



WMS 6th Grade Course Descriptions 2018-19

Waconia Middle School's 6th grade students experience a six period school day. Three of the periods are dedicated to daily, 78 minute CORE classes in Language Arts, Math, Science and Social Studies (Science and Social Studies are each one semester). The other three periods of the day are dedicated to three, 45 minute ENCORE classes that may include Vocal Music, Band, General Music, Prescribed Learning Period (PLP), Physical Education/Health, French or Spanish, and Exploratory courses. Required exploratory courses include Computers 6 and Industrial Technology STEM 6.

◆ Core Academic Classes

LANGUAGE ARTS & LITERATURE 6: This course will challenge students to engage in literary texts, analyze what they read and make connections to their lives and the world around them. It will cover the standards of reading, writing, speaking, listening and viewing. Students will study the characteristics of each literary genre (fiction, drama, poetry, and nonfiction) through both reading and writing. The curriculum includes young adult and classic works, and students are required to independently read from a wide array of genres. Particular emphasis will be placed on active reading skills and strategies as well as analyzing the structures and terminology of fiction and nonfiction texts. In addition, vocabulary instruction will develop student awareness of prefixes, roots and suffixes. The focus of writing for the year will be on personal narrative, persuasive and expository writing.

MATH 6: All 6th grade math courses place a strong focus on computation and application of ratios, fractions, decimals, and percents, as well as experiences with algebra, geometry, and probability.

Students entering sixth grade do not have an elective option for math courses at Waconia Middle School. Students are identified and placed in double accelerated, single accelerated or standard math courses based on composite and growth scores on standardized assessments. Scores are reviewed annually to ensure the pace of learning is meeting the needs of all students. Each year some students are added and removed from Accelerated Math sections. Notification of accelerated placement is sent to students and families by mail in June.

SOCIAL STUDIES 6: All students in sixth grade will be scheduled for one semester of sixth grade social studies. Topics include mapping and Minnesota history from the first known settlers to today. We will examine world events and how Minnesota was affected. Curriculum, course content, and learning activities are aligned with MN State Standards.

SCIENCE 6: All students in sixth grade will be scheduled for one semester of sixth grade science. Topics include the scientific method, measurement and the metric system, technology, motion, forces, and energy, matter, magnetism, electricity, sound, and light. Curriculum, course content, and learning activities are aligned with MN State Standards.

❖ Music and PLP Encore Block

BAND 6: Band is a yearlong course meeting on alternating days throughout the school year. It offers members the opportunity for continued musical growth and sequential skill development in both a large and a small ensemble playing experience. Students will perform and play exciting music of various styles and genres. Individual growth and achievement are encouraged through participation in band class as well as small group lessons that meet on a rotating cycle. Students will perform 3-4 concerts throughout the school year. Students participating in seventh grade band also have the opportunity to be involved in jazz band, percussion ensemble, honor bands, solo and ensemble festivals, and other musical opportunities. 6th grade band is a continuation of 5th grade band - students wanting to join in 6th grade band as a new player should contact the band directors to get started! Grading is based on an A-F scale.

CHOIR 6: Choir classes meet on alternating days throughout the school year. This year long commitment will provide great growth in the students' singing strength and music reading skills. Choir is a great place to sing in a group in an energetic setting! If students want to prepare themselves for solo work or large group singing in the future or they just like music, then this is class for them. Choirs will perform in three local school performances. There are other opportunities to perform like showing us your favorite song in class on "Performance Days," "Ultimate Karaoke," or "Name that Tune" with your friends. You could also audition for concert solos, MN State Level Honor Choirs, and prepare for our Waconia Show Choirs! Choir is a great place to grow musically, express yourself, and take advantage of our nationally known music programs in Waconia!

GENERAL MUSIC 6: General music class meet on alternating days throughout the school year. This course gives students a general overview of many different areas of music. Units may include pitch and rhythm basics, bucket drumming, piano, guitar and music history. Students are graded on accurate practicing and performing, individual and group projects and presentations, and in-class assignments and quizzes.

PRESCRIBED LEARNING PERIOD (PLP) 6:

Students that do not elect both band and choir will have one alternating day PLP class opposite their band, choir, or general music class. Students that elect both band and choir will not have a PLP class.

General PLP Classes

- General PLP topics and teachers may change each quarter or semester and are designed to provide students with learning activities that provide academic enrichment. Topics of the General PLP classes vary by teacher and are planned extension activities in a variety of curricular areas. General PLP is not a study hall to complete homework from other courses and students will not be assigned homework in PLP. General PLP classes are ungraded with classroom citizenship and active participation being the daily expectation.

Targeted PLP Classes

- Students that require Special Education or English Language Learner services according to their individualized education plan may be scheduled for a specialized PLP class with a licensed special education or english language learner teacher. Individualized PLP classes are graded as Pass or Fail based on classroom citizenship and active participation.
- Students identified by standardized test scores and/or teacher recommendation as needing additional reading or math support will be scheduled into Skills PLP classes to receive additional basic skills support in math and/or reading. Skills PLP classes are ungraded with classroom citizenship and active participation being the expectation.
- Students identified as gifted and talented (GT), according to ISD 110 identification standards, will be placed in a GT PLP to receive GT services with GT trained staff. GT PLP classes are ungraded with classroom citizenship and active participation being the expectation.

◆ Physical Education/Health

DAILY PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND HEALTH 6: Daily PE is required throughout the year in 6th grade. Physical education provides students with an opportunity for physical activity during the school day. Students will have the opportunity to participate in a program consisting of skill development, lead up games, team sports, lifetime games, swimming and physical fitness activities. The students receive instruction in rules, skills, and strategies associated with the different sports. Fitness testing is done twice a year to guide physical conditioning activities. The program promotes Core Values as well as the spirit of cooperation, leadership, fair play and friendly competition.

◆ Exploratory Encore Block

FRENCH 6: Sixth grade French is a semester length class that will meet over the course of two quarters. This course is taught using a combination of Comprehensible Input (CI) and Teaching Proficiency through Reading and Storytelling (TPRS), which will be used daily. The goal of class is to have real and immediate communication in French. In order to do this, we will act, dance, sing, and create other silly things together! It is a participation based class and school attendance is important. Upon successful completion of this course, students will be prepared to continue with seventh grade French.

SPANISH 6: Sixth grade Spanish is a semester length class that will meet over the course of two quarters. This course is taught using a combination of Comprehensible Input (CI) and Teaching Proficiency through Reading and Storytelling (TPRS), which will be used daily. The goal of class is to have real and immediate communication in Spanish. In order to do this, we will act, dance, sing, and create other silly things together! It is a participation based class and solid school attendance is important. Upon successful completion of this course, students will be prepared to continue with seventh grade Spanish.

INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY/ STEM 6: Sixth grade Industrial Technology is a quarter length class. Students will be introduced to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) concepts and how these relate to the real world. This course takes on an interdisciplinary approach to STEM topics and allows students to explore each of the STEM disciplines through a nationally accredited curriculum, Project Lead The Way. Students will attain knowledge of the engineering field, the engineering design process, measurement, sketching, and 3-D modeling. Throughout the length of this course students will develop and use 21st century skills including problem solving, critical thinking, technological literacy, innovation, and collaboration. SketchUp and GeoGebra are 3-D modeling systems that are used during this course, allowing students to apply design and engineering concepts to create a variety of 3-D models on the computer. This course supports the engineering curriculum at the middle and high school level.

COMPUTER 6: This one quarter class is designed to teach students proper keyboarding technique, how to master the skill of touch-typing using proper finger placement, and to familiarize students with the alphabetic/numeric keyboard. Students will learn proper keying techniques to build accuracy and speed.

Waconia Middle School Course Election Worksheet

2018-19 6th Grade Classes

Student Name (First and Last): _____

Homeroom Teacher or Previous School: _____

**Elected courses are a commitment for the school year. Please read through the course descriptions carefully to assist you in making your course election decisions.*

*COURSES REQUIRING ELECTION

Music and PLP Encore Block (Full Year)

CIRCLE ONE OPTION BELOW

1. Band 6 and Choir 6
2. Band 6 and PLP
3. Choir 6 and PLP
4. General Music 6 and PLP

World Language Election (2 quarters)

CIRCLE ONE OPTION BELOW

1. Spanish 6
3. French 6

*REQUIRED COURSES

Core Math

Full Year (Placement based on identification criteria)

Math 6- Placed
Accelerated Math 6- Placed
Double Accelerated Math 6- Placed

Core Language Arts & Literature 6

Full Year

Language Arts & Literature 6- Required

Core Social Studies

Semester length class

Social Studies 6- Required

Core Science

Semester length class

Science 6- Required

Physical Education/Health 6

Full year

Science 6- Required

Exploratory Encore Block

One required each quarter

Industrial Technology/STEM 6- Required
Computer 6- Required

Parent or Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

Scheduling Questions?

Counselors Mrs. Deren (sderen@isd110.org) or Mrs. Henslin (phenslin@isd110.org)

Principal Mr. Clausen (sclausen@isd110.org) or Assistant Principal Mr. Baune (kbaune@isd110.org)