



Bloomfield Hills Middle School

Program Summary: 6th Grade Course Descriptions

Bloomfield Hills Middle School, along with the Bloomfield School District, has adopted the Michigan State Core Curriculum. All benchmarks and Grade Level Content Expectations have been aligned with the State Curriculum, grades 6-8. Detailed descriptions of content objectives can be found at www.mde.gov and will be included in summary form in teacher syllabi.

Language A (6th grade)

Required 6

This course is designed to develop the students' ability to write, think, listen and speak effectively. Student writing will include personal, report and creative writing using Power Writing and The 6-Traits of Writing. The course will include class novel study, personal reading requirements and direct instruction in reading and writing in the content areas. Writing skills will focus literary response to reading as well as skills for expository writing. Study skills emphasized will include spelling, dictionary skills, research skills and library use.

Math 6

Required 6

The CMP, Connected Math Program, mathematics of sixth grade is a problem-solving approach that helps students find useful and practical strategies. Each unit begins with hands-on, concrete materials; and as understanding develops, key algorithms are introduced. This three-prong approach builds confidence as students develop their number skills. Topics include operations and applications with fractions, decimals and percents, operations and applications with integers, 4 quadrant graphing, analysis of graphs and tables, probability, calculations involving surface area and volume, properties of geometric shapes, and introduction to algebra.

Science 6

Required 6

Sixth grade students investigate the nature of science and the scientific method. Topics include ecology, geology, investigating matter, and physical and chemical changes. Unit studies include the rock cycle, fossils and geologic time, erosion and the changing surface of the earth, atomic structure, chemical and physical changes, animal population study, and food webs and ecosystems.

World Cultures: Latin America, Europe and Canada (Humanities)

Required 6

Students become acquainted with the various cultures of Canada, Middle America and South America and study the interdependence of those cultures. They will also expand their knowledge of both the physical and cultural geography of these regions. In doing so, students will gain knowledge of the economic, political and social systems of the regions, both past and present. Unit studies include the 5 themes of geography, the 6 themes of economics, the foundations of culture, history and culture of Latin America, history and culture of Europe, present day Europe and present day Canada.

Spanish 6

Required 6

The sixth grade Spanish program will continue the philosophy and program design developed at the elementary level. Every other day during elective periods, students will engage in Spanish activities developed from a student-centered curriculum. These will involve the students in reading, writing, listening to and speaking Spanish. Students are expected to study class materials at home and will receive short written homework assignments. Quizzes and individual and/or group projects will be used to evaluate students' performance. Students will receive letter grades on the report card at the end of each marking period.

German 6

Required 6

The sixth grade German class introduces students to the formal study of this world language. It is the first of a series of three courses in the middle school program. Instruction will be one full class period every other day all year. Overall objectives are aligned with the standards of foreign language learning: communication, cultures, connections, comparisons, and communities. Lessons are designed specifically to begin to develop students' listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills in the German language. Units of study include: practicing numbers, discussing means of transportation, talking about interests, sports, and hobbies, describing rooms, family members, and class schedules. All units will focus on the development of basic verb usage and grammar through the use of authentic texts, photos, and artifacts from German speaking countries.

Physical Education 6

Required 6

The sixth-grade student will be taught the rules, strategies and fundamental skills of a variety of team sports: badminton, basketball, cross country running, floor hockey, kickball, indoor and outdoor soccer, softball, team handball, and volleyball. Emphasis will be placed on the cardiovascular fitness contribution of these activities. In October and May, each student will be required to run one mile to test cardiovascular endurance. The purpose of the test is to identify a level of fitness for each individual student. Students' results will be compared to national norms. Each year the Presidential Physical Fitness Test will be administered to all students so that their fitness level can be measured and compared to other students their age throughout the country.

Integrated Arts Courses: Students will rotate through the following courses throughout the year.

I.A. Art 6

Required 6

Sixth grade Exploratory Art is designed to build upon elementary art experiences and develop an understanding of the elements of art: line, shape, form, color, value, texture and space. Students will work with various art media and strengthen skills in the areas of drawing, design and ceramics.

I. A. Life Skills

Required 6

This course is based on the growth and decision-making needs of the students. It consists of three units. The first covers first-aid, safety and babysitting. The second unit includes basic hand and machine sewing skills and fabric care. The third unit discusses nutrition, foods and consumerism skills. The decision-making process is used throughout all units.

I.A. Creative Dramatics

Required 6

An introductory course designed to offer sixth-grade students a basic awareness of the dramatic arts. Students will develop an appreciation of the theater through involvement in a variety of dramatic activities. In addition to learning the basic techniques of acting, students will develop skills in problem solving, creative thinking, interpersonal relationships, and self-awareness.

I.A. Industrial Technology 6

Required 6

Students will learn about the design and manufacturing of the automobile. Students will also design and construct a miniature electric vehicle using CAD/CAM and other technology. This course focuses on design and problem-solving methods. Unit topics include machine use and safety, wellness concepts, model construction of a prosthetic arm, design and construction of a Rube Goldberg machine, design and construction of a windmill, spinning top, catapult, solar cooker and bridge.

Music Courses:**Beginning Band 6**

Elective 6

This band is for any beginning woodwind or brass student (Saxophone and percussion are currently not an option in 6th grade beginning band). The fundamentals of instruments are thoroughly studied with emphasis on tone production and rhythm. The student should have access to a woodwind or brass instrument. Some school-owned instruments are available. *Students enrolling in beginning band should expect to spend some time outside of the school day, either before or after school, with the band director, to catch up to students in regular sixth grade band.* This instructional time will be at the discretion of the teacher, student and parent.

6th Grade Cadet Band

Elective 6

This course is designed for those students with one or more years of playing experience on an instrument. Emphasis will be on skill development including ensemble playing, rhythms, and tone production. Instructional focus will be on music theory, sight-reading, instrumental technique and concert preparation. Students in this course will be expected to play in several concerts throughout the school year that occur in the evening.

6th Grade Choir

Elective 6

This course is open to all sixth-grade students who wish to sing and develop the necessary skills for group choral performances. This is a performance-oriented group. A minimum of two performances will be given each year and there will be opportunities for solo and ensemble experiences. Instructional focus will include basic vocal technique, rhythm and meter, singing 2 part harmony, polyrhythm, and vocal form.

Beginning Orchestra 6

Elective 6

This course is designed to allow a student to begin a string instrument and to help the student who has had one year or less of instruction and needs technique reinforcement. Fundamentals of the string instrument with emphasis on bow position work and tone production will be taught. Students will be encouraged to advance into cadet orchestra quickly, based on their individual rate of progress. Students will participate in 6th grade concerts.

6th Grade Orchestra

Elective 6

This course is designed for those students with one or more years of playing experience on the violin/viola/cello or bass. Emphasis will be placed on the development of more skills in note-reading, bow position work, tone production and ensemble playing. Evening programs and concerts will be given throughout the year. Instructional units will consist of music theory, sight-reading, ensemble building and concert preparation.