



## WEBBER MIDDLE SCHOOL 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

### REQUIRED COURSES

**English/Language Arts 6:** The sixth-grade language arts course is devoted to developing communication and thinking skills through the integrated study of reading, speaking, and writing strategies as well as further refining active listening and critical viewing practices. In addition to adapting usage, conventions, form, and/or genre to a variety of audiences and purposes, students continue their practice with the writing process as they gain experience mastering single and multi-paragraph texts in all four major modes - narrative, descriptive, persuasive, and expository. Students actively apply these techniques to summarize, compare, contrast, activate, and synthesize literary and informational texts across content areas.

**English/Language Arts 6 Honors:** This course is recommended for the gifted and talented student who seeks additional information and depth in literature and writing. The curriculum follows the guidelines of the required English 6, adding materials and projects for highly motivated students. Students are offered opportunities to explore a variety of reading and writing, and to pursue areas of interest in depth.

**Science 6:** This course is designed for all students and is the first of three courses that meets the Colorado State and Poudre School District Content Standards for Science grades 6 - 8. The major topics covered in the 6th grade is: Forms and Transfer of Energy - Renewable vs. Non-renewable Energy; Properties of Matter - Phases and Changes; Living Systems - The Human Body and Diseases; Earth Systems -The Solar System and the Universe.

**Social Studies 6:** Sixth Grade Geography is a study of the patterns and interactions of countries in the Western Hemisphere. Students will determine information about people, places, and environment through the use and construction of geography tools. From an understanding of the physical and human characteristics of places, students will study the effects of the interaction between human and physical systems. With an emphasis on resource distribution and use, students will determine how economic, political, cultural, and social processes interact to shape patterns of human populations, interdependence, cooperation, and conflict. The 21st century skills of critical thinking, problem solving, communication, collaboration, and cross-cultural understanding will be emphasized throughout the course.

**Math 6:** Students will expand upon their knowledge of whole numbers and decimals formed in previous grades to include operations of multi-digit decimals and rational numbers. During the year, students will use their knowledge of rational numbers to write and solve equations and inequalities, analyze geometric shapes, and organize and evaluate data displays. Students will explore the concepts of area, surface area, and volume.

**Math 7/8:** This course differs from the 7th Grade course in that it contains content from 8th grade. While coherence is retained, in that it logically builds from the 6th Grade, the additional content when compared to the 7th Grade course demands a faster pace for instruction and learning. Content is organized into four critical areas, or units. The Mathematical Practice Standards apply throughout each course and, together with the content standards, prescribe that students experience mathematics as a coherent, useful, and logical subject that makes use of their ability to make sense of problem situations.

## **REQUIRED QUARTER EXPLORATORY COURSES**

**Art Activity and Appreciation:** Art appreciation and history are correlated with studio art which emphasizes the elements of art (line, shape, color, value, texture, form, and space) and the principles of design (balance, movement, rhythm, contrast, emphasis, pattern, unity).

**Web 2.0 Technology:** Focuses on the safe and responsible use of Web 2.0 technology for productivity and communication. Tools covered in this class include 3D Design, Digital Photography & Video, Game Programming, Online Collaboration and Internet Safety. In addition, this class teaches effective Internet and database research techniques.

**Intro to Technology:** Exciting and fast paced hands-on/minds-on course, students will explore areas of technology and engineering. During each unit, Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) concepts will be integrated to provide the student with 21st century skills and help build technological literacy. Students learn about the history of technology, shop tools and safety, the seven primary categories of technology, and work on different projects using shop tools & equipment. This class will provide the foundation for additional Technology Education curriculum offered to seventh and eighth grade students. \*\*\*

**Family and Consumer Sciences:** In this hands-on course, students will learn about relationships, babysitting/care giving, sewing/clothing, foods and nutrition, consumerism, and career exploration. This course includes activities that will help students in everyday living and improve their practical application of math and reading skills. \*\*\*

**World Language Explorations:** Designed to introduce students to the alphabet, numbers, pronunciation, basic phrases, greetings, and culture of Spanish, German, and French.

### **Music Choices -**

**Music Explorations 6:** Exploration of different musical styles and development of skills that is basic to musical understanding and appreciation. Music exploration performance is limited to class.

**OR**

**Choir 6:** In 6<sup>th</sup> Grade beginning choir, we learn the basics of vocal technique, music theory, and performance. This class is rehearsal based and we practice then perform songs from various genres and time periods. Beginning choir provides a strong choral foundation that allows students to confidently transition to choir in seventh and eighth grade. Attendance at the 6<sup>th</sup> grade performance for that quarter is required as part of student's grade.

## **REQUIRED PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

**Physical Education 6:** This semester long physical activity course is designed around developing physical fitness, wellness, and cooperative and competitive skills. Students will have the opportunity to participate in a variety of team and individual games and sports. There is a strong focus on how to participate safely during physical activities such as soccer, volleyball, flag football, basketball, softball, racquet skills, aerobics, fitness testing, bike safety, track and field, and dance. \*\*\*

\*\*\* There is a fee for these classes. To see what the fees are, go to: <https://www.psdschools.org/fees>.

## ELECTIVE COURSES - YEAR-LONG

**Band 6:** Beginning Band is designed for teaching basic skills to beginning Wind, Brass and Percussion players. Tone, technical facility, music terminology and music reading are stressed through a variety of music literature. Enrollment is based upon completion of the Summer Band Program or by approval of the instructor. If the student is not able to attend the Summer Band Program, he/she should contact the instructor at the middle school they will attend. Attendance at performances is required as a part of the student's grade. (Instruments include flute, clarinet, trumpet, French horn, trombone, baritone, tuba, and percussion (drum and bells)). Oboe, bassoon, bass clarinet and saxophone are welcome, and all require a student to begin on clarinet. \*\*\*

**OR**

**Orchestra 6:** Beginning Orchestra is designed for teaching basic skills to beginning string players. Instrumental technique, music terminology and music reading are stressed through a variety of songs and music literature. Enrollment is based upon completion of the Summer Music Program or by approval of the instructor. If student is not able to attend the Summer Music Program, he/she should contact the instructor at the middle school they will attend. Attendance at performances is required as a part of the student's grade. (Instruments include violin, viola, cello and bass). Harp students may participate in Orchestra but must provide their own instrument and be enrolled in private lessons. \*\*\*

**OR**

**ELO - Extended Learning Opportunity:** This four-quarter enrichment program and includes all the following:

- **Sports and games** -From volleyball to dodgeball, and putt-putt golf to Uno, this class focuses on wellness with mental and physical activities.
- **Don't Judge a Book by its Cover!** -Different than just a "book club", this class will give you time to explore your favorite books, stories, and poems in unique ways, making creative art projects, skits, and more.
- **Know Thyself** -Learn about yourself and build self-awareness through activities, projects and speakers.
- **Do You Know Where You're Going?** -Students will learn the basics of map reading, including compass points, grid systems, scale conversion, and reading a key. We will get to know Webber inside and out as we put the school on a grid system to explore. We will use this knowledge and good communication to create scavenger hunts around Webber. We will also learn about some of the great treasure hunts taking place in the world.

## ALTERNATIVE REQUIRED COURSE

**English/Language Arts 6 Strategic (Reading Literacy 6):** Designed for students who may have difficulty with middle school textbook reading assignments and state Reading Proficiency tests. Emphasis is on reinforcement of basic reading skills, including phonics, vocabulary knowledge, comprehension, and study-reading skills. Skill work will include pronunciation fluency, reading for factual details, reading for themes and main ideas, summarizing, using text information to draw conclusions and find supporting details, reading to form critical opinions, and reading for recreation.

The Colorado Basic Literacy Act requires special service in reading for students who have not been proficient or advanced in prior years of CMAS state testing. In accordance with that law, 6<sup>th</sup> graders whose test records indicate a need for such instruction will be registered for Reading Literacy 6. The small group class will provide diagnosis and instruction aimed at improving reading fluency and comprehension, in preparation for our state CMAS reading tests. If spring CMAS reading tests indicate growth to a proficient level, an adjustment in the student's schedule will be made.

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