

# 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Course Descriptions

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## **Required Courses**

### **English (Full Year):**

The sixth grade language arts program is designed to help students develop those skills which will enable them to speak, write, read and listen more effectively. This literature-based program will emphasize written communication and grammar.

### **Pre AP English (Full Year):**

Pre AP English provides capable students with a course designed to prepare them for rigorous advanced course work in the future. Students will analyze a variety of literary genres, conduct research and write extensively in this class. Students should expect an additional time requirement and be willing to work independently. Student admission will be based on previous academic performance, standardized test scores and teacher recommendation. Please be sure to read the Pre AP Guidelines found on the back of the scheduling card.

### **Reading (Full Year):**

The sixth grade reading course is designed to give students practice in word identification, comprehension and study skills. The use of novels, thematic units and structured free reading, as well as writing, will be an integral part of this course.

### **Gifted and Talented English and Reading (Full Year):**

Sixth grade students who are currently identified in the Frisco ISD Gifted and Talented program (Quest) will be guided through a challenging course that will expose them to a large variety of literature. Students will be required to read and analyze both classic and contemporary novels, participate in thematic units, conduct in-depth research, complete individual and group projects and write extensively throughout the year. Critical thinking skills will be emphasized to prepare students for future advanced classes.

### **Mathematics (Full Year):**

The sixth grade mathematics program is designed to meet the needs of each child. It consists of a study of the four basic operations with whole numbers, integers, non-negative rational numbers and decimals. The program includes percents, metric measurements, concepts of geometry and pre-algebra. A variety of teaching methods and hands on materials will be used.

### **Pre AP Math (Full Year):**

Pre AP Math provides capable students with a course designed to prepare them for rigorous advanced course work in the future. It consists of a study of the four basic operations with whole numbers, integers, non-negative rational numbers and decimals. The program includes percents, metric measurements, concepts of geometry and pre-algebra. A variety of teaching methods and hands on materials will be used. Students should expect an additional time requirement and be willing to work independently. Student admission will be based on previous academic performance, standardized test scores and teacher recommendation. Please be sure to read the Pre AP Guidelines found on the back of the scheduling card.

### **Science (Full Year):**

Sixth grade science encompasses earth, life and physical sciences. Students discover concepts in scientific methods, physics, chemistry, biology, behavior, ecology, geology and astronomy. Students utilize reading, research and experiments as a part of the discovery method in this science program. Textbooks, laboratory materials, videos, filmstrips and the library are sources for this study. Health, a study of safety, personal hygiene and the dangers of drugs will also be a part of this course.

### **Social Studies (Full Year):**

The sixth grade social studies program encompasses geographical, political, technological and cultural aspects of nations of the Eastern Hemisphere. The study is explored through a variety of resources presently available such as texts, kits, maps, globes, films, tapes and guest speakers.

### **Physical Education:**

The physical education program provides students with opportunities to develop skill and sportsmanship through a variety of team sports and fitness activities.

### **Computer Literacy/Advisory:**

Computer Literacy is designed to emphasize keyboarding skills, computer-related terminology, use of the computer as a tool while developing knowledge of word processing, spreadsheets, databases and graphics.

***Advisory will alternate days during the same class period with Computer Literacy for the entire year.***

## **Elective Courses**

### **Beginning Band 6<sup>th</sup> (Full Year):**

This course is designed to teach students the basic fundamentals of band instruments (Brass, Woodwind and Percussion.) The course covers selection and care of instruments, correct playing position, reading music and awareness of rhythm and pitch. Students will be placed into appropriate band classes upon taking an instrument test. Students are expected to practice regularly and will be required to perform in concerts throughout the year. (Instrument arrangements will be made.)

### **Choir (Full Year):**

Choir is an elective course in which students learn to sing together as a group. Students work on many musical concepts such as vocal warm-ups, sight-reading, rhythm reading, musical symbols and performance skills. Piano accompanists (who have studied previously for 2 or more years) will include students from the choir. The choir program performs several concerts during the school year. Students also attend a festival at the end of the school year.

### **Orchestra (Full Year):**

The orchestra program in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade involves instruction in violin, viola, cello, harp or bass. This class is open to any sixth grade student who would like to further their musical knowledge and begin instruction on a stringed instrument. These classes meet daily and focus on establishing and developing basic musical and performance skills. During the year, all string students will combine to present concerts for the parents and public.

**Fine Arts Combination (Full year: 1 semester art / 1 semester theater):**

**Art (1 semester):** This one semester course is designed to emphasize drawing techniques and design principles. Students will also work with clay, paper collage, and various painting media.

**Theater (1 semester):** This course introduces students to the world of theater through pantomime, play reading and improvisation. The emphasis will be on classroom performance. This will be an enjoyable opportunity for students to develop self-confidence and stage presence.

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade Art (Full year):**

Art I will emphasize drawing techniques and design principles while studying the elements of art and Art History. Students will also have the opportunity to work with clay, paper collage, tempera paint, watercolor, pastels, wire sculpture, and other painting media.

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade Theater (Full Year):**

6<sup>th</sup> Grade Theater Arts is designed for the sixth grade student who *knows* that they want to do theater for their entire time at PHMS. The course is designed to introduce the student to acting through exercises in body control, concentration and relaxation. The student will work on improvisation skills both individually and in groups. The primary objective is to develop the student's creativity and ability for self-expression. Technical Theater is involved.