



Avondale Middle School  
6<sup>th</sup> Grade Curriculum Guide (2020-2021)

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade Core Curriculum includes the following required courses:**

- English
- World Geography
- Math (Math 6 & Advanced Math 6)
- Science 6

**Full Year Exploratory Fine Arts (Select one only)**

6<sup>th</sup> Grade students have the opportunity to select one of the following, if interested. These are full year elective courses

- Concert Band (instrument required)
- Vocal Music

**Trimester Exploratory**

Students have two hours of exploratory classes in their schedule. Trimester exploratory classes for 6<sup>th</sup> grade consist of the following:

- STEM 6 – REQUIRED to be taken by ALL students
- Art 6
- French 6
- Drama 6
- Physical Education

**Avondale Middle School**

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade**

**Curriculum Guide**

**2020-2021**



**Maryanne Munroe, Principal**

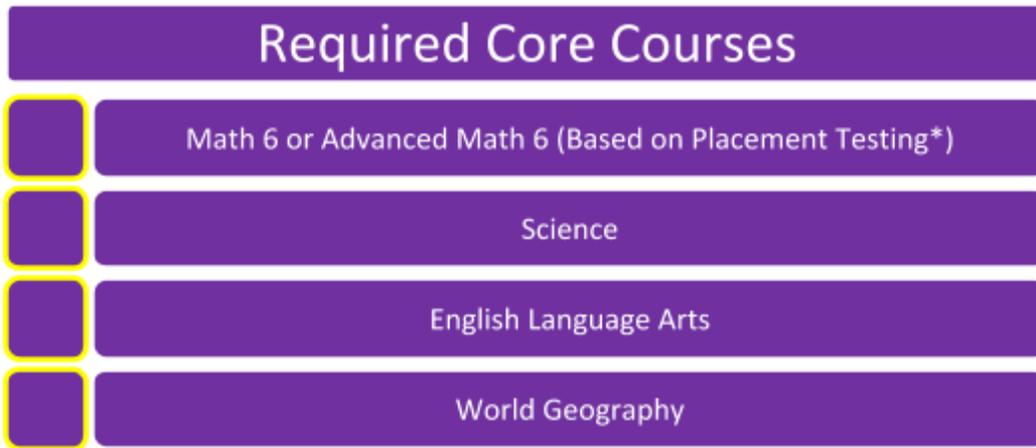
**Katie Gomez, Assistant Principal**

**Michelle Wilson, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Counselor**

# Sixth Grade

An Avondale Middle School 6<sup>th</sup> grade schedule consists of 6 academic class periods in a year. The school year is comprised of three trimesters. All students are also assigned to a daily 32 minute advisory period.

Sixth grade students are required to take 4 periods of core courses. Students also have 2 periods of exploratory courses. These exploratory courses consist of trimester grading periods. Required exploratory courses include one trimester of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math). Based on whether the student is a music student determines exploratory offerings during the 6<sup>th</sup> grade year.



6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Exploratory Course Offerings	
Music Students	Non-Music Students
<p>Choose one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Concert Band</li> <li>● Choir 6</li> </ul> <p>All students are required to take:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● STEM 6 – one trimester</li> </ul> <p>Choose 2 of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Art 6</li> <li>● Drama</li> <li>● French 6</li> <li>● Physical Education 6</li> </ul>	<p>All students are required to take:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● STEM 6 – one trimester</li> </ul> <p>Remaining exploratory offerings include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Art 6 – one trimester</li> <li>● Drama 6 – one trimester</li> <li>● French 6 – one trimester</li> <li>● Physical Education 6 – two trimesters</li> </ul>
<p>Remediation in reading and math may be recommended for students who would benefit from these classes based on standardized test scores and screeners in reading and math.</p> <p>*Advanced Math placement testing occurs in the spring at each elementary building.</p>	

## **Sixth Grade Course Descriptions**

### **Advisory - Year Long**

Students at AMS begin their day with a 32 minute advisory period referred to as “Mustang Roundup”. Student advisory groups are made up of grade level students that are led by teacher mentors. The goal of Mustang Roundup is to provide a personalized connection to our learning environment where all students will be well known by at least one adult advocate. This relationship and connection to school is fostered through intentionally scheduled lessons, group activities, and one-to-one interactions with the advisor. The structure of this program will provide opportunities for character education, bullying prevention lessons, positive behavior support, independent reading, academic monitoring, organizational meetings, school wide initiatives, and fun cooperative activities.

## **CORE COURSES**

### **English 6 - Year-Long**

Over the course of 6th grade, curriculum follows state and county standards, which includes implementing strategies to deepen reading comprehension of various genres of literature and informational text. Writing skills will be woven throughout instruction to include personal narrative, argument, literary, and informational writing. Students will utilize technology to create, publish, and collaborate on written work. Additional skills will be obtained through the use of word study and oral presentations.

### **Math 6 - Year-Long**

Math 6 is designed to help students transition from the study of numeracy and computation in elementary school to the study of algebra and functions. The course develops a deep conceptual and procedural understanding of mathematics. There are five critical areas of study: (1) connecting ratio and rate to whole number multiplication and division and using concepts of ratio and rate to solve problems; (2) completing understanding of division of fractions and extending the notion of number to the system of rational numbers, which includes negative numbers; (3) writing, interpreting, and using algebraic expressions and equations; (4) developing understanding of statistical thinking; and (5) reasoning about relationships among shapes to determine area, surface area, and volume.

### **Advanced Math 6\* - Year-Long**

This is a rigorous pre-algebra course designed for students who learn at an accelerated pace. Placement into the course will be available to students meeting the criteria established by the math department. Students enrolled in our advanced math pathway will complete 3 years of standards in 2 years and will take Algebra 1 in 8th grade which is a high school course. The course develops a deep conceptual and procedural understanding of mathematics. The critical areas for Advanced Math 6 are: (1) connecting ratio and rate to whole number multiplication and division and using concepts of ratio and rate to solve problems; (2) completing understanding of division of fractions and extending the notion of number to the system of rational numbers, which includes negative numbers; (3) writing, interpreting, and using algebraic expressions and equations; (4) developing understanding of statistical thinking; (5) reasoning about relationships among shapes to determine area, surface area, and volume; (6) developing understanding of and applying proportional relationships; and (7) developing understanding of operations with rational numbers and working with algebraic expressions and linear equations. \*Advanced Math 6 placement details will be communicated during the 5<sup>th</sup> grade classroom visits hosted by Avondale Middle School Administration and a Counselor. Incoming 6<sup>th</sup> grade students will be placed in math courses after evaluating a variety of criteria, including NWEA MAP Percentile scores, academic grades, M-STEP proficiency (advanced) and teacher recommendations.

### **Science 6 - Year-Long**

Sixth-grade students will develop their problem-solving skills as they study topics in physical science, life science and Earth science. Students will continue to learn more about the scientific methods and will develop an understanding of how to scientifically test ideas. This course includes units on ecosystems, matter and energy, geology and plate tectonics, and the history of changes to Earth's surface and life forms. Students will show their scientific understanding through investigation and dynamic scientific modeling. Emphasis will be placed on addressing real world phenomena, collaborative teams with students sharing their ideas and defending their scientific arguments with evidence.

### **World Geography 6 - Year-Long**

World Geography 6 is a geography-based course that pushes students to take a global view of their world. It introduces students to the physical and human geography of the world. Students explore patterns of natural and human characteristics and use case studies to examine how the physical environment has provided both benefits and obstacles to human society. In doing so, students explore how humans have used, adapted, or modified their environment and the consequences. Students examine a variety of global issues that come from human activities such as migration and settlement, culture and cultural diffusion, population and demographic changes, resource use, and increasing networks of trade and economic interdependence. Students will investigate how local, national, and international governmental and non-governmental organizations respond to contemporary issues. The different regions of the world will be used to illuminate examples of how these global issues or problems affect people in places around the world. They will deepen their understanding of the disciplines of history, geography, economics and political science. Students will explore how all of these social studies fields are both complementary and interdependent.

## **EXPLORATORY CLASSES**

### **6th GRADE EXPLORATORY PROGRAM**

Every sixth-grade student will have 2 exploratory hours/classes in their schedule. \*Students may choose Concert Band or Choir 6 as full year exploratory course OR if they are not interested in the music option, they will be scheduled into trimester exploratory courses listed below.

### **6<sup>th</sup> GRADE TRIMESTER EXPLORATORY COURSES**

#### **STEM 6 - Trimester-Long**

Computer Technology and Engineering Design: A trimester-long mandatory class for sixth-grade students incorporating the Project Lead the Way (PLTW) module "Design and Modeling". An introduction to basic engineering concepts, this STEM course provides opportunities for students to innovate and construct creative design solutions while becoming familiar with computer software. During the course activities students develop computer file management skills and become proficient with a variety of applications (Google Drive, Docs, etc.). In addition, the course is designed to cultivate supplemental competencies such as keyboarding, internet safety, and general computer use.

#### **ART 6 - Trimester-Long**

This class is an introduction to Middle School Level Visual Arts Curriculum including experiences in a variety of 2D and 3D media. No Prerequisite Required. Students will participate in concentrated efforts to apply design elements and principles in organization, creation, reflection and self-evaluation of all projects. Extensive explanation, instruction, demonstration and skill practice prior to major project work. Students will explore visual examples of various designs through world and art history, contemporary work, multi-disciplinary connections and problem solving. Minimal homework required. Please be prepared for rigorous thinking, problem-solving and art-activities in this middle school level art class.

### **Drama 6 - Trimester-Long**

Do you break out in a cold sweat at the thought of getting up in front of an audience? Then Drama class is for you! Do you love being the center of attention? Then Drama class is for you too! This class will teach you the skills you need to successfully speak in front of groups of people-something you'll need in school and in almost any career you choose. You will have the opportunity to slowly ease into performing onstage, giving you time to get used to speaking in front of a small, safe group. The last few weeks of class you will help produce a mini-play performed on camera.

### **French 6 - Trimester-Long**

Students are introduced to the French culture and language in this trimester course. The emphasis is on listening, reading, writing and speaking about topics such as colors, food, numbers, greetings, weather, seasons, days and months, sports, and likes and dislikes. We play games, do activities and end the course with a "fête" where students sample French food.

### **Physical Education 6 - Trimester-Long**

Boys and girls participating in sixth-grade physical education will be challenged with a variety of fitness conditioning activities that will increase their muscular strength and endurance, flexibility, and cardiovascular endurance. Students will develop skills to be used to play a variety of team sports along with a basic understanding of team sport rules. Indoor and outdoor activities include; basketball, volleyball, soccer, speedball, floor hockey, softball and group games. Students will participate in fitness testing. Sportsmanship, teamwork and leadership are emphasized.

### **6th GRADE FULL YEAR EXPLORATORY COURSES \***

\*Year-long music classes may not be dropped – this is a year-long commitment.

### **Concert Band 6 -Year-Long**

Concert Band is our beginning band class. In this class, students will learn music basics pertaining to rhythm, tone, intonation, theory and terminology as well as instrument care and maintenance. This class will start from the most basic components of music, and no previous experience is required except for in the area of percussion. Students interested in playing percussion must have at least one year of piano lessons. Students will have the opportunity to learn how to play a wind instrument or percussion instrument. Students will start on one of the following: Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Saxophone, Trumpet, French Horn, Trombone, Baritone or Percussion. Students who participate in band will need to rent or purchase a quality instrument. Enrollment in Concert Band constitutes a commitment of the student to participate in all scheduled performances. 6<sup>th</sup> GRADE WILL BE THE ONLY OPPORTUNITY FOR BEGINNING INSTRUCTION ON AN INSTRUMENT. PRIVATE LESSONS MUST BE TAKEN IN ORDER TO BE PLACED INTO BAND AFTER 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE. This is a full year class.

**OR**

### **Choir 6 - Year-Long**

Choir 6 is designed for sixth-grade students who are interested in studying singing and learning to read music. In this class, students will learn music basics pertaining to rhythm, tone, intonation, theory and terminology as well as specific skills in the art of singing such as proper posture, breath support and vowel placement. This class will start from the most basic components of music, and no previous experience is required. Enrollment in Choir 6 constitutes a commitment of the student to participate in all scheduled performances. This is a full year class.

*You may contact the Avondale Middle School Counseling Department if you have any questions:*  
Michelle Wilson, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Counselor, 248-537-6315 or [michelle.wilson@avondaleschools.org](mailto:michelle.wilson@avondaleschools.org)