

THE PEMBROKE HILL MIDDLE SCHOOL

GRADE 6

PROGRAM OF STUDIES

2023- 2024

PEMBROKE
HILL SCHOOL

SIXTH GRADE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

AMERICAN HISTORY POST CIVIL WAR

Sixth Grade American History is a study of important events in our past since the Civil War and Reconstruction. Students will examine various topics including the Settlement of the West, Second Industrial Revolution, Progressive Era, World War I, Great Depression, World War II, Cold War, the Sixties, Civil Rights movement, Vietnam War, and Watergate. Students will also learn new study skills, content reading strategies, data interpretation, test preparation skills, and technology skills. Students will learn through discussion, role-playing, simulations, debates, web site visits, and the drawing of maps, charts, and graphic organizers. American History and English classes work closely together in teaching paragraphs, composition, research skills, novels and biographies.

ART

The sixth grade art classes offer the students a chance to experiment with many different materials and to solve a variety of interesting visual problems. Sixth grade students will work with clay, painting, printmaking, sculptural materials, journaling techniques and collage. They will learn beginning drawing techniques, how to mix colors and apply glaze, as well as explore creative uses to the various media in the room. We will discuss and appreciate the art of others, professional as well as their peers, and learn to evaluate our own work.

CONCERT BAND

For sixth-grade students who currently play a *band* instrument and would like to become a member of the middle school concert band, this ensemble meets during the school day. Instruments include any of the following: flute/piccolo, clarinet, oboe, bass clarinet, bassoon, saxophone, trumpet, French horn, trombone, baritone/euphonium, tuba, string/electric bass, drums/percussion, piano or guitar.

ENGLISH

The sixth grade English program is designed to strengthen skills in reading, writing, listening, and speaking. The reading selections range from novels, short stories, non-fiction, to poetry. They complement the students' American history course, explore more contemporary social issues, and allow for personal interpretations. Within each literature unit, students learn new vocabulary, participate in discussions, and produce written responses in a variety of forms, emphasizing both formal voice and creative expressions. The writing process is introduced and utilized with most writing assignments. Furthermore, the curriculum includes writing mechanics and the basics of sentence and paragraph construction.

GENERAL MUSIC

Sixth Grade students will explore all aspects of music using keyboards, guitars, and singing all genres of music. Students will learn and become familiar with popular musical styles and songs from the early 1900s decades to the Harlem Renaissance and onto the mid-1960s in conjunction with their studies of those periods in their American History class. Music theory and score reading exercises in Schoology, musical games, and music listening will help reinforce and develop the student's knowledge and understanding of the goals set forth for our General Music class time together. Lastly, exploring the music and cultural impact of well-known composers, and becoming acquainted with music of all eras of music history and music from around the world will be a benefit to providing a well-rounded music experience for the students.

GENERAL SCIENCE

Learn science by doing science! Engage in science and engineering practices to explain natural phenomena, support a claim with evidence, and model phenomena to scale.

Course topics include: Human Biology, from systems to cells; and Earth's Systems: the hydrosphere and the geosphere.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Sixth grade physical education will provide students with an equal opportunity to develop an understanding of physical fitness, space awareness, leadership abilities, cooperative learning, character building, good sportsmanship and coed team building. Each student will be introduced to the basic rules, concepts and the skill set for each activity. They will have the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge, ability and understanding throughout each activity. The sixth grade physical education program will provide an environment conducive for the students to attain an acceptable physical fitness level, to develop an appreciation of lifetime activities, and to develop the skills and desire to continue with a healthy lifestyle as they progress through their middle school years.

PRE-ALGEBRA

Sixth grade students will study a pre-algebra curriculum in order to prepare them for Algebra 1 during their seventh grade year. The first quarter of sixth grade will focus on solidifying basic math facts and skills, and there will be an emphasis on operations with whole numbers, fractions, and decimals. Other topics will include estimation, measurement, data analysis, prime factorization, least common multiples, and greatest common factors. Age-appropriate projects, games, and hands-on class activities will further reinforce the mathematical concepts.

The pre-algebra curriculum will include basic operations of integers, evaluation of algebraic expressions, solving equations and inequalities, ratios, proportions, percents, square roots, coordinate planes, and geometry. There is also a heavy emphasis on problem solving.

During this course, enrichment will be offered to students who thoroughly and readily master the concepts taught in class. Students receiving enrichment will take the initiative and responsibility for accepting more challenging course work. Additional instruction will be required for those students who struggle with concepts or need additional support (this includes any student with a grade below a C). At the end of sixth grade, students will be given a placement test to determine their course for seventh grade. Based on the results, students will enter either the seventh grade

honors course, Algebra1-Accelerated (the entire Algebra1 course in one year), or Algebra 1-Year 1 (Algebra 1 completed over two years).

SIXTH GRADE FRENCH

This course is designed to develop introductory conversational skills as well as to build a strong foundation in pronunciation and oral comprehension. Emphasis will be placed on the development of thematic vocabulary. Special attention will be given to cultural links with the sixth grade curriculum along thematic lines with an emphasis on the history and geography of France.

SIXTH GRADE LATIN

This course is designed as an introduction to Latin. It will focus on daily life in ancient Rome, but will also familiarize students with basic vocabulary and grammatical concepts. Students will learn about Roman families, slaves, gladiators, schools, the military, Hercules, the founding of Rome and the expansion of the empire under Julius Caesar and Augustus. Strengthening English language skills and vocabulary by studying Latin roots is also an important part of the curriculum. Students are regularly encouraged to examine those aspects of our contemporary society which we inherited from the classical world.

SIXTH GRADE MANDARIN CHINESE

This is a beginning course for students with little or no previous study of Chinese. The strategy to construct Chinese characters and the approach to write Chinese characters are taught, as well as the pronunciation. By the end of this level, students are expected to be able to have short conversations, read and write short paragraphs. Students will explore Chinese culture as they learn the language. They will gain more understanding of the Chinese way of life and thinking.

SIXTH GRADE SPANISH (Blue)

This course is designed to develop introductory conversational skills as well as to build a strong foundation in pronunciation and oral comprehension. Emphasis will be placed on the development of thematic vocabulary. Special attention will be given to cultural links with the 6th grade curriculum along thematic lines with an emphasis on the history and geography of Latin America and Spain.

SIXTH GRADE SPANISH (Red)

This course is designed to build on conversational skills, pronunciation skills and listening skills developed in the Lower School. In this course, students will focus on developing writing and reading skills as well. Grammar will be introduced formally through the use of textbook and supplementary materials. Placement in this class will be determined by the student's performance in 5th grade (grades and work ethic), teacher recommendation, and cumulative assessment scores. This course will be more demanding in terms of preparation and studying while also having more challenging expectations. Students should be able to handle the work and feel successful in their communication skills. If a student is not benefitting from the nature of this course, 6th grade teacher may recommend that he/she join the Blue Spanish class for 7th grade.

