**R.M.S. 6th Grade Elective Descriptions**

**A.C.T.  Active Caring Teens** - Do you see yourself as a leader - someone who likes to get involved and enjoys helping others? Are you one who cares about making your school, your community and the world around you a better place to live? If you answered yes to these questions, then this class is for you! Over the 12 weeks you will participate in a wide range of student-driven school and community-based service learning projects. These may range from supporting local organizations, such as Food For Lane County or Womenspace, to completing a school-wide peace project. In addition, students in this class will serve as House representatives, continuing to provide the student body at Roosevelt with an active voice. Repeatable: Yes

**American Musical Theater** - Students will study the stories, themes, and archetypes used in Broadway Musicals from years past through today's popular plays. We will watch excerpts, as well as full movies. Students will write and reflect, compare musicals with other literary works, as well as create a timeline for the development and history of American Musical Theater. Most course work will be completed in class. This is not a performing arts class; students will not be performing. Repeatable: No

**Book Zone** – Books contain worlds waiting to be discovered. Be an explorer. Reading Zone is a place to read. Together we'll create a space where reading is fun, relaxing, and a shared experience. We will talk about the books we’re reading and work together to find just the right novel for you. Everyone will choose the books they want to read, so this is a chance for you to continue to develop the habit of reading for pleasure and to discover the worlds waiting between the book covers. In the 2015-2016 school year, Book Zone is a one Trimester course. Repeatable: Yes

**Debate** - This is a great class for students with strong opinions or for those who want to sharpen organizational and research skills, or develop increased assertiveness. Students taking this class will learn the fundamental principles of debate - organization, research and team work. They will work in small teams to learn about and formally debate several of the important issues of our times. All scored debate topics are selected by students. Parliamentary and cross-examination debate formats will be used in both scored and non-scored presentations. Repeatable: Yes, once in 7th and once in 8th

**Drama 6, Exploring the Stage Richard Leebrick**
This course is designed for the continuing theater student, although there is no prerequisite. Students work to become more at ease in front of their peers, both verbally and with acting. Students will practice basic acting skills as well as learn more difficult techniques. Students will be asked to work with and perform many types of skits with all members of the class. Attention will be given to movement, stage presence, voice projection and quality, emotional recall and positive critiquing. Additionally, students will work with the elements of improvisational theater and scene study. Credit will be based on participation, group involvement, cooperation and improvement. Excellent attendance is critical since this is a performance class.

**Drawing** – Drawing is a way of creating and expressing ourselves. Drawing provides a common ground for communication and helps us interpret our experiences visually, emotionally and creatively. You can learn to draw; it's easier than you think. In this class we will learn this visual language by learning skills such as perspective, placement, shading, etc. We will use a wide variety of materials and will work in a studio environment. Student artists will learn to draw from observation as well as imagination, creating art using enduring ideas to guide them. Repeatable: Yes

**Family Recipes** - This course is designed for all-comers—from the budding gourmet to the absolute novice! Patterned after a real life food handler’s experience, young chefs will learn the basics of food safety and culinary skills. In addition, students will learn the value of working cooperatively with their kitchen mates. Course activities include budget and menu planning, demonstrations by working chefs and food preparation labs. In addition, we will create a unique class cookbook that will serve as a memorable keepsake for years to come! Fee: $15.00 (scholarships are available) Repeatable: No

**Fantasy Literature** – Fantasy Literature is a 12-week Language Arts elective. We will be reading 3 novels together as a class: The Hobbit by J.R.R. Tolkien, A Wizard of Earth sea by Ursula K. LeGuin. Alice’s Adventure in “Wonderland and Through the Looking Glass,” by Lewis Carroll. It is my goal to have minimal homework, and to provide opportunities for most projects and reading to occur in class. There will be group discussions, class projects and plenty of time for reading. Get ready to curl up with a great story. Repeatable: No

**Green Team** - Students will start the trimester researching various “green” topics. Then, students will choose a topic of interest and investigate their topic in-depth by doing Internet research, community member interviews and hands-on data gathering. Finally, students will develop an action-plan and present their findings to an authentic audience. Go GREEN! Repeatable: Yes

2015-2016 6th grade electives
Guitar (Geared toward Beginners) – If you have wanted to get a start playing the guitar, this is your opportunity. No prior experience is required. You will learn some guitar basics and a little about reading music. Sign-up and enjoy the fun. Repeatable. Yes

Home Sweet Home - This activity-based elective was created for students who enjoy working in groups, like hands-on activities, and want to understand and care for the outdoor world. Students will study everything from insects and birds, to flowers and trees. Students will learn how to test water quality, observe animal behaviors, and make maps. This elective is about the place we call home, the Willamette Valley, and why we love living here. It’s a great place to live!!! Recommended for 7th & 8th graders, but open to 6th graders who are ready jump right in to the middle school experience.

Justice For All – Social Justice “That’s not fair!” How many times have you said or heard this? Sometimes it said to get out of some trivial task like taking out the trash, but what if it true? What if the injustice is about something important like personal safety? This class will address issues of social justice and injustice at all levels. We’ll learn about the Nobel Peace Prize winners and the work they’ve done to make the world better, more equal.

Lights! Camera! Action! - Description: Using iMovie, students work in small crews to create 3 projects: a promotional ad for a class at RMS, a documentary, and a fictional piece. The entire process from the initial storyboards to the digital filming to the final editing, students learn to make a cohesive film that engages the audience. Students practice teamwork as they develop their skills. This class culminates in a film festival open to all students during lunch.

Midsummer Night’s Dream - Fairies, a moonlit forest, adventure, and a TON of fun: come enjoy this popular Shakespeare comedy. Students will read and perform this classic play. Final performances will be a part of Roosevelt’s annual “Bard Fest.” Please be prepared for additional rehearsals before and after school, and possibly on weekends. Repeatable: Yes

Musical Theatre - Do you enjoy singing, acting and dancing? Then this is the class for you! Students will explore elements of Musical Theater. No specific show has been selected for this class. Students will help choose the final performance project. This class is 24 weeks long and occupies two trimesters. Repeatable: Yes

News of the Day - Are you interested in current events and happenings around the world? Do you enjoy learning about the origins and effects of these events? If so, then this is the class for you. We’ll examine and analyze current political and social news items from newspapers, news magazines, the Internet, radio, television, YouTube videos, movies, and more. We’ll engage in discussions, debates, skits, etc. to develop a clear understanding of the news of the day in a fun and relaxing environment.

Painting - This course is intended to take drawing one step further in exploring different media techniques such as watercolor, tempera paint and ink. Color theory, composition, perspective, and brush techniques will be used in painting from observation, photos, and imagination. Students will experience a historical, cultural, and current events approach with many different works. The emphasis in this class will be on the exploration of different creative processes and the effort put into the work. This class will function as a studio. Students will work on their art at their own pace creating art with meaning. Repeatable: Yes

Patterns of Nature – Students will explore various patterns found in the natural world around them. They will use pen, pencil, pastels and charcoal as different media types to explore light and dark values, texture & pattern, and space and perspective drawings. To earn credit, students will be expected to complete class projects.

Psychology & You - Have you ever wondered what makes people tick, why do people think and act the way they do? This is a class about understanding yourself and others through the study of human behavior, thoughts and emotions. We will study the brain and how it works, explore theories of learning, perception, memory, dreams and sleep. We’ll follow human development from infancy through childhood to adolescence. We will inventory our personal creative, thinking and social styles. We will experiment with simple surveys and tests where you may discover answers to questions...Are you an introvert or extrovert? What does your signature say about you? What body language do you speak? Are you right brained or left brained? Credit will be based on class participation, daily assignments and quizzes.

Robotics (Automation/Robotics) In this beginning course in robotics we will be utilizing Lego Mindstorm kits, Robolab software and various Lego Robotics materials. The objective of this course is to introduce the student to basic programming as well as problem solving strategies. This course will involve students in the development, building and programming of a LEGO Mindstorm robot. Students will work hands-on in teams to design, build, program and document their progress. Topics may include motor control, gear
Science & Technology - Students will explore the uses of technology and its connections to science. Starting with the most basic understanding of how technology affects our lives, how technology aids us and how it has changed us, 11 students will improve their skills in e-mail etiquette, applications for word processing, presentations, and creative applications like Comic Life, Garageband, iMovie, and Sketchup. Repeatable: Yes

Science & The Media - Do you believe everything you see on the Internet? Do you understand how commercials influence your values and wants? How are advertisements designed to get consumers to buy their products? Learn to cast a critical eye and question the sources that shape our culture. Students will study Internet, television, and social media and create projects of the own, like ads, commercials, songs, movies, posters, and fictional celebrities. This should be fun! "Just Do It!"

Scientific Illustration - Scientific Illustration is the beautiful art of recording and interpreting nature through pen and pencil studies, watercolor painting, and other wildly creative media. Students will love this inventive approach to developing their artistic inclinations. Repeatable: Yes

Sculpture - Sculpture is the fascinating art of shaping material into forms. Students will create original sculptures using different themes and processes while using various sculptural media, tools and techniques. Clay, wood, paper and plaster of paris are some of the materials we will be using in our creations. Tag board mechanical toys (that will actually move), wood carving blocks, three-dimensional stars and clay figures are some of the projects we will explore in this class. Fee: $10.00 (Scholarships available)

Spanish 1 - Spanish is an exciting language with many possibilities. Having a foundation for communication is the goal of Spanish1. This foundation consists of building sentences, conjugating verbs, noun adjective agreement though themes of school, family, friends, past-times, food, etc. In addition we will explore Hispanic cultures and celebrations, such as Día de los muertos and Cinco de Mayo. Written activities, music, communication activities, skits, games, reading, videos, homework, quizzes, and art will be used to reinforce lessons and demonstrate proficiency. Good attendance, daily practice and participation are essential. Grades consist of class work, participation, homework, and assessments. Fees: $12 for workbook.

S.T.O.P. - Five years ago, the Student Government class created an anti-bullying, anti-harassment campaign called STOP (Stop Bullying and Harassment, Start Teaching Others Peace). The goals of this student-driven campaign are to address the ongoing concerns Roosevelt student leaders have regarding bullying and harassment that can sometimes be targeted toward particular groups of students. Their overall goal is to create and support a safe, respectful, and welcoming school culture for ALL students. Given the increase of ideas and requests each year by students regarding ways to develop the STOP program, it has become necessary to create a separate class from Student Government and ACT to allow student ideas to come to fruition and to strengthen the overall impact of STOP school-wide. The idea for a separate STOP class was voted on and approved by the 2015 ACT leadership class to be piloted for the 2015-2016 school year. The STOP class will work in collaboration with Student Government and ACT to strengthen and implement the goals of STOP. Student leaders will have an opportunity to participate in a variety of class activities and planning opportunities that will center around evaluating issues related to equity and social justice that impact our overall school program and climate. These issues will be evaluated for their connection to bullying and harassment toward all students, but toward targeted groups in particular. This class will be responsible for planning STOP assemblies, STOP House activities, and for promoting the messages of peace-making school-wide. Given that this is a leadership class, there will be high expectations for participation, engagement, and self-management. Having multiple perspectives (student voices) in this class will be highly valued! Students who participate in our Student Diversity Unions (BSU-Black Student Union, LSU-Latino Student Union, SASU-Sundry Asian Student Union, and the GSA-Gay Straight Alliance) would be excellent candidates, however all students are encouraged to participate in this class.

Sustainable Living - Want to make the world a better place? Think your actions have an impact? You can and they do! Explore the many ways you can have a positive influence on your own life and in your community. We will delve into the interconnectedness of our daily lives with respect to the basics of food, shelter, clothing, and the influence our choices have on the world around us locally, nationally, and internationally. We will choose a class project of action embodying the theme “Think Globally, Act Locally”. Repeatable: Yes

Voices of Our Planet - This language arts elective is a 12-week class for students who like to read stories from around the world and integrate music and drama with folk tales. We will also make rain sticks, create our own folk tales, and DRUM! There will be minimal 2015-2016 6th grade electives
homework, and time will be provided in class for reading and group projects. Repeatable

Woodworking - This 12-week class is open to 6th, 7th, and 8th graders of all skill levels. Students will learn to safely use tools, equipment and materials to design, cut, shape, assemble and finish individual and group woodworking projects. Fee: $10.00 (Scholarships are available.) Repeatable: No

Roosevelt 6th Grade Program Description

Elements of Math, 6, Matt Byers, Jack Fertal, or Eric Gower (Math), Year-long: Daily Meet - Required
This is a foundational class for our 6th grade students. The topics covered are essential for student success in mathematics. The class covers rational numbers and operations, an introduction to algebra including solving single step equations, rate, ratios and integers, a statistics unit and a unit area and volume.

Cultural Connections, 6, Dee Ryley, Chava Beinin, or Carol Sinclair (Language Arts), Year-long: Daily Meet - Required
Cultural Connections is the year-long Language Arts class for all 6th graders. Through reading historical fiction and non-fiction texts and extensive writing projects, the class explores the idea of culture with a focus on the historical experiences of different people in the United States. All the 6th grade classes participate in an Immigration Simulation in the fall and a Cultural Festival project in the spring where students research and display their own family history or a cultural aspect of their community.

Cultural Connections classes, which meet daily, address reading comprehension and analytical and summarizing skills, and emphasize the on-going skills of learning how to be an effective writer with various assignments in narrative, explanatory, and argumentative modes. Throughout the year, Cultural Connections teachers also discuss strategies for developing good study skills, organization, and work habits that students can use in all of their classes and schooling.

Ancient Civilizations, 6, Marty Smith or TBA, (Social Studies), Year-long: Daily Meet - Required
In this year-long history class for sixth graders students will study about some of the ancient civilizations that developed in Mesopotamia, Egypt, India, China, Greece and Rome. We begin with early human development in prehistoric times and go on to the beginnings of civilization in Mesopotamia. Students will take a close look at how the elements of civilization, such as government, religion, art, architecture, technology, and social hierarchy manifested in places such as ancient Egypt, China, Greece and Rome. Students will be engaged in a variety of activities, such as reading, note-taking, class discussions, simulations, oral presentations, debates, computer activities, and individual and cooperative group projects. In addition to learning the history of the ancient world, students will also build good study habits, solid organizational skills and appropriate classroom behavior, which are essential ingredients for success. Students will be evaluated on daily participation, completion of class work and homework, bringing materials to class and tests and quizzes.

L.E.A.P Science, 6, Daven Tubb, Chad Heidtke, Lauren Worth, (Science), A rotation over three trimesters): Red or White - Required
The sixth grade LEAP (Life, Earth and Physical) science program is a full year rotation in each content area. The primary focus of the LEAP program is for students to explore science and to learn basic laboratory skills. Each student will be introduced to Elements of Inquiry (including formulating questions, designing experiments, presenting data, and analyzing results). Life science topics include observation and measurement, use of the microscope, and an introduction to cell biology. Students learn the characteristics of life, study animal behavior, stimulus and response, and the dynamics of populations. The Kingdoms of life are surveyed. Physical Science topics include atoms, the periodic table, phases changes and properties of matter. Students study physical and chemical changes, types of energy, and qualities of sound and light. Earth Science topics include observation and measurement skills, mass, volume, and density of minerals. Students study identification of rocks and minerals, learn about the rock cycle, and how land features are formed. Renewable and non-renewable resources are studied in relation to climate change and environmental impact.

Check It Out!, 6, Meredith Coelho, (Technology & Research), Red or White – Required (Not offered 3rd Trimester: Red)
Description: Introduction to the Roosevelt Middle School Library, basic research skills, and technology. Students learn to locate information, to assess the quality of the information, and to cite their sources. Students demonstrate competence using digital cameras, keyboarding, word-processing software, slideshow software, and saving and organizing files. The curriculum aligns with Eugene School District and State of Oregon technology standards.

Healthy Choices, 6, Casey Tiemann, (Health) Required, Red and White – Required (Not offered 3rd Trimester: White Day)

2015-2016 6th grade electives
This 12-week class designed for sixth graders, emphasizes making positive choices to develop and maintain a healthy lifestyle. Students will receive instruction and practice refusal skills, stress management, communication skills, empathy building and bullying prevention. Students will participate in goal setting activities and career exploration. Tobacco, drug and alcohol prevention curriculum will be presented including the Slick Tracy Program, which is an alcohol–use prevention curriculum.

**Personal Wellness, 6, Eric Johannsen or Susan Chubb (Health/ PE), Year-long: Red or White - Required**

“Personal Wellness” is a year-long class that familiarizes students with the human body, how it works, and the changes/experiences that can be expected as students enter their teenage years. Additionally, strategies will be introduced that will help students make positive choices throughout their entire lives. Instructional time will be spent both inside and outside of the classroom. Knowledge and skill will be developed by participating in a wide variety of activities designed to help evaluate, monitor, and maintain an optimal level of wellness throughout the lifetime of each student. Oregon Department of Education standards in both health and physical education will be met by successfully completing this course.

**Roosevelt Voices, 6, Carol Sinclair, (Music), Year-long: Red or White - One music required**

This year-long is for 6th grade students. No audition is necessary. Students will sing a variety of music, from popular to jazz, folk music to classic choral literature. Sight singing, rounds, 3-part harmony, as well as drumming and playing ukulele are part of the Roosevelt Voices curriculum. Our concert attire includes a t-shirt that choir members help design. T-shirts cost $10.

**6th Grade Band, Karen Doerfert, (Music), Year-long: Red or White - One music required**

This class offers beginning instruction on woodwind, brass and percussion instruments. No previous instrumental experience is necessary. Students will learn the fundamentals of playing a band instrument including reading music. Some school instruments are available for lease. Regular attendance, cooperation during class and home practice are required. Private lessons are encouraged but not required. This is a performance-based class, and will include required performances outside the regular school day.

**6th Grade Orchestra, 6, Karen Doerfert, (Music), Year-long: White, 5th Period - One music required**

This class offers beginning and intermediate instruction on violin, viola, cello and string bass. No previous instrumental experience is necessary. Students will learn the fundamentals of playing a string instrument including reading music. Regular attendance, cooperation during class and home practice are required. Private lessons are encouraged but not required. This is a performance-based class, and will include required performances outside the regular school day. Orchestra is offered 5th period, and students electing to take orchestra also take choir or band during 2nd period.

**6th Grade French Immersion**

**6th grade Cultural Connections: One Country, Many Voices: Cultural Connections to our History**

This class blends the study of French and social studies. Students will learn the story of peoples of different nations that came to America throughout its history. We will read about their struggles, their accomplishments, and their contributions. We will research their history and culture, and simulate some of their experiences through hands-on activities such as the Immigration Simulation. Students will also research and present a piece of their own family or community history through a cultural project. We will review basic grammar concepts and learn new ones. Students will be regularly tested to verify their language acquisition, and are expected to study regularly their conjugations, vocabulary lists and grammar rules. An important part of this class will be to develop strong study skills and organization skills to ensure academic success.

Découvertes for 6th graders - All classes are in French and require students to speak French only in class.