

6th Grade Elective Course Descriptions

Art

The 6th grade visual arts program is an exploratory and a participatory classroom-based hands-on learning experience with a variety of materials. Students learn in an open class where there is inquiry and collaboration of ideas of the project-based lessons. There are typically three projects per marking period. Projects vary annually and satisfy California Standards, including artistic perception; creative expression; historical and cultural context; aesthetics; connections , relationships, and application. Many lessons coincide with Montera's culture and support school-wide initiatives, such as: Montera Pride, Anti-Bullying Initiatives, Green Week, S.T.E.A.M., & more. Montera art gallery exhibitions and receptions are held at the end of each term to celebrate accomplishments of the Talented Toro Artists.

Introduction to Computer Applications

Through hands on projects, students will become skilled users of word processing, spreadsheet, and multimedia presentation software. Website design, basic programming, touch typing, internet safety (digital citizenship), and research skills and strategies will also be emphasized.

Beginning Band

For students with little or no experience (two years or less) playing a woodwind instrument. Instruments represented include the clarinet, bass clarinet, flute, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, French horn, and tuba. Students will learn the basics of playing the instruments, as well as note reading and basic music theory. Music in a variety of styles will be played. Two concerts will be given per year. Participation at after school events is mandatory.

Beginning Strings

For students with little or no experience (two years or less) playing a stringed instrument. String instruments represented include the violin, viola, cello, and bass. Students will learn the basics of playing the instruments, as well as note reading and basic music theory. Music in a variety of styles will be played. Two concerts will be given per year. Participation at after school events is mandatory.

Intermediate Band

For students with two or more years of experience playing a band instrument. Students must be able to read music and play the Bb, Eb, and Ab major scales. Students will continue to develop skills in music theory and note reading while playing a variety of music. Two concerts will be given per year after school – attendance at these events is mandatory. Other out-of-school functions will take place throughout the year which students will be asked to participate in.

Orchestra – auditions will take place this spring

For students with two or more years of experience playing a stringed instrument. Students must be able to read music and play the D, G, and C major scales to audition as 6th graders. Students will continue to develop skills in music theory and note reading while playing a variety of music. Two concerts will be given per year after school – attendance at these events is mandatory. Other out-of-school functions will take place throughout the year which students will be asked to participate in.

Orff/World Music Ensemble

Students will sing and play a variety of instruments, including body percussion, various hand drums and percussion instruments (African djembes and congas, for example), and xylophones. We will compose and improvise on music from around the world. There is no “pre-requisite” for this class. All you need is a desire to play music and discover your own inner voice and creativity through music. There will also be opportunities to explore creativity through movement and dance, but the main purpose of this course is to develop creativity through singing and playing music. All are welcome, especially those who aren’t currently involved in the school’s band or orchestra.

Leadership

Leadership is designed to encourage and empower students to make a positive impact in their school, local, and global communities. In Leadership, students get the opportunity to express their thoughts, beliefs, and identities, while also learning about important human rights issues. Not only do leadership students learn how to become compassionate and impactful leaders, but they also undertake exciting projects designed to promote social justice and improve school culture.

Man-Up

This course is designed to address the needs of African-American males with a focus on providing additional support to be successful in middle school and the prerequisite skills needed to succeed in high school and college. The curriculum addresses areas of self-management, self-awareness, responsible decision-making, and relationship skills.