



CONNELLSVILLE AREA MIDDLE SCHOOL

Course Descriptions 2019-2020 School Year GRADE 6

All students entering sixth grade in September are assigned four **CORE COURSES**: English Language Arts (ELA), Math, Science and Social Studies. In addition, students participate in a **ROTATION OF COURSES** that gives them exposure to Family and Consumer Science, Art, Technical Education and Computer. Rotational courses are offered every day for 9 weeks. In addition, sixth graders select one **ELECTIVE COURSE** to complete their school schedule.

A separate selection sheet will be provided to each student to establish their schedule for the 2019-2020 school year.

CORE COURSES

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

ELA 6

Literature and nonfiction texts will be explored using increasingly rigorous and complex selections as students meet or exceed the Pennsylvania sixth grade level standards for English Language Arts. Vocabulary will be developed and incorporated into the students' writing as they complete assorted essays including text dependent analytical (TDA) responses to complex reading. Grammar and word usage activities will be presented with the focus on application within proficient writing responses. Students will develop important critical thinking skills as well as listening and speaking skills as they work independently and share their work collaboratively.

FOUNDATIONS OF ELA 6

Literature and nonfiction texts will be explored using a broad range of literature and nonfiction selections as students build on their basic understanding of the Pennsylvania standards for English and Language arts and move toward greater proficiency. Classroom instruction will include emphasis on vocabulary development and incorporating increased grammar competency in written responses to text. This course is designed to develop and improve students' communication, comprehension, writing, and critical thinking skills.

MATHEMATICS

Math 6/Pre-Algebra

Pre-Algebra provides a strong foundation in algebra while also preparing students for future study in areas of geometry and data analysis. While providing a strong focus on algebraic concepts and reasoning, solving of equations and inequalities, instruction also incorporates an understanding of geometry and calculus critical to moving forward in the study of mathematics.

Math 6

Students enrolled in this course will focus on concepts that address all of the 6th grade standards as outlined by the PA Core Standards. The students will receive a solid foundation in multiplying and dividing decimals and fractions, understanding number sense with whole numbers and integers, and working with expressions, equations, and inequalities which are the necessary concepts needed to be successful in pre-algebra. Students will explore geometric shapes and their properties including internal and external dimensions. Included is a foundation in calculus which deals with change and how the change in one quantity affects other quantities: finding the mean, median, mode, and range of data, creating and interpreting graphs, writing, comparing, and solving problems using ratios, rates, and percentages. The program utilizes a research-based, balanced instructional approach that includes both inquiry-based learning and direct instruction lessons.

SCIENCE

This course is a comprehensive study of the fundamental topics in science including an introduction to chemistry, physics, earth and space sciences, as well as life, biological and environmental sciences. Students will participate in various hands-on, inquiry-based investigations and STEM projects where they will use the process skills necessary in experimentation by designing their own experiments and developing appropriate research.

SOCIAL STUDIES

The sixth grade Social Studies course features an introductory examination of the United States, including its regions, cultures, geography, history, government, and economics. Students will investigate, analyze, and interpret historical concepts and events that shaped the United States of America through the end of the Civil War and Reconstruction period. This course encompasses an introductory study of the United States Constitution and its past and present implementation at the federal, state, and local levels. While history and civics are the core disciplines, the program also incorporates economics, sociology, geography, and humanities to give students an understanding of and appreciation for the major movements and concepts that have characterized the United States.

6TH GRADE ROTATION

These courses are offered every day for 9 weeks in a quarterly rotation.

ART

This course will focus on the basic elements of design including; line, value, space, shape, and texture. Course work will include art history, symmetrical design, ceramic pots, pattern and shape drawings, paintings, and printmaking. The students in this class will explore different art mediums, and provide them with a firm understanding of what an art class has to offer them. Students will have fun creating many different projects they can be proud of while simultaneously learning valuable concepts of art and creativity.

COMPUTER SCIENCE - INNOVATORS AND MAKERS

Innovators and Makers is a computer science course that teaches students basic coding. The coding is combined with a microcontroller, sensors, other input devices, and output devices to solve everyday problems. Students are challenged to collaborate, problem solve, and think creatively to create games and other interactive working projects. Other fun STEM projects are also included throughout the course.

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE

Students will be introduced to basics of microwave cooking and consumer skills. They will apply introductory hand and machine sewing skills into a STEM project that also incorporates creativity by completing a project using the FabLab.

TECHNICAL EDUCATION

This course is offered as an introduction to hands-on activities. Through project based learning, the students learn the basics about tools, shop safety, measuring, and assembly.

ELECTIVE COURSES

BAND 6

Connellsville Area Middle School 6th Grade Band is geared for the novice to moderate aptitude level instrumentalists to explore classical and contemporary concert band literature with a difficulty level of 2 to 3 on a scale of 1 to 6. In addition to the concert band repertoire, the students will have experience performing in a marching band setting and a small ensemble study including group lessons which will be provided on a rotational schedule.

CHORUS

Members of chorus, selected by audition, explore and memorize various styles of music in preparation for performances. They are provided the opportunity to exhibit their choral skills at two mandatory evening concert performances. In addition, students sharpen their skills by preparing for small groups singing tests.

DESIGN

Design and Modeling, a Project Lead the Way course, provides students the opportunity to apply the design process to creatively solve problems. In learning methods for communicating design ideas through sketches, solid models, and mathematical models, students understand how models can be simulated to represent authentic situations and generate data for further analysis and observations. Students work in teams to research a topic, identify design requirements, and engage stakeholders by designing a toy game for a child with cerebral palsy.

GENERAL MUSIC

Music 6 is designed to give the student a comprehensive music education by addressing musical concepts as well as develop an appreciation for music. Music from the Baroque, Romantic, Classical and Contemporary Periods along with music from other countries/cultures develop listening skills throughout the course.

GIFTED*

The Gifted Program is intended to be a support system that addresses the emotional and social needs of the gifted learner by suggesting strategies for coping with life's situations. It is designed to challenge students to develop their interests and abilities through individual and group projects, extended challenges, and enriching experiences that emphasize higher-order thinking skills, and may offer modifications to curriculum.

*Prerequisite - Students must be evaluated by the school psychologist to be included in the Gifted Program.

STUDY SKILLS 6

This course incorporates assignments from the individual student's academic courses to develop personal study habits as they juggle increased academic and personal demands on their time. A student's ability to effectively order priorities, efficiently use technology to organize their personal and academic calendar, as well as access coursework and respond to assignments are lifelong skills that can establish the basis for ongoing success.

TECH ED /ROBOTICS 6

This course has two parts: Tech Ed and Robotics. The Tech Ed segment is an introduction to hands-on activities so students learn the basics about tools, shop safety, measuring, and assembly through project based learning. The second segment, Robotics, includes an introduction to basic programming and problem-solving strategies using Lego Mindstorms kits and Lego Robotics materials. Students develop, build, and program a Lego NXT robot to complete specific tasks and challenges.

WELLNESS

During the students' time in middle school, they will participate in the following individual and team sports on a three-year rotational schedule: jump rope, backyard games, individual aerobic/anaerobic and cardiovascular training, pickleball, badminton, hockey, speedball, football, soccer, basketball, volleyball, softball, ultimate frisbee and nitroball. By exposing students to many different activities, the goal is for each student to find an activity they enjoy and may pursue over a lifetime. In sixth grade, as students transition to a more physically demanding course, emphasis is placed on attaining and/or maintaining a healthy level of personal fitness. Using Fitnessgram® tests of health related fitness, students identify trends in their personal fitness levels at the beginning of grade 6 and continue until graduation. Human growth and development, personal hygiene, and drug awareness is also incorporated into this course.