

Dodge Traditional Magnet Middle School

6th Grade ADVANCED COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

All 6th graders have 5 CORE classes, Math, Language Arts, Social Studies, Science and Reading

Advanced CORE CLASSES:

Advanced Language Arts & Reading Block The course, aligned to the Arizona ELA Standards for writing and reading, will focus on perfecting essay writing and the use of higher-level thinking skills to develop an understanding of all forms of literature, literary terms, and utilizing more advanced selections of literature. Students will develop skills in public speaking, working independently and in small cooperative learning groups on different projects and presentations throughout the year. Students will generate all four kinds of writing and hone editing skills. The class assignments and project will have an emphasis on teamwork and outside-the-box creative thinking.

Math 6 Accelerated: Students must demonstrate high problem solving and fluency skills on the placement exam, have a teacher recommendation along with current report card, benchmark scores, and standardized test results. Students will learn algebra concepts such as variables, mathematical expressions, solving multiple step linear equations, and inequalities in a rigorous fast-paced course that will cover not only the concepts for Pre-Algebra, but also the 6th grade Arizona Math Curriculum. Students who earn an A or B each semester may be recommended for high school credit Algebra in 7th and Geometry in 8th grade.

6th Grade ELECTIVE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

All 6th graders get 2 electives / students must select one or both of the following classes: Quarter Rotation or PE / they can substitute one of these 2 electives with the extra electives on page 2.

QUARTER ROTATIONS:

6th grade rotation classes: Students will get a new class each quarter in random order.

Art – 6th grade Quarter Rotation: Students will be introduced to color theory. They will create their own projects that explore line, shape, texture, form, color, and value. There will be a weekly art project using a variety of mediums.

Computer Skills – 6th Grade Quarter Rotation: Students will learn about life-long computer skills in Microsoft Word, Excel, and Power Point. They also learn how to navigate TUSD apps such as TEAMS, utilize StudentVUE for success, keyboard correctly and use technology to support their academic journey. In addition, students will be introduced to the world of computer science through coding at code.org. Finally, the class explores various topics in digital citizenship such as cyber-bullying and digital drama.

Performing Arts Class – 6th grade Quarter Rotation: This class looks at the skills and talents it takes to be a performer. We will explore the art of singing and acting, as well as, learning about the skills it takes to be successful in those careers.

Science Olympiad – 6th grade Quarter Rotation: This class focusses on learning different science topics through hands-on activities, projects, and challenges. We will focus on the scientific method and engineering design process, as well as, specific topics including the human body, environmental problems, physics, properties of matter and more.

Physical Education: Students are required to dress out and participate in all physical education activities. PE shirts can be purchased at orientation. **Yoga:** Students may select Yoga for their PE class. Students will learn yoga poses, breathing and relaxation exercises which cultivate a calm mind, increase strength and flexibility, improve concentration, and give students the tools to manage stress.

* indicates a performance elective = full year commitment (no schedule change)

***Band:** Band students perform one evening concert per quarter. Students are expected to attend all concerts and practice daily. We offer 3 middle school band levels: **Beginning** (mostly 6th graders who played in 5th grade band) or 7th/8th graders learning secondary instruments. **Intermediate** (advanced 6th graders who have successfully completed the Essential Elements Book 1, 7th/8th graders learning secondary instruments and seventh graders who were at Dodge last year). **Advanced** (By audition only, students who have successfully completed Essential Elements Book 1 and 2.). A limited number of school instruments are available for students to borrow, based upon need.

***Chorus:** Students will learn to sing, sight read, clap, and speak various rhythms as well as sing a variety of musical repertoire in multiple genres. Students will perform one evening concert per semester as well as participate in District musical festivals. There are opportunities to sing in small groups too. This is a yearlong elective.

GATE RESOURCE: This is a rigorous curriculum within an academic setting that nurtures student's intellectual, social, and emotional needs, equipping each student with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to become a life-long learner and stimulate independent decision making through project-based learning. Logic problems, math competitions, and hands-on activities that require detailed reasoning are part of the curriculum.

***Orchestra:** Students in orchestra will perform one evening concert per quarter and are expected to attend all concerts and practice daily. **Intermediate** orchestra is for those who participated in strings at the elementary level. **Advanced** Orchestra is by audition only and students have successfully completed Essential Elements Book 1). A limited number of school instruments are available for students to borrow, based upon need.