

Tres Volcanes Community Collaborative School Course Catalogue

6th grade

Language Arts

Mathematics

Social Studies

Science

PE/Health

Electives:

- 1 full-year instrumental music course
- Elective Wheel (Exploratory Art, Exploratory Drama, Exploratory Spanish, Exploratory Technology)

6th Grade Language Arts-Full Year

The 6th language arts program offers a variety of standards-based learning experiences. The program is based on sixth grade Language Arts Common Core State Standards. These standards offer a focus for instruction to ensure an adequate exposure to a range of texts and tasks. Rigor is infused through reading and studying the components of literature with increasingly complex text, both fiction and nonfiction. Students will improve their skills in English grammar, writing, vocabulary development and reading strategies, along with speaking and listening skills. Writing a correct sentence, organizing and expressing ideas clearly in all genres of writing are emphasized. This course is intended to help acclimate all sixth graders to the high academic expectations of the language arts programs at GIS.

Variations of Language Arts

Language Arts/ESL - This class is aligned with the general education 6th grade curriculum; however, English Language Learners are supported with WIDA strategies. These strategies will empower the students through differentiated instructional methods.

Gifted Language Arts- Students with an IEP for gifted may be enrolled in this class.

Language Arts – Special Education – Students with and IEP with goal in Language Arts may be enrolled in this class.

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6th Grade Math-Full Year

This course is designed to provide a strong mathematical foundation as students transition from the concrete world of elementary mathematics to the more abstract understandings needed for algebra. There is a strong focus on developing problem-solving skills and strategies, as well as the ability to effectively communicate their mathematical thinking. In addition to learning arithmetic concepts and computational skills in ratios, fractions and decimals, students will use estimation, mental computation and applications of geometry and measurement. The course also incorporates an introduction to arithmetic operations with integers and an introduction to solving simple linear equations and inequalities.

Variations of Math

Accelerated Math - This course is an alternative to regular sixth grade mathematics. It is designed for students capable of investigating mathematics in a challenging, in-depth fashion. The material addressed in this course is fast-paced, covering both 6th and 7th grade standards in a single year-long course. It is designed to prepare students for the pre-algebra curriculum in the 7th grade accelerated math class.

Selection Process

Students will be offered the opportunity to take the math placement test. Parents will receive their student's score on the test to assist them in their decision as to whether this course is appropriate for their child. A placement test score of 75% or above is the norm for this class. Placement test score, current teacher recommendation, proficiency on district assessments, and an "A" in 5th grade math will also be considered in the decision-making process.

Required: Parent permission and current teacher recommendation/signature

Students must maintain an above average grade throughout the course.

Any student who has below an 80% average at the end of the 1st 9 weeks will be placed on probation. If a student on probation has below an 80% at the close of a semester, he/she will be transferred to a regular math class.

Semester averages will be determined by the average of the first and second nine-weeks' grades.

Gifted Math - Students with an IEP for gifted may be enrolled in this class

Math – Special Education – Students with and IEP with goal in Language Arts may be enrolled in this class.

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6th grade Social Studies-Full Year (World History)

This course provides studies of the ancient civilizations of the Near and Far East, Greek and Roman civilizations, and continues through Medieval European life. Typically, the rise and fall of civilizations and empires are studies highlighting the legacies provided to successive societies. Sixth grade Social Studies Performance Standards (History, Geography, Civics and Government, and Economics) are included in this course.

6th grade Science-Full Year (Earth Science)

Students will learn how to use scientific tools, techniques, methods and measurements to conduct experiments and investigations. Students will learn how to use mathematics in science, how to analyze data and graphs, how to make predictions and how to communicate their findings. The students will be working in laboratory situations or learning through hands-on activities. Science literacy and critical thinking skills are key components at all grade levels.

6th Grade Health-Semester

This course is designed to do more than merely provide information about human growth and development. It is intended to influence students to take positive actions about protecting and ensuring their own health. Students will have the opportunity to have an active and personal role in the learning process allowing them to become active partners in maintaining and improving their level of wellness. Students will participate in simple experiments, self-inventories and projects that will help them to learn how to make healthy choices in all areas of their daily lives (physical, mental and social).

As students acquire knowledge and decision-making skills, they will also gain the confidence they need to take responsibility for their own health. Topics will include an awareness of body systems, stress management, drug education, human growth and development, human sexuality, first aid, nutrition, physical and emotional health and prevention of disease.

6th Grade PE-Semester

This is a required semester course to physical education. The first middle school physical education experience will be one of excitement, sportsmanship and minimal competition. Emphasis will be on basic skills in both team and individual sport activities. A daily activity program, along with assessment, will assist students in meeting District Physical Education Standards.

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ELECTIVES:

Exploratory Elective Wheel—Each class meets for 9 weeks

EXPLORATORY ART

This course explores a variety of media in both two- and three-dimensional art. This is a generalized approach to drawing, painting and ceramics. Examples of the many projects may include origami, friendship bracelets, clay vessels, etc. Students may be asked to furnish additional pencils, pens, etc. to supplement school supplies.

EXPLORATORY DRAMA

Drama is an awesome outlet for creative and diverse talents. Through presentations and improvisation, young actors will learn the freedom of expression and gain confidence on stage. Students are given the opportunity to perform plays and skits. They create commercials, monologues and various other stage, television and radio themes. An open-mind and imagination are requirements for our class.

EXPLORATORY TECHNOLOGY

Students will explore technology beyond basic applications. They will have opportunities to learn and practice coding, experiment in Robotic and explore in a STEAM environment.

EXPLORATORY SPANISH

Students will learn basic vocabulary and conversational Spanish while exploring the traditions and cultures of Spanish Speaking Countries.

Orchestra-Full year

This course is for students with less than one (1) year or no previous experience playing the violin, viola, cello or bass. Basic string concepts and note-reading are introduced. Students will perform in evening concerts, assemblies and festivals as part of the course requirements. Eighth grade students may enroll for this class only with instructor approval. Previous musical experience on piano, guitar or other instruments is welcomed, but not required.

Choir – Full year

Students will learn basic vocal technique, pitch matching, tone production and a variety of repertoire from classical, folk and pop traditions. Over the school year, students will master vocal skills in a fun and supportive environment. Performances outside school hours are considered and extension of the instructional process and are required. (TBD - There is a lab fee of \$50 which covers the cost of sheet music, accompanist fees and a t-shirt. Fundraising opportunities will be provided.)