

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

## Year-long Elective

### Band

This course is designed as a continuation of 5th grade band. Students will perform several concerts during the school year, as well as other enrichment opportunities. The focus in class will be on ensemble playing, learning how to rehearse as a large group, music theory, and musicianship. Students will need to sign a contract in the beginning of the year that states the requirements and commitment needed.

Approval by Ms. Coughlin

## Semester-long Elective

### Chorus

Chorus is a performance-based class in which music from a wide variety of styles, cultures, and time periods will be studied and performed. Students will learn proper vocal production and technique, music reading skills, sight-singing skills, and performance skills. This course will also provide opportunities for growth in the understanding of musical elements (i.e. rhythm, melody, form, harmony, expressive elements, and style) as applied to the music performed. Students will perform in several concert performances during the year and also have the opportunity to sing solos and participate in small ensembles.

### Advanced Chorus (combined grades 6-8)

Students must audition for this class.

## Quarterly Elective Wheel: Compromised of four electives, one per quarter, picked at random.

### Art

This course is filled with projects and activities that will boost your critical thinking habits, improve your collaborative participation, grow your creativity and develop your communication skills through making, writing and talking about art and art history. Classes are designed as an introduction to all forms of visual communication including drawing, painting, ceramics, printmaking, 3D sculpture, and digital art/technology.

### Broadcast Journalism

This course will introduce students to the basics of Broadcast Journalism. Content includes writing, reporting, producing, and anchoring news stories. Throughout the course, an emphasis will be placed on hands on production of student created newscasts. In addition, through Extension Projects, students will learn how to be a consumer of news as they evaluate stories, news mediums and learn about the history of journalism.

*\*Steam certificate eligible\**

### Culinary Science (Intro)

This course will teach basic cooking skills while examining how science is infused in recipes. The quarter is divided in 3 mini units of Earth, Physical and Life Science. Through each unit we will uncover how heat, chemistry and living things are involved in creating delicious food!

### Drama

This course will introduce the basics of stage acting, theatrical concepts, theatre history and vocabulary. The class will provide a foundation for students to effectively begin the art of character development while engaging in physical, mental, and vocal acting techniques including improvisation, movement, and storytelling. Through games and exercises and small group performance projects, students will learn to build confidence and trust, stimulate imagination and creativity, with an emphasis on believability in a supportive class environment.

## **STEAM 6: Flight & Space**

This course is an introduction to the Project Lead the Way (PLTW) Gateway program. We will talk about what STEAM is and why it's important. We will learn what engineers do and we will learn the engineering design process. We will explore the tools engineers use including: 3D modeling software like Autodesk inventor, and 3D printers. Then, the exciting world of aerospace comes alive through Flight & Space. During this unit, we delve into the history of flight and space, discover the science behind aeronautics, and explore traveling and living in space. Students are then challenged to use their knowledge to design, model, and test a Mars rover.

*\*Steam certificate eligible\**

## **SOAR Study Skills**

Students will learn academic study skills such as time management, note taking, textbook reading, library research, and maintaining the SOAR binders. Class and textbook notes, time managements calendars, assignments, and homework are kept in the SOAR binders, which organize the students' daily routines. Students will also learn how to set SMART goals, how to utilize technology to help organize and plan, and how to prioritize activities. Students will read from Sean Covey's book, "6 Habits of Highly Effective Teens" and apply core principles from this book to their own lives, including an in-depth examination of the "7 Habits of highly effective people." SOAR will also provide students with motivational and team building opportunities that will help them create tools for success in middle school.

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*Other electives may be added to the wheel.*

## **\*STEAM Certificate\***

The STEAM Certificate is for students who are passionate about the science, technology, engineering, and math area and take courses that line up within this category. In order to receive this certificate, a student must take at least 1 of the courses that fall within this category, every year. The course would need to be taken once at each grade level, either quarter, semester, or yearlong, depending on the grade level and class.

The STEAM certificate option isn't binding for 3 years. It helps us determine who gets priority in obtaining those classes in case they are full. Students can always decide if it's not for them and have no penalty (cannot drop mid-quarter). The certificate merely acknowledges participation in the program for 3 years.

In 6<sup>th</sup> grade, most of these electives are quarter long, so a 6<sup>th</sup> grader needs to complete only 1 quarter of a STEAM elective to qualify for the 3-year certificate.

The classes within this category are: steam, broadcast journalism (including tiger news), and robotics.

## **Dance P.E. –Yearlong –grades 7-8 (TBD 6<sup>th</sup> grade)**

This course is designed for 7th and 8th grade students who are interested in dance, movement, expression, nonverbal communication, choreography, and dance history. In this course, students become aware of the expressive capabilities of the physical body. Elements of dance and expression are explored through a variety of dance genres (i.e. ballet, jazz, modern, hip hop). Students are expected to recognize and perform different genres of dance, understand the evolution of dance throughout the decades, and successfully articulate concepts and stories through group choreography. This class replaces general PE and fulfills the class requirement, including the Physical Fitness Test.