Welcome to Southern Hills
Sixth Grade

This guide is designed to give you information about course offerings for your 6th grade year. The information in this guide will explain the overall curriculum and will help you decide which elective offerings will best meet your needs and interests.

**Fundamental goals which drive our curriculum**
Mastery of the basic skills reading, writing and mathematics
Command of problem-solving skills that underlie success in the academic and real world
Development of good work habits, planning and study skills
Exploration of different courses and activities
Understanding of oneself and one’s relationship to others
YOU ARE IN CHARGE
You must enroll now in the courses that you want to take next year. Keep the following in mind as you make your selections and plan your future: Long-range goals, sequencing of elective courses, future graduation requirements, college, and career preparation.

CHOOSE CAREFULLY
The master schedule is built from your course selection requests. If you do not select a course now, it may not be available as a choice later. If enough students do not sign up for a specific course, it may not be offered. This is especially true of elective courses.

IMPORTANT STEPS TO FOLLOW
1. Look over the course offerings
2. Read the course descriptions
3. Select the courses you will want and alternates for your electives
4. Have your parent/guardian sign your registration sheet
5. Submit the completed original form on time
6. For help or questions, contact the counseling office at 720-561-3409

Sixth Grade Course Description Guide

Our 6th grade students will be scheduled into five core academic courses, two elective courses and a lunch period each day. A team of teachers will teach the core subjects of language arts, reading, social studies, math and science. Students will leave the 6th grade team of teachers to receive specialized instruction in exploratory areas. During one elective period, students will alternate physical education and a music choice. Music offerings include band, orchestra, or choir. The second elective is a choice of a world language OR the exploratory wheel. The exploratory wheel, if chosen, may include a rotation of art, shop, computers and 6th grade Transitions.

6th Grade Required Core Subjects
Language Arts
Reading
Social Studies
Math
Science
Physical Education/Music (Alternates every other day)

6th Grade Choices
Music: Band, Orchestra or Choir

Exploratory Wheel: Rotation of selected electives such as art, shop, computers, and transitions.
(OR)
World Language: Current offerings Spanish and French
Sixth Grade Course Description Guide

This guide outlines courses available to students at Southern Hills Middle School with descriptions of required courses as well as electives. Please read all elective descriptions carefully before making your final selection(s). Please feel free to call our counseling office with any questions, (720) 561-3409.

Required Course Descriptions

LANGUAGE ARTS/READING

6th Grade ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS
Sixth grade English Language Arts focuses on the four academic standards: oral expression and listening, reading for all purposes, writing and composition, and research and reasoning. This course will build upon elementary level instruction and will demand increased skills application and intellectual reasoning while reading and writing. Topics of study include: analyzing literary components, examining text structures, developing vocabulary knowledge through context, organizing and structuring writing for intended audiences and purposes, informative/expository and persuasive writing, grammar and mechanics of English language.

6th Grade ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS-Accelerated
Accelerated 6th grade English Language Arts focuses on the four academic standards: oral expression and listening, reading for all purposes, writing and composition, and research and reasoning. Topics of study include: analyzing literary components, examining text structures, developing vocabulary knowledge through context, organizing and structuring writing for intended audiences and purposes, informative/expository and persuasive writing, grammar and mechanics of English language. This course is designed for the student who enjoys the love of reading, enjoys discussion and analysis, thinks critically, has strong writing and grammar skills and is self-motivated. As an advanced course, this course goes beyond the curriculum expectations of a standard course offering by increasing the depth and complexity. Students are engaged in dynamic, high-level learning.

6th Grade READING
Sixth grade Reading is a core curriculum course for all 6th grade students. Emphasis is on reading and listening comprehension, elements of literature, vocabulary development, and reading skill and strategy instruction. Both narrative and informative/expository texts are utilized.
MATHEMATICS

Flow Chart of Math Classes at Southern Hills Middle School

6th Grade

- Math Standards 1 (M05)
  (Team Taught)

- 6th/7th Compacted Math (M30)

7th Grade

- Math Standards 2 (M15)
  (Team Taught)

- Math Standards 3 (M25)
  (Team Taught)

- 7th/8th Compacted Math (M24)

8th Grade

- Math Standards 3 (M25)
  (Team Taught)

- Algebra, Advanced (M19)

- Geometry (M100)

Traditional pathway

Non-traditional pathway

MATH Standards 1 (M05)
In Math Standards 1, instructional time should focus on four critical areas: (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 expressions and equations; and (4) developing understanding of statistical thinking.

Compacted 6th/7th MATH (M30)
This is an accelerated course that teaches the middle level topics covered in M05 and M15 in preparing students for M25 and Algebra 1. Students will cover number operations, introductory probability and statistics, coordinate geometry and rate of change through linear algebra. Due to the compact nature of the course, students are asked to learn at a more rapid pace. This course will cover 2 years of math in 1 year. Students will need to have a general understanding of fractions, decimals, special geometry, awareness and aptitude with common formulas, the coordinate plane, and algebra as a means for seeking unknown quantities.

MATH Standards 2 (M15)
In Math Standards 2, instructional time should focus on four critical areas: (1) developing understanding of and applying proportional relationships; (2) developing understanding of operations with rational numbers and working with expressions and linear equations; (3) solving problems involving scale drawings and informal geometric constructions and working with two- and three-dimensional shapes to solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume; and (4) drawing inferences about populations based on samples. Pre-requisite: M05
**Compacted 7th/8th MATH (M24)**
This is a course for 6th grade students, via teacher recommendation, score on a math assessment, TCAP scores, and counselor/administrator approval. M24 covers number operations, introductory probability and statistics coordinate geometry and rate of change through linear algebra. Due to the compact nature of the course, students are asked to learn at a more rapid pace. Students will need to have a general understanding of fractions, decimals, special geometry, awareness and aptitude with common formulas, the coordinate plane, and algebra as a means for seeking unknown quantities. This course is for advanced students who love math and are excited by math and who can understand concepts very quickly. This course is designed for true abstract thinkers that get the concepts the first time and can do further extensions with math. This course will cover 2 years of math in 1 year. They are typically the highest scoring TCAP students. Taking M24 as a 6th grader means that they will take Algebra 1 or Advanced Algebra 1 as a 7th grader and Geometry or Advanced Geometry as an 8th grader. Prerequisite Math Standards 1 (M05) AND students must take a placement test to be considered for this class.

**SOCIAL STUDIES**
Sixth graders will analyze historical sources and eras through the study of the Western Hemisphere, focusing on the components of civilizations both ancient and modern, analyzing patterns in history, and looking at how the past influences the present. Emphasis is placed on resource distribution, competition, cooperation and conflict and human-environment interaction. Students will use geographic tools to analyze information and data pertaining to Mexico, Central and South America, the Caribbean and Canada. Civic and global awareness is highlighted, as is the role of the U.S. in the Western Hemisphere. Multiple perspectives and appreciation of diverse backgrounds will also be explored. Students will also study how savings and investing can contribute to financial well-being.

**SCIENCE**
In middle level Physical Science, students will be designing and conducting scientific investigations and constructing scientific explanations based on evidence. Students will make measurements using metric units and will organize their data using bar and line graphs. Students will learn about fundamental concepts in physical science such as the particulate nature of matter, basic atomic structure, forms and sources of energy, energy transfer and transformations, the conservation of matter and energy, and force and motion. Students will also learn about the nature of science as a human endeavor.

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION**
Physical Education at the 6th grade middle level offers students a variety of physical activities through which they will develop positive attitudes toward group interaction, sportsmanship, the joy of effort, fair play, cooperation, initiative and an appreciation for the abilities and limitations of self and others. Activities to be emphasized are: organized exercises, lead-up games, traditional team sports, individual and dual sports, rhythmic activities and self-testing activities. The program is designed to continue development of physical fitness, motor, perception, rhythm, and movement skills.
SPECIAL EDUCATION COURSES

Special Education is a vital part of our program. Placement in any special education course requires a specific legal process and an identified need. An Academic Support Center (ASC) class is used as additional support for students in special education. Inquiries regarding the appropriate inclusion in this program should be directed to the grade level counselor or principal.

ELECTIVE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

WORLD LANGUAGE

Level 1A + 1B of a world language at the middle school level is equivalent to Level 1 at the senior high. Level 2 at both middle and senior high level are equivalent. Completion of Level 2 enables a student to enroll in Level 3 courses at the high school level.

SPANISH 1A French 1A

World Language courses are based on the four standards: Communication, Culture, Connections and Comparisons. For the Novice-Low Range Level, students learn to communicate, comprehend and present, in oral and written form, on very familiar topics, using isolated words and high frequency phrases in the context of Culture, Connections and Comparisons.

MUSIC

Music will rotate every other day with Physical Education

BAND 1

Middle level Band 1 emphasizes a balance between technical development and performance skills. This course provides an introduction to band literature, ensemble involvement and a broader range of instrumentation. Performances after school hours are an integral part of this course and are required.

ORCHESTRA 1

Middle Level Orchestra 1 is a course that emphasizes a balance between technical development and performance skills. This course provides an introduction to orchestral literature, ensemble involvement, and a broader range of instrumentation. Public performances after school hours are an integral part of this course and are required.

6th Grade CHOIR

Sixth grade Choir is a beginning course designed for students at the 6th grade level. Basic vocal techniques will be explored in a wide variety of musical styles, including introduction to part-singing, music reading, and theory. Culminating performances are a meaningful and mandatory component of this course.
EXPLORATORY WHEEL

For 6th grade students, the exploratory wheel is chosen instead of a world language. Depending upon the amount of enrollment, the exploratory wheel may include three or more of the following courses:

**EXPLORATORY ART**
In Exploratory Art, students experiment with a variety of media to create visual art. Characteristics and expressive features of art (elements of art and principles of design) are emphasized in two-dimensional and three-dimensional work. The development and application of basic techniques, skills and technology are stressed. Students learn to respect their own and others ideas, artistic expressions and personal style as they objectively analyze and evaluate works of art. Art history and culture studies will focus on regions within the 6th grade, social studies curriculum. Additional cultures that are not addressed in the 6th grade social studies curriculum may also be included.

**EXPLORATORY SHOP**
This is a course for the student interested in a basic introduction to shop. No prior experience in shop work is needed. This course is designed to teach the safe use of hand and power tools. The student will be shown basic operations in one or more areas as time allows. The areas that may be covered are: drafting, design, metal, plastic, leather, and woodworking.

**EXPLORATORY COMPUTERS**
This course is designed to introduce students to the variety of technology tools available in their own school. Students will make text documents, create drawings, import their drawings into documents, use clip art files and Internet images, build a spreadsheet for data collection and create charts and graphs from that data, use electronic resources and the Internet, practice proper keyboarding techniques, and explore a variety of software applications. This class will cover basic hardware and software operations and help students learn to use the technology tools in their classes.

**TRANSITIONS**
All students in the Exploratory Wheel will take this class in the first semester (Quarter 1 or 2). Students will focus on Executive Functioning skills to help the Transition to Middle School Academics. These include study skills, organization, time management, stress management and other academic strategies.