

THUNDER RIDGE MIDDLE SCHOOL

ELECTIVES COURSE GUIDE

2023-2024

6<sup>th</sup> GRADE



**Dream Big \* Inspire Everyone \* Create a Roadmap \* Believe in Yourself \* Achieve \* Work Hard**



## 6<sup>th</sup> GRADE

*Every effort is made to place students in the courses requested but cannot be guaranteed due to scheduling conflicts or enrollment limits. Student's schedules may not contain all of their top choices or be in the order of preference. Schedule repairs are made to support the academic or medical needs of students and only when space permits. Repairs will only occur during the first week of the quarter.*

### **YEAR ELECTIVES**

*If you want to take Band or Orchestra – Instrumental rental, practice and participation in concerts are required.*

**Band 6** This course does not require any prior musical experience for students to be successful. Students will begin to develop facility on their instruments and the proper fundamentals required to be musically expressive and accurate. Band includes instruments from the woodwind, brass, and percussion families. Students with prior experience may audition for extracurricular ensembles, such as jazz band and wind ensemble. There will be at least two concerts per year in December and May. (Year)

**Orchestra 6** This yearlong course is open to students with previous experience and those who are new to playing violin, viola, cello or string bass. We stress the development of string skills and musical expressions through a variety of music. Concerts are scheduled throughout the year including the CCSD Stringathon. (Year)

## **SEMESTER ELECTIVES**

**AVID** (Advancement Via Individual Determination) AVID is a semester long college preparatory elective class for sixth grade students who desire higher academic achievement. AVID provides motivated students with skills needed to be successful in the rigorous middle and high school curriculum in preparation necessary for a college future. Students meet daily and receive instruction in areas such as writing, note taking, reading, organization, questioning, study skills, test taking, and college and career choices. Students interested in AVID have a 2.5- 3.5 grade point average, good school attendance & behavior, average or higher test scores in reading and math, and a willingness to commit to rigorous class work. Interested students must fill out an application and participate in an AVID interview for selection. **(Semester)**

**Choir 6** This class explores all the different ways to use your voice. Students will learn how to sing in different styles as a group and learn the basics of reading music. The choir performs a concert in the evening for family and friends at the end of the quarter as the culminating project. **(Semester)**

## **QUARTER ELECTIVES**

### **PERFORMING ARTS**

**Guitar I** This class is a beginning level guitar class. No experience is necessary. Development of effective guitar technique is stressed including chords, finger picking and improvisation. A variety of styles of music are taught. Nylon string guitars are provided. **(Quarter)**

**Vocal Musical Theatre 6** Theater is fun! In this course, students will discover how exciting creativity can be. They will learn basic aspects of theater arts. Using the creative process students will produce original pantomimes and acting scenes, gaining experience and confidence in performing. This experience will lead to enhanced presentation skills transferrable to all academic areas. **(Quarter)**

### **PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND HEALTH**

**Indoor Physical Education 6** This course enhances the motor, intellectual, and social development of students through physical movement. Students will learn cooperation, team play, and sportsmanship through various activities including climbing, weight training, basketball, volleyball, polo and team handball. We integrate fitness components and wellness concepts into the activities as well. **(Quarter)**

**Team Sports 6** This course enhances the motor, intellectual, and social development of students through physical movement. Students will learn cooperation, team play, and sportsmanship through various activities including soccer, flag football, track and field, lacrosse, softball, and an Olympics unit. We integrate fitness components and wellness concepts into the activities as well. **(Quarter)**

**Skills for Adolescence** In this health class, students will learn life skills for navigating adolescence. We will explore the following skills: stress management, getting better sleep, empathy, building self-esteem, victim proofing, cyberbullying/online safety, healthy eating habits, refusal skills for tobacco, alcohol, and vaping, and puberty/personal hygiene. **(Quarter)**

### **TECHNOLOGY**

**Computer Literacy 6 (REQUIRED)** Computer Literacy is a course designed to improve basic computer skills. Students will learn necessary keyboarding skills. The goal is to achieve mastery of typing skills to improve proficiency when using the computer. In addition, students will learn basic computer concepts and Internet safety. Students have the opportunity to test out of this course. **(Quarter)**

**Robotics 6** This course introduces students to the *LEGO MindStorms Education Systems* and the world of robotics. Students will design, build, and program a robot to move and turn with precision. Their robots will perform tasks to collect data for analysis. Be ready to explore how technology works, work in a team environment, and problem solve with robotics. **(Quarter)**

## VISUAL ARTS

**Art 6** In this class, students will explore and develop their creative ideas in various two-dimensional and three-dimensional projects. Projects may include clay, paintings, scratchboard art, mixed media paper mache, and collage. **(Quarter)**

**Art Digital Art 6** In this class, students will use digital tools to create artwork and learn design skills. While learning software, computer skills and video production, students will make creative visual media projects. Students in this class will learn design principles and graphic design concepts to communicate through visual media, which is a critical skill for 21<sup>st</sup> century students. They will utilize the Adobe Creative suite – Adobe Illustrator and Photoshop, Drawing tablets and more. **(Quarter)**

## WORLD LANGUAGES

**French Introduction** Intro to French is designed to be fun! We experience and learn about the French language by exploring French cooking, film, and music. We cook crepes and ratatouille as a part of the experience. While the focus is French and developing a confidence in language learning, there is opportunity for much more. French is a growing language, in fact, it is the fastest growing language currently. The French speaking world exist far beyond that of the borders of France. This class will highlight how French is evolving around the world. **(Quarter)**

**Spanish Introduction** Students will explore the Spanish language by learning basic skills needed to communicate. Students will learn introductory phrases, vocabulary, concepts and aspects of Hispanic culture through experiential learning. These basics of the Spanish language and cultural awareness provide a foundation of future language acquisition in the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Spanish is an international language for communication. It is one of the official languages of the United Nations and is the official language in 20 countries. **(Quarter)**