

Enumclaw Middle School 2016-17

6th Grade Course Descriptions



Language Arts

The theme of the 6th grade language arts curriculum is “Changes” - such as the changes in their lives and changes around them. Using the SpringBoard curriculum, students will gain the skills and knowledge necessary to be successful in middle school, high school, AP classes, and future college-level work. Students will have many opportunities to refine and master strategies that will enhance their ability to understand and analyze challenging texts, to write with clarity and voice, to speak and listen in order to communicate and work effectively with others, and to view media with a critical intelligence.

Students are expected to read in SSR and independently outside of class. Furthermore, students are asked to complete two books a month and complete an assessment on those books to verify what they have read and demonstrate how their reading and literature skills are progressing. Students should expect to read at home for at least 20-30 minutes most nights.



History

The History component of the core involves an introduction to geography and the study of ancient civilizations. Specifically, students will study the river civilizations of Mesopotamia, Egypt, and ancient China. Using this content, students will implement and practice their reading and writing skills. Technology, as a tool for accessing and processing information, is integrated into the core experience.



Science

The Next Generation Science standards (NGSS) are a new set of standards that provide consistent science education through all grades, with an emphasis on engineering and technology. The NGSS describe what each student should know in the four domains of science: physical science; life science; earth and space science; and engineering, technology and science application. The new standards will help students become literate in science. They will have the skills and knowledge to tackle issues like water and energy conservation. The NGSS are aligned to the Washington State Mathematics and English Language Arts Learning Standards (Common Core State Standards). When students are learning about science, they are also enhancing their skills in reading, writing and math. 6th grade students will explore Ecosystems, Properties of Matter, Forces and Motion, and Earth and Space.

Math

Enumclaw Middle School offers a rigorous three-year math program that prepares students for high school level algebra. Sixth grade math is the first of our three-year curriculum that focuses not only on math facts and algorithms, but also to help them learn in a way that focuses on rich mathematical understanding that makes sense to *all* students.

Students work in collaboration with their peers and their teacher to discover not just *how* the math works but *why* it works the way it does. They will be asked questions such as:



How did you get that answer? Explain it in mathematical terms.

Does this solution work in every situation? Is there a situation where it wouldn't work?

Can you show me another way to solve this problem?



Physical Education

The PE/Health curriculum is designed to enhance self-confidence and encourage effort while striving to teach the importance of health and physical fitness. PE classes are 6th, 7th and 8th graders so a three-year program of activities has been developed. The three-year program introduces a wide variety of physical activities including those recreational in nature, team and individual sports, and demanding fitness tests. Health components include instruction in human growth and development, heart fitness and healthy life choices, nutrition, and drugs. The students will be graded daily on a ten point scale. Factors affecting grades are life skills such as: effort, attitude, basic skills, cooperation, listening skills, following directions, attendance, and being prepared for class.

Special Education

All students receiving special education services must have an I.E.P. (Individual Education Plan). A continuum of services including resource classes and mainstream assistance is available for qualified students.

Exploratory Classes

One hour of the students' day is dedicated to an elective course. Course selections include exploratory classes, service assistantship classes or music. Music classes are the only year-long elective courses and the rest are one trimester. Elective courses are designed to enrich student experience through a variety of arts, science and computer classes. Students rotate through three exploratory or service assistantship classes throughout the year. Exploratory classes are subject to staffing availability. Past offerings include subjects such as art, woodworking, and digital exploration.

Service Assistantships

Office Assistant

All office TA's are required to have an excellent attendance record. Assistants may have some free time for independent reading and study. Answering phones and delivering messages are few of the duties Office Assistants perform on a daily basis. These assistants have become invaluable to both the Main and Attendance Offices. Spaces for office TA's are limited and replace the student's elective for a term.

ILC Teaching Assistant

ILC Teaching Assistants (TA) are required to have an excellent attendance record and enjoy helping others. TA's work with students in our Independent Learning Community by working 1-1 with students or doing projects to support the atmosphere of the ILC classroom. Previously we have had students aid in the general ILC class and in an ILC Art class. Students who sign up to be an ILC TA do that in place of an elective for a term. Spaces for TAs are limited.

Music Classes



Music classes are yearlong classes and replace the Exploratory Arts rotation.

Concert Band

No previous experience is required. This ensemble is for 6th grade students and/or beginning wind, brass and percussion players. Students begin on either flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, saxophone, trumpet, horn, trombone, euphonium, tuba or percussion. This class focuses on laying the musical groundwork for success in a small ensemble setting—skills focused on include playing technique, posture, musical literacy, tone production, etc. This group performs at least two concerts a year. *Attendance at performances is mandatory.*

Chamber Orchestra

No previous experience is required. This ensemble is for 6th grade students and/or beginning string players. Students will begin on violin, viola, cello or double bass. This class focuses on laying the musical groundwork for success in a small ensemble setting—skills focused on include playing technique, posture, musical literacy, tone production, etc. This group performs at least two concerts a year. *Attendance at performances is mandatory.*

Lupus Chorum (Choir)

No previous experience is required. Students will learn proper vocal technique with a strong emphasis on musical fundamentals using standard choir literature representing a wide range of composers and genres. The second trimester is devoted to musical theater. The class auditions, rehearses, and performs a musical. There will be a one-time \$20.00 lab fee for all students for musical costs. Outside of the musical, the group will have two concerts a year. Lupus Chorum performs for the WMEA regional middle school choral festival. *Attendance at performances is mandatory.*

Exploratory Music

Exploratory music is a year long class. Students will spend each trimester exploring a different branch of music ensembles: choir, band, and orchestra. Students will develop the music skills to succeed in an advanced 7/8 ensemble the next year, while having the opportunity to explore all of the ensemble choices.



You're Invited

EMS' 5th Grade Family Night
Thursday, April 27, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.

Bring your family and join us for:

- Registration Information
- PE Uniform Information
- Sports Information
- Volunteer Parent Sign-ups
- Informal Questions and Answers
- Insider's peek at a classroom

Our ASB leadership students and advisors will provide activities for kids in our gym while parents meet with teachers and administration.