

# Clark Middle School

4600 Colby Drive  
Frisco, Texas 75035



## 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Course Guide 2009-2010

6<sup>th</sup> Grade Counselor: Janis Bennett  
6<sup>th</sup> Grade Principal: Jason Ellis

# *Student Registration Guidelines – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade*

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

### TAKS (for all grade levels):

If your child does not meet expectations on any section of TAKS, he or she will be scheduled into the appropriate TAKS preparation class. According to state law, we are required to provide your child with intense accelerated instruction to promote future academic success. This class(es) will take the place of one or more electives.

### Student Success Initiative:

The SSI requires that, beginning in 2007-2008, Grade 8 students must meet the passing standard on the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) tests in reading and mathematics before they can be promoted to Grade 9.

### New Students:

Students transferring from another Texas school must provide TAKS results from the most recent administration. If TAKS results are not available immediately, or if a student does not have TAKS results, a released TAKS test will be administered to determine a class schedule that is most appropriate for the student.

### Schedule Changes: Schedule changes are subject to availability in the class requested.

Students need to choose classes carefully and understand the schedule change policy. Schedule changes will not be permitted after the first week of school, unless initiated and/or approved by an administrator.

### Exceptions to this policy will be students who:

- Are enrolled in a class twice
- Are enrolled in too many or too few classes
- Need to move from Pre AP to on-level or vice versa

Physical Education: All middle school students must complete 4 semesters of physical education before entering high school.

## **PRE-ADVANCED PLACEMENT COURSES (Pre-AP)**

### Overview

The Pre-AP program is designed to empower students with the skills necessary to succeed in the high school Honors/Advanced Placement classes. Pre-AP courses give students the chance to improve their critical thinking skills in a student-oriented learning environment while exposing them to rigorous and advanced curriculum. High expectations for behavior, self-discipline, and academics will be in place for all enrolled students.

Pre-AP Guidelines: (English, Math and Science):

It is highly recommended that students only enroll in Pre-AP courses if they meet the following specifications:

1. A classroom average of 90 % or higher in the subject area;
2. Score 85% or higher on the TAKS;
3. Score a COGAT score of 110 or higher.

Math Pre-AP Entrance Requirements:

Enrolling in 6<sup>th</sup> grade math follows the same recommendations aligned above. However, the testing and GPA requirements for Pre-AP 7<sup>th</sup> grade math are outlined specifically below. **Please note that you must meet ALL these requirements in order to qualify for enrollment in 7<sup>th</sup> grade Pre-AP. \*\*\*Any incoming 6<sup>th</sup> grader requesting to enroll in 7<sup>th</sup> grade Pre-AP Pre-Algebra MUST meet all of the following criteria:**

1. In the spring semester of the 5<sup>th</sup> grade year, the student must arrange with his counselor to take the Texas Tech 6<sup>th</sup> grade math Credit by Examination and score a 90% or above on BOTH part 1 and part 2. If the student meets this score requirement, he/she will then be contacted by the 6<sup>th</sup> grade counselor to set up a time in August (before the start of school) to take the District 7<sup>th</sup> grade math Examination. The student must also score a 90% on this test in order to enroll in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade Pre-AP course.
2. Also, please make note that a student who takes 7<sup>th</sup> grade Pre-AP as a 6<sup>th</sup> grader will be on track to take Geometry during his/her 8<sup>th</sup> grade year.

• Maintenance Requirements for Pre-AP:

To remain in these courses, students must maintain certain academic standards:

A student who earns a 79 or below in a six week grading period will be placed on academic probation. If a 79 or below is earned for two consecutive six weeks, the student will be placed into the corresponding regular level class. Students enrolled in these courses should expect high standards and an additional time requirement.

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

## Sixth Grade Core 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.

### **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.

### **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. Summer reading is required. Please be sure to read the Pre-AP Guidelines found at the back of this catalog.**

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

Sixth grade students who are currently identified in the Frisco ISD Gifted and Talented program 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. **Only those students who have been identified as G/T by FISSD will be permitted to enroll in this class.**

### **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 percent, metric measurements, and 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, rational numbers, decimals and percentages. The program also includes metric measurements and 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 at the back of this catalog. \*\*Please see Pre-Advanced Placement maintenance criteria, page 2.

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

Sixth grade science encompasses earth, life, and physical sciences. Students will examine the scientific method, physics, chemistry, biology, behavior, ecology, geology, and astronomy. Students will utilize reading, research, and experiments as a part of the discovery methods in this science program. Textbooks, laboratory materials, videos, the Internet and the library are resources for this study.

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

Sixth grade social studies encompass world geography, world history, and world cultures. A variety of resources are used, such as textbooks, atlases, maps, globes, videos, History Alive! materials, CD's, tapes, the Internet, and guest speakers. Students will participate in hands-on activities, simulations, and group work situations; they will also create an Interactive Student Notebook.

### **Study Skills/Computer Literacy (Full Year)**

- Study Skills is designed to help students succeed in all of their classes as they transition from elementary to middle school. Success in this class will require effort, energy, and hard work. Students will learn to recognize their strengths and build strong organizational and study skills. They will learn strategies and skills they can use in all classes throughout their education. This class will follow a study skills curriculum and is not intended to be a study hall.
- Computer Literacy is designed to emphasize the use of the computer as a tool while students develop knowledge of word processing, spreadsheets, desktop publishing, and presentation software. Students will learn computer-related terminology and practice keyboarding skills.

**Computer Literacy and Study Skills will alternate on an every other day basis.**

### **Physical Education (Full Year)**

The physical education program provides students with opportunities to develop skills and sportsmanship through a variety of team sport skills and lifetime wellness activities.

## Sixth Grade Elective Courses

### **Art 6 (Full Year)**

This year long in-depth course is designed to emphasize drawing techniques and design principles while studying the elements of art and various artists. Students will also work with clay, paper collages, and various 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.

### **Choir 6 (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 two concerts during the school year.

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

Students will perform three concerts throughout the year, at school and one concert as a cluster with other Frisco ISD Orchestra students. Each student will perform for Solo and Ensemble Contests as well as other UIL related events. This class will travel at times to other locations for performances and will be required to attend before or after school rehearsals, periodically, throughout the year. All students will furnish their own instruments. Cello and string bass students must furnish an instrument for home practice only.

- Beginning Orchestra

This course is open to any student (6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grades) who would like to further their musical knowledge by learning to play a stringed instrument: violin, viola, cello, or string bass. This class will meet each day and students will learn correct playing position, how to read music, rhythms and will also learn to play together as a group.

- Intermediate Orchestra

This class is for second year Orchestra students who have previous stringed instrument experience and are preparing for Advanced Orchestra. This class will learn tuning, various shifting and bowing techniques, and concert readiness in preparation for UIL centered events.

- Advanced Orchestra

This class is open to any student with three or more years of experience playing the violin, viola, cello, or string bass. This class will focus on developing the student's music reading, writing, and performance skills. Advanced Orchestra students will

build on their knowledge of various shifting and bowing techniques, vibrato, self-tuning, and site reading.

**Theater Arts 6 (Full Year)**

Theater Arts is designed to introduce students to the many performing and technical aspects of theater. 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.