

Roosevelt Middle School

6th Grade Program

2017-2018

6th Grade Requirements:

- **A year long Math course:** Students are placed according to their math level.
- **A year long Science course.**
- **A year long Language Arts course:** Cultural Connections
- **A year long Social studies course:** Ancient Civilizations
- **A year long elective course:** Students are placed in a year long elective course based on student preference and class availability. Choices include: Band, Orchestra, Art, Drama/Theater
- **A trimester rotation course sequence:** one trimester of Health, one trimester of P.E., and one trimester of AVID Lite
- **House:** All students are placed in a House Advisory for three years.

French Immersion 6th Grade Requirements:

- **A year long French Immersion course:** Cultural Connections
- **A year long Decouvertes course**
- French Immersion students take a science course, a math course, a year long elective course, and a trimester rotation course sequence outside the French Immersion program similar to non-French Immersion Roosevelt students.

6th Grade Course Descriptions

6th Grade Math: Math 6 or Math 6a: Eric Gower or Karen Marashi

Students are placed according to their math level. Math placements are based on data from assessments and teacher recommendations.

Language Arts: Cultural Connections, Chava Beinin, Meredith Coelho, or Dee Ryley

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: Kay Fullerton or Craig Wiebe

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.

Science 6: Matt Byers or Melly Holloway

All Science classes follow the 4J District adopted IQWST science curriculum. IQWST is aligned with the Next Generation Science Standards(NGSS).

6th Grade science topics: Populations, ecosystems, predator/prey, invasive species. Intro to chemistry, molecules, mass, phase changes, elements, molecules, periodic table. Water cycle, landforms, rocks and minerals, weathering and erosion. Vision, light, properties of matter.

For a more detailed look at the IQWST curriculum, go to <http://www.activatelearning.com/iqwst-units/>

Year Long Elective Offerings

Art: Nia Reyes

This class will be your introduction to the visual arts! We will be doing a wide variety of art forms, building our art skills, and learning to express ourselves as artists through our art. We will learn to apply ideas, techniques, and problem solving to the creative process. We'll learn about how events and conditions influence the arts, and we will build our skills by learning to select and combine essential elements and organizational principles to achieve a desired effect when creating. We'll be drawing, painting, and sculpting our way through the school year.

6th Grade Band: Karen Doerfert

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. This is a performance-based class, and will include required performances outside the regular school day.

Exploring The Stage (Drama 6): Richard Leebrick

This course is designed for students with or without theater experience. 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.

As the year progresses, students will potentially create masks, costumes, set pieces and stage original works. Musicianship, dance skills, athleticism of all types are, as well as writing ability are valuable assets in this class.

Credit will be based on participation, group involvement, cooperation and improvement. Excellent attendance is critical since this is a performance class.

6th Grade Orchestra: Karen Doerfert

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.

6th Grade French Immersion Program

6th Grade Cultural Connections: Catherine Wiebe

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: Catherine Wiebe

All classes are in French and require students to speak French only in class.

Note: The individual teachers of the courses listed below, along with the courses, may change after the publication of this Curriculum Guide & Course Descriptions.