

Stafford Middle School
2009-2010
6th Grade

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

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.

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. 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 (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 at the back of this catalog.

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, 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.

Advisory (Full Year):

The sixth grade advisory period provides students with tools and skills that help them to manage the transition from elementary to middle school. Students are taught organizational and study skills and are also allowed time to work on assignments or to receive tutoring in academic areas.

Physical Education/Computer Literacy:

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

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

P.E. will alternate on an A/B Day schedule during the same class period with Computer Literacy for the entire year.

Elective Courses

Sixth grade students will have the choice of one elective for the full year.

Beginning Band 6th (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, music reading, 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.) No previous musical experience is needed.

Orchestra (Full Year):

The orchestra program in the 6th grade involves instruction in violin, viola, cello or bass. This class is open to any sixth grade student who would like to further his or her 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.

Elective Wheel (Full Year):

Students in the Elective Wheel will explore six different electives throughout the entire school year: Technology, Choir, Art, Theatre, Exploratory Spanish, and Family and Consumer Science. Students will rotate to a different elective each six weeks. The six-week elective courses are designed to allow students to sample different elective offerings and discover their preferences and strengths before they choose elective courses for their seventh-grade year.

*** Courses in the Elective Wheel may vary slightly depending upon enrollment.**

