



WMS 6th Grade Course Descriptions 2023-24

6th grade students start the day with a Connect advisory course followed by six 54-minute periods. Four periods are dedicated to daily CORE classes in Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies. Two periods of the day are dedicated to encore classes that are exploratory and/or career and technology courses. ENCORE classes can include Choir, Band, General Music, and/or Prescribed Learning Period (PLP). Required ENCORE courses include Physical Education, Art 6 Media Arts and STEM/Project Lead the Way 6.

Connect Advisory

CONNECT 6: Connect is a 25-minute, daily advisory period for students to “Connect” with their dedicated advisor, themselves, peers, and the community. Instructional content will include social/emotional learning, digital citizenship, community service, and executive functioning skills practice. Advisors will also help to monitor academic progress and goal setting.

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 6th 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. 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 a full year of 6th 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. The curriculum, course content, and learning activities are aligned with MN State Standards.

SCIENCE 6: All students in 6th grade will learn about Earth Science. Students will review the scientific method and apply it to different Earth science contexts throughout the year. Students will learn about meteorology, geology, and the solar system. Students will get a chance to learn through a variety of methods, including hands-on lab activities, small projects, and in-class discussions. This course is aligned with the 6th grade Minnesota State Science Standards.

Music and PLP Encore Courses

BAND 6: Band is a yearlong course meeting on alternating days throughout the school year. Band offers students the opportunity for continued musical growth and sequential skill development in both large and 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 the 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. The 6th grade band is a continuation of the 5th grade band however - students wanting to join in the 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 yearlong 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 trimester 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 expectations.

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 High Level Learners PLP to receive high level learner services with GT trained staff. High Level Learners PLP classes are ungraded with classroom citizenship and active participation being the expectation.

Physical Education

PHYSICAL EDUCATION 6: Every other day Physical Education 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 sportsmanship, leadership, fair play, and friendly competition.

Encore Courses

INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY/STEM 6: 6th grade Industrial Technology is a quarter length class that will meet every other day for half of the year. 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 (PLTW). Students will attain knowledge of the engineering field, the engineering design process, measurement, sketching, technical drawing, prototype-building, 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. TinkerCad is the 3-D modeling system that is used during this course, allowing students to apply design and engineering concepts to create a variety of 3-D models on the computer and 3-D printer. This course supports the engineering curriculum at the middle and high school levels.

ART 6 MEDIA ARTS: Sixth grade Media Arts is a required course that will meet on alternating days for one semester. In this course, students will review and solidify their understanding of the elements of art and the principles of design by creating and curating multimedia works of art. Students will explore the concepts of expressive intent, symbolism, and abstraction, as well as how media artworks relate to and impact culture, history, and personal identity. Upon completion of this course, students will be able to create effective digital posters, drawings, presentations, websites, and audio-visual recordings for a variety of academic purposes. This course is aligned with the 6th Grade Minnesota Art Standards. This is a new course offering for 2023-24.

Waconia Middle School Course Election Worksheet

2023-24 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 selection 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

*REQUIRED COURSES

Core Math

Full Year (Placement based on identification criteria)

Math 6- Flexible Grouping Model- Required
Pre-Algebra 6- Placed

Core Language Arts & Literature 6

Full Year

Language Arts & Literature 6- Required

Core Social Studies

Full Year

Social Studies 6- Required

Core Science

Full Year

Science 6- Required

Physical Education 6

Full-year Every Other Day

PE/Health 6- Required

Encore Courses

One Every Other Day each Semester

STEM/Project Lead the Way 6- Required
Art 6 Media Arts- Required

Parent or Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

Return this page only to your Homeroom teacher by Friday, April 28, 2023.

Scheduling Questions?

Counselors Mrs. Deren (sderen@isd110.org) or Ms. Galindo (pgalindo@isd110.org)

Principal Mr. Clausen (sclausen@isd110.org) or Asst. Principal Mr. Andrews (iandrews@isd110.org)