

6th Grade Course Descriptions for 2023-2024

Availability of all electives based on school enrollment, scheduling and staffing.

Not all courses listed may be offered

due to school enrollment, scheduling and staffing limitations.

6th grade students may take only one elective.

BAND Grade 6 – Yearlong Course

Band is a yearlong course designed to prepare students for ensemble performances, solo performances, Honor Band auditions at the district, regional, and state level. Students will work on personal organizational skills to allow more productive use of available time for practice and homework activities. Performances will include 2-3 public performances, at least one festival appearance, a performance with Dana Hills High School for a football halftime show. Other performances e.g. Knott's Berry Farm, and or other civic events may be scheduled as time allows.

CHOIR Grade 6 – Yearlong Course

This yearlong choir class performs music of many styles including Broadway musicals, pop, jazz, holiday, patriotic, classical, multicultural, folk, and music of classic and contemporary composers. No previous singing experience is necessary. Leadership opportunities are available. Students develop music skills such as sight singing (note reading), vocal production, and ensemble singing including singing in unison, 2, 3, and 4 parts. Students also learn how to sing and play ukulele and write their own songs. This is a performing class and attendance at 3 to 4 evening concerts is required. Additionally, this group performs at many outside events including festivals, Knott's Berry Farm, Disneyland, and singing the National Anthem at an Angels' baseball game. Students who participate in this class are eligible to audition for the CUSD District Honor Choir which performs at the Segerstrom Center for the Arts. Students may also be eligible for future scholarship opportunities in high school and college because of their involvement in choir.

Beginning Guitar Grade 6 – Semester or Yearlong Course

This course is for students to learn basic guitar skills including chords, strumming patterns, notes using standard and TAB notation. Students will practice using popular songs and pre-recorded backing tracks provided by Mr. P. Owning a guitar will be helpful but not necessary. Instruments will be provided for class use and practice during Sharktime or Lunch.

Advanced Guitar Grade 6 – Semester or Yearlong Course

This course is for students who can demonstrate skill in both popular and classical guitar, as well as in music-reading ability. Like Beginning Guitar, Advanced Guitar will cover classical guitar, guitar ensemble and popular-style playing, however, more emphasis will be placed on classical and guitar ensemble. Advanced Guitar, as a continuation of Beginning Guitar, students will further develop technique and perform music in both popular and classical guitar styles. Students will learn to read out of 1st position, learn advanced techniques such as

hammer-ons, pull-offs, muting and harmonics in will perform music containing this technique in both popular and classical styles. In addition to being a methods course, Advanced Guitar is also a performing ensemble. Students will perform in concerts either as a large ensemble or in smaller ensembles, such as duets, trios and quartets. Students will also have the opportunity to perform as soloists at these concerts.

Taiko Drums Grade 6 – Yearlong Course

This is a two semester class that includes STEPS students and general education students in a performance oriented percussion class. Basic instruments will include bucket drums and homemade bachi sticks (Japanese drums sticks). Traditional Japanese drums and standard western percussion instruments will be used. Students will study traditional Japanese aural tradition music as well as applying technique to traditional western concepts and notation. There will be a minimum of 4 performances per year. This is a chance to learn to play percussion instruments and assist STEPS students explore music.

Exploring Art Grade 6 – Quarter or Semester Course

Exploring Art is an introduction course for 6th grade students and perfect for those with little to no drawing experience. Students will be exposed to a wide variety of media, including drawing, painting, collage, and illustration. This class will give 6th graders the fundamentals on how to approach art and give them the tools and skills needed to learn how to showcase their own creative ideas.

Fun with Technology Grade 6 – Quarter or Semester Course

In this class, students will learn to create professional videos using an online video editing app. Students will also continue to develop their skills with Google Apps (Docs, Sheets, and Slides). From the Career Tech Lab; students will be introduced to the Flight Simulation module, Graphic Design (create and make your own t-shirt), and 3D Printing.

Introduction to Music Grade 6 – Quarter or Semester Course

This is an introductory class to music. No previous knowledge or experience is necessary. Learn how music was first written, how to read and write basic music, different styles of music and how to sing and play the ukulele. Ukuleles will be available for students to borrow but will be kept in the classroom. The instrument must be well cared for and returned on time when the course has been completed.

Introduction to Spanish Grade 6 – Quarter or Semester Course

This is an introductory class to Spanish. No previous knowledge or experience is necessary. Learn about different Spanish-speaking countries, their cultures, and basic conversational vocabulary. Also, learn the first steps on how to teach someone else Spanish.

Orchestra Grade 6 – Yearlong Course

In this class, you will learn a skill in music that can lead to a lifetime of playing. You will learn to appreciate all styles of music. This skill may open up opportunities for you in high school and may help towards college acceptance and scholarship money. Other performances e.g. Knott's Berry Farm, and or other civic events may be scheduled as time allows.

SOAR 6th Grade – Quarter or Semester Course

SOAR is an elective class designed to teach skills that will assist sixth graders in becoming successful in middle school and beyond. This course focuses on each student's strengths and challenges within ten executive functioning skills, such as planning, time management, task initiation, and perseverance, which are crucial to success. Studies show that the best way to practice these ten executive functions is to learn to play an instrument. Therefore, students will learn how to sing and play ukulele as a practical application. Students will also learn the importance of self-reflection and self-advocacy, keeping an organized notebook and reminder binder, utilizing Canvas and Canvas email, establishing a creative mindset and building confidence, as well as discovering their own multiple intelligences and implementing study strategies into all their classes. Gratitude, empathy, kindness, peer relationships, team building, and self-control are other topics covered in this elective class. Come SOAR with us!

Theater Arts Intro 6th Grade – Quarter or Semester Course

Come have fun in this introductory theater class where everyone belongs! You will be able to create characters in fantastical plots to perform on our stage. Students will learn the basics of theater through games and hands-on activities. Some of the topics covered are acting, pantomime, improvisation, skits, puppetry and basic stagecraft. There is something for everyone whether you love to be onstage or prefer to get involved backstage. No experience necessary. This is a great opportunity to discover the magic of theater if you have never taken a class. Likewise, experienced students will be able to build on their knowledge by learning new skills.