

Francis Howell School District

Middle School

COURSE DESCRIPTION HANDBOOK

2016-2017

GRADE 6

**Francis Howell
School District**



LEARNING TOGETHER

Barnwell Middle School	Principal: David Eckhoff	(636) 851-4100
Bryan Middle School	Principal: Mark Delaney	(636) 851-5800
Francis Howell Middle School	Principal: Dr. Ted Huff	(636) 851-4800
Hollenbeck Middle School	Principal: Woody Borgschulte	(636) 851-5400
Saeger Middle School	Principal: Dr. Kandy Worley	(636) 851-5600

SIXTH GRADE COURSE SELECTIONS

The middle school day consists of seven periods.

The following five full-year courses are required of all sixth grade students:

1. English Language Arts 6 or Pre-Advanced Placement English Language Arts 6
2. Math 6 or Challenge Math 6
3. Earth Science 6
4. Geography 6 (Social Studies)
5. Physical Education & Health 6

This leaves two class periods to complete the schedule.

This can be accomplished by selecting one of the following options A, B, or C:

- A. Select Exploratory Wheel A **and** Exploratory Wheel B
- B. Select Exploratory Wheel A or Exploratory Wheel B and a Year-Long Elective
- C. Select **Two** Year-Long Electives

NOTE: If a student is placed into a reading support class, such as READ 180, it may take the place of options A, B, or C. Parents will be notified at the end of the current school year if their student has been placed in a reading support class.

EXPLORATORY WHEELS FOR SIXTH GRADE

Must register for both semesters

If registering for only one of the exploratory wheels (Option B) you must choose both semesters of the same wheel.

NOTE: The courses within each wheel may need to be altered due to staffing and enrollment variables.

EXPLORATORY WHEEL 6A

Semester 1 # 0671390

Semester 2 # 0671391

Exploring Technology 6 (Engineering)

Family and Consumer Sciences 6

Music Production & Technology 6

Speech and Drama 6

EXPLORATORY WHEEL 6B

Semester 1 # 0671395

Semester 2 # 0671396

Art 6

Industrial Technology 6

Technology and Information Literacy 6

World Cultures 6

YEAR-LONG ELECTIVES

Must register for both semesters

Beginning Band

Choir 6

Spectra 6 (Must Qualify)

Semester 1 7871331/Semester 2 7871332

Semester 1 0671201/Semester 2 0671202

Semester 1 0673001/Semester 2 0673002

6TH GRADE REQUIRED COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 6

0620001 Semester 1
0620002 Semester 2

This course is designed to further develop and strengthen reading and writing skills through the workshop model to ensure college and career readiness. Students will explore enduring understandings that characterize the literature students read through volume reading and volume writing. Fiction categories will include short stories, novels, poetry, and drama. Non-fiction categories will include auto/biography, essays/speeches, newspapers/magazines, print/electronic resources and poetry. They will also demonstrate their comprehension of these understandings by writing formally and informally - including argumentative, narrative, and informational writing - with an emphasis on the development of the 6 + 1 Traits of Writing. Becoming active listeners is a main focus of both small group and large group instruction. Students will also develop information literacy/research skills.

PRE-ADVANCED PLACEMENT ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 6

0622001 Semester 1
0622002 Semester 2

This course is designed for students to engage in studies that have a greater degree of differentiated instruction and self-direction than the regular communication arts course and ensure college and career readiness. It is intentionally vertically aligned with/to the Pre AP and AP courses taught at the high school level.

Students will explore - through specific genres of fiction, non-fiction, and media - enduring understandings that characterize the literature they read with increased focus on analysis and evaluation. Students will read deliberately and thoroughly, taking time to understand a work's complexity and to absorb its richness of meaning. Careful attention to textual detail will provide a foundation for interpretation.

Students will demonstrate the ability to write formally and informally - including reflective/creative, argumentative, and analytical writing, with an emphasis on the development of various formats and the 6 + 1 Traits of Writing. Writing instruction will include attention to developing and organizing ideas in clear, coherent, and persuasive language; a study of the elements of style; and attention to precision and correctness.

Students will use and analyze media in oral and visual presentations. They will also continue to develop research skills and the citing of sources in MLA format.

Students who meet the criteria for this course will be notified. This course is not a prerequisite for high school Pre AP or AP courses, nor does it automatically qualify a student for those courses.

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MATH 6

0630001 Semester 1
0630002 Semester 2

This course is designed to provide students with a strong foundation and conceptual understanding in real-life problem solving. The focus is on four critical areas: 1) writing, interpreting, and using expressions and equations; 2) extending understandings of numbers to include negative numbers and further applications of fractions; 3) developing understanding of statistical thinking; and 4) connecting ratio and rate to whole number multiplication and division and using concepts of ratio and rate to solve problems.

CHALLENGE MATH 6

0633001 Semester 1
0633002 Semester 2

This course is a compacted course designed to prepare students for Algebra in 8th grade. It contains both Math 6 and Math 7 Missouri Learning Standards. This course is designed to provide students with a strong foundation for future mathematics courses and conceptual understanding in real-life problem solving. The focus is on six critical areas: 1) extending understandings of numbers to include negative numbers and further applications of fractions; 2) writing, interpreting, and using expressions and equations; 3) developing understanding of operations with rational numbers and working with expressions and linear equations; 4) developing understanding of and applying proportional relationships; 5) developing understanding of statistical thinking; and 6) solving problems involving informal geometric constructions and working with two- and three-dimensional shapes to solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume.

Students must meet specific criteria to be placed in this course. Students who meet the criteria will be notified. Students must maintain an average of 80% or higher to continue in this course and proceed to Pre-Algebra 7 in the following year.

EARTH SCIENCE 6

0644001 Semester 1
0644002 Semester 2

This course is designed to have students explore the many facets of Earth science through the use of scientific inquiry, technology and hands-on activities. The course focuses on three main topics: study of Earth's surface and forces that change it, study of weather, climate and factors that affect them, and study of our solar system and interactions of objects in it. Scientific inquiry and the environment are embedded into each unit. Students are encouraged to ask questions, explore questions, and assess human activity on Earth's resources and systems.

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SOCIAL STUDIES - GEOGRAPHY 6

0650001 Semester 1

0650002 Semester 2

This course will explore cultures and geography throughout the world using the five themes of geography. Students will use the tools of social science and apply geographic skills to analyze human behavior in relationship to physical and cultural environments. The course will focus on the relationship geography has on the government, economics, and culture of the major regions of the world.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION & HEALTH - 6

0660001 Semester 1

0660002 Semester 2

This course is designed to refine basic skills and skill combinations in a variety of sports-related settings. Students are expected to participate in moderate to vigorous physical activities in a variety of settings and will develop an understanding of the fitness components and how they relate to their overall fitness. Students will develop health-related cooperation skills to accomplish group and team goals through the use of competitive games. Activities may include recreational games and sports, team sports and lead-up games, rhythm, and personal fitness and exercise. All students are required to dress out in an approved gym uniform for physical education.

Consumer health and personal and family health curriculum will be incorporated into the 6th grade PE / Health curriculum periodically throughout the year. Students will understand the health triangle (mental, social and physical health) and the balance necessary to maintain overall health and wellness. The health units include human growth and development, nutrition, and body systems such as digestive, muscular, skeletal, excretory, and respiratory. The Thrive® St. Louis organization will present information on human growth and development.

ELECTIVES

EXPLORATORY WHEEL

The sixth grade exploratory wheel is an opportunity for students to experience many different areas of study. The students spend a quarter in each of the following courses: Art, Family and Consumer Sciences, Industrial Technology, Music Production & Technology, Speech and Drama, World Cultures, Technology and Information Literacy, and Exploring Technology (Engineering by Design). The experiences that students receive via the exploratory wheel in 6th and 7th grade are meant to help shape student elective choices in 8th grade and beyond.

WHEEL A

EXPLORING TECHNOLOGY 6 (ENGINEERING BY DESIGN)

This course is designed to help students develop an understanding of the progression and scope of technology through exploratory experiences. In group and individual activities, students experience ways in which technological knowledge and processes contribute to effective designs and solutions to technological problems. Students participate in design activities to understand how criteria, constraints, and processes affect designs. Brainstorming, visualizing, modeling, constructing, testing, and refining designs provide firsthand opportunities for students to understand the uses and impacts of innovations. Students develop skills in communicating design information and reporting results.

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES 6

This course is designed to introduce students to foods and nutrition and provide opportunities to prepare food. Students will become acquainted with proper use of sewing equipment and will complete a sewing project to take home.

MUSIC PRODUCTION & TECHNOLOGY 6

Do you listen to music most every day? Do you ever wonder how to make music using your computer or other device? Would you like to learn how to make music to share with your friends? This hands-on class for beginning to advanced musicians will show you how to create music using digital technology that can be shared on-line. Topics will emphasize technology and may include songwriting, composing, and digital recording. Students will create, present and perform works while exploring music fundamentals through inquiry-based learning activities using programs such as GarageBand.

SPEECH AND DRAMA 6

This course is designed as a performance class that will improve the students' abilities to present themselves in front of others. Students will learn drama, speaking, and listening skills. Topics include types of communication, acting, public speaking, and performance production. These topics are compared and contrasted with mass media and electronic communication. Performances may include formal or informal speeches, pantomime, puppetry, small group or large group scenes, or dramatic presentations. Techniques taught in Speech and Drama are required in many core classes.

WHEEL B

ART 6

0671361

Sixth Grade Art is an introduction and exploration of artistic expression, techniques and studio processes. Students will create, respond to, present, and connect their ideas while developing artistic skills and behaviors. Discovering new ways to use familiar art media, students are encouraged to surrender to the creative process. Media may include graphite, pastels, paint, or clay. Growth will be measured through active participation, studio work and portfolio production.

INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY 6

This course is designed to allow students to explore Industrial Technology processes, procedures, and career opportunities. Emphasis is placed on safety procedures while presenting a basic knowledge of tools and their applications. The students will begin hands-on experience in the construction of a number of projects.

TECHNOLOGY & INFORMATION LITERACY 6

This entry level technology course will engage students in a variety of aspects including, but not limited to, the use of the computers, internet, programs and applications based on the National Educational Technology Standards (NETS). Students will learn computer basics using communication and creativity through a variety of lessons and activities designed to promote learning in the 21st Century.

WORLD CULTURES 6

This course is designed to introduce students to basic greetings, courtesies, numbers one through ten in French, German and Spanish and one or more optional languages according to each teacher's area(s) of expertise. Travel videos and readings for each country, or groups of countries, will also be introduced to broaden students' cultural knowledge of the world.

The following electives are Year-Long courses.

BEGINNING BAND

7871331 Semester 1
7871332 Semester 2

All sixth grade students are invited to join beginning band! No previous experience in music is required. Students will work with others to learn how to play an instrument and perform in at least two concerts during the school year. Through the exploration of a new instrument, students will learn how to read and perform music, and will develop lifelong skills such as responsibility, personal goal-setting, and teamwork. Beginning Band meets as a class during the school day each day. Keep an eye out for information coming home about instrument selection!

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CHOIR 6

0671201 Semester 1
0671202 Semester 2

This course is designed as an introductory performance class. This elective is open to anyone who enjoys singing however, minimal ability to match pitch and sing a simple melody is expected. Course work will include learning basic breathing and vocal techniques through rehearsing, listening, and use of the concert text. Written assignments and tests, as well as performance tests and common assessments will be administered throughout this course. This group will prepare and perform two major concerts using unison and two part music during the year. Special concert attire may be required by the instructor.

SPECTRA

(for students enrolled in gifted program)

0673001 Semester 1
0673002 Semester 2

Middle School Spectra is designed as an elective course for students in the gifted program. This class meets daily for one period. Focus areas include: research, communication, technology, problem solving, social/emotional needs, and higher-level thinking skills. Students are expected to independently learn and take ownership in their education.

ENGLISH FOR SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES (ESOL) PROGRAM

The ESOL program at the middle school level supports English Language Learners (ELLs) who must learn to communicate effectively in English in the areas of reading, writing, speaking, listening, viewing, and presenting. Students study curriculum-based content while focusing on English language learning. Students who qualify for ESOL services may receive ESOL instruction and support based on their needs. Students attend regular content area classes with age-appropriate peers.

ESOL Beginners

(prerequisite: ESOL Teacher Recommendation)

This class will help English Language Learners learn the basics of the English language in the four skills (listening, speaking, reading, and writing) as well as provide academic support in their regular content area classes.

ESOL Writing and English Language Arts

(prerequisite: ESOL Teacher Recommendation)

This class emphasizes intensive academic instruction in the structures of writing, reading strategies, vocabulary building, as well as improving their listening and speaking skills. Students will learn the writing process and polish skills in the areas of vocabulary, spelling, reading, writing mechanics, grammar concepts, and paragraph

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transitions. Students will improve their ability to write Standard English from the basic sentence level progressing toward writing reports and essays for a variety of audiences and purposes.

<p style="text-align: center;">ESOL Reading (prerequisite: ESOL Teacher Recommendation)</p>
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This class will help English Language Learners expand their reading vocabulary and improve academic reading skills. Students will develop reading and comprehension strategies while learning to read English, progressing to the study of different content-based genres and themes.

<p style="text-align: center;">ESOL Studies (prerequisite: ESOL Teacher Recommendation)</p>
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This class is designed to help English Language Learners improve their academic language skills. The ESOL teacher collaborates with regular classroom teachers to provide academic support and homework help for English Language Learners.

MIDDLE SCHOOL SUMMER SCHOOL **READING AND MATH ASSISTANCE**

Parents of students in grades 6-7-8 needing assistance in Reading and Math will be contacted about the new middle school summer school design. Students who are identified as needing additional assistance in reading and/or math will have the opportunity to enroll. Additional information will be distributed to parents through their child's middle school.

For additional about the Middle School Summer Summer School, please contact your child's building administrator or contact FHSDsummerschool@fhdschools.org or call (636) 851-4012.