

## 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Exploratory Electives

**Exploratory Electives** is a rotation of classes: Art, Computers, Drama, FACS, Music, Technology, World Language, and Life Readiness. The exploratory classes offer you the unique chance to experience a wide variety of subjects in a short amount of time. Through these experiences, it will be easier for you to select the elective classes you would like to take over the next two years and even in high school. Below is a brief description of each exploratory class so you will have an idea of what to expect when you walk through the door on the first day of each class.

### **6<sup>th</sup> Grade World Languages Exploration**

In this daily nine-week course, students will learn about the world through French and Spanish. Students will learn short conversations and basic vocabulary in each language. Students will gain a global perspective through various activities about the cultures of these countries through food, stories, and songs. In addition, students will learn where each of these languages is spoken, about their peers, and their daily lives in these countries.

### **6<sup>th</sup> Grade Theatrical Arts**

This daily nine-week exploratory class introduces students to the basics of theatre arts topics, which will include pantomime, script reading, improvisation, movement, and audience behavior.

### **6<sup>th</sup> Grade Art**

This daily nine-week art class challenges middle school students to discover their abilities and place in the community. This course allows students to develop creative and critical thinking skills, solve problems, and communicate effectively within and beyond the classroom. Students will utilize a variety of art media to create two- and three-dimensional art works while building an appreciation for, and drawing inspiration from, many ancient cultures.

### **6<sup>th</sup> Grade Choir**

This daily nine-week exploratory class enables students to explore a variety of ways to enjoy and become knowledgeable about music. Students will continue music literacy skills (rhythmic and melodic), learn music history and styles through a variety of listening examples, and experience music through technology, singing, playing instruments, and composing original works.

### **6<sup>th</sup> Grade Exploring Technology**

This is a daily nine-week exploratory class. Exploring Technology is an activity-based course where students will learn about the subject of technology through various hands-on activities. The activities are engineering in nature, meaning that students will be using math, science, and technology to design, build, analyze, and test solutions to specific design problems. Exploring Technology is truly a "learn-by-doing" class! Activities will focus on the construction of structures, computer graphics, rocketry and space related topics, electricity and electronics, and many other forms of research and design. Students will also be introduced to using 3-D computer-aided design.

### **6<sup>th</sup> Grade Exploring Computers**

This is a daily nine-week exploratory class. Being computer literate is a necessity in this world. This broad-based exploratory course will cover various aspects of using computers in today's business world. The most fundamental component of using a computer however is being able to keyboard efficiently. Students will spend the first several weeks of this class learning or improving keyboarding skills. You will be amazed at how quickly your speed and accuracy will improve as you master these skills. *In addition to keyboarding techniques*, Internet safety and research, MS Office suite for documents, publications, presentations, and Photo Story will be practiced throughout the course. Come get tech savvy with us!

### **6<sup>th</sup> Grade Exploring Family and Consuming Sciences (FACS)**

This is a daily, nine-week exploratory class. Exploring FACS introduces sixth grade students to the subject of Family and Consumer Sciences. Units of study may include: teamwork and leadership; cooking and nutrition; sewing; child care; and money management and decision making. The course activities will emphasize safety and teamwork in an interactive environment

### **6<sup>th</sup> Grade Life Readiness**

This daily nine-week Life Readiness class is designed to increase the knowledge of careers and post-secondary options. Students will explore the six career paths and engage in self-exploration to determine interests, work values, and skills.

## Additional Yearlong Elective Options

### **6<sup>th</sup> Grade Beginning Band**

This is a daily, year-long course. Sixth Grade Beginning Band is the first band opportunity for the CPS district. Emphasis in sixth grade band is on developing musical skills that lead to the art of performing. Students develop additional skills in writing music, music technology, and the culture of music. Students develop additional skills in writing music, music technology, and the culture of music. In addition to daily classes the full sixth-grade band meets after school.

### **6<sup>th</sup> Grade Beginning Orchestra**

This is a daily, year-long course. Sixth Grade Beginning Orchestra is the first opportunity for the CPS district and string instruments. Emphasis in sixth grade orchestra is on developing musical skills that lead to the art of performing. Students develop additional skills in writing music, music technology, and the culture of music. Students develop additional skills in writing music, music technology, and the culture of music. In addition to daily classes the full sixth-grade orchestra meets after school.

**\*In order to participate in Band or Orchestra: Follow the link below if you are interested in playing an instrument.**

**<https://www.cpsfinearts.com/2021-instrument-enrollment> or contact the Band/Orchestra director at the school your child will be attending to discuss instrument choices.**

## THINGS YOU WANT TO KNOW!

**Physical Education** – Sixth-graders take PE on alternating days. Athletic shoes are required but dress out is optional depending on the activity.

**RTI (Response to Intervention)** – Sixth-graders will be in RTI. This is a time for teachers to provide reading or math support or special enrichment projects.

**Academic Lab** -This is a time for teachers to provide core class support and when students can work on assignments. It is also a great time to get extra help from teachers when you are having problems understanding a lesson.

**EEE (Extended Education Experience)** – If your child qualifies, this will alternate with PE instead of RTI.

Some sixth-graders are also enrolled in the following:

### **Reading Workshop (Teacher recommended intervention course)**

This a daily, year-long, supplemental reading course is designed to teach literacy strategies to students who struggle with aspects of reading as determined by multiple literacy assessment measures and teacher recommendations. Students will participate in whole group and small group instruction as well as spend significant time in independent reading of fiction and nonfiction texts and working to meet personal reading goals centered on mastery of various comprehension strategies.

**Math Choices** – 5<sup>th</sup> grade teachers will discuss their recommendations with families. Information to have about decision making:

### **Math 6**

Grade 6 mathematics is aligned with the Common Core State Standards with the focus on four critical areas: (1) connecting ratio and rate to whole number multiplication and division and using concepts of ratio and rate to solve problems; (2) completing understanding of division of fractions and extending the notion of number to the system of rational numbers, which includes negative numbers; (3) writing, interpreting, and using expressions and equations; and (4) developing understanding of statistical thinking.

### **Advanced Math 6**

The 6<sup>th</sup> grade Advanced math course is “compacted” which means to compress content from both 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade, which requires a faster pace to complete, as opposed to skipping content. While this course is not a requirement for 7<sup>th</sup> grade advanced math, it would be a good course for students who want an extra challenge in mathematics in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

**If there are additional questions about math placement, contact Lisa Nieder, district math coordinator, at [lnieder@cpsk12.org](mailto:lnieder@cpsk12.org)**