

H C M S

CHOICES

**Hill Country
Middle School**

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Sixth Grade Course Description Guide

Making the right decisions now can guarantee the very best and most satisfying education. Through careful study of the course offerings at the middle school level, you and your parents can make choices based on instructional needs, special interests, and the goals you have set for yourself.

All sixth graders must take seven classes per day all year long. The courses are:

- English
- Math
- Science
- Social Studies
- PE
- Exploratory WHEEL
- Music Elective

CORE ACADEMIC COURSES - 6TH GRADE

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

English Language Arts - This course is an enhanced, analytical approach to the study of language, literature, and writing, including the development of listening and speaking skills. Students will focus on grammar, vocabulary, analogies, literary elements, and written composition in a variety of modes. Critical thinking skills will be developed through a wide variety of diverse materials including classical and contemporary literature and informational texts.

English Language Arts Pre-AP - The class will extend the study of grammar, vocabulary, literary elements, and written composition in a variety of modes, expanding on the English curriculum with higher levels of application. Successful Pre-AP students read above grade level, demonstrate abstract and higher-level thinking skills, take responsibility for a larger volume of work, and are self-motivated for independent reading and writing assignments.

MATH

Math Placement Process:

Fifth grade teachers place students in the appropriate math instructional level. All students are evaluated on classroom performance, grades and standardized test scores. Assessments will occur in the spring.

Math 6 - is an on-grade level mathematics course guided by the Grade 6 Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills. The primary focus areas of this math course concentrate on number and operations; proportionality; expressions, equations & relationships; and measurement & data. Students will become fluent in integer operations and multiplying and dividing positive rational numbers. Mental math and estimation are stressed, and calculators are utilized to some extent.

Math 6/7 - This is an accelerated program designed to prepare the student to eventually study Algebra I in the eighth grade. This course consists of 6th and 7th grade TEKS and will have a strong emphasis on relating math to the real world through critical thinking and mathematical reasoning. Because this is combining 6th and 7th grade curricula, it is a fast paced course that covers number and operations; proportionality; expressions, equations & relationships; and measurement & data. Students will become fluent in all operations of rational numbers. *Students will be expected to score 80% or higher on major assessments.*

Math 7 Pre-AP

Prerequisite: 5/6 Compacted Math

Math 7 Pre-AP is an on grade level academically advanced course designed to challenge students to understand rigorous content guided by the Grade 7 Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills. Math 7 Pre-AP is different in pace, depth, breadth, and/or complexity than Math 7 curriculum. The primary focus areas in Grade 7 Pre-AP are number and operations; proportionality; expressions, equations, and relationships; and measurement and data. Students will become fluent in all operations of rational numbers.

SCIENCE

Science 6 focuses on earth and physical science. Students utilize scientific investigations and reasoning to explore the natural world. Content covers the foundational knowledge in chemistry, physics, biology, geology, and earth & space science. Students utilize scientific investigations and reasoning to explore the natural world.

SOCIAL STUDIES

This course focuses on the study of people, places, and societies of the contemporary world. Societies for study are from the following regions of the world: Europe, Russia and the Eurasian republics, North America, Central America and the Caribbean, South America, Southwest Asia-North Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, East Asia, Southeast Asia, Australia, and the Pacific realm. Students describe the influence of individuals and groups on historical and contemporary events in those societies and identify the locations and geographic characteristics of various societies. Students also participate in academic research and in a variety of projects.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION/HEALTH (every day, all year)

The sixth grade physical education program concentrates on mastering basic motor skills used in most team sports. Sportsmanship, history of sport, and a working knowledge of cardio-respiratory fitness are included. Team sports include volleyball, soccer, flag football, handball, basketball, softball, floor hockey, and various modified games. Instruction is also provided in two major health units: Self-Responsibility (sex education curriculum) and Wellness. Grades are based on participation and written work.

PE WAIVERS ARE NOT AVAILABLE FOR 6TH GRADE STUDENTS. Students will have P.E. each day of the school year. PE uniforms are required (cost of \$20).

EXPLORATORY WHEEL Students rotate through twelve weeks of instruction for each:

Art - Art students will be involved in learning the techniques of drawing, painting, mixed media, computer art, and design, as well as ceramics and jewelry making. Students will explore art appreciation, art history, careers in art and cultural artworks through group discussions.

Computer Literacy - Formatting skills for educational projects will be emphasized with Microsoft Office being the primary software. Students will practice keyboarding skills while learning new technology skills and programs.

Drama - Drama explores puppetry, movement, mime, mask making, improvisation, dramatic storytelling, audience etiquette, and theatre appreciation.

MUSIC ELECTIVES - All selections are FULL-YEAR Courses

BAND is for students who have no previous training playing a woodwind, brass or percussion instrument. It is divided into like-instrument classes of flute, oboe, bassoon, clarinet, alto saxophone, trumpet, French horn, trombone and baritone/tuba. Instrument selection is under the advisement of the band directors. Students will receive training in the basics of tone production, instrumental technique, music reading, personal responsibility and collaboration with other musicians. Beginning Band students will be expected to participate in 3-4 evening performances, school assemblies and one solo & ensemble opportunity during the school year.

CHOIR is for students interesting in singing. Students will receive training in basic skills including healthy vocal production, music reading, part singing, personal responsibility and collaboration with other musicians. Choir students will be expected to participate in multiple evening performances and school assemblies during the school year.

ORCHESTRA is for students who have little or no training on traditional string instruments and includes instruction on violin, viola, cello, bass or harp. The campus orchestra teacher will assist in the selection of the specific instrument. Students will receive training in the basics of hand position, tone production, instrumental technique, music reading, personal responsibility and collaboration with other musicians. Orchestra students will be expected to participate in multiple evening performances and school assemblies during the school year.

GENERAL INFORMATION

READING SEMINAR

This class is for students who exhibit characteristics associated with dyslexia or reading disability and need small-group, intensive, multi-sensory methods in order to succeed in the areas of reading and writing. The Wilson Language Program is the primary intervention used in this class. Placement in the course should result from the Student Support Team recommendation, dyslexia specialist recommendation or counselor consultation. The student should expect to be enrolled in the program a minimum of one year and may be enrolled for three years if needed. Reading Seminar replaces one of the student's elective choices. This class is not a substitute for an English class.

Special Education - Students in special education will be placed by an ARD (admission, review, dismissal) committee decision.

Gifted and Talented - The focus of the GT program is to serve students who have instructional needs due to exceptional potential in both intellectual and creative abilities. If you are new to the district or wish to be considered for the program, a formal assessment is required by EISD. This takes place at the beginning of each year. GT students will be served through the social studies classes.

High School Credit Courses - All high school credit courses will be reflected on the high school transcript but will not be calculated in the grade point average.