

Paredes Middle School 6th Grade Course Selections



English Language Arts Course Selections



ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS AND READING (6th) Academic

Sixth grade students refine and master previously learned knowledge and skills in increasingly complex situations. Students read a variety of classic and contemporary selections (fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and drama). Students deepen reading comprehension through literary and informational analysis, vocabulary study, and class discussions. Students select appropriate forms of writing to communicate ideas and information to specific audiences for specific purposes. Students revise and edit writing for clarity and correct use of conventions to produce final, error-free pieces on a regular basis.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS AND READING ADVANCED (6TH) Advanced

Sixth grade English Language Arts Advanced is an open enrollment course with no prerequisites. English Language Arts Advanced students refine and master previously learned knowledge and skills in increasingly complex situations in preparation for the rigor of middle school and high school advanced courses. Students read a variety of classic and contemporary selections (fiction, non-fiction,] poetry, and drama) inside and outside of class. Students deepen reading comprehension through literary and informational analysis, vocabulary study, and class discussions. Students select appropriate forms of writing to communicate ideas and information to specific audiences for specific purposes. Students revise and edit writing for clarity and correct use of conventions to produce final, error-free pieces on a regular basis.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS AND READING FOR SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES (ESOL)

These classes provide instruction in the ELAR and ELLA TEKS and are designed to serve as the ELAR course for Emergent Bilingual students identified as Newcomers or students in years 0-3 in US schools and at the beginning or intermediate level of English proficiency. The courses provide targeted and focused second language acquisition strategies that support the development of both interpersonal English skills and academic English while providing grade level ELAR TEKS. Course placement should be determined by LPAC.



Mathematics Course Selections



MATH (6TH) ACADEMIC

The primary focal areas in Grade 6 are number and operations; proportionality; expressions, equations, and relationships; and measurement and data. Students use concepts, algorithms, and properties of rational numbers to explore mathematical relationships and to describe increasingly complex situations. Students use concepts of proportionality to explore, develop, and communicate mathematical relationships. Students use algebraic thinking to describe how a change in one quantity in a relationship result in a change in the other. Students connect verbal, numeric, graphic, and symbolic representations of relationships, including equations and inequalities. Students use geometric properties and relationships, as well as spatial reasoning, to model and analyze situations and solve problems. Students communicate information about geometric figures or situations by quantifying attributes, generalize procedures from measurement experiences, and use the procedures to solve problems. Students use appropriate statistics, representations of data, and reasoning to draw conclusions, evaluate arguments, and make recommendations. While the use of all types of technology is important, the emphasis on algebra readiness skills necessitates the implementation of graphing technology.

ACCELERATED MATH (6th)

All sixth-grade TEKS are taught, in addition to selected seventh-grade TEKS as appropriate for extensions and identified in the curriculum. Students enrolled in this course will take the sixth-grade STAAR.



Social Studies Course Selections



WORLD CULTURES (6TH)/ADVANCED

The focus of 6th grade Social Studies is contemporary world cultures, studying the people, places, and regions of the world. The concepts of history, geography, government, economics, culture, citizenship, and science and technology are applied to contemporary societies. Students will practice critical thinking skills by analyzing societies, comparing culture regions, organizing, and interpreting Information, and making predictions.



Science Course Selections



SCIENCE (6TH) / ADVANCED

Grade 6 science is interdisciplinary in nature; however, much of the content focus is on physical science. The strands for grade 6 science are scientific investigations and reasoning, Matter and Energy, Force Motion, and Energy, Earth and Space, and Organisms and Environments. A unit on Human Sexuality and Responsibility is taught in science. Texas law requires at least 40 percent lab and field investigations. These courses are available in regular or advanced.



World Languages (LOTE)



DISCOVERING LANGUAGES AND CULTURES (6th)

This is a non-sequential course that allows the student to explore other languages and cultures. The student demonstrates an understanding of the elements of language(s), demonstrates an understanding of cultures, and develops effective language study skills. ACTFL has established guidelines for proficiency levels that are used as a basis for the Texas essential knowledge and skills for World Languages. ACTFL has identified national standards in the Standards for Foreign Language Learning in the 21st Century (the five Cs of foreign language education). These standards describe the "what" (content) of world languages learning and form the core standards based instruction in the world languages classroom. Although languages may vary by campus, more attention is given to those languages currently taught in AISD. In some cases, special discovery courses in

SPANISH I (HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT)

This course introduces the basic language skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing across all three modes of communication: interpretive, interpersonal, and presentational. Students learn common expressions to communicate about basic, everyday topics and are expected to actively participate in class. By the end of the first year of world language study, students should be able to understand and communicate in the target language using simple sentences and ask/answer questions about familiar topics.



SPANISH II (HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT)

Prerequisite: Level I of World Languages or appropriate Credit by Exam (CBE) or district-approved placement test or ability to show proficiency of the lower level. This course reviews concepts taught in the previous level and continues with additional structures and vocabulary to increase language proficiency. Essential to communicate in everyday, realistic situations. Students will also expand their knowledge and appreciation of the culture and civilization of the target language. By the end of the second year of world language study, students should be able to communicate using simple sentences and ask/answer questions about familiar topics. Students are able to begin creating original sentences with language.

SPANISH FOR DUAL LANGUAGE -- SPANISH FOR SPANISH SPEAKERS 3A

Prerequisite: Successful completion of K-5 DL program and/or proficiency in Spanish.

Level 3A is the first half of Level 3 course of sequential world language instruction designed to develop fundamental language across the interpretive, interpersonal and presentational modes of communication. Culture and civilization of the target language is integrated into all aspects of the course. Students will develop confidence in using the target language to describe familiar topics such as family, hobbies and school life. Students will also use the language to connect with other content areas, make comparisons with their own language and culture, and participate in communities beyond the classroom. Students should perform at novice mid proficiency by the end of the year. Students must complete part A in seventh grade and part B in eighth grade to earn 1.0 high school credit which will satisfy the first year of World Languages (LOTE) requirement in AISD's Foundation High School Program. Students who complete only one part will earn 0.5 credit that will count toward state elective graduation credit, appear on the transcript and will be included in the high school grade point average. Students are expected to complete both years of the same LOTE course.

SCIENCE DUAL LANGUAGE - DL (6th)

Prerequisite: Participation in a Dual Language Program and/or proficiency in Spanish.

Grade 6 science is interdisciplinary in nature; however, much of the content focus is on physical science. The strands for grade 6 science are scientific investigations and reasoning, Matter and Energy, Force Motion, and Energy, Earth and Space, and Organisms and Environments. A unit on Human Sexuality and Responsibility is taught in science. Texas law requires at least 40 percent lab and field investigations. This course is designed for students participating in the dual language program and is taught in Spanish.





Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) Courses



Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) is a series of academic, regularly scheduled elective classes that support students with college readiness skills rich with writing, inquiry, collaboration, organization, and reading. The four main components of the AVID elective course are student-centered academic instruction (AVID curriculum), tutorial support (Socratic method), recursive routines, and team-building activities. The mission of the AVID program is to ensure that all students, especially students in the middle capable of completing a college-preparatory path, have a chance to succeed -and to increase enrollment of these students in four-year colleges and universities. This course cannot be taken as pass/fail.

AVID (6th - 8th)

The AVID class addresses key elements in college preparation: academic success skills, college entry skills, tutorials (Socratic method), teambuilding activities, and career and college exploration. Additionally, students will improve their communication skills through presentations and Socratic Seminar, participate in writing to learn/reading to learn activities, including notetaking, reflection of learning, and essay writing.

AVID EXCEL (6th - 8th)

AVID Excel is a middle school elective. AVID Excel accelerates students' academic language acquisition and puts them on a path to high school AVID and college preparation. Through a sequential set of middle school courses, students are supported to build their academic language, leadership skills, and overall sense of commitment to school. The program gives intermediate-level bilingual students sustained and strategic academic and language-building support, while helping them form a strong bond with a cohort of peers who share their same college readiness goals.



Career and Technical Education Course Selections (CTE)



CAREER DISCOVERY

The goal of this course is to help students build career awareness and engage in exploration and study of all the CTE career clusters, such as Health Science, Engineering Arts, A/V Technology, and Information Tech.



Physical Education Course Selections



FUNCTIONAL FITNESS

Functional Fitness is a course designed to introduce students to a variety of fitness activities. Students will learn to care for their personal health by studying basic health information such as hands-only CPR, hygiene, health-related fitness, skill-related fitness, nutrition, substance abuse, stress management, peer pressure, conflict resolution, and bullying prevention while participating in activities using sand bells, resistance bands, stability balls, as well as cardio games and activities, Pilates, Plyometrics, and Tabata workouts, DOT drills and dynamic and static stretching. This course covers some of the sixth-grade PE TEKS and most of the sixth-grade health education TEKS.

6th GRADE PE

Students in 6th Grade Physical Education will learn to care for their personal health by studying basic health information such as hands-only CPR, hygiene, health-related fitness, skill-related fitness, nutrition, substance abuse, stress management, peer pressure, conflict resolution, and bullying prevention while participating in flag football, volleyball, tennis, basketball, track and field, soccer, and jump rope activities. The goal of 6th Grade PE is to provide students with the exposure to a variety of team sport-related physical activities to better prepare them for a physically active lifestyle. This course covers most of the sixth-grade PE TEKS and most of the sixth-grade health education TEKS.

FUNCTIONAL DANCE (6th Grade Fall)

Functional Dance is a course designed for students to improve all aspects of individual fitness using sand bells, resistance bands, stability balls, as well as cardio games and activities, Pilates, Plyometrics, and Tabata workouts, DOT drills and dynamic and static stretching to increase cardiovascular endurance, muscular strength and endurance, and flexibility. Students will learn to care for their personal health by studying basic health information such as hands-only CPR, hygiene, health-related fitness, skill-related fitness, nutrition, substance abuse, stress management, peer pressure, conflict resolution, and bullying prevention. Students will explore movement principles associated with the Elements of Dance, ballet, improvisation skills, and choreographic processes in cooperative groups. Students may have the opportunity to perform in a public performance setting. Out-of-school rehearsals and performances may be required. This class may be paired with Dance Wellness I to complete one full year of PE credit for sixth grade.

DANCE WELLNESS 1 (6th Grade)

Dance Wellness I is designed for students to develop self-discipline and healthy bodies that move more expressively, efficiently, and safely. Students will continue to learn to care for their personal health by studying basic health information such as hands-only CPR, hygiene, health related fitness, skill-related fitness, nutrition, substance abuse, stress management, peer pressure, conflict resolution, and bullying prevention. Students will demonstrate movement principles, historical and cultural relevance, and evaluation techniques associated with the elements of dance, social dance, ballet, jazz, world dance, hip hop, tap, and choreographic processes working cooperatively in small groups. Students may have the opportunity to perform in a public performance setting. Out-of-school rehearsals and performances may be required.



Fine Arts Course Selections



BAND MS 1

Band MS 1 is a full-year elective for students taking band for the first time in middle school, and no previous musical experience is necessary. The class meets daily and is available to any student interested in learning to play a band instrument for the first time. Placement on an instrument is based on physical characteristics, student preference, director recommendation, and availability. Austin ISD band directors guide students in selecting the instrument for which they are suited. The class meets during the school day; however, there may be some outside of class time requirements at various times through the year to prepare for concerts. Participation in concerts is required.

ORCHESTRA MS 1

Orchestra MS 1 is a full-year elective for students taking orchestra for the first time in middle school, and no previous musical experience is necessary. The class meets daily and is available to any student interested in learning to play a orchestra instrument for the first time. Placement on an instrument is based on physical characteristics, student preference, director recommendation, and availability. Austin ISD orchestra directors guide students in selecting the instrument for which they are suited. The class meets during the school day; however, there may be some outside of class time requirements at various times through the year to prepare for concerts. Participation in concerts is required.

GUITAR MS 1

Guitar is offered at three levels of instruction. Students furnish classical guitars; however, some instruments may be available for use. Rapidly progressing students may be transferred to a more-Advanced Guitar as scheduling permits. Out-of-school rehearsals and performances are required.

CHOIR MS 1 - BOYS / GIRLS

Choir MS 1 is a full-year elective for students taking choir for the first time in middle school, and no previous musical experience is necessary. Students focus on music making, exploring the fundamentals of various styles of singing, and learning the vocabulary and notation of written music. Choir MS 1 meets daily and is available to any student interested in learning to sing for the first time or for those who wish to build on their successful experiences in elementary choir. Participation in concerts is required.



ART MS 1

Art MS 1 is an introductory course for students taking art for the first time in middle school, and no previous experience is necessary. This course meets daily and is available to any student interested in exploring art as an elective. Students will have the ability to develop their artistic skills by working in a variety of media.

THEATRE MS 1

Theatre MS 1 is an introductory course for students taking theatre for the first time in middle school, and no previous experience is necessary. Theatre MS 1 meets daily and is available to any student interested in exploring theatre as an elective. The class meets during the school day; however, there may be some outside of class time requirements at various times through the year to perform and prepare for performances. Students will have opportunities to develop their performance skills through a variety of in-class and outside of class performances, as well as improve their public speaking skills.

DANCE MS 1

Students in their first year of dance in middle school enroll in Dance MS 1. The purpose of this class is to introduce students to dance, as well as basic choreography. The history of selected dance forms will be explored, and students will spend the majority of class time experiencing these dance forms through movement and performance. Students may be required to take lifetime fitness opposite this course. This course is NOT a prerequisite for Dance Team

