation, general pronunciation rules, the writing system and cultural information. Students reflect on the similarities and differences among the four languages studied and English. Students develop vocabulary of terms such as days of the week, months of the year and personal descriptions. Students practice conversations involving greetings, introductions, leave takings, courtesy expressions and asking and answering simple questions

### ***Physical Education 6 - #03006 – One Semester***

In *Physical Education 6*, students participate in a variety of activities to meet Michigan's Content Expectations for Sixth Grade Physical Education. Students learn motor skills and movement patterns used in such sports as basketball, soccer and rugby. Students learn the rules and scoring for team and individual sports, such as tennis and volleyball. Students analyze their own fitness levels to determine fitness goals. To better understand sportsmanship, students explore personal and social behaviors that enhance participating in a sport.

### ***STEM 6 (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) - #08306 – One Semester***

In this course students will be challenged to design and create innovative solutions to solve contemporary problems by developing their creativity and critical thinking skills. Students explore and collaborate through highly interactive projects incorporating concepts of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Projects produced using engaging activities like robotics, coding, and building structures will be presented to an authentic audience throughout the course. Through these activities students grow in confidence and curiosity while gaining the necessary skills for Twenty-first Century Careers.