

Kennedy Middle School

SIXTH GRADE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS 2021- 2022

Each sixth grade student is required to take Language Arts (including Writing and Reading), Mathematics, World Geography, Science, Physical Education, and Spanish.

A very important component of the sixth grade curriculum is the outdoor education experience at YMCA Storer Camp in Jackson, Michigan.

DELIVERY OF COURSES

All courses listed and described in this course book have the capability of running as virtual, hybrid, or in-person courses. The method of delivery will depend on the number of requests from students and there is a highly qualified teacher available to provide instruction.

LANGUAGE ARTS – 6

full year required

Language Arts is designed to review language skills and continue to develop the ability to think, write, listen and speak effectively. Grammar skills will stress the basic parts of speech and be expanded to include vocabulary and spelling. Informational, narrative, compare/contrast and cause/effect writing will be encouraged throughout the course and occasional book reports may be required. Reading is an integral part of the Language Arts class and helps to ensure a smooth transition from the elementary program to the middle school program. Adventure and fantasy/fairy tales, along with nonfiction selections, will be the focus.

LANGUAGE ARTS – 6 WRITING IN TODAY’S WORLD

full year required

Writing in Today’s World class is assigned to students performing below the 21st percentile in Language and Reading on the NWEA test. The purpose of the class is to support and encourage a deeper understanding of reading and writing skills, to reinforce instruction for the current Language Arts units, and to practice language skills that support reading and writing. This is not a Special Education class.

MATH – 6

full year required

The sixth grade Math curriculum will cover number system, statistics, rational numbers, two-dimensional geometry, probability, ratios and proportions, and expressions and equations.

PRACTICAL MATH – 6

full year required

Practical Math is a Math class assigned to students who continually perform below the 21st percentile on the NWEA mathematics assessment the previous year. The purpose of the class is to support and encourage a deeper understanding of basic math skills, and to reteach math concepts as needed for struggling students. Additional conceptual lessons will be taught to supplement daily math class. This is not a Special Education class.

SCIENCE – 6**full year required**

Sixth grade performance expectations will focus on Earth's place in the universe and Earth's systems, along with the Earth and human activity. Students will examine the Earth's place in relation to the solar system, Milky Way galaxy and universe. They will understand how Earth's geosystems operate by modeling the flow of energy and cycling of matter within and among different systems, and understand the ways that human activities impact Earth's other systems. Throughout the school year, we will blend the core ideas with scientific/engineering practices and crosscutting concepts to support students in developing usable knowledge to explain ideas across the science disciplines.

WORLD GEOGRAPHY – 6**full year required**

Sixth grade World Geography involves the study of the Western Hemisphere as well as a general overview of basic geography skills. Students will learn about Latin America (Mexico, Central America, The Caribbean, and South America) as well as Canada, Europe, and Russia. Connections to the United States are emphasized as they are pertinent.

REQUIRED EXPLORATORY CLASSES**FOREIGN LANGUAGE****SPANISH****1 quarter required**

In this class, students will have the opportunity to experience one of the most popular modern languages that is spoken around the world. Students will spend 10 weeks immersed in the Spanish culture and language. This gives our students a well-rounded foundation for deciding if they would like to continue this language in their 7th/8th grade year and possibly earning high school credit as an 8th grader.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION**PHYSICAL EDUCATION – 6****2 quarters required**

Throughout each semester, students will work on personal development and activities that will improve strength, flexibility, endurance and sportsmanship. The ultimate goal of our curriculum is to give students the knowledge, skills and motivation necessary for a lifelong dedication to physical activity and health.

EXPLORATORY CLASSES**MICHIGAN HISTORY****1 quarter**

This is a project based class with most work being completed in class. Students will be working on projects with partners and groups. Students need to be active in class and use class time for projects. Students will be using both chromebooks and hands on projects to demonstrate an understanding of concepts. Students will have choices as to what to cover under the topics and will also have choices of how to present final work.

PERSONAL WELLNESS

1 quarter

This class is a one trimester elective course that will explore several aspects of physical, mental, emotional and social health. Topics of discussion include making responsible decisions, health risks and your behavior setting, reaching goals, building healthy relationships, resolving conflicts, understanding conflict, managing stress, first aid, CPR, personal health and consumer choices.

SUCCESS 101

1 quarter

Success 101 is a 10-week course designed to help 6th graders transition into Middle School. It will teach them how to approach their classes to ensure they are successful students. Students will be introduced to the development of skills, such as time management, study skills, organization, communication and socialization. Students will have access to peer tutoring and will be monitored closely with the use of progress reports/feedback forms if they are struggling.

FINE AND PERFORMING ARTS

ART – 6

1 quarter

Sixth Grade Art will introduce sixth grade students to the basic elements and principles of art. Students will work with a variety of media in two- and three-dimensional forms. Art and culture unique to the countries of the Western Hemisphere will be highlighted whenever possible. This correlates with the Social Studies curriculum and expands the student's knowledge of the peoples of these regions.

CADET BAND – BRASS & PERCUSSION

full year

Open to sixth grade brass and percussion players. Instruments include Trumpet, Trombone and Percussion. The course is designed to prepare students for success in the KMS 7th and 8th grade bands. Attendance at ALL performances is required.

CADET BAND – WOODWINDS

full year

Open to sixth grade woodwind players. Instruments include Saxophone, Flute and Clarinet. The course is designed to prepare students for success in the KMS 7th and 8th grade bands. Attendance at ALL performances is required.

Please note that students will be fitted for instruments in the spring and will be assigned to the appropriate class at that time.

KENNEDY SINGERS – CHOIR 6

full year

This class is open to any student who wants to learn to read music and improve their singing voice. We will work on proper singing techniques and sight reading of music. We will learn a variety of musical styles and the stage presence necessary for performances. Written and singing tests will be given throughout the course. Class participation and concerts are mandatory. There will be a winter and spring evening concert.

MUSIC EXPLORATORY

1 quarter

This class is an exploration of the performing arts. Students will develop music reading skills and gain a general knowledge of music history. Students will explore music, movement and theatre arts.

TECHNOLOGY

COMPUTER FUNDAMENTALS

1 quarter

In this class students will improve keyboarding skills, while promoting proper posture and technique. They will be using the "21 Things 4 Students" web resource for project-based activities incorporating various web 2.0 tools available online. This program is designed to help students in grades 5 thru 9 improve their technology proficiency for success in the 21st century. Some of the educational technology tools they will be working with are: email, Google Chrome, Google Drive/Docs and various visual organizers. Students will also build digital citizenship skills and online safety practices.

DESIGN AND BUILD – 6

1 quarter

In this course students will learn basic programming concepts while designing computer games and animations. The use of visual programming tools such as Scratch and Kodu Game Lab will enhance students' creativity, problem solving skills and ability to break complex goals down into manageable steps. Activities in the lab will focus on use of the design process, which will help students formulate a plan involving a number of steps, to meet a stated objective. Approaches used to solve problems and reach goals in this class are applicable to all academic subjects, as well as real world situations.

FULL TIME STUDENT

The designation of a full-time student at Kennedy Middle School is one who is registered for 7 periods.

2020/21 COVID Disclaimer

Due to the regulations and requirements stipulated by both the State of Michigan and the LSPS Return to Learn Plan, aspects of the student handbook may be changed, eliminated, or suspended until Michigan enters Phase 6 of the state's reopening plan. Pertinent changes will be sent to families and posted publically.

LSPS Virtual Course Catalog 2021/22

In the event that LSPS is unable to staff virtual course offerings, we will contract with the third party vendors below. Virtual offerings are expanded to address the concerns parents have with the return to school buildings while COVID-19 is a public health concern.

The third party provider for virtual courses at Kennedy Middle School is Michigan Virtual. All courses that are offered in alignment to the LSPS school calendar are available to students. The KMS counselors will work with students and parents to create a schedule.

<https://michiganvirtual.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/2021-2022-Course-Catalog.pdf>