

Sixth Grade Encore Courses

Quarter Courses (9 Weeks)

Art I

Students will focus on developing skills which include drawing, painting, sculpture, ceramics, and collage. They will have the opportunity to experiment and refine skills using a variety of art media. Elements and principles of design will be emphasized in each project. (A small lab fee is required.)

6th Grade PLTW - Design and Modeling (DM)

Design and Modeling (DM) provides students opportunities to apply the design process to creatively solve problems. Students are introduced to the unit problem in the first activity and are asked to make connections to the problem throughout the lessons in the unit. Students learn and utilize methods for communicating design ideas through sketches, solid models, and mathematical models. Students will understand how models can be simulated to represent an authentic situation and generate data for further analysis and observations. Students work in teams to identify design requirements, research the topic, and engage stakeholders. (A small lab fee is required.)

6th Grade Family & Consumer Science (FACS) Exploration

This exploratory course introduces students to the Family and Consumer Science curriculum. The areas of concentration include nutrition, culinary procedures, and textile design. Students will engage in hands-on culinary and textile lab experiences, product design, and collaborative activities. An introduction to novice business skills such as promotion and determining product cost will also be integrated. (A small lab fee is required.)

6th Grade General Music

Students will take a musical journey through different time periods and cultures via listening, composing, and performing. Students will also develop written and verbal skills to analyze music to become life-long consumers of this indispensable art form.

World Languages and Cultures (WLAC)

This course is an introduction to Mandarin Chinese, German, French, and Spanish. It includes culture, geography, and the mastery of basic vocabulary and grammatical structures. Some of the areas covered by the course include greetings, classroom objects and commands, numbers, foods, alphabet and colors. The purpose of this course is to expose students to languages that they might want to take in middle or high school.

Study Skills

The content of this course will focus on six different skill areas that fall within the vast context of Study Skills. These areas include organization, time management/personal responsibility, active listening, note taking/summarizing, test-taking skills, and goal setting. Students will participate in a variety of activities in order to strengthen their skills in each of these areas of focus and learn to apply these skills to their work in other courses.

Semester Courses (18 Weeks)

Essential Technology (Required)

This course will focus on developing 21st Century Skills by incorporating technology concepts, systems, and operations. Students will be able to select and use district provided applications effectively and productively. Throughout the course, students will demonstrate creative thinking, problem solving, and collaboration. Course activities provide a pathway for students to assess and apply new technical knowledge.

Creative Technology (Required)

This course prepares students to use computer technology in an effective and creative manner. Students expand knowledge of word processing, spreadsheets, online collaboration tools, presentations, communication, web tools, and digital media software. Students will explore digital photography, illustration, video editing, audio recording, and mobile device applications. Students establish what it means to be a good digital citizen and how to use technology creatively. Students apply skills and knowledge to real life problems to communicate ideas through quality products.

Year Long Courses (36 Weeks)

6th Grade Physical Education (27 weeks) & Health (9 weeks) (Both are Required)

Physical Education plays a major role in a student's overall educational experience. All students are required to participate in Physical Education for 3 quarters (27 weeks). The program focuses on building a foundation for lifelong learning through physical activity, fitness, wellness, and team building. These components provide an opportunity for the development of each student's physical, social, and emotional well-being. Students will also participate in 6th grade Health for 1 quarter (9 weeks). Health covers the different aspects of physical, mental and social health and how these aspects affect each person's overall well being. Some areas covered include healthy relationships, communicable disease prevention, ATOD (Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs), and reproductive wellness related to adolescence.

6th Grade Band

The class meets daily and performs approximately three to four times each year. Special activities are scheduled throughout the school year. In addition to the daily band rehearsal, technique classes are scheduled on a rotational basis allowing for small group instruction to improve individual instrument performance techniques. Students enrolled in band may also participate in Jazz Band and/or Solo & Ensemble Festival.

6th Grade Chorus

In sixth grade chorus, the singers study a variety of music from different styles and cultures. Through classroom activities and performance, these students further develop their knowledge of the elements of music, proper vocal technique, and music reading skills. Students will sing a wide variety of quality choral music and will participate in at least four performances a year.

6th Grade Orchestra

This class meets daily and performs at least three concerts during the school year. In addition to daily orchestra class, technique classes are scheduled on a rotational basis allowing for small group instruction to improve individual instrument performance techniques. Special activities are scheduled throughout the school year. Additionally, students enrolled in orchestra may audition to participate in an advanced honors orchestra that meets before school. Students also may choose to take part in the school fiddle group and/or Solo & Ensemble Festival.

Seventh Grade Encore Courses

Quarter Courses (9 Weeks)*

Art I*

Students will focus on developing skills which include drawing, painting, sculpture, ceramics, and collage. They will have the opportunity to experiment and refine skills using a variety of art media. Elements and principles of design will be emphasized in each project. (A small lab fee is required.)

Study Skills*

The content of this course will focus on six different skill areas that fall within the vast context of Study Skills. These areas include organization, time management/personal responsibility, active listening, note taking/summarizing, test-taking skills, and goal setting. Students will participate in a variety of activities in order to strengthen skills in each of these areas of focus and learn to apply these skills to their work in other courses.

** These courses are offered at the 7th grade level for those students in Band, Chorus, or Orchestra who did not have the opportunity to take them as 6th grade students.*

Semester Courses (18 Weeks)

Art II

This class is a continuation of Art I, building on skills and concepts. Exploration of different mediums and art techniques occur while creating two-dimensional and three-dimensional art products. Hands-on activities provide students an opportunity to practice creative and critical problem-solving. (A small lab fee is required.)

7th Grade PLTW - Automation Robotics (AR)

Students will trace the history, development, and influence of automation and robotics. They learn about mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation and computer control systems. Students use a robust robotics platform to design, build, and program a solution to solve an existing problem. (A small lab fee is required.)

Creative Technology (Required)

Note that some students will complete this requirement during sixth grade.

This course prepares students to use computer technology in an effective and creative manner. Students expand knowledge of word processing, spreadsheets, online collaboration tools, presentations, communication, web tools, and digital media software. Students will explore digital photography, illustration, video editing, audio recording, and mobile device applications. Students establish what it means to be a good digital citizen and how to use technology creatively. Students apply skills and knowledge to real life problems to communicate ideas through quality products.

7th Grade - Family & Consumer Science (FACS)

FACS is an engaging, semester-long course that teaches students how to be more self-sufficient in the areas of sewing and foods. Students work independently in the sewing lab to create hand and machine sewn projects. Students use the Dietary Guidelines for Americans to make smart food decisions and then put that nutrition knowledge to work while participating in a variety of cooperative food preparation labs based on the meals of the day. (A small lab fee is required.)

World Music: Culture Jam

Culture Jam is a hands-on exploration of current music from around the world. Students will create, perform, and experience music using a variety of instruments and technology.

Year Long Courses (36 Weeks)

7th Grade Physical Education (27 weeks) & Health (9 weeks) (Both are Required)

Physical Education plays a major role in a student's overall educational experience. All students are required to participate in Physical Education for 3 quarters (27 weeks). The program focuses on building a foundation for lifelong learning through physical activity, fitness, wellness, and team building. These components provide an opportunity for the development of each student's physical, social, and emotional well-being. Students will also participate in 7th Grade Health for 1 quarter (9 weeks). Health covers the different aspects of physical, mental and social health, and how the aspects affect each person's overall well-being. Some areas covered include healthy relationships, emotional empowerment, ATOD (Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs), healthy eating and reproductive wellness. Understanding human development from fertilization to childbirth and consequences of teen pregnancy will be reviewed during reproductive wellness.

7th Grade Band

Seventh grade band is for students who have completed band through the sixth grade. Any student who has not completed sixth grade band in District 204 must have approval from the director before enrolling in band. The class meets daily and performs approximately four times each year. Special activities are scheduled throughout the school year. In addition to the daily band rehearsal, technique classes are scheduled on a rotational basis allowing for small group instruction to improve individual instrument performance techniques. Students enrolled in band may also audition to participate in Jazz Ensemble and Wind Ensemble that meet before school. Students may also participate in Jazz Band and/or Solo & Ensemble Festival.

7th Grade Chorus

In seventh grade chorus, the singers study a variety of music from different styles and cultures. Through classroom activities and performance, these students further develop their knowledge of the elements of music, proper vocal technique, and music reading skills. Students will sing a wide variety of quality choral music and will participate in at least four performances a year.

7th Grade Orchestra

Any student who has completed orchestra through their sixth grade year is encouraged to continue their music education by enrolling in seventh grade orchestra. Any student who has not completed sixth grade orchestra in District 204 must have approval from the teacher before enrolling in seventh grade orchestra. The class meets daily and performs at least three concerts during the school year. In addition to daily orchestra class, technique classes are scheduled on a rotational basis allowing for small group instruction to improve individual instrument performance techniques. Special activities are scheduled throughout the school year. Additionally, students enrolled in orchestra may also audition to participate in an advanced honors orchestra that meets before school. Students also may choose to take part in the school fiddle group and/or Solo & Ensemble Festival.

World Language

These courses are designed as a two year course to be started in 7th grade and then completed during 8th grade. Students will be expected to continue to use the workbook purchased at the beginning of 7th grade in 8th grade. Students who successfully complete French/Spanish 1A and 1B will be recommended for French2/Spanish2 for their freshman year of high school.

- French 1A introduces the student to practical vocabulary and basic grammatical structures that will enable him or her to communicate in simple French. The course focuses on speaking, listening, reading, and writing, as well as various aspects of French culture. Oral communication is stressed.
- Spanish 1A introduces the student to basic vocabulary and grammar structures which allows them to understand, speak, read, and write Spanish at the novice level. The course presents a cultural background of the Spanish-speaking world. Oral communication is stressed.

Eighth Grade Encore Courses

Semester Courses (18 Weeks)

Digital Media

This course combines visual design, computer applications, and business techniques. Students create, manipulate, and use print media, audio recordings, video recordings, and websites to communicate information and ideas effectively to multiple audiences. Possible projects include: photo manipulation, digital animations, sound bites, movie productions, and digital portfolios.

Tech Revolution

This course provides an introduction to computer science and software engineering. Students learn the basics of software development by making video games, developing mobile apps, and creating dynamic web sites. The course is designed to foster computational thinking and logical problem-solving. Basic computer science careers and educational options will also be explored.

Design & Sculpture

In this course, students will focus on creative problem-solving while making three-dimensional and design-inspired art products. Emphasis is on elements of art and principles of design composition as well as sculptural techniques and materials. Media may include, but is not limited to ceramics, wire, paper and found objects. (A small lab fee is required.)

Drawing & Painting

This course will focus on the elements of art, principles of design composition, and the basic techniques and concepts of drawing and painting. Students will experiment and refine technical skills using a variety of media including, but not limited to, watercolor, acrylic paints, colored pencil, chalk, oil, pastels, and graphite. (A small lab fee is required.)

PLTW - Energy and the Environment (EE)

Students investigate the impact of energy on our lives and the environment. They design and model alternative energy sources and participate in an energy expo to demonstrate energy concepts and innovative ideas. Students evaluate ways to reduce energy consumption through energy efficiency and sustainability. (A small lab fee is required.)

STEM Plus (Crone, Fisher, and Granger ONLY)

This inquiry-based class will challenge students to use a design thinking process as they become makers and innovators. In this hands-on classroom environment, students will discover powerful skills in problem-solving, critical thinking and creativity to solve various authentic learning challenges using tools and materials of engineering. Students will collaborate on teams and reflect on their learning. (A small lab fee is required.)

8th Grade - Foods, Nutrition, & Wellness

This is a hands-on course in which students learn and apply fundamental culinary skills. Students learn essential culinary principles regarding the safety of food and the physical safety of themselves and those they work with. Using Nutrition Facts labels and the USDA's food guidance system MyPlate, students learn how to make healthy choices. Students also learn the essential skills for properly executing a variety of recipes and prepare a wide variety of culinary creations. (A small lab fee is required.)

8th Grade - Sewing

During this self-paced course, students of all sewing levels focus on developing their skills by creating both hand and machine sewn projects. Students also learn about clothing design, fabric purchase, use of patterns, written and verbal procedural directions, and critical thinking skills. (A small lab fee is required.)

Year Long Courses (36 Weeks)

8th Grade Physical Education (27 weeks) & Health (9 weeks) (Both are Required)

Physical Education plays a major role in a student's overall educational experience. All students are required to participate in Physical Education for 3 quarters (27 weeks). The program focuses on building a foundation for lifelong learning through physical activity, fitness, wellness, and team building. These components provide an opportunity for the development of each student's physical, social, and emotional well-being. Students will also participate in 8th Grade Health for 1 quarter (9 weeks). Health covers the different aspects of physical, mental and social health, and how these aspects affect each person's overall well-being. Some areas covered include healthy relationships, emotional empowerment, ATOD (Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs), and reproductive wellness. The subject of STDs and AIDS will be reviewed during reproductive wellness.

8th Grade Band

Eighth grade band is for students who have completed band through the seventh grade. Any student who has not completed seventh grade band in District 204 must have approval from the director before enrolling in band. The class meets daily and performs approximately three to four times each year. Special activities are scheduled throughout the school year. In addition to the daily band rehearsal, technique classes are scheduled on a rotational basis allowing for small group instruction to improve individual instrument performance techniques. Students enrolled in band may also audition to participate in Jazz Ensemble and Wind Ensemble that meet before school as well as participate in Jazz Band and/or Solo & Ensemble Festival.

8th Grade Chorus

In eighth grade chorus, the singers study a variety of music from different styles and cultures. Through classroom activities and performance, these students further develop their knowledge of the elements of music, proper vocal technique, and music reading skills. Students will sing a wide variety of quality choral music and will participate in at least four performances a year. If students were not enrolled in chorus as a 7th grader, please contact a faculty member of the Choral Department before completing the attached form.

8th Grade Orchestra

Any student who has completed orchestra through their seventh grade year is encouraged to continue their music education by enrolling in eighth grade orchestra. Any student who has not completed seventh grade orchestra in District 204 must have approval from the teacher before enrolling in eighth grade orchestra. The class meets daily and performs at least three concerts during the school year. In addition to daily orchestra class, technique classes are scheduled on a rotational basis allowing for small group instruction to improve individual instrument performance techniques. Special activities are scheduled throughout the school year. Additionally, students enrolled in orchestra may also audition to participate in an advanced honors orchestra that meets before school. Students also may choose to take part in the school fiddle group and/or Solo & Ensemble Festival. Eighth grade orchestra is a prerequisite for enrolling in high school orchestra.

World Language

These courses are designed as two-year courses to be started in 7th grade and then completed during 8th grade. French1B/Spanish 1B courses are the equivalent to the second semester curriculum of the freshman courses offered at the high schools. Students who successfully complete French/Spanish 1A and 1B will be recommended for French/Spanish 2 for their freshmen year of high school.

- French 1B introduces the student to practical vocabulary and basic grammatical structures that will enable him or her to communicate in simple French. The course focuses on speaking, listening, reading, and writing, as well as various aspects of French culture. Oral communication is stressed.
- Spanish 1B is designed to train the student to understand, speak, read, and write basic Spanish as well as present a cultural background of the Spanish-speaking people. Oral communication is stressed.