

Patriot Oaks Academy
Rising 6th grade Electives and Course Information

Core Courses:

Students are automatically placed in appropriate core courses (Standard, Advanced and Gifted) based on a review of previous grades, standardized testing and in some cases, teacher and guidance recommendations, in accordance with the district's pupil progression plan. Gifted and ESE services are also provided to students who are appropriately staffed in those programs. *Please see the verification form sent home for your child and return the signed form to your child's homeroom teacher. If you have questions about the core courses your child will be enrolled in, please contact our guidance department.*

Elective Courses: Your child will have (3) non-core courses. All course are Year-Long courses.

Elective options may change based on availability and student interest. Please see course descriptions below:

- X **Physical Education** (All 6th grade students are enrolled in Phys. Ed. unless they have a specific cause to be waived from the course. Waivers are available on the District website.)
- X **ICT 1** (All 6th grade students are enrolled in this course unless there is a specific circumstance that inhibits enrollment)

Please rank electives in order of preference (1- most preferred to 3- least preferred):

- _____ **Chorus**
- _____ **2D Studio Art**
- _____ **Band 1** (Students who are interested in Band 2 [6th grade Adv. Band] must have a recommendation from Mr. Rauh)

It may not be possible to place students in their chosen electives due to constraints in the master schedule, adjusting for class size, course availability and/or enrollment in specialized courses (ie. Intensive Math, Intensive Reading, and/or specialized instruction, if offered). We will most likely NOT be able to accommodate changes once the master schedule has been created. Once the school master schedule is finalized, changes in electives are addressed by need and availability. Every effort will be made to honor requests. *Please keep an open mind when choosing electives because adjustments may cause your child to be enrolled in a course other than the one he/she chose.*

Students receiving a level 1 or 2 on the FSA Reading and/or Math could be placed in an Intensive Reading, Intensive Math and/or a Learning Strategies course in lieu of a non-core course(s). These courses are year-long and may include multiple grade levels 6-8.

Title: Physical Education (Year) This fitness course is designed for 6th grade students. The purpose of this course is to provide students with the knowledge, skills, and values they need to become healthy and physically active for a lifetime. This course addresses both the health and skill-related components of physical fitness which are critical for students' success including educational gymnastics and dance sequences in a variety of settings. "Educational" gymnastics is intended to have an emphasis on body awareness, body management, maximum participation, high success rates, and open-ended responses from students. Integrating fitness throughout the content is critical to the success of the course.

Title: M/J Chorus 1 (Year) - Students with little or no choral experience develop beginning vocal technique and skills, critical and creative thinking skills, and an appreciation of music from around the world and through time. Public performances may serve as a culmination of specific instructional goals. Students may be required to attend and/or participate in rehearsals and performances outside the school day to support, extend, and assess learning in the classroom.

Title: Band 1 (Year) - Introduction to Band, no experience necessary. **Sixth grade is the perfect time to begin Band!** Students develop foundational instrumental technique, foundational music literacy, and aesthetic musical awareness through rehearsal, performance, and study of high-quality band literature. Instrumentalists work on the fundamentals of music notation, sound production, instrument care and maintenance, and personal and group rehearsal strategies. Public performances may serve as a culmination of specific instructional goals. Students may be required to attend and/or participate in rehearsals and performances outside the school day to support, extend, and assess learning in the classroom. Cost of instrument rental and "fair play" fees, as well as fees associated with field trips, should be considered when choosing this elective.

Title: Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Essentials (part of our STEM program) (Year) - STEM is an acronym for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. The purpose of this course is to provide students with the computer, digital, and information technology skills necessary for success in their future academic and occupational goals. In addition to fundamental computer information, the content includes but is not limited to digital technologies associated with web development, multimedia, word processing, spreadsheet, database, Internet communications, cybersecurity, and computer programming. Instruction and learning activities are provided in a laboratory setting using hands-on experiences with the equipment, materials and technology appropriate to the course content and in accordance with current practices.

PLEASE TURN OVER

Title: Exploring 2D Art1 (Year) Students explore media and techniques used to create a variety of 2-D artworks through developing skills in drawing, painting, printmaking, and collage. Students practice, sketch, and manipulate the structural elements of art. Investigation of artworks from Western and non-Western cultures provide a means for students to expand their understanding and appreciation of the role of art in global culture. Student artists use an art criticism process to evaluate, explain, and measure artistic growth in personal or group works. This course incorporates hands-on activities and consumption of art materials. A \$25.00 art donation is requested for this course.

**** Consistent with all course requests, if you would like your child to take an online course at Patriot Oaks Academy during the school day, the course MUST be requested now on the Course Verification Form or by contacting our guidance counselor, Ms. Watson, prior to the registration deadline. We will NOT drop or change any course (core course or elective) after the registration period ends (**July 10th, 2017**) without going through an administrative review. An online course taken during the school day does not have on-campus teacher support, only adult supervision. The virtual teacher is not on campus. **Please contact our middle school counselor, Ms. Watson if you would like to pursue online courses (547-4060).****

I would like my child to take _____ virtually, in lieu of _____.

BLENDED (with GIFTED)

Some students may be placed, or “blended”, into gifted courses (even though they are not identified as gifted) based on standardized test scores, grades and /or teacher recommendations. The decision to be “blended” is made by administration and guidance. This option varies from year to year based upon performance and availability.

**** Please sign and return the Elective / Course Information Form to your child’s 5th grade homeroom teacher on or before March 10th, 2017. ** Thank you!**

Student Name (Please **Print**, LName, FName)

Signature of Parent

Date

Additional notes you would like to share to assist us in creating an appropriate program for your child:
