

**2017-2018**  
**6th Grade Course Selection**



**Fort Worth Christian**  
**Middle School**

## **SPECIAL MISSION**

Consistent with our mission statement, Fort Worth Christian Middle School faculty seeks to educate the whole student. Middle school activities include instructional classroom time, opportunities for service and spiritual development, and athletic and academic competitions. The Middle School provides a bridge from the highly structured elementary grades to the high school level, which provides higher expectations and a greater emphasis on independent learning.

## **SPIRITUAL LIFE**

All classes are taught from a Biblical worldview with the campus' Faith Standards incorporated into instruction on a weekly basis. Students attend chapel daily as well as a Bible class. Opportunities for service learning exist throughout the year. We recognize that all of one's life should be lived to bring honor to God. All activities are viewed with a Christian perspective whether in Bible class, on the playing field, or raking leaves for an elderly neighbor.

## **ENRICHMENT**

FWC provides students with opportunities for learning outside the classroom. Sixth graders travel to a global village experience at HUT in Arkansas. Seventh graders travel to Big Bend National Park. This camping activity provides an education in nature, far from the technology that daily consumes our lives. Eighth graders travel to Washington D.C. and New York City to visit places they've studied in history. In addition, students may travel to academic meets, and participate in Fine Arts activities such as the school play and choir and band competitions. Further activities for student involvement include: Small Group Leadership, Book Club, Student Council, National Junior Honor Society, Cheerleading, and FWC-TV.

## **6<sup>th</sup> Grade Core Classes**

### **Bible 6**

Bible study in sixth grade is a one-year survey of the entire Bible--all sixty six books. It fits together the pieces of the story of the Bible. Like a road map, it provides middle school students with an aerial view of God's word and work in order to prepare the mind and heart for more detailed concepts that will come later.

### **English 6**

English in sixth grade emphasizes the ability to incorporate the knowledge of grammar basics into writing. Students begin with an intensive review of parts of speech, usage and mechanics. Writing for a purpose provides practice of these skills and produces examples of descriptive, persuasive and informative writing. Students learn to follow the steps of the writing process and utilize peer and teacher evaluation to revise their writing. By the end of the year, students produce a multi-paragraph composition that includes both introductory and concluding paragraphs.

## **Geography 6**

The foundation of geographical terms, themes and concepts is explored in Social Studies 6. Students will cover the five themes of geography and the five themes of social studies, while learning landform terminology, direction, relative and absolute location, time zones and map skills. The curriculum covers the globe as students learn the history and cultures of each continent and it's people. Students will learn about the continents' and oceans' resources as well as the people who inhabit these areas - where they came from and who they are today. Students will use various tools for exploring the world such as textbooks, lecture, Internet, Google Earth, LCD, atlas/maps, video, music, guest speakers and cultural parties. One of the main themes of this class is the more that people know about their world, the better equipped they will be to improve it.

## **Math 6**

The primary focal points for Math in sixth grade are using ratios to describe proportional relationships involving integers, geometry, measurement, probability and adding and subtracting decimals and fractions. More specifically, students will represent and use whole numbers, fractions, decimals and integers in a variety of equivalent forms including prime factorization, least common multiples, and comparing and ordering. Students will add, subtract, multiply and divide to solve problems and justify answers. Problems will be solved involving direct proportional relationships. Application problems involving estimation and measurement of length, area, time, temperature, volume, weight and angles using both the customary and metric measurement systems will be solved. Students will use letters as variables in mathematical expressions to describe how one quantity changes when a related quantity changes. Letters (variables) will be used to represent unknowns in equations. Angles, polygons and circles will be described using geometric vocabulary. Coordinate geometry will identify location of two dimensions. Experimental and theoretical probability will be used to make predictions. Data will be analyzed using statistical representation. Students will solve multi-step problems using a plan and appropriate problem solving strategies and communicate about the mathematics through informal mathematical language. Logical reasoning will be used to make conjectures and verify conclusions.

## **Reading 6**

Reading in sixth grade emphasizes learning strategies to improve reading rate, fluency, word meaning and comprehension. Instruction includes summarizing, making inferences and generalizations, determining main ideas, using context clues, making predictions and setting a purpose before reading. These skills are practiced on a variety of genres including short stories, poems, novels, plays and informational material. In addition, students identify literary elements and work on vocabulary development.

## **Science 6**

Sixth grade Science focuses on investigating the cycles of nature that are evident in the main subject areas of geology, meteorology, and oceanography. Integrated in the course is an investigation of maps, a basic introduction to chemistry and laboratory research techniques.

## 6th Grade Electives

Fort Worth Christian Middle School's philosophy is to expose students to a variety of electives, which results in well-rounded students. Exposing students to various subjects helps them discover their interests and gives them clarity to what subjects they want to pursue in their high school and college years. Elective classes for 6th grade students are during 7th period and activity period. Important things to know:

- ❑ 6th grade electives typically meet on Monday/Wednesday/Friday or Tuesday/Thursday schedule
- ❑ Every MS student **must** take a Musical Performance class (Band, Choir, or Strings) in either 6th or 7th grade. We recommend this occurs in 6th.
- ❑ **All** students will be scheduled for Physical Education during their sixth grade year.
- ❑ Learning Lab may be repeated based on individual circumstances and will be heavily influenced by the responsibility and character of the student

### **Available electives for sixth grade are:**

<b>Elective</b>	<b>Meeting Schedule/Duration</b>
Art	MWF or TT for one semester
Beginner Band	MWF for one year
Beginner Choir	MWF or TT for one semester
Computer	MWF or TT for one semester
Intro to Spanish	MWF for one semester
Learning Lab/Study Skills*	MWF or TT for one semester
Physical Education	MWF or TT for one year
Robotics*	TT for one year
Seminars*	MWF or TT for one semester
Beginner Strings	TT for one year
Theater*	MWF for one year
World Drumming	MWF or TT for one semester

\*Denotes class can be repeated. Please see elective course descriptions in the elective section for more information

## **Elective Course Descriptions**

### **Art 6,7 - Enrollment open to 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade students**

Art is designed to teach students the elements and principles of design. Students will have their own unique ways of expressing themselves and processing the information given. This class encompasses all types of learners, helping improve critical thinking and visual awareness. Various types of media will be available to the students, allowing them to creatively express themselves.

### **Beginner Band 6, 7 – Enrollment open to 6th and 7th grade students**

Band incorporates the study of selected music from various periods with the focus on excellence in performance level. Consideration is given to breath control, tone production, tonguing, phrasing, intonation and skills to perform with an ensemble. Band members participate in formal concerts and spring music festivals as part of a large group ensemble and may also participate in a solo or ensemble. The review and application of music notation with an instrument and the use of musical attributes used to make music “musical” with instruments are taught and applied in the classroom and encouraged to be practiced outside the classroom.

### **Beginner Choir 6,7 – Enrollment open to 6th and 7th grade students**

This course is designed to encourage the development of vocal performance in an ensemble setting. Song selections range from contemporary to classical pieces, allowing the student to experience all styles of music. A basic introduction to Music Theory will be included in this one semester elective.

### **Computer 6, 7 – Enrollment open to 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade students**

Various applications, projects and simulations introduce students to the Macbook computer. This course uses: Mac OS X, Google Drive, Google Docs, Google Sheets, and Google Slides. Computer ethics is stressed and well as typing proficiency and vocabulary.

### **Intro to Spanish 6, 7 - Enrollment open to 6th and 7th grade students**

Spanish meets three days a week to introduce the language to beginning level students. The course builds on skills learned previously and continues to develop the skills of speaking, listening, reading and writing in Spanish. Hispanic culture will also be introduced. Students considering taking Spanish I in eighth grade are strongly encouraged to take this course.

### **Learning Lab (formerly Study Skills) 6,7,8 - Enrollment open to all students**

This course is designed to help students develop and use study skills that will help them become successful learners. Daily activities will be tailored to fit the individual needs of each student. Students will learn various techniques that will be helpful to them throughout their academic years. Students will be allowed time in class to work on homework assignments and receive additional help on schoolwork, as needed. These components, as well as others, will be taught throughout the year: Time management and organization of materials, reading strategies and text structure, learning styles, note taking from a lecture and from text, goal setting related to academic study, memory, retention, and recall strategies, critical thinking skills, and clear and effective communication.

### **Physical Education 6 - All 6th grade students are enrolled in Physical Education**

Physical Education 6 meets the requirements for five components of physical fitness: muscular strength, muscular endurance, cardiovascular endurance, flexibility and body composition. Through exercise and games, students will have opportunities to improve in each of these areas. This course will provide students with fun physical activity, while at the same time teach them about health, diet, teamwork, strategy, motivation and good sportsmanship. One of the goals of this course is to improve the health of students and to encourage them to pursue lifestyles that are healthy and physically fit.

### **Robotics 6, 7 - Enrollment open to 6th and 7th grade students**

This course will build on the robotics experience in the elementary school and introduce students to higher level robotics at a competitive level that is used in our high school. Members of this class will also be part of the MS robotics team and will have the opportunity to participate in off-campus competitions using the machines they will be building in class.

### **Seminar 6, 7, 8 - Enrollment open to all students**

Seminars are micro courses designed to connect the passions and talents of our staff with a small group of students in a highly relational framework. Each seminar will last for one nine weeks and meet every other day (either Tuesday/Thursday or Monday/Wednesday/Friday). During any semester when a student is enrolled in Seminar, they will be able to choose two seminars, one for each nine weeks. Examples of seminar topics include ethics, finance/home budgeting, intro to French, intro to German, world religions, servant leadership, and more. Specific seminar titles and availability will be announced in the summer.

### **Beginner Strings 6 - Enrollment open to all 6th grade students**

This course will be an introduction to the middle school orchestra and will make sure the student is ready for part-playing. We will review notes on all strings, basic rhythms and playing technique. This course would also be appropriate for any beginners who want to start playing, or those students who want to switch instruments. Students in this course would play in the Middle School Orchestra, and learn the same music, but at a pace they will be more comfortable with. Skills learned will culminate into several performances throughout the year, which will include music of different styles and time periods. Opportunities to play solos will be offered at least once a year. Students are graded on participation, mastery of stated skills and proficiency on assigned pieces.

**Theater 6, 7, 8 - Enrollment open to all students**

Theater class will focus on the skills and experience necessary for complete drama productions. Lighting, sound, staging, costumes, and sets design will all be included in this course. The theater class will produce several shorts shows each year, either shown during MS chapel or evening events.

**World Drumming 6, 7, 8 - Enrollment open to all students**

World drumming is a fine arts class designed to be an introduction to many different percussion instruments from around the world. It is a cross-cultural curriculum including, but not limited to, African, Latin American, Asian and American traditional drumming and percussion techniques. Students will use all of the traditional percussion instruments including snare drum, conga, hand drum, can drums, talking drums, and mallet instruments. Students will be required to provide a pair of drum sticks and a practice pad. This class begins with the fundamentals and progresses to several live performances toward the end of the semester.