

Wasatch Junior High School

Sixth Grade Courses 2022-2023

Core

These classes cover the core curriculum as outlined by the Utah State Board of Education. Students will learn to take notes, participate in class discussions, develop increased reading, writing and thinking skills as well as understand the content material specific to each subject. Core classes are usually smaller and provide more individual attention.

Honors

Those students who wish to have additional rigor and a quicker pace should enroll in honors classes. Students will be encouraged to involve cross-curricular topics and engage in originality and creative thought processes to demonstrate their understanding of the advanced curriculum they have been learning. Students can expect to have more homework than in a core class.

Gifted and Talented

Students must qualify for Gifted and Talented English through GSD testing. Classes are taught by teachers who have received their GT endorsement. The emphasis is on depth, complexity, acceleration, novelty, critical analysis and problem-solving. Students should expect more complex regular homework which will be graded on a GT standard. Students do not sign up for this class on the registration form. Those who qualify will be notified and placed automatically in this class unless parents request another placement.

Required Courses

English

In this course, students will focus on developing and strengthening their literacy skills and the strategies necessary for effective communication at a grade appropriate level. They will improve their expertise in reading, writing, speaking, listening, and language usage as described in the Utah State Core Standards.

World Studies

Sixth grade world studies is the study of people and places from a variety of historic eras, with connections from the past to the present whenever possible. Ancient civilizations provide a fundamental understanding of geography, anthropology, and economics, and students will learn about systems of governance, rights and responsibilities, and how citizenship has changed over time. Students will compare institutions common to all societies, such as government, education, and religious institutions. Standards reflect specific epochs of time: The Middle Ages and Renaissance, The Age of Revolutions, and The Modern World. The focus on these epochs allows students to explore ideas and concepts in depth, learning life lessons, problem solving, and making connections that will inspire and excite them for their lives to come.

Math

In Grade 6, instructional time should focus on four critical areas: (1) connecting ratio and rate to whole number multiplication and division and using concepts of ratio and rate to solve problems; (2) completing understanding of division of fractions and extending the notion of number to the system of rational numbers, which includes negative numbers; (3) writing, interpreting, and using expressions and equations; and (4) developing understanding of statistical thinking.

Science

Sixth grade science provides a framework for student understanding of the cycling of matter and the flow of energy through the study of observable phenomena on Earth. Students will explore the role of energy and gravity in the solar system as they compare the scale and properties of objects in the solar system and model the Sun-Earth-Moon system. These strands also emphasize heat energy as it affects some properties of matter, including states of matter and density. The relationship between heat energy and matter is observable in many phenomena on Earth, such as seasons, the water cycle, weather, and climates. Types of ecosystems on Earth are dependent upon the interaction of organisms with each other and with the physical environment. By researching interactions between the living and non-living components of ecosystems, students will understand how the flow of energy and cycling of matter affects stability and change within their environment.

Physical Education ½ year

Physical education seeks to make students active players in life. It enables students to see the importance of proper nutrition and exercise in maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

Electives Courses

Full Year Classes:

Foundation Band

This class is designed to help students develop a good foundation on their brass, woodwind or percussion instruments. This is for students who have had a year or less of experience on their instrument. No previous experience playing an instrument is necessary. Practice outside of class time and an instrument are required. Please consult with the teacher before choosing/purchasing an instrument.

Foundation Orchestra

This class is designed to help students develop a good foundation on their string instruments. This is for students who have had a year or less of experience on their instrument. No previous experience playing an instrument is necessary. Practice outside of class required.

Cadet Band

This class is designed to help students build on their foundation on their brass, woodwind or percussion instruments. Students who have played for 1 or more years will do well in this class. Practice outside class time required.

Cadet Orchestra

This class is designed to help students build on their foundation on their string instrument. Students who have played 1 or more years will do well in this class. Practice outside class time required.

Exploratory Fine Arts *This class includes one quarter of Art, Social Dance, Theatre, and Choir/Music*

Art

This course will introduce 6th graders to the making of art, understanding of art concepts, art history, and aesthetics (what is beautiful?). They will begin to develop skills in representing what they see, expressing themselves visually, and forming pleasing design. They will experience a variety of art media along the way.

Social Dance

This is a fun active class for everyone. In this class, students will acquire physical, rhythmic and creative skills through dance activity. This course offers instruction in traditional and contemporary dance activities that students may use in life.

Introduction to Theatre

The theatre class emphasizes speech techniques and oral presentation. Students are exposed to characterization, acting techniques and stage production while learning to appreciate the stage and developing interpersonal communication skills.

Exploratory Music

Students will learn the fundamentals of music and apply them to a variety of choral singing. Through fun music student will learn to work together.

Foreign Language Exploration (FLEX) *This class includes 1 quarter of French, Spanish, Chinese, and study skills*

The Foreign Language Exploratory class is an interactive program for 6th grade students who are interested in learning another language. Students will be sampling three different languages and cultures: Spanish, French, and Chinese. Students will learn the alphabet, numbers, introductions, courtesies, parts of the body, colors, clothes, time, weather, family, friends, school objects, and survival expressions through activities, games, and songs. The quarter of study skills will emphasize reading in English.

Half Year Classes:

Additional Physical Education ½ year

For students wishing to have additional physical education beyond the required quarter. Teachers choose different sports and activities throughout the year so that students won't repeat the same content. This class focuses on the development of advanced techniques in dual team activities. Students learn the terminology and benefits related to the elements of physical fitness through a variety of fitness activities. This is a co-ed class.

STEM Concepts ½ year

A hands-on, project-based course that aids students in developing the ability to apply understanding of how the world works within and across the areas of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM), promoting abilities to better problem-solve, analyze, communicate, and understand technology.

FACS Exploration ½ year

This course we will explore careers and skills in the following areas: family & human services, clothing & textiles, interior design & architecture, foods & nutrition, entrepreneurship, and childcare.

Mixed Choir ½ year

This is a choir class for everybody. Students will learn the fundamentals of music and how it applies to choral singing. Students will have the opportunity to participate in at least one concert.

Reading Skills

Students will develop skills and strategies that will help them improve their reading comprehension.