



SIXTH GRADE MINI COURSE CATALOG

Lois & Jerry Tarkanian Middle School
2019-2020 School Year

Required Core Classes **MATHEMATICS 6**

This one-year course is designed to 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. Instructional practices incorporate integration of diversity awareness including appreciation of all cultures and their important contributions to society. The use of manipulatives, mathematical tools, and technology, including calculators and computer software, is an integral part of this course. This course fulfills the mathematics requirement for sixth-grade students.

MATHEMATICS ACCELERATED 6

This one-year course is designed to prepare students for the increased rigor of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) Algebra I in middle school. This compacted course includes the grade six curriculum as well as a portion of the currently adopted CCSS grade seven curriculum. This course focuses on six 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; 4) developing understanding of statistical thinking; 5) developing understanding of and applying proportional relationships; and 6) developing understanding of operations with rational numbers and working with expressions and linear equations. Instructional practices incorporate integration of diversity awareness including appreciation of all cultures and their important contributions to society. The use of manipulatives, mathematical tools, and technology, including calculators and computer software, is an integral part of this course. This course fulfills the mathematics requirement for sixth-grade students.

MATHEMATICS ACCELERATED 7

This one-year course is designed to prepare students for the increased rigor of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) Algebra I in middle school. This compacted course includes grade seven curriculum as well as a portion of the currently adopted CCSS grade eight curriculum. This course focuses on six critical areas: 1) developing understanding of and applying proportional relationships; 2) developing understanding of operations with rational

numbers and working with expressions and linear equations; 3) solving problems involving scale drawings and informal geometric constructions, and working with two- and three-dimensional shapes to solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume; 4) drawing inferences about populations based on samples; 5) formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations, including modeling an association in bivariate data with a linear equation, and solving linear equations and systems of linear equations; and 6) analyzing two- and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence, and understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem. Instructional practices incorporate integration of diversity awareness including appreciation of all cultures and their important contributions to society. The use of manipulatives, mathematical tools, and technology, including calculators and computer software, is an integral part of this course. This course fulfills the mathematics requirement for seventh-grade students. Placement into this course is based on placement test score, teacher recommendation, and SBAC scores.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 6 BLOCK

This one-year course provides instruction in the English Language Arts strands identified by the Common Core State Standards as reading, writing, speaking and listening, and language. This course is designed to build knowledge and critical thinking skills through close reading of texts; writing to support claims, to clarify ideas, and/or to develop ideas; and a range of collaborative discussions. Instructional practices incorporate integration of diversity awareness including appreciation of all cultures and their important contributions to society. The appropriate use of technology is an integral part of this course. This course fulfills the sixth grade English requirement.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 6 ACCELERATED BLOCK

This one-year course provides instruction in the English Language Arts strands identified by the Common Core State Standards as reading, writing, speaking and listening, and language. This course is designated as accelerated by the faster instructional pacing and depth of content. This course is designed to build knowledge and critical thinking skills through close reading of texts; writing to support claims, to clarify ideas, and/or to develop ideas; and a range of collaborative discussions. Instructional practices incorporate integration of diversity awareness including appreciation of all cultures and their important contributions to society. The appropriate use of technology is an integral part of this course. This course fulfills the sixth grade English requirement.

SCIENCE 6

This one-year course for sixth-grade students focuses on understanding the living systems on Earth. Students will use scientific processes, protocols, and tools, including inquiry, to build understandings of living things and the interactions between living and non-living things. Critical thinking, collaboration, accuracy, and communication skills will be used as students develop a foundation for scientific literacy in life, earth, and physical science content. This course is required for sixth-grade students. Technology, history and nature of science and career information will be integral components of this course. Instructional practices will incorporate integration of diversity awareness including appreciation of all cultures and their important contributions to our society. The appropriate use of technology is an integral part of this course. This course fulfills the science requirement for sixth-grade students.

SCIENCE ACCELERATED 6

This one-year course for sixth-grade students focuses on understanding the living systems on Earth. Students use scientific processes, protocols, and tools, including inquiry, to build understandings of living things and the interactions between living and non-living things. Critical thinking, collaboration, accuracy, and communication skills are used as students develop a foundation for scientific literacy in life, earth, and physical science content. This course is distinguished from Science 6 by the instructional pacing and the addition of enrichment activities. Instructional practices incorporate integration of diversity awareness including appreciation of all cultures and their important contributions to our society. The appropriate use of technology is an integral part of this course. This course fulfills the science requirement for sixth-grade students.



Computer Science and Applications

This one-semester course is designed to provide students with fundamental computing skills. Areas of emphasis include Internet use and safety, office productivity applications, and system fundamentals. Instructional practices incorporate integration of diversity awareness including appreciation of all cultures and their important contributions to society. The appropriate use of technology is an integral part of this course. This course fulfills the one-half computer credit required for high

school graduation.



PHYSICAL EDUCATION*

This course focuses on the physical, mental, social, and emotional development of students in cooperative and competitive settings. Students develop psychomotor skills and engage in movement and lifetime fitness activities at moderate to vigorous levels for a minimum of 50% of the instructional time. Students participate in movement experiences found in team, individual, and dual sports; dance/rhythms; and lifetime recreational activities. Health and skill-related fitness concepts are explored through personal goal setting and self-evaluation. Instructional practices incorporate integration of diversity awareness including appreciation of all cultures and their important contributions to society. The appropriate use of technology is an integral part of this course. This course fulfills the physical education requirement for sixth-, seventh-, and eighth-grade students.

Elective Choices

Please be advised that any student who is not making adequate academic progress may be placed in Fundamentals of Reading and Writing or Fundamentals of Math as their elective class.

This one-year course is designed for any middle school student who desires to develop the ability to play a brass, wind or percussion instrument. The course involves applying the basic fundamentals of music reading to the particular technique of the instrument being studied. The course may be repeated and is considered a preparatory course for progression into Intermediate and Advanced Band. A limited number of instruments are available for loan through the school. Students are responsible for providing those instruments not available through the school. Students in band will be required to pay fees for uniforms and student workbooks. Students who use school-owned instruments must also pay a cleaning fee when checking the instrument out and pay for all repairs before returning the instrument. Beginning band classes will be divided into brass, woodwind, and percussion sections. Performances outside of the school day are mandatory.



BEGINNING ORCHESTRA*

This one-year course is designed for the student who is interested in learning to play a string instrument. It includes the development of skills necessary to become independent as a musician. This course emphasizes the place of string music in the Western musical heritage. It concentrates on the development of note-reading skills, aural skills, rhythmic patterns, intonation, and tonality inherent to Western string music. The importance of sustained group and individual effort is stressed. A progression of fundamental and technical proficiency is expected. Emphasis will be placed on having a variety of performing experiences. A limited number of instruments are available for loan through the school. Students are responsible for providing those instruments not available through the school. Students in orchestra will be required to pay fees for uniforms and student workbooks. Students who use school-owned instruments must also pay a cleaning fee when checking the instrument out and pay for all repairs before returning the instrument. Performances outside of the school day are mandatory.

BEGINNING CHORUS*

This one-year course is designed as a study in vocal production of music fundamentals with opportunities to sing a variety of choral literature. Emphasis will be placed on providing each student with an array of performance experiences. This is an elective course open to boys and girls in sixth grade with little or no choral experience. Students will be required to pay uniform fees. Performances outside of the school day are mandatory.



BEGINNING ART*

This one-year course develops basic knowledge and skills in visual art techniques through the introduction of a variety of media and subject matter. Various styles and artists are considered within their historical context. Problem solving, creativity, and originality are developed through planning, art making, and reflection. Students learn principles and practices of aesthetics and critique. Through discussion and production, connections are made between visual art and disciplines outside of the arts. Instructional practices incorporate integration of diversity awareness including appreciation for all cultures and their important contribution to our society. The appropriate use of technology is an integral part of this course. This is an elective course appropriate for six through eight.



STUDENT CAFETERIA TRAINING

This one-year course is designed to allow students to train in the school cafeteria. Under the direction of a food supervisor and a certified educator, students will gain experience in food service and handling, in handling money, in being responsible for customer service, and following directions. This is an elective course for sixth grade

students.



EXPLORING WORLD LANGUAGES

This one-year introductory course is designed to acquaint students with selected world languages. The course gives students the opportunity to gain an understanding of a language they might want to study in the future. The course provides an overview of the cultures of the languages studied along with fundamental communication skills in the target languages. Instructional practices incorporate integration of diversity awareness including appreciation of all cultures and their important contributions to society. The appropriate use of technology is an integral part of this course. This is an elective course appropriate for students in grades six through eight.

EXPLORATIONS

This one-year course for students in grades seven and eight explores subjects that may include the arts, humanities, music appreciation, and personal wellness. Instructional practices incorporate integration of diversity awareness and contributions to society.



FUNDAMENTALS OF READING AND WRITING

This one-year, one- or two-period intervention course is designed for students who need additional instruction and support to master grade-level reading and writing skills and concepts. This course provides additional instruction in conjunction with the student's required reading and English course(s) of study in grades 6, 7, and/or 8. Instructional practices incorporate integration of diversity awareness including appreciation of all cultures and their important contributions to society. The appropriate use of technology and digital media are integral parts of this course. This course is a repeatable elective and does not fulfill the middle school English or reading requirement for promotion.

FUNDAMENTALS OF MATHEMATICS

This one-year intervention course in mathematics is designed for students who need additional instruction and support to master necessary middle school mathematics concepts. This course provides additional instruction in conjunction with the student's required mathematics course of study in grades 6, 7, and/or 8. Instructional practices incorporate integration of diversity awareness including appreciation of all cultures and their important contributions

to society. The use of manipulatives, mathematical tools, and technology, including calculators and computer software, is an integral part of this course. This course is a repeatable elective course and does not fulfill the middle school mathematics requirement for promotion.

Final curriculum and elective offerings will depend upon staffing and pupil enrollment at Tarkanian MS. Students are required to designate first, second, and third choices for electives. Students are not guaranteed an elective choice; however, every effort will be made to assign them to their first choice. Students will be required to remain enrolled in their assigned elective for the entire school year.

Registration Fees

The starred (*) courses have fees associated with their programs. Please select these courses carefully.