



2017-2018 MPS Intermediate School Course Descriptions

CORE CLASSES

ELA (English/Language Arts)

5th Grade ELA

5th grade English Language Arts is aligned with the Oklahoma Academic Standards. Our students focus their learning on concepts and skills in speaking, reading and writing. Students will broaden and deepen their understanding of informational and literary text through the reading and writing processes. This takes place during an integrated block of English Language Arts instruction which includes all areas of ELA.

During reading instruction, our students read and discuss, reflect, and respond, using evidence from a wide variety of texts and engaging activities. Students reflect on their skills and adjust their comprehension and vocabulary strategies to become better readers and writers. Students are encouraged to read independently for extended time to increase their reading proficiency and fluency. They are also encouraged to read for pleasure to become lifelong readers.

During writing instruction, our students learn about the various writing structures of narrative, opinion, and informative writing. Our students focus on the use of precise, specialized vocabulary in content-area writing along with correct usage, mechanics and sentence variety. During the writing process, students use scoring rubrics that detail the expectations of 5th grade writing to include content, organization, style and conventions. They have the opportunity to demonstrate a command of the conventions of Standard English grammar and usage when reading, writing, speaking and listening.

6th Grade ELA

6th grade English Language Arts is aligned with the Oklahoma Academic Standards and takes place during an integrated block of English Language Arts instruction which includes all areas of ELA. Our students focus their learning on concepts and skills in speaking, reading, writing, and research. Students interact with more complex text and topics through the reading of a variety of classic, contemporary, and informational texts.

During reading instruction, our students read and discuss, reflect, and respond, using textual evidence to support their reflections, inferences, and conclusions. Students demonstrate mastery of previously learned skills in more complex presentations, reading selections, and written compositions. These experiences are used purposefully to build knowledge and skills to help students become independent readers and writers.

During writing instruction, our students apply skills learned previously to the various writing structures of narrative, opinion, and informative writing adding specific elements to each written composition. Our students focus on the use of precise, specialized vocabulary in content-area writing along with

correct usage, mechanics and sentence variety moving into more formalized writing. They use scoring rubrics to align their compositions to expectations of 6th grade writing. These expectations include content, organization, style and conventions which are applied through the reading, writing and speaking.

6th Advanced ELA

The 6th grade Advanced English Language Arts course is intended to prepare students for Pre-AP courses in middle school. Students receive a more intensive course of study through all elements of language arts, while focusing on the expansion of purposeful writing. This course provides students an opportunity to interact with more complex texts. Through academic rigor and pacing, students will discuss universal themes occurring in literature while using inquiry to confirm conclusions and inferences about the literary style and content. While taking this course does not mean more work during the school year, it does challenge students to critically examine topics through communication, writing, language, and literary analysis. This course may require outside summer reading, writing, and/or projects.

Math

5th Grade Math

Students will review and extend fundamental skills and concepts for whole numbers. Students will read, write, represent, and compare fractions and decimals; as well as recognize and write equivalent fractions; also, convert between fractions and decimals. Students will study equations and inequalities and use them to represent and evaluate mathematical problems. Students will understand how the volume of rectangular prisms and surface area of shapes with polygonal faces are determined by the dimensions of the object. Students will describe, classify, and draw representations of two- and three-dimensional figures. Students will solve mathematical problems and perform basic operations with rational numbers including decimals, fractions and whole numbers.

5th Grade Advanced Math

Students will review and extend fundamental skills and concepts for whole numbers, decimals, and fractions. Students will study equations and inequalities and use them to represent and evaluate mathematical problems. Students will understand how the volume of rectangular prisms and surface area of shapes with polygonal faces are determined by the dimensions of the object. Students will describe, classify, and draw representations of two- and three-dimensional figures. Students will solve mathematical problems and perform basic operations with rational numbers including decimals, fractions and whole numbers. Students will use open-ended problem-solving (explain problem, rather than give a single number as answer) to make comprehensive use of their mathematical knowledge and skills.

6th Grade Math

Students will read, write, and represent integers and rational numbers expressed as fractions, decimals, percent, and ratios; as well as write positive integers as products of factors. Students will multiply and divide decimals, fractions, and mixed numbers; solve mathematical problems with rational numbers. Student will understand the concept of ratio and its relationship to fractions and percent and to the multiplication and division of whole numbers. Students will use equations and inequalities to represent mathematical problems with using the idea of maintaining equality to solve equations. Students will understand and use relationships between angles in geometric figures. Students will calculate area of squares, parallelograms, and triangles to solve real-world and

mathematical problems. Student will use translations, reflections, and rotations to establish congruency and understand symmetries. Students will solve mathematical problems and perform basic operations with rational numbers including decimals, fractions and whole numbers.

6th Grade Advanced Math

Students will review and extend fundamental skills and concepts for integers, decimals, fractions, percent, and ratios. Students will study equations, inequalities, number-theory, geometry, ratio, proportion, percent, measurement, and rational numbers. Students will solve mathematical problems and perform basic operations with rational numbers including decimals, fractions and whole numbers. Students will use open-ended problem solving (explain problem, rather than give a single number as answer) to make comprehensive use of their mathematical knowledge and skills.

Science

5th Grade Science

This course will cover the three domains of science: physical, life, and earth and space. Examples of topics students can expect to study include: Interaction of Matter; Reactions and Properties of Matter; Flow of Matter and Energy; Water Systems and Earth Materials; Sun, Moon, Stars and Earth; and Human Interactions on Ecosystems and Earth. The course will incorporate scientific and engineering practices with scientific literacy, crosscutting concepts, and math applications. Students learn through multiple learning pathways with the use of an interactive science textbook, interactive science notebook, and inquiry based investigations.

6th Grade Science

The study of science for grade 6 will follow the Oklahoma Academic Standards for Science (OAS-S) encompassing the three domains of science: physical, life, and earth and space. Examples of topics students can expect to study include: motion and stability, forces and interactions, energy forms, transformations and systems, molecules to organisms (structures, processes, biological unity, diversity and ecology), human body systems and interactions, and the role of water in Earth's processes. The course will incorporate scientific and engineering practices with scientific literacy and crosscutting concepts and math applications. Both classroom and outdoor activities might involve projects, outside reading, and hands-on design challenges within the course of study.

Social Studies

5th Grade Social Studies

This course covers The Foundation, The Formation, and The Transformation of United States History, 1607-1806. This includes British colonization; the American Revolution; the United States Constitution; Government; Presidents Washington, Adams and Jefferson; the Louisiana Purchase; and the Lewis and Clark Expedition. The course will incorporate process and literacy skills using informational texts; primary and secondary sources; interactive social studies journals; and project based learning.

6th Grade Social Studies

Throughout the first semester of this course, students will learn about: tools of Geography, the Earth's

physical and human geography, and the world's political and economic systems. In the second semester, we will apply knowledge gained from the first semester to help us focus on the study of the Western Hemisphere through geography, history, civics, culture and economics. Students will focus on spatial patterns of human and physical characteristics of the world and its peoples, and will explore how these patterns form, change over time, and relate to one another in the Western Hemisphere. Students will study countries that comprise this region of the world, including countries in North America, Central America, South America and the Antilles.

Additional Courses

Enrichment

Enrichment ELA, Math, Science, and Social Studies classes are designed as extensions of core ELA, Math, Social Studies, and Science courses. Students utilize skills learned in the regular classroom and extend their learning in these core areas through integrated research projects, simulations, performances, book studies, hands on activities and games.

CARE

C.A.R.E.(Classes for Academic Reinforcement and Excellence) are designed to provide strategic and specific interventions in reading and/or math for students identified as having academic gaps. C.A.R.E. classes are 40 - 45 minutes daily and are provided in addition to the CORE ELA and Math classes.

Life Apps

Art - (5th & 6th Grade)

This nine week elective course provides students with opportunities to develop & use the visual language, build creative critical thinking skills and aesthetic judgments. This course also pursues personal expression through art exploration and production utilizing a variety of media within two and three dimensions. Students experience and appreciate the art of others throughout history and diverse cultures.

Band

This course offers the band experience at the beginning level and is offered to all sixth grade students. The instruments taught are flute, clarinet, trumpet, trombone and percussion. Instrument selection is guided by the Mustang Band Instructors prior to placement into one of the 5 instrument classes. Instruction is centered around the development of fundamental skills necessary to successfully perform beginning level music on a specific instrument with emphasis placed on continued enrollment in band during successive years. Students and Parents should be prepared to provide an instrument, all supplies for that instrument and an instruction book for beginning band class. Students do not need to have prior band experience.

Communications/Leadership

5th Grade Leadership

This course is designed to provide students instruction in basic leadership skills and qualities. Through a creative process, students will gain experience being leaders and using personal styles of leadership while exploring and expanding their decision making abilities. In addition, character trait education will be a focus of the class.

6th Grade Communications

This course will focus on development of oral and technological presentation skills. Public speaking will be practiced and demonstrated through oral presentations, storytelling (digital and print), drama, news reports, debate, school announcements, and other creative presentations.

GATE (5th only)

This course is an extension of the GATE program in the Elementary Schools, and students must qualify for the course. Students are provided differentiated lessons and challenging educational opportunities, which enhance and extend their educational experience. Students work on higher-level activities using age appropriate materials. They are provided opportunities for utilizing their interests in complex, in-depth study designed to build thinking, research, communication, and technology skills.

General Music

General Music provides exposure to a musical environment. Students will hear and sing different styles of music, and develop the ability to make music alone and with others. Students will expand on their knowledge of reading notes and rhythm patterns, and sing partner songs and other songs that teach basic harmony.

PE (5th & 6th Grade)

The Physical Education program allows each student with the opportunity to participate in a comprehensive program consisting of skill development, lead up games, team sports, and physical fitness activities. The students receive instruction in rules, skills, and strategies associated with the different sports as well as learning experiences involving physical conditioning activities. The students will also have opportunities to become involved in lifelong physical activities through individual sport units. The program promotes the spirit of cooperation, leadership, fair play, and friendly competition.

Robotics (6th Grade)

This course is designed to teach core computer programming logic and reasoning skills using a robotics engineering context. Students will build and program a Lego Mindstorms EV3 robot to complete a series of challenges. Activities include programming with color, touch, ultra violet and gyro sensors as well as creating and designing a robot challenge.

Spanish (5th & 6th Grade)

This is an introductory course that seeks to develop skills in the novice low/mid range of language learning. A variety of vocabulary and grammar is introduced through listening, speaking, reading and writing. Various topics include basic salutations, expressing likes and dislikes, numbers, colors, useful phrases, the alphabet, days, months, weather, classroom objects, clothing, family and foods. Cultural studies include Latin American and Spanish geography, history, celebrations, art and music. This course also reinforces and enriches content in other disciplines. A brief introduction of basic grammar structures are introduced in sixth grade.

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math)

This course is a nine week elective course it is designed to foster a learning environment in which students are guided to produce original ideas, objects, and structures through an integrated curriculum using creativity, team collaboration, and project based learning from our content areas simple machines for 5th grade and aerodynamics for 6th grade. This course has a strong emphasis on using problem solving, mathematics, the engineering design process, science inquiries, and using technology to gain and display information. Students will also learn how S.T.E.M. is used in the real world and the benefits of choosing a S.T.E.M focused career path.

Technology

Technology is a hands-on class where students discover new ways to use computers and iPads as tools for learning. Students will be exposed to a wide variety of applications on both personal computers and iPads. The goal of the the class is to create self-learners through:

- Creativity and Innovation - Be creative and developing something that is new
- Communication and Collaboration - Working effectively with others
- Research and Information Fluency - Know how to find what you need to do the job
- Critical Thinking, Problem Solving, and Decision Making - Plan, design, and solve problems
- Digital Citizenship - Use safe, ethical, and legal computer practices
- Technology Operations and Concepts - File Management and troubleshooting

6th Grade Advanced Technology

A class that is offered to students that have the prerequisite of technology. The class would focus on writing computer programs and coding. Students would be opening the door to multiple computer languages by becoming familiar with the basic concepts behind computer programing. The goal of this class would be:

- Basic understanding that computers only do what they are told, in the order they are told (step by step thinking).
- Comfort with making mistakes and taking risks while writing code. Students achieve basic proficiency in for-loops and understand when and why they are used.
- Students gain more comfort with very basic abstraction. Students should be able to identify loops vs. sequential instructions in apps they use or games they play, and identify why each was used.
- Introduction to computational thinking and algorithms. Students should understand that algorithms are recipes that computers use to solve problems.
- Opportunities to write computer programs and have a better understanding of computer language.

Theatre

This course is designed to improve the student's ability for public speaking through the advancement of vocabulary, knowledge, and self confidence. These skills will be acquired from some of the following but are not limited to; presentations, speeches, choreography, singing, musical production, etc. The final product of the class will include a presentation or performance that is student led and generated.

Vocal Music

Vocal Music seeks to extend what is learned in the Fifth Grade General Music class. The student will be provided with the vocabulary and knowledge of musical notation that is needed in the performance of quality music. The student will learn to sight-read music in unison and harmony, and will be acquainted with diverse musical styles and genres. Students will also participate in the three main aspects of performing: demonstrated knowledge of material (memorized music), uniform attire, and appropriate comportment. There will be certain fees attached to the class, for uniforms, and potential musical opportunities outside of the classroom. This class may be taken for a semester or a year.