

**2016-2017
6th Grade
Course Descriptions**

Required Courses

Integrated Language Arts 6 (Full Year):

Students will focus on the thinking required to make meaning of genres from a variety of media as well as craft communication effectively (orally, in writing, or multimedia), adjusting for purpose and audience. Students reflect on their own reading and writing processes throughout the year. The foundation of research, asking good questions, guides the development of student inquiry.

Pre-AP Integrated Language Arts 6 (Full Year):

The Pre-AP course in English Language and Composition engages students in becoming skilled readers of prose written in a variety of periods, disciplines, and rhetorical contexts and in becoming skilled writers who compose for a variety of purposes. Students will develop an understanding of the interactions among a writer's purposes, audience expectations, and subjects as well as the way generic conventions and the resources of language contribute to effectiveness in writing. The middle school level Pre-AP Integrated Language Arts classes are designed to support and prepare students for high school AP English courses and the AP English Literature and Composition exams, which are components of the Distinguished Achievement Program (DAP).

GT Integrated Language Arts 6 (Full Year):

Students must be currently identified in the Frisco ISD Gifted and Talented program.

Students will be guided through a challenging course that will allow for their analysis of a variety of literature genres. Students will be required to read and analyze both classic and contemporary novels as well as non-fiction selections, participate in thematic units, conduct in-depth research, complete individual and group projects, and write extensively throughout the year. Both their writing and their reading should make students aware of the interactions among a writer's purposes, audience expectations, and subjects as well as the way generic conventions and the resources of language contribute to effectiveness in writing. Critical thinking skills will be emphasized to prepare students for high school AP English courses and the AP English Literature and Composition exams, which are components of the Distinguished Achievement Program (DAP).

Reading Lab (Full Year):

This course is a supplement to the student's regular grade-level reading course and is taken in place of an elective.

The class focuses on equipping students with the skills and strategies necessary to build independent reading fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension of multiple genres. Students divide their time between independent reading, teacher-directed small group sessions, and individualized computer interaction. This course utilizes the Achieve 3000 instructional program designed for students who experience difficulty in reading. This class will provide students with additional support to help ensure success through the use of individualized, targeted instruction and interventions.

Math 6 (Full Year):

Within a well-balanced mathematics curriculum, the primary focal points at Grade 6 are using operations with integers and positive rational numbers to solve problems, understanding and applying ratios and rates and using equivalent ratios to represent proportional relationships, using expressions and equations to represent relationships in a variety of contexts, understanding data representation, and financial literacy.

Pre-AP Math 6 (Full Year):

Pre-AP Math 6 provides capable students with a course designed to prepare them for Pre-AP Algebra I and other rigorous advanced course work in the future. In addition to the primary focal points of using operations with integers and positive rational numbers to solve problems, understanding and applying ratios and rates and using equivalent ratios to represent proportional relationships, using expressions and equations to represent relationships in a variety of contexts, understanding data representation, and financial literacy, the curriculum will include a rigorous problem solving component. Students should expect an additional time requirement and be willing to work independently.

Math Lab (Full Year):

This course is a supplement to the student's regular grade-level math course and is taken in place of an elective.

Math Lab provides a rich, supportive curriculum to assist students in mastering foundation concepts through problem solving, reinforcement of skills, and the use of small group instruction. This class will provide students with additional support to help ensure success through the use of individualized, targeted instruction and interventions.

Science 6 (Full Year):

Grade 6 Science is interdisciplinary in nature; however much of the content focus is on physical science. The standards for Grade 6 include:

- A. Scientific investigation and reasoning- allows students to develop a rich knowledge of science in the natural world by becoming familiar with modes scientific of inquiry and the diverse ways scientists study the natural world.
- B. Matter and energy- students concentrate on developing an understanding of elements and compounds.
- C. Force, motion, and energy- students will investigate the types of energy as well as the relationship between force and motion through a variety of means; including calculations and measurements.
- D. Earth and space- students will develop an understanding of Earth's processes, the way our solar system is organized, the role of gravity, and space exploration.
- E. Organisms and environments- students will gain an understanding of the broadest taxonomic classifications of organisms, the interdependence between organisms and their environments, and levels of organization within an ecosystem.

Social Studies 6 (Full Year):

This course is the study of people, places, and societies of the contemporary world. Students will describe the influence of individuals and groups on historical and contemporary events in societies and identify the locations and geographic characteristics of various societies. Students identify different ways of organizing economic and governmental systems. The concepts of limited and unlimited government are introduced, and students describe the nature of citizenship in various societies. Students compare institutions common to all societies such as government, education, and religious institutions. Students explain how the level of technology affects the development of the various societies and identify different points of view about events. The concept of frame of reference is introduced as an influence on an individual's point of view. Students will use of a variety of rich primary and secondary source material such as biographies, autobiographies, novels, speeches, letters, poetry, songs, and artworks.

Physical Education 6:

Students in this course will acquire the knowledge and skills for movement that provide the foundation for enjoyment and continued social development through physical activity. Students will learn specialized skills and concepts that lead to confidence and competency in a variety of physical activities. Physical activity will include lessons from team sports, individual sports and aerobic sports.

Technology Applications:

This course 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. Students will increase their understanding of digital safety and digital copyright.

Study Skills:

The sixth grade study skills 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.

Elective Courses

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 BE PLACED IN THE NEXT ELECTIVE CHOICE ON THE SCHEDULE CARD FILLED OUT BY THE STUDENT AND PARENT.

Beginning Band (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.)

Beginning Choir (Full Year):

Male and female singers will build upon music fundamentals learned in elementary school. They will learn to further develop healthy vocal technique appropriate for different styles of music. Music reading skills and confidence in performance will be developed. Students will perform in concerts throughout the year.

Beginning Orchestra (Full Year):

Beginning Orchestra (strings) is open to all 6th, 7th and 8th grade students who would like to further their musical knowledge or begin instruction on violin, viola, cello or bass. No prior experience is necessary. (*Students with prior string experience read NOTE below.*) These classes meet daily and focus on establishing and developing basic musical and performance skills. During the year, all string students will combine on two or more occasions to present concerts for the parents and public. The students will also perform at one music contest. Students will be placed in classes according to instrumentation (i.e. violins/violas or cellos/basses). Prior to enrollment, a "try the instrument night" is scheduled to allow the student to have a "hands on" trial time. The director is always available to answer questions on instrument selection, instrument sizing, rentals, reconditioning of previously owned family instruments, instrument purchase and scholarship opportunities. (It is strongly recommended that parents meet with the director *prior* to purchasing an instrument.)

NOTE: Students with previous string experience or those students with previous musical experience may elect to study privately during the summer and audition in early August for placement in one of the upper level groups.

Art 1 (Full Year):

Art 1 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.

Theater Arts 1 (Full Year):

Theater Arts 1 is designed to introduce the student 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.