



# MIDDLE SCHOOL

## 6th Grade Course Descriptions

### 2016-2017

#### 6th Grade Program

Language Arts

Mathematics

Science

Social Studies

Project Inquiry

Physical Education

Performing and Visual Arts Exploration

(Dance, Instrumental Music, Theatre,  
Visual Arts, and Vocal Ensemble)

The 6th Grade teachers utilize a team approach to deliver an interdisciplinary project-based curriculum that provides awareness and appreciation of diversity in an environment where meaningful and deeper learning can flourish. Through this type of innovative and rich learning environment, students are engaged in their learning as they use their knowledge and skills in a way that prepares them for real life experiences. As students master academic content, they will also learn how to think critically, collaborate, communicate effectively, direct their own learning, and believe in themselves as they begin to develop their unique academic mindsets.

## COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

### **6th Grade Language Arts (M1000)**

#### **Year Course**

This course exposes students to expository, creative, and narrative texts. Students will have opportunities to communicate effectively through reading, writing, speaking, and listening for authentic and meaningful purposes. Effective sentence construction, editing for improvements in sentence formation, usage, and mechanics will be a focus. Through individual and group presentations, students will interpret, evaluate, and respond to a wide range of literature: novels and short stories. Students are encouraged to analyze and synthesize information; therefore, making valuable connections across the curriculum.

### **6th Grade Project Inquiry (M1050)**

#### **Year Course**

This course is designed to develop the habits of mind of a lifelong learner. Students will gain a greater understanding of themselves as learners and their relationship to learning through inquiry, experiential learning, project based learning, and reflection. Students will dive into deeper learning through the explicit focus on learning and practicing skills and competencies, such as: listening, empathy, creative thinking, writing, designing, prototype iterations, organizational effectiveness, critical thinking, interpersonal skills, solution-building, digital storytelling, collaboration, computational skills, communication, and research.

### **6th Grade Mathematics - Math I (M3000)**

#### **Year Course**

Students will be provided with problem solving opportunities to help develop their mathematical knowledge, understanding and skill, and foster their awareness and appreciation of the abundant connections among mathematics as well as between the other content areas and the real world.

### **6th Grade Science (M4000)**

#### **Year Course**

This course is designed to introduce and help facilitate the students' experience in the scientific learning process, through the use of Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). The first semester of this course covers the nature of science, math in science, foundations for scientific inquiry including the Scientific Method, and human biology. During the second semester, focus is directed towards human health and environmental science.

### **6th Grade Social Studies (M5000)**

#### **Year Course**

This course of World Geography revolves around the 6th grade integrated themes of self, citizenship, culture, systems, and global connections. Through each theme's essential question and learning targets, students will be able to compare and contrast countries and look at events and the impact made on the world. Students will learn to work together using problem solving and critical thinking skills, as they interpret the past, understand the present, and plan for the future.

### **6th Grade Performing and Visual Arts (PVA) Exploration (M6000)**

#### **Year Course**

This course broadens the students' view of the different arts disciplines and provides them with a holistic arts experience. Students will study visual arts, theatre, dance, vocal ensemble and instrumental music. Every seven weeks, they will experience one of the five arts disciplines. Faculty from the MPSA who are professional artists/teachers will instruct the classes and help students discover their particular interests and talents. This course will allow numerous opportunities to gain self-confidence, self-discipline, and self-motivation as well as learning to work with others in a group with common goals.

### **6th Grade Physical Education (M7000)**

#### **Year Course**

This course encourages the development of a positive attitude and lifelong habits for physical activity, health, and wellness. Students will experience group and individual sports, plus competitive and non-competitive athletic environments. Activities may include: swimming, basic skills/movement training, basketball, racquet sports, soccer, and field games. Other course related topics may include: nutrition, fitness testing, anatomy/physiology, strategy, sportsmanship, teamwork, and health-related fitness concepts.