

HASTINGS MIDDLE SCHOOL

GRADE 6 COURSE SELECTION INFORMATION

PHYSICAL EDUCATION 6

Physical Education is an integral part of each student's educational experience. The program aims at providing opportunities to improve and maintain a healthy and active lifestyle. Students will also develop skills and better understanding of the rules in individual and team activities. Opportunities are presented for students to develop a positive self-image, work cooperatively, and improve their motor skills. The program emphasizes a sequential progression of skill development that varies from each grade level.

HEALTH 6

This course is designed to increase an understanding of the physical, mental, and social aspects of health. Students will develop skills, attitudes, and behaviors promoting longevity and overall wellness. Areas of study include Function & Care of the Body Systems, Influences on Health, Stress Management, Bullying Prevention, Fitness, and Basic First Aid & Safety.

TECHNOLOGY & ENGINEERING 6

Technology & Engineering (Tech Ed) is a half-year course that meets every other day. The underlying emphasis for all topics and projects is the Engineering Design Process (EDP). Grade 6 focuses on how to properly identify the problem or need, and brainstorm solution strategies. Other topics include structures and forces, as well as a better understanding of the metric system. Students are encouraged to be inventive and creative throughout many small hands-on projects.

COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY 6

Computer technology is designed to have students work on lessons that demonstrate their proficiency in keyboarding, application software, research, problem solving, and responsible use of technology. Throughout the course, students will develop a digital portfolio demonstrating their knowledge and competencies.

VISUAL ARTS 6

Visual Arts is half-year course that meets every other day, students are exposed to many different materials and introductory art skills. Emphasis is on fundamental principles of design and composition as well as cooperation and problem solving. Students work on blind contour drawing, portrait drawing, positive/negative space drawings, and color wheels. The students will also learn how to mix colors, shades and tints. Grade 6 students will begin to explore the world of print making through the technique of printing with foam. Throughout the course, students learn about different artists, styles, and the appropriate use of an artist's tools.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC (BAND) 6

Grade 6 Instrumental Music provides a beginning experience in ensemble playing and learning to follow a conductor. Students will enhance their repertoire of skills through marching, dancing, and the singing of folk songs through a variety of key signatures and meters. Students will also participate in small ensembles and marching band experiences. Two major performances and one parade are required.

STRING ENSEMBLE 6

Grade 6 String Ensemble will continue to develop students' music literacy skills. Emphasis will be on reading and performing music in first position. Elements of music such as crescendo, decrescendo, forte, piano, and dynamic levels will be taught in addition to tempo markings. Students will develop bowing techniques such as hooked bowing, slurs, and changing of bow speed. Violinists and Violists will learn new finger patterns that include high third fingers to perform in the key of A major. Cellos will learn extended finger positions to play in the key of A major. All students will learn one octave scales in the keys of G,D,C,A and F major. Students will have at least three major performance opportunities playing pieces from a variety of genres and time periods.

CHORUS 6

Grade 6 Chorus provides an opportunity for students who would like to develop their vocal capabilities. Sight-singing skills will be taught and students will enhance their repertoire through rounds and canons, as well as songs with descants and in two-part harmony. Two major performances are required.

MUSIC APPRECIATION 6

This course will give students the opportunity to experience various aspects of the performing arts associated with musical performance, music appreciation, theory, and music history. Students will study introductory music notation, as well as basic classroom instrumental performance and singing. Students will also experience aspects of musical theater and music history with a focus on various musical eras such as American roots music, early jazz, blues, and rock and roll.

WORLD CULTURES

Students will explore various ancient and modern cultures around the world through project-based learning in a student-driven learning environment. Students will investigate products, practices, and perspectives of culture through the study of myths, legends, art, film, and primary and secondary resources. The capstone project in this course is a Travel Exposition, in which students will present information about a target country. This capstone project will be presented to invited guests.