

**2017-2018
6th Grade
Course Descriptions**

Required Courses

Integrated Language Arts 6 (Full Year):

In 6th grade ILA, students strengthen skills in reading analysis and communication. Students read and write on a daily basis, engaging in activities that build on existing skills as they comprehend and analyze text, write in multiple modes, research, listen, and speak. This course focuses on the theme of change, personally, locally, and globally. In this level, students begin expanding their cognitive skills of evaluation and analysis by looking closely at language and how writers use descriptive words and sentence construction to convey specific meaning. Through exploration of a variety of author's voices, students start developing their own sense of voice as they write paragraphs, short essays, stories, and poetry that develops their writing skills. Deep reading and analysis of multiple genres enhances their reading skills and builds their vocabularies.

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

Pre-AP engages students in learning all the essential knowledge and skills of 6th grade ILA while providing greater depth. Summer reading is required as it provides an avenue for Pre-AP students to both activate academic skills during the summer and to launch academic progress at the beginning of the school year. Independent reading in Pre-AP courses is structured to support students' interaction with a text through the application of close reading analysis with Pre-AP and AP reading strategies, leading to an ability to independently analyze any new text. This enhanced curriculum builds the tools necessary to succeed in high school AP classes.

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 or A/B Day):

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

Reading is a one or two semester course for those students who struggle with basic reading competencies. Emphasis is placed on using specific reading strategies to increase skills in comprehension, vocabulary development, fluency, and reference usage. Instruction is differentiated and tailored to the individual needs of each student. The model includes experiences in whole and small group instruction, independent reading, and technology-based learning. This course is intended for remediation in reading.

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 or A/B Day):

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 (Full Year):

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 (A/B Rotation with Study Skills):

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 (A/B Rotation with Technology Applications):

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.

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 6th (Full Year):

This course is designed to teach students the basic fundamentals of band instruments (Brass, Woodwind and Percussion.) The course covers 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.)

Choir 6 (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):

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 (i.e. piano, band instrument) may elect to study privately during the summer and audition in early August for placement.

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 6 (Full Year):

Theater Arts 6 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.