

6th Grade Elective Course Descriptions

Exploratory Wheel (6): This course consists of four different quarters of exploration that students will rotate through during the course of their 6th grade year: Visual Art, Creative Writing, Music Exploration, and Middle School 101. During the Visual Art rotation, students will work with multiple art mediums and create drawings, paintings, and sculptures. During the Creative Writing rotation, students will learn about and practice fun types of writing like a Studio C script and a Fractured Fairy Tale (just to name a few). Students will leave with a brain full of creative writing tools and tricks! During the Music Exploration rotation, students will learn the basics of reading music, singing, and playing the ukulele. During the Middle School 101 rotation, students will work on developing the necessary skills needed to navigate middle school successfully. Organization, self-advocacy, note-taking, time-management, prioritization, self-regulation and study habits are all included. This course has a \$20 fee.

Band 1 (6-8): No previous musical experience is required for this course. This is a beginning band course offered for students who want to learn the flute, clarinet, oboe, bassoon, trumpet, French horn, trombone, baritone, tuba, saxophone, or percussion instruments. We focus on playing mallet percussion instruments, not touching a drum until January at the earliest. This class will focus on playing their chosen instrument, reading music, and relationships between music and other areas of the core curriculum. Students will need an instrument, method book (provided by the school), pencil, reeds (for clarinets, oboe, saxophone, and bassoon), valve oil and slide grease (for trumpets, horn, baritone, tuba), and slide oil (for trombone), and a cleaning rag or swab for their instrument. The larger brass instruments (tuba, baritone, a few trombones) are available to rent from the school based on financial need first, then on a first-come, first-served basis for all remaining instruments. This course has a \$20 fee.

Percussion (6-8): Prerequisite: Instructor Approval

Percussion ensemble (Band 2) is an intermediate to advanced percussion group. Students in this ensemble perform with the symphonic band as well as on their own. Students will perform many times throughout the year both during the school day and at evening events. These students are expected to practice, which may require time after school on the instruments. Students are required to have a mallet bag (a pair of yarn mallets, a pair of rubber mallets, a pair of timpani mallets, and a pair of drumsticks), pencil, and their music. Any sixth grade student wishing to participate in the percussion ensemble must audition for Mrs. Perkins before registering. Auditions will include B flat and E flat major scales, a prepared piece, and sight-reading. The auditions are used to make sure that students are placed within the correct performing group. This course has a \$20 fee.

Symphonic Band (6-8): Prerequisite: Audition/Interview

The symphonic band is the intermediate to advanced level band course focusing on ensemble performance. This course performs frequently during and outside of class time. Each performance is vital to the student's grade. An instrument, method book, and pencil are required for this course. Tuba, euphonium/baritone, French horn, baritone saxophone, oboe, and bassoons are all available to rent from the school for a low fee on a first-come, first-served basis. Students wishing to participate in this class must have participated in school for at least one year, or taken lessons privately. Any sixth grade student wishing to participate in the symphonic band must audition for Mrs. Perkins before registering. The audition will include playing B flat Major and E flat Major scales in one octave, a prepared piece, and sight-reading. The auditions are used to make sure that students are placed within the correct performing group. This course has a \$20 fee.

Orchestra 1 (6-8): No previous musical experience is required for this course. This is a beginning course for students who would like to play the violin, viola, cello, or string bass. This class will focus on playing their chosen instrument, reading music, and relationships between music and other areas of the core curriculum. Students will focus on learning how to play string instruments, read music, and just having a good time learning more about music in our world. Students will need an instrument, method book (provided by the school), pencil, and rosin (for their bow). Students wanting to play the cello or bass may rent the instrument from the school for a very low fee based on financial need first, then on a first-come, first-served basis. This course has a \$20 fee.

Orchestra 2 (6-8): Prerequisite: Audition/Instructor Approval

This is an intermediate to advanced level orchestra course focusing on ensemble performance. This course does perform frequently during and outside of class time, and these performances are an important part of the student's grade. An instrument, method book, pencil, and shoulder rest (for violin and viola) are required for this class. Cellos and basses are available to rent from the school at a low fee on a first-come, first-served basis. Students wishing to participate in this course must have participated in school orchestra for at least one year, or taken lessons privately. Any sixth grade student wishing to participate in Orchestra 2 must audition for Mrs. Perkins before registering. The audition will include playing G Major and D Major scales, a prepared piece, and sight-reading. This course has a \$20 fee.