



WMS 6th Grade Course Descriptions 2019-20

Waconia Middle School's 6th grade students experience a six period school day. Three of the periods are dedicated to daily 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 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

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 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, and listening. Students will study the characteristics of different literary genres 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 narrative, persuasive, and informational 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. The Math 6 course will be centered around a flexible grouping model of instruction ensuring all students are being taught 6th grade standards at their instructional level. 6th grade students may be recommended for placement in Pre-Algebra 6 math course. Placement is based on high composite and growth scores on standardized assessments. Scores are reviewed annually to ensure the pace of learning is meeting the needs of all students. Notification of a Pre-Algebra 6 placement option 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, 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 experiences. 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 6th grade band also have the opportunity to be involved in jazz band, percussion ensemble, pep band, honor bands, solo 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 are welcome and should contact a band director to get started!

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! Choirs will perform in three local school performances. There are other opportunities 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 meets on alternating days throughout the school year. This year long course gives students a general overview of many different areas of music. Units may include pitch and rhythm basics, keyboards, ukulele, bucket drumming, and composer studies. Students are graded on accurate practicing and performing, individual and group projects and presentations, and in-class assignments, quizzes, and tests.

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, ice arena and general physical fitness activities. The students receive instruction in rules, skills, and strategies associated with the different sports. Fitness testing is done four times per 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: French 6 introduces students to the French language and culture. The goal of class is to have real and immediate communication in French. Students will develop reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills. We will address the five national language standards: communication, connections, culture, comparisons, and community. This course is taught using a combination of Comprehensible Input (CI) and Teaching Proficiency through Reading and Storytelling (TPRS), which will be used daily. Sixth grade French will meet two quarters during the school year. Classes will be scheduled in one of two combinations-- quarters one and three or quarters two and four. Upon successful completion of this course, students will be prepared to continue to seventh grade French.

SPANISH 6: Spanish 6 introduces students to the Spanish language and Latino culture. The goal of class is to have real and immediate communication in Spanish. Students will develop reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills. We will address the five national language standards: communication, connections, culture, comparisons, and community. This course is taught using a combination of Comprehensible Input (CI) and Teaching Proficiency through Reading and Storytelling (TPRS), which will be used daily. Sixth grade Spanish will meet two quarters during the school year. Classes will be scheduled in one of two combinations-- quarters one and three or quarters two and four. Upon successful completion of this course, students will be prepared to continue to 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

2019-20 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
2. French 6

***REQUIRED COURSES**

Core Math

Full Year (Placement based on identification criteria)

Math 6- Flexible Grouping Model
Pre-Algebra 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

PE/Health 6- Required

Exploratory Encore Block

One required each quarter

Industrial Technology/STEM 6- Required
Computer 6- Required

Parent or Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

Return to Homeroom Teacher by Thursday, Feb. 7, 2019

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)

