

THUNDER RIDGE MIDDLE SCHOOL
ELECTIVES COURSE GUIDE

2024-2025

6th GRADE



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

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. After courses are assigned, schedule repairs are made to support specific academic or medical needs of students, not by request, and only when space permits.

Performing Arts

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

Band 6 (Year-long) 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 (Year-long) Orchestra 6 is a year-long course for students who want to learn to play the violin, viola, cello, or string bass. Students do not need to have any experience to join. The basics of string playing will be taught. Class expectations include regular home practice, daily class participation, and attendance at two to three evening concerts during the school year. (Year)

Choir 6 (Semester-long) 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.

Vocal Musical Theatre 6 (Quarter-long) 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 transferable to all academic areas.

AVID

AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) (Semester-long) This semester-long college/career elective class is 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 for college & career pathways. Students receive instruction in writing, inquiry, collaboration, organization, reading, and real-world connections. Students interested in AVID have a 2.5 and above grade point average, good school attendance & positive citizenship, 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. At Thunder Ridge, all students participate in Organizational Monday by filling out their Planners in Advisory to preplan/back map their week to be a successful student.

Physical Education and Health

Indoor Physical Education 6 (Quarter-long) 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.

Team Sports 6 (Quarter-long) 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.

Skills for Adolescence (Quarter-long) In this health class, students will learn life skills for navigating adolescence. We will explore the following skills: stress management, coping with setbacks, getting better sleep, empathy, building self-esteem, victim proofing, cyberbullying/online safety, healthy eating habits, refusal skills for vaping, alcohol, and other peer pressures, physical and emotional changes related to puberty/sexual health, and personal hygiene.

Technology

Computer Literacy 6 (REQUIRED) (Quarter-long) 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.

Robotics 6 (Quarter-long) 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.

Visual Arts

Art 6 (Quarter-long) 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. \$10 Class fee - Scholarships available.

Art Digital Art 6 (Quarter-long) 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 21st century students. They will utilize the Adobe Creative suite – Adobe Illustrator and Photoshop, Drawing tablets and more. \$10 Class fee - Scholarships available.

World Languages

French Introduction (Quarter-long) 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 exists far beyond that of the borders of France. This class will highlight how French is evolving around the world.

Spanish Introduction (Quarter-long) Students will have fun exploring the Spanish language by learning basic skills needed to communicate. Students will focus on introductory phrases, vocabulary, concepts and aspects of Hispanic culture through authentic experiences. The primary objective of this course is to instill a love, enthusiasm and confidence while learning the Spanish Culture and language.