

La Grande Middle School 2012-2013 Course Outlines

SIXTH Grade

The school year consists of four graded quarters; each quarter is nine weeks long.

COURSES

Art

Many art lessons and projects will be integrated through other subject areas. Goals of the sixth grade art program are:

- Respect the uniqueness and creativity of themselves and others
- Increase the ability to express themselves through languages other than spoken and written language
- Understand the contributions of art and artists to past and present societies and cultures
- Gain a lasting appreciation of art forms as participant and as audience
- Recognize the main connections between the arts and daily life

English

The sixth grade English program provides instruction in writing and speaking. Students will compose in a variety of modes using the analytical traits. Formal and informal speaking experiences are on-going throughout the school year.

Math

The following areas of math will be studied at the sixth grade level:

- Addition, subtraction, multiplication and division of whole numbers, decimals, fractions, find common factors and multiples
- Solve real-world and mathematical problems, area, surface area, and volume
- Geometry: lines, circles, and geometric figures
- Statistics and Probability: Develop understanding of statistical variability
- Summarize and describe distributions
- Ratio: Understand ratio concepts and use ratio reasoning to solve problems
- Percents

Math, Advanced

Students develop their conceptual understanding of mathematics in the strands of calculations and estimations, measurement, statistics and probability, algebraic relationships, and geometry. Throughout the course, students work to improve their processes and strategies in mathematical problem solving, reasoning, calculator applications, communication, connections, and representation.

Reading

Students will develop their reading skills by comprehending a variety of informational and fictional texts while listening or reading independently. They will develop strategies for learning new vocabulary and interpreting the text. Techniques to distinguish between literal, inferential, and evaluative comprehension in a variety of printed materials will be introduced to the student. Class discussions and small groups will draw connections and explain relationships between reading selections and other texts, experiences, issues, and events.

Science

Key concepts which may be taught during the sixth grade scientific inquiry include:

- Unifying Concepts and Processes – students will plan and conduct investigations and demonstrate scientific reasoning and logic while using all the steps in the scientific method.
- Physical Science – students will investigate and understand sources of energy and their transformations; investigate and understand basic characteristics of electricity; investigate and understand that all matter is made up of atoms and how to classify materials as elements, compounds or mixtures, and that matter has physical and chemical properties that can undergo change.
- Life Science – students will learn about the relationship among living organisms and their environment.
- Earth Science – students will learn about the different properties of the Earth’s surface and changes made over time.
- History and Nature of Science – students will describe how man has changed scientific knowledge over time, building on earlier knowledge.
- Science and Technology – students will understand the interconnections among science, technology and society, and the relationship between science and technology. They will also learn how technology can be designed to solve problems and meet needs, and understand the change processes from heat.
- Science in Personal and Social Perspectives – students will investigate public policy, decisions relating to the environment, as they become involved in our city’s Air Quality Program and Outdoor School.

Social Studies

Social Studies will emphasize World History and Geography of the Western Hemisphere. Including Social Science Analysis, civic responsibility, understanding global relationships, enhanced communication, making connections between the past, present and future, and the ability to evaluate historical and contemporary issues.

- Historical Knowledge – explain the historical context of key people, cultures, products, events, and ideas over time including, Aztec, Maya, Inca, Inuit, early Native American cultures of North America, explorers, and colonizers of countries. The rise and fall of ancient civilizations in Europe, Asia and Africa prior to the Roman Empire.
- Historical Thinking – Create and compare timelines that identify major people, events and developments in the history of individual civilizations of countries that comprise the Americas.
- Geography – Distinguish among different types of maps and use them to analyze an issue in the Western Hemisphere. Identify physical features of the Western Hemisphere and explain their effects on people and events.
- Civics and Government – Compare and contrast early forms of government via the study of early civilizations (tribal, monarchy, democracy, theocracy, and oligarchy) in the Western Hemisphere and describe current forms of government.
- Social Science Analysis – clarify key aspects of an event, issue, or problem through inquiry and research. Gather, interpret, document, and use information from multiple sources, distinguishing facts from opinions and recognizing points of view. Interpret documents and data from multiple primary and secondary sources (art, artifacts, eyewitness accounts, letters and diaries, real or simulated historical sites, charts, graphs, diagrams, written texts).

Spelling

Spelling covers a variety of words appropriate for the sixth grade level. These are derived from a sixth grade spelling book, text books, and words used in writing class. Letter combinations, prefixes, suffixes, silent letters, plural forms, and vowel sounds are all covered. Spelling will also cover vocabulary use.

LMS sixth grade students will alternate their P.E. class with an elective class of their choice, every other day.

Physical Education

The Physical Education program for sixth grade students is designed specifically for the student transitioning from elementary to middle school. The goals for every student are:

- Develop knowledge and skill in relation to sports and games
- Enhancement of ones personal and social interaction and responsibility
- Increase in level of health-specific indicators (strength, flexibility, endurance agility, bodily coordination)
- Enjoyment of the opportunity to be ACTIVE!

The goals above will be achieved by student participation in a wide range of games, activities, and other appropriate endeavors.

In addition to physical activity, the sixth grade program also incorporates throughout the course of the year a series of Health Education topics, that will supplement those taught in the seventh and eighth grades years.

ELECTIVES

Beginning Band

Students will learn the proper care and basic performance of wind instruments. This will include posture, breath support and development of proper embouchure (facial muscles). Counting of rhythms will be applied to rehearsal along with the tuning of each instrument.

Note and general reading of music terminology will also be included in the instruction. We will progress through the Essential Elements 200 method book and use the exercises in them as a basis for improvement in technique.

Requirements: suitable instrument, method book, and a signed permission form. Some instruments are available from the school for a \$20.00 fee (see instructor).

Real Life

This year long 6th grade elective course will cover a number of topics that relate to Real Life. We'll learn about Internet Safety and Awareness, Advertising, Money Issues, World Geography, Telephone Etiquette, Study Skills, Manners, Healthy Lifestyle Choices, and much more. Some of the following techniques will be used to share what we've learned: PowerPoint, Publisher, Excel, Skits, Posters, Speeches, Podcasting and imovie.

Choir

Goals for the 6th Grade Choir Program at LMS include:

- Sing in tune in a two-octave range
- Understand and respond to solfedge, hand signs in step wise movement, and skips from do to do in a diatonic scale
- Learn rehearsal etiquette and performance etiquette
- Learn to sing two-part music and tune harmonies
- Introduction to notation and learn to read solfedge in the key of C
- Become familiar with dynamic markings, tempo markings, treble clef, bass clef, note names, road maps articulation markings, and all music expressions that appear in their music
- Learn the mechanics of good tone production including vowels, support, and placement
- As the year progresses, perform songs of increasing complexity and dynamic and melodic range

Overall, our goal is that students have fun and want to continue their choral music education.