

Murray Middle School
6th Grade Course Registration Form
2017-2018

STUDENT'S NAME _____ DATE _____

Students will be placed in ELA6, Math, Science, and Social Studies courses. Students may also be placed in support classes for reading and/or math as indicated by test scores and teacher or counselor recommendations.

In addition to these required courses/recommendations students will also have electives per semester of their choice. Please choose 7 electives. Rank your preferences on a scale of 1-7. See below for elective descriptions.

ELECTIVES

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| __ Beginning Art 6 | V300112 V300114 |
| __ Media Art 6-8 | V304112 V304114 |
| __ In These Times 6-8 | H306002 H306004 |
| __ Physical Education 6-7 | G301062 G301064 |
| __ Environmental Science 6-8 | S301302 S301304 |
| __ History Day 6-8 | H305162 H305164 |
| __ World Cultures 6-8 | H305152 H305154 |
| __ Mythology 6-8 | L303312 L303314 |
| __ Creative Writing 6-8 | L305012 L305014 |
| __ Music Exploration 6-8 | P300122 P300124 |
| __ Beginning Band 6-8 | P302412 P302414 |
| __ Beginning Orchestra 6-8 | P302252 P302254 |

6th Grade Core Classes/Electives (required)
<p>ELA6 English Language Arts</p> <p>Science Physical Science 6</p> <p>Social Studies MN Studies 6</p> <p>Mathematics Math 6 Math 6 Accelerated (with a teacher's recommendation)</p> <p>Physical Education (required)</p> <p>Foundations6</p>

Counselor's Signature _____

*Note: Staffing, scheduling conflicts, and space may impact the availability of electives. We will do our best to honor your course request.

Please return form by -

Email: lashay.whittaker@spps.org (Last names A-M), lisa.engelstad@spps.org (Last names N-Z)

Fax: 651-293-8742

Or Mail to Murray Middle School at 2200 Buford Avenue, Saint Paul, MN, 55108

For assistance please contact Lashay Whittaker at 651-744-8200 or Lisa Engelstad at 651-744-2397

Murray Middle School Elective Course Descriptions 2017-2018

ART

Art 6

Generally laboratory in nature, Art I explores and gives experience in a two-dimensional format, i.e. drawing, painting, printmaking.

Intermediate Art-Grade 7 and 8

Generally laboratory in nature, Art I explores and gives experience in a two-dimensional format, i.e. drawing, painting, printmaking. Tutorial in two and three-dimensional work, such as sculpture, clay and textiles may be offered. This course integrates art history and aesthetic criticism throughout the entire curriculum.

Media Art

This is a beginning level course in media arts that will use technology such as recording devices, computers, I-Pads, cameras and software to create original art. This course introduces students to media arts history, analyzes different types of media art, and gives students a hands on experience in video creation, basic cartooning and animation through extensive use of computer technology and I-Pads.

BAND/ORCHESTRA

Music Exploration 6-8

Music Exploration 6-8 is a course where students will examine, listen to, evaluate, and/or perform music through exploration of the historical, social, economic, ethnic and political events that influenced the genre's artists and the music they wrote and performed. This course provides opportunities for students to develop their musical potential and aesthetic understanding through text and a variety of instruments.

Beginning Band Grade 6-8

This course introduces students to, or strengthens skills in woodwind, brass, percussion, and music theory and pedagogy. Students will learn fundamental skills and knowledge required to build a foundation within music. Students also build skills for musical performance.

Intermediate Band Grade 6-8 Teacher Recommendation

Intermediate Band 6-8 is for students who have completed Beginning Band 6-8, or have some experience and skills with teacher permission. This course develops technique and musicianship through a wide variety of music in different settings. The study of music rudiments, style and performance practice, harmony and music theory/composition and history of music will also be incorporated into the class.

Advanced Band 7-8 Teacher Recommendation

This course builds on skills acquired in Intermediate Band and focuses on advanced skills, technique and musicianship through a wide variety of challenging music in areas of instrumental practice, theory, and pedagogy. Students will prepare for and participate in a variety of performances throughout the year.

Beginning Orchestra Grades 6-8

Beginning orchestra prepares students to play in the school orchestra. Orchestra develops technique and musicianship through a wide variety of music in different settings. The study of music rudiments, style and performance practice, harmony and music theory/composition, and history of music will also be incorporated into the class. This course may be repeated.

Advanced Orchestra-Grades 6-8 Teacher Recommendation

Advanced Orchestra prepares students to play in a more advanced school orchestra. Orchestra students will continue to develop technique and musicianship through a wide variety of challenging music in different settings. The study of music rudiments, style and performance practice, harmony and music theory/composition, and history of music will also be incorporated into the class. This course may be repeated.

COMPUTER/TECHNOLOGY

Genius Squad

Genius Squads are savvy, student technology enthusiasts who are committed to leading, supporting and impacting the Personalized Learning environment of Saint Paul Public Schools. Members participate, lead and assist technology integration in a wide variety of ways at their respective schools and at a district-level.

ENGLISH ELECTIVES

Creative Writing

This course will build written skills in poetry, personal narrative and short stories. Students will read anchor texts and then write their own original piece. Students are expected to keep a writer's notebook and to write in it daily.

Journalism 8

Journalism is an eighth grade elective class focusing on collecting, creating, and presenting information to our school community. Students taking journalism will work on video projects and the school newspaper with the intent of disseminating their work to the entire school community. Projects will be done in individual, small group and large group formats. In addition, students complete an individual portfolio of work ranging from interviews to student opinion polls to fiction pieces.

Mythology

This course focuses on mythological creatures, gods, and goddesses from classical Greek and Roman mythology as well as a multi-cultural study of mythological beings and themes from around the world. Students will study works of others as well as create their own characters and myths.

HEALTH ELECTIVES

Teen Issues Grade 7-8

Teen Issues is a course that takes a deeper look at the problems teens face everyday. Topics covered include: family expectations, bullying, body image, violence, suicide and self-harm, peer pressure, and GBLTQ, influences of the media. Students primarily learn through class discussions and project-based learning.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION ELECTIVE

PE 8

This course is designed to give students the opportunity to learn fitness concepts and techniques used for obtaining optimal physical fitness. Students will benefit from team sports as well as strength, endurance and cardio respiratory endurance activities. Students will be empowered development personal fitness programs, meet goals and develop positive behaviors in fitness, wellness, and movement activity for a lifetime.

SCIENCE ELECTIVES

Environmental Science

This course focuses on exploration of the local environment through scientific inquiry and field studies. Students will study ecosystems and/or employ elements of engineering.

Environmental Inquiry Immersion Grade 8

This course is an elective for 8th grade students enrolled in the Earth Science course. Students will learn about the biomes of Minnesota and how the inquiry process of science can be used to explain the relationships between the living and non-living components in these biomes. The students will meet their 9th grade chemistry standards allowing them to be successful in 10th grade biology at high school. To complete the course students must complete the 2- week summer component of the course at Wolf Ridge.

Astronomy

This course covers both astronomy - the study of the universe beyond the earth - and meteorology - the study of the earth's atmosphere and weather. Topics in astronomy include stars, galaxies, the sun, and the planets and their moons. Topics in meteorology include the earth's atmosphere, humidity, weather fronts, climate, and the issue of global warming.

SOCIAL STUDIES ELECTIVES

In These Times...World Issues Grade 6-8

This course focuses on how the actions of individuals impact larger social movements and change in society in an American and world-wide context. Students will research concepts of justice and social change with an emphasis on actions and work of children. Concepts are explored with a focus on film, art, literature, and documentaries.

World Cultures

This course introduces students to the ways humans, past and present, have thrived in cultural worlds: including the interaction between people and their environments and the role of social power, the arts, languages, foods.

History Day

This course is inquiry based and it will help student provide a deep context for their history day projects. Students will explore various time periods to introduce students to topics not widely studied in the standard social studies curriculum. Time and access to resources for in-depth historical research to support History Day project.

Peacemakers (D2BR)

The purpose of D2BR is to identify and affirm students who are especially effective at navigating culturally or racially diverse settings and foster the growth of interracial allies. Students will develop and support a team of intercultural/interracial student leaders who will seek to eliminate systemic, cultural, and individual racism in their school and community. The course is designed to empower young people as racial equity leaders with opportunities to facilitate discussion and engage in collaborative inquiry and cross-cultural learning experiences. It will also help students develop and understand their individual and collective racial identity.

WORLD LANGUAGES

French 1A 7th Grade

This is the beginning course for French in the St. Paul Schools. Students learn introductory vocabulary and grammar with the Discovering French Nouveau curriculum. The course builds both written and oral language skills.

French 1B 8th Grade

This course continues the curriculum with Discovering French Nouveau. This course along with French 1A is the equivalent of High School French 1.

Spanish 1A 7th Grade

This is the beginning course for Spanish in the St. Paul Schools. Students learn introductory vocabulary and grammar. The course builds both written and oral language skills.

Spanish 1B 8th Grade

This course continues the curriculum with emphasis on writing. This course along with Spanish 1B is the equivalent of High School Spanish 1.

REQUIRED ELECTIVES

Healthy Living Grade 8

This course addresses standards in Personal and Mental Health as well as Fitness and Nutrition, Chemical Use, Body Systems and Human Sexuality. Students will study, research, and present on how these topics impact their daily lives and decisions they make in the future.

Physical Education Grade 6 and 7

This course meets the SPPS Physical Education Standards. Students participate in various sports, working on strategies and reflecting on progress within each of the units studied. Physical Education is an essential and basic part of the total educational program. It is a process that contributes to the total development of every student through the natural medium of physical activity and recognizes the physical, mental, emotional, and social characteristics of students. The physical education program provides a variety of motor experiences to help all students develop the skills, knowledge, and attitudes necessary to maintain health and to function effectively in society.