

6TH GRADE COURSE SELECTION SHEET

Name _____ School _____ Teacher _____

****Social Studies, Science, Rotation (10 weeks each of Art, Engineering Tech, PE and Skills for Living) and A2 have been pre-selected. Select your other courses by completing steps 1-4.**

Step 1 Choose This 6th Grade Language Arts Course

Choose Language Arts (LA6).

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Course Name	Number	Prerequisite Note
<input type="checkbox"/> Lang Arts 6	LA6	

Return to your 5th Grade
Teacher By:

Step 2 Choose One 6th Grade Math Course

Please follow the recommendation of your current math teacher when selecting the math class for next year.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Course Name	Number	Prerequisite Note
<input type="checkbox"/> Adv Math 6	AMA6	Advanced Math level. Teacher recommendation is required.
<input type="checkbox"/> Math 6	MATH6	Teacher recommendation is required.

Step 3 Choose 6th Grade Elective Courses

Students must select **TWO every other day** classes. If students select AARI, they must additionally select it below.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Course Name	Number	Prerequisite Note
<input type="checkbox"/> Band 6	BAND6	This is an every other day class.
<input type="checkbox"/> Chinese 6	CHIN6	This is an every other day class.
<input type="checkbox"/> Choir 6	CHOIR6	This is an every other day class.
<input type="checkbox"/> French 6	FREN6	This is an every other day class.
<input type="checkbox"/> Literacy 6	LITRS6	Teacher recommendation is required. This is an every other day class.
<input type="checkbox"/> Math Lab 6	MTHLAB6	Teacher recommendation is required. This is an every other day class.
<input type="checkbox"/> Music Stat 6	MUSIC6	This is an every other day class.
<input type="checkbox"/> Orchestra 6	ORCH6	This is an every other day class.
<input type="checkbox"/> PE6 Eod	PE6EOD	This is in addition to your 10 week required PE class in your rotation. This is an every other day class.
<input type="checkbox"/> Reading Enr6	RE6	This is an every other day class.
<input type="checkbox"/> Spanish 6	SPAN6	This is an every other day class.
<input type="checkbox"/> Strategies 6	Strat6	Teacher recommendation required. This is an every other day class.
<input type="checkbox"/> AARI	AARI	Teacher recommendation required. This is an everyday class for 1 semester (20 weeks).

Step 4 Choose 6th Grade Alternate Elective Courses

All elective combinations are not possible, so please carefully select **2 NEW** alternates. **DO NOT** include electives already selected.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Course Name	Number	Prerequisite Note
<input type="checkbox"/> Band 6	BAND6	This is an every other day class.
<input type="checkbox"/> Chinese 6	CHIN6	This is an every other day class.
<input type="checkbox"/> Choir 6	CHOIR6	This is an every other day class.
<input type="checkbox"/> French 6	FREN6	This is an every other day class.
<input type="checkbox"/> Music Stat 6	MUSIC6	This is an every other day class.
<input type="checkbox"/> Orchestra 6	ORCH6	This is an every other day class.
<input type="checkbox"/> PE6 Eod	PE6EOD	This is in addition to your 10 week required PE class in your rotation. This is an every other day class.
<input type="checkbox"/> Reading Enr6	RE6	This is an every other day class.
<input type="checkbox"/> Spanish 6	SPAN6	This is an every other day class.

Parent/guardian signature: _____ Parent/guardian phone #: _____

Date: _____ Last, write out a password for student's PowerSchool- it must be at least 8 characters, contain at least one uppercase letter, at least one lowercase letter, at least one number and at least one special character.

(Example: dragonSarah22!)

My student's PowerSchool password: _____

***Please write this password in a safe place so you and your child can have it for next year. Thank you!

* 99% of schedule change requests to a counselor will not be considered unless they meet the below criteria. Therefore, please make sure you carefully select classes of your interest. Go Dragons!

Can I change my schedule?

YES!

I am missing a core class

There is a blank spot on my schedule

I am not in the right placement. (AP/Honors)

I did not register for an elective. I received (*subject to change).

NO!

I want to change my teacher

I want a different lunch

I want to be with my friends

I want P.E to be a different hour

REQUIRED COURSES-ALL YEAR

Language Arts

Students will continue to develop reading, writing, speaking, listening and following direction skills. Students will increase their ability to analyze and synthesize information, increase their reading ability and become more proficient writers through a variety of genres including informational, narrative, and argumentative. Grammar and mechanics will be taught in connection to an anchor text where the student will learn from analyzing published authors. Each text will end with an accompanying capstone writing piece. In-class presentations will strengthen student speaking and listening skills.

Social Studies

Throughout this year, students will engage in a deeper understanding of ancient history through the study of various river valley civilizations and Afro-Eurasian empires. They will explore the different types of evidence that social scientists use to learn about humans in the distant past. Students will, also, examine the world's five major religions--Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam--in order to better understand people and their cultural beliefs. Finally, students will investigate historical and contemporary global issues that have significance for the student and are clearly linked to the world outside the classroom.

Mathematics

Students attend a daily class period of Advanced Math or College Prep Math. Some students will also be placed in Math Lab.** Placement is based on a district math rubric comprised of the 5th grade teacher recommendation, standardized test scores, Birmingham grade level tests, student motivation, effort and commitment.

Science

Students will have the opportunity to experience introductory units on the particle nature of matter in chemistry, water's role in Earth's changes, organisms and ecosystems, as well as light and energy. While actively investigating these concepts, students will engage in the behaviors of scientists by building models and constructing explanations about their experiences.

Required Rotation

All students will rotate through the following 10 week courses:

Art (10 weeks)

The sixth grade art program is a ten week class designed as an exploration of art technologies, skills, artists, and careers. Two and three-dimensional art will be studied throughout this rotation. Art projects will include: Zentangle Portfolios, Bleach Painting, a study of Art History, Rubber Carving and Water Based Printmaking, and Sculpture. The high light of this class will be a metals project.

Required Rotation (Continued on next page)

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Engineering Technology (10 weeks)

6th Grade Engineering Technology is a ten week course. The purpose of the course is to introduce students to engineering in a fun and engaging manner. Using a hands-on approach, students are taught the fundamentals of design and manufacturing. Math, Science, Technology and Safety are introduced through a variety of activities; Students will experience Rocket and Rocket Stand construction, Grid Conversion Drawings, Computer Aided Design, T-shirt design and Computer Bridges.

Skills for Living (10 weeks)

Students will be introduced to kitchen safety, measurement, and cooking skills with opportunities to apply these skills in lab situations. Basic life skills are stressed and include working cooperatively, caring for equipment, nutrition, and following directions. Students will also learn basic hand sewing techniques and complete a sewing project in class.

Physical Education (10 weeks)

Students will participate in seasonal team and individual sports as well as curriculum-related games and team building activities. Swimming and physical fitness will also be covered.

THE FOLLOWING ELECTIVES MEET ONE PERIOD FOR THE ENTIRE SCHOOL YEAR ON AN ALTERNATING DAY BASIS (i.e.

Even and Odd Days (EOD)

PLEASE SELECT ONLY 2 OF THESE OPTIONS!

MUSIC:

Orchestra

Orchestra will focus on building a larger repertoire of string playing skills and techniques through the performance of a variety of classical and alternative styles of music. String instruments include violin, viola, cello, double bass, and piano. The orchestra will perform two major concerts during the school year. The group will plan several social events throughout the school year to build camaraderie within the group and develop teamwork concepts.

**PLEASE NOTE: If you would like to participate in orchestra as a beginner, please contact Nick Karpinsky, Director of Orchestras; NKarpinsky@birmingham.k12.mi.us at Derby Middle School in May of the previous school year.*

Band

Band will focus on building on a larger repertoire of basic skills for their instrument. Band will also perform two major concerts during the school year and have the opportunity to perform at one community event. The band will have several social events throughout the school year to build camaraderie within the group and develop teamwork concepts. The Derby Band program is recognized as one of the top band programs in the State of Michigan.

Students that did not play a band instrument in 5th grade and would like to start in 6th grade will be considered BEGINNERS. **Beginners will be limited to the following choices of instruments: trombone, baritone, tuba, French horn, and bassoon.**

**PLEASE NOTE: If you would like to participate in Band as a beginner, please contact Sarah Barclay, Director of Bands; Sbarclay@birmingham.k12.mi.us at Derby Middle School in May of the previous school year.*

Music Station

Music Station is a hands-on, project and interest-based course that can be taken in addition to (or without) choir, band, or orchestra. Opportunities for song writing, guitar, piano, and/or ukulele instruction are plentiful in this class. No prior experience is needed. All students will have the opportunity to perform or create music of their interest. Hearing from local and/or world renowned artists will also be planned for the course. Music station will strive to nurture the appreciation of the arts in every student.

Choir

Choir will focus on a wide variety of repertoire from classical, musical theatre, folk, and popular songs, some incorporating choreography. Students will learn musicianship skills and vocal technique necessary to become confident performers through daily vocal warm ups and music note reading exercises. Choir will also perform two major concerts during the school year and have the opportunity to perform at one community event. Choir will have several social events throughout the school year which builds camaraderie within the group and develop teamwork concepts. Derby choir consistently receives superior, outstanding, and excellent ratings at our choral competitions every year and is recognized as one of the top choral programs in the State of Michigan.

**PLEASE NOTE: All students are welcome to join choir. If you would like to speak with the director, please contact John Hummel, Director of Choirs; JHummel@birmingham.k12.mi.us*

WORLD LANGUAGES

Students may decide to study world language in middle school. They may select from the following:

- **Beginning Chinese**
- **Beginning French**
- **Continuing Spanish** (from their elementary program)

These languages will concentrate on the basic skills of speaking, reading, listening, grammar writing skills, and cultural awareness. A textbook and/or district created curriculum will be used accompanied by other supplementary materials.

**PLEASE NOTE: If a world language is selected in middle school you may not change to a different world language during middle school.*

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Sixth grade students will develop skills and knowledge in lifetime sports such as soccer, volleyball, basketball, floor hockey, bowling, softball and swimming. Throughout the course, they will be exposed to numerous, creative and fun team building activities such as “Lava” and “SOS”. Students will also have the opportunity to attend fitness related field trips.

**PLEASE NOTE: This is an addition to the required 10 week rotation.*

READING OPTIONS (Continued on next page)

2021- 2022 Course Descriptions – 6th Grade

Reading Enrichment 6 This course is intended for already *strong readers* to enrich their reading skills through class discussions and inquiry-based projects about literature and topics of interest. Each of these inquiry-based projects requires students to read, write, research, and practice their critical thinking skills. Some of the projects that we have previously done include: creating book movie trailers, filming book character interviews, debating topics and books of interest, writing articles for the school newspaper after conducting research on a topic, etc. Students will be also be challenged to use critical thinking skills to dig deeper into texts in order to gain a greater understanding of what they are currently reading and/or have previously read. This course *may* require students to read additional novels/texts.

Literacy RS 6 *(Teacher recommendation only)*

Literacy is a small group reading intervention that provides students with an opportunity to strengthen their vocabulary skills, practice fluency and focus on using comprehension strategies (inferring, making connections, questioning, visualizing, etc.) within narrative and informational texts. Students also have an opportunity to strengthen their writing skills through writer's workshop sessions. Students who qualify for this course are typically less than one year below grade level in reading and would benefit from additional reading instruction. There is no additional homework in this class. A certified Reading Specialist, who is a member of the district reading department, will instruct this course.

OTHER

Strategies 6 *(Teacher recommendation only)*

Strategies is a small group intervention that supports students in their particular area(s) of need such as organization, goal setting, time management, study skills, test taking and homework completion.

****Math Lab** *(by teacher recommendation only)* is taken in conjunction with College Prep Math as a separate math class, so two math classes per every other day. This class is designed to support and pre-teach concepts and skills that are being taught in the College Prep class. There is no additional homework and there are no additional assessments for this course.

*****PLEASE NOTE:** *You can only select 2 choices from the Every Other Day Year Long Classes.*

OTHER- *an everyday class for one semester (compared to the every other day, year-long classes listed above)*

AARI**** *(Teacher recommendation only)*

AARI is a semester long, everyday class of intensive intervention that accelerates reading comprehension and critical thinking in informational text. AARI emphasizes small group instruction that meets students where they are and accelerates their reading through instruction built around community, text-based inferencing and critical thinking, question/answer relationships, questioning the author and text structure. Students who qualify for this course are typically more than one year behind their peers in reading. This course is taught by a trained AARI instructor. After this course is completed, students may switch to two of the above every other day electives or two of the four rotation classes.

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