

Course Descriptions Sixth Grade Required Courses

**Students who do not meet the recommended standard for the TAKS Math and/or Reading test(s) will be required to take an accelerated class in place of the elective.

Integrated Language Arts / ILA (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. Students will be given practice in word identification, comprehension, and study skills. The use of novels, thematic units, and structured free reading, as well as writing, will be integral part of this course.

Pre-Advanced Placement ILA (Full Year)

Pre-AP ILA provides capable students with a foundation course designed to prepare them for the rigorous Advanced Placement program. Sophisticated research and writing processes will be introduced and applied extensively throughout the year. Students who elect to take this rigorous course should expect high standards and time demands as set by any higher level course. In addition, students will be given practice in word identification, comprehension, and study skills. The use of novels, thematic units, and structured free reading, as well as writing, will be integral part of this course.

Maintenance Criteria (for all grade levels): *A student who earns below a 70% in two consecutive six week grading periods will be placed on academic probation and a committee including the student, parent and teacher will convene to develop a plan for future success. If at the conclusion of the six weeks of probation the student again earns below a 70%, the committee will reconvene to determine if Pre-AP is the appropriate placement.*

GT Language Arts (full year)

****Must qualify for GT program****

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 variety of literature genres and writing techniques. 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.

Math (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 number, 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-Advanced Placement Math (full year)

Pre-AP Math 6 is designed to prepare students for rigorous advanced course work in the future. Students will move at a rapid, challenging pace and study math concepts usually reserved for higher-grade levels. Students should be prepared for an additional time requirement for this class, and be willing to work independently. If a student wants to take Algebra for high school credit in 8th grade, it is necessary for the student to enroll in PreAP math 6 to be on the correct math track.

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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 methods in this science program. Textbooks, laboratory materials, videos, filmstrips, and the library are resource for this study.

Social Studies (full year)

Sixth grade social studies encompass 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.

Study Skills/Computer Literacy (A day/B day)

Study Skills is designed to help you succeed in all of your classes as you transition from elementary to middle school. Your success will require effort, energy and hard work. Through this class, you will learn to recognize your strengths, what you need to work on, and help you build strong organizational and study skills. You will learn strategies and skills that you can use in all of your classes throughout your education. This class will follow a study skills curriculum and is not intended to be a study hall.

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. Computer Literacy will alternate with Study Skills.

Health/Physical Education (full year)

Health includes the study of mental and social health, exercise and nutrition, body systems, personal hygiene, as well as the dangers of drugs. The physical education program provides students with opportunities to develop skills and sportsmanship through a variety of team sport skills and lifetime wellness activities.

Elective Descriptions

6th Grade

Students who do not meet the recommended standard for the TAKS Math and/or Reading test(s) will be required to take an accelerated class in place of the elective.

Art I (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, temper paint, watercolor, pastels, wire sculpture, and other painting media.

Beginning Band (full year)

This course is designed to teach students the basic fundamentals of band instruments (Brass, Woodwind and Percussion). The course covers selections 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 perform three concerts throughout the year. (Instrument arrangements will be made upon instrument selection.)

Beginning Orchestra (full year)

The orchestra program provides instruction in violin, viola, cello, and bass. This class is open to any 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, the string students will combine on two or more occasions to present concerts for the parents and public. (Instrument arrangements will be made upon instrument selection.)

Choir (full year)

This course is designed to focus on the fundamentals of choral singing. Students will learn about vocal health, basic music theory, sight-reading, concert and performance etiquette. A variety of musical styles will be used and students will perform at least twice during the school year.

Theatre Arts I (full year)

Theatre Arts I is designed to introduce the student to the many performing and technical aspects of theatre. Acting is introduced through individual and group exercises in improvisational and memorized performances. Basic theatrical knowledge, play reading, and playwriting are emphasized. The primary objective is to develop the student's creativity and self-expression.

*****COURSE OFFERINGS IN THE ELECTIVE AREAS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND/OR OMISSION DUE TO AN INSUFFICIENT AMOUNT OF STUDENT REQUESTS, LACK OF QUALIFIED PERSONNEL TO TEACH THE CLASS, OR FUNDING. THE STUDENT WILL THEN BE PLACED IN THE NEXT ELECTIVE CHOICE ON THE SCHEDULE CARD COMPLETED BY THE STUDENT AND PARENT.**