

## 6<sup>th</sup> GRADE ELECTIVE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

2013-2014

### Exploratory Program

All students will complete the following four courses if they choose the Exploratory Program.

Each course will meet for nine weeks.

**Art**—Welcome to the Elements of Art: Color, Line, Value, Space, Shape, Texture, and Form! Students will learn about each of these seven “Elements” and find out how they combine to create art.

**Computer**— Students will develop basic skills in using a Windows operating system, Microsoft Office, and the Internet. They will explore social and ethical issues related to technology. Touch typing skills will be reinforced.

**Physical Education**— The sixth grade PE curriculum includes a variety of activities that promote all types of skill improvement. Team sports help students learn cooperation and good sportsmanship within a group and fitness improves students’ wellbeing. This class provides a welcoming environment to learn new skills and practice existing ones.

**Spanish**—The purpose of Spanish in the Middle School is to teach an introduction to the Spanish language and culture. A combination of vocabulary, grammar, and culture is taught and the objective of Spanish is to give the students a firm foundation on which to build language skills and to inspire in them an enthusiasm for the language and the culture.

### Music Programs

Participation in music integrates a person’s physical, intellectual and expressive qualities. This provides a very positive experience at an influential period in the lives of students. Students that choose band, orchestra or choir will meet each day for the entire year.

**Band** -- The Sixth Grade Band is designed to develop the skills, understandings, and attitudes necessary to properly perform instrumental music. The course content includes the study of technical exercises designed to develop the student’s performance ability, plus the study of various styles of music written by many different composers representing different periods of history. Although prior experience is helpful, it is not required for 6<sup>th</sup> grade band—beginners are welcome! Participation outside class time is required for Concerts, and there are options for additional activities including All-District Band, Solo and Ensemble Festival, and various Honor Bands.

**Orchestra** --The CAL 6<sup>th</sup> grade orchestra class is designed to introduce string playing skills to the beginning and the advancing string student. Students will be involved in daily rehearsals and technique exercise, culminating in quarterly concert performances. Although prior experience is helpful, it is not required for 6<sup>th</sup> grade orchestra—beginners are welcome! Instruments of the orchestra are the violin, viola, cello and string bass. New students will be given information concerning instrument rental on the first day of class. Weekly practice logs and concert performances are required for this class. Participation outside class time is required.

**Choir** --- Sixth Grade Choir is a non-auditioned group for students desiring to develop and enhance fundamental vocal skills independently and as an ensemble. They will perform as their own ensemble, as well as in combination with 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade choirs. Choir meets every day with the purpose of emphasizing basic choral skills, which include music literacy, sight reading methods, and vocal technique. Students will perform regularly and compete in choral festivals throughout the duration of the class. Participation outside class time is required.

### Study Hall

**Study Hall** – This course is designed for independent quiet study time. Homework help will not be given in class, and this will not be considered time for tutoring. Students will be required to work silently and diligently. Students will be placed in this course with other students of the same grade level and with teachers who teach their grade level. As with other elective options, students and parents will not have a choice as to which period this study hall is scheduled.