

2018-2019
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. 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 spend one day each nine weeks organized by Bible class serving with local organizations. 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.

6th Grade Core Classes

Athletics/Physical Education 6

Improving the existing fitness level is the primary goal of physical education in 6th grade. This is done through activities that challenge students in the basic elements of fitness, which are cardiovascular endurance, muscular strength and endurance and flexibility. A secondary goal is to expose the students to a variety of physical activities that they can pursue outside of school to continue their personal fitness.

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 its 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, atlas/maps, video, music, 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 8th period.

Life Skills Pathway

The core of the Fort Worth Christian Middle School Elective Program is our Life Skills Pathway (LSP). Among the many opportunities that students can take advantage of during their three years in middle school, there are five courses that we believe every student should experience. Those five courses are Computer, Performing/Fine Arts, Speech and Drama, Home Economics, and Personal Finance. First is our basic computer class. When we equip our students with a new computer in 6th grade, we want them to quickly gain the skills to utilize it with wisdom and efficiency. In this course, students will learn how to type well, manipulate text in a word processing program, create information in a presentation program, and work with data and numbers in a spreadsheet.

The second course in our LSP is our performing/fine arts elective. Each student must take either choir, band or strings for a minimum of one semester. This component of education promotes an experience in the fine arts, and research has shown the importance of music in brain development. Most students will fulfill these first two requirements in 6th grade. The third component of the LSP will be met during 7th grade - Speech and Drama. For many people, the idea of public speaking causes great anxiety, and while it is not necessary for every profession, the ability to communicate to an audience is a life skill that benefits everyone. We want each 7th grade student to gain the skills and practice the art of oral public presentation and to build on that skill in their future years.

The fourth course is, what we believe, to be a key component that each student should have and will give them great insight into providing for and running a home. Our Home Economics course meets this need. Each student will gain the skills to cook, do laundry, maintain a home budget, care for a newborn (just for a weekend - with a simulated, computerized baby), sew, and maintain a healthy lifestyle. The last component of the LSP is our newest course - Foundations in Personal Finance. This curriculum, based on a Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University and adapted for a middle school age, will teach students about personal finance responsibilities and Christian stewardship. We are the most financially blessed nation in the world, and we hope the financially educated youth of today will continue this positive trend. These last two courses will be taken during the 7th or 8th grade year.

Important things to know:

- ❑ 6th grade electives typically meet on a Monday/Wednesday/Friday or Tuesday/Thursday schedule.
- ❑ Each 6th grade student must take a computer class and establish proficiency in typing, word processing, presentation software, and spreadsheets.
- ❑ Every MS student must take a Musical Performance class (Band, Choir, or Strings) in either 6th or 7th grade.
- ❑ Study Skills 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:

Elective	Meeting Schedule/Duration
Art	MWF or TT for one semester
Beginner Band**	MWF or TT for one year
Beginner Choir**	MWF or TT for one semester
Computer	MWF or TT for one semester
Study Skills*	MWF or TT for one semester
Robotics*	TT for one year
Beginner Strings**	TT for one year
Theater*	MWF or TT for one year

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

The natural progression of band, choir and strings is to take the beginner class then move on to the advanced class, should the student want to continue with the same musical path.

Elective Course Descriptions

Art 6, 7 - Enrollment open to 6th and 7th 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 – Enrollment open to 6th 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 6th and 7th 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.

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.

Robotics 6, 7, 8 - Enrollment open to all 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.

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.