

GRADE 6

**2010-2011
CURRICULUM
HANDBOOK**



**ELKHORN MIDDLE
SCHOOL**

WELCOME

We welcome you and your children to ELKHORN MIDDLE SCHOOL. Our middle school curriculum is designed to meet the needs of a special group of students; the 10-14 year olds. It is academic, but also exploratory. While basic skills are emphasized in core areas, exploratory experiences expose students to additional areas to help them develop new interests, to appreciate the fine and applied arts, and to expand their talents.

We look forward to working with you to help your children move successfully and happily through these transitional years. Adolescents require understanding, love, and patience from their parents, teachers, and other adults in their lives. This handbook is designed to acquaint you with the middle school curriculum and activities. We hope it will answer your questions about our program and give you insight as you join us in helping your child(ren) make the incredible journey from childhood to adolescence.

ELKHORN MIDDLE SCHOOL

MISSION STATEMENT

ELKHORN MIDDLE SCHOOL is committed to providing a safe, respectful, and responsible environment for developing young adolescents into life-long learners through educational excellence.

TEAM CONCEPT

The ELKHORN MIDDLE SCHOOL program is designed to promote success. Students are assigned to an academic team composed of five teachers in the 6th, 7th and 8th grade. The team serves several purposes. Team teachers are responsible for teaching Language Arts, Reading, Math, Science and Social Studies. The team affords flexibility in scheduling. In addition, the team provides a small unit within the school to allow for more personalized instruction and interaction between teachers and students.

The team teachers, because of their common planning time, are able to work closely to plan appropriate instructional and social strategies for students. Planning time also provides a time to conference with parents and/or resource personnel regarding special learning and behavior needs of individual students.

Through a total team effort, ELKHORN MIDDLE SCHOOL will work to provide each student with opportunities to grow in knowledge of the academic subjects, performance of life skills and the ability to accept and follow through with responsibilities. Self-discipline is probably the most important aspect to student success. Our team work is focused on helping each student develop that sense of self-responsibility.

GRADING

The grades that are earned at the Middle School become part of the student's permanent record. Grades from the Middle School help to determine which classes students may be eligible for at the High School. As daily grades are taken in class, regular attendance is essential. Due to the participation and class interactions, grades reflect academic knowledge, attendance, and responsibility. Students are encouraged to do their best and to prepare all work in the best possible manner. ALL subject areas use the 1-5 grading system, unless otherwise stated.

The grading scale is:

1 = 93%-100%
2 = 85%-92%
3 = 78%-84%
4 = 70%-77%
5 = 0%-69%

IN = Work Incomplete
P = Pass
F = Fail

LANGUAGE ARTS - 6TH GRADE (CORE CLASS)

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Sixth grade Language Arts is comprised of experiences in oral and written communication with a literature base. Areas of composition may include letters, stories, poetry, journals, and paragraphs, as well as many other creative projects or activities. Units and areas of focus include, but are not limited to the following:

1. Vocabulary/Spelling
2. Composition (a 6 trait writing model will be the primary tool for writing instruction: organization, conventions, sentence fluency, word choice, voice, and ideas).
3. Grammar, mechanics, and usage.
4. Oral Communication (may include class discussion, reader's theater, and formal/informal speeches)

TEXT: Holt Handbook 2003

READING - 6TH GRADE (CORE CLASS)

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Reading is a skill. The more you do it, the better you become.

This course is divided into various components. The first component is individual class work involving reading and discussing, in large and/or small groups, a variety of short stories, novels, poetry and plays. Instruction in word analysis, listening skills, vocabulary, oral language, reading comprehension, reading fluency, and analyzing literary elements are also emphasized. The second component, AR – Accelerated Reader is a learning information system that manages the testing, record keeping, and reporting on individual student progress. This learning system encourages increased reading time and works on the student's comprehension.

MATH 6 (CORE CLASS)

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course involves all operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division) in working with whole numbers, decimals, fractions, and mixed numbers. Included is an overview of several other mathematical concepts. Problem solving is practiced continuously throughout the year.

TEXT: Mathematics Applications and Connections - Glencoe – Course 2

PRE-CONCEPTS - 6TH GRADE **(CORE CLASS)**

PREREQUISITES: Teacher recommendation based on Stanford 10 Achievement score, 6th grade Readiness test and previous years Math performance.

*A 6th grader is eligible for 7th Grade Pre-Algebra with a teacher recommendation, a 1 in the previous years Math class and exceptional performance on the Orleans-Hanna Aptitude test and the Stanford 10 Achievement test.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: The units covered include a review of all basic operations, with a deeper coverage of decimals, fractions, geometry, integers, and problem solving. An introduction of algebra and more abstract mathematics will be taught. Several other higher mathematical concepts are introduced.

TEXT: Mathematics Applications and Connections - Glencoe - Course 2

GENERAL SCIENCE - 6TH GRADE **(CORE CLASS)**

COURSE DESCRIPTION: 6th grade science includes units in life science, earth science, and physical science. The life science component includes an in-depth exploration of the bacteria, protist, fungi, plant, and animal kingdoms and the environment. The earth science component consists of a study of weather and climate. The physical science component will cover the basic characteristics of matter.

TEXT: Holt Science & Technology Series

SOCIAL STUDIES - 6TH GRADE **(CORE CLASS)**

PREREQUISITES: None

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course will include a multi-media approach to the geography, history, culture, and economics of Canada and Latin America (Mexico, Central America, South America, and the West Indies). In addition to the historical aspects of the Western Hemisphere, the modern day problems and current events of the Western Hemisphere will be discussed. Also included will be extension and refinement of map and chart reading skills. By the end of the year, students will also know the location of the major countries of the Western Hemisphere and the major geographical features of the earth. Throughout the year, a variety of study skills will be taught and reinforced.

TEXT: World Studies Western Hemisphere and America History of Our Nation Beginnings through 1877 – Prentice Hall

EXPLORATORY BLOCK
(6 weeks) All sixth grade students rotate
through each program

ART – 6TH GRADE
(EXPLORATORY BLOCK - 6 WEEKS)

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course includes a 2-D drawing unit and a 3-D pottery unit. Both focus on Elements of Art and Design.

EXPLORATORY FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE – 6TH GRADE
(EXPLORATORY BLOCK- 6 WEEKS)

COURSE DESCRIPTION: The Middle School Family and Consumer Science Program will be delivered in a student-centered, modular education classroom setting. The courses involve an applied approach to curriculum focused around the following areas: Food science and nutrition, cooking skills, basic sewing and design, fashion and textiles, interior design, family issues, child development, consumer knowledge and life skills. Students will be involved in research, challenging hands-on activities, experiments, problem solving practices and group work.

HEALTH – 6TH GRADE
(EXPLORATORY BLOCK - 6 WEEKS)

COURSE DESCRIPTION: The sixth grade health class focuses on the changes and challenges of adolescence. This class encourages self-discipline, responsibility, good judgment and the ability to get along with others. Topics of discussion include peer relationships, decision-making, changes of early adolescence, healthy communication skills, building self-esteem and self-confidence, goal setting and drug and alcohol education. The class emphasizes that young people should not use drugs and helps them acquire the specific knowledge and skills they need to be drug free. Classroom learning experiences actively involve students in group work, activities, discussions, reading, writing assignments, and videos.

INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY – 6TH GRADE
(EXPLORATORY BLOCK - 6 WEEKS)

COURSE DESCRIPTION: An introduction and applied approach to Technology Education utilizing computer technology in office like modules. Curriculum will focus around the four components of industrial technology: Manufacturing Technology, Communication Technology, Construction Technology and Transportation Technology.

TEXT: TECHNOLOGY - Delmar Pub. Inc.

KEYBOARDING – 6TH GRADE
(EXPLORATORY BLOCK - 6 WEEKS)

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course will reinforce and extend keyboarding skills. This course will enhance the students understanding of using the computer to develop various types of word processing methods and projects for future use.

PERFORMANCE STANDARDS: Students will demonstrate the ability to:

- understand computer terminology
- startup and appropriately use portfolios/servers
- learn all lettered keys by touch
- use proper keyboarding techniques
- setup and process reports, manuscripts, letters and notes
- startup, save and retrieve data for immediate and future use
- share word processing work to help improve and clarify the work done by each student
- learn to properly proofread and edit individual work
- be aware of internet safety
- create a basic presentation
- use a graphics editing program
- learn to perform basic internet searches

SPEECH & DRAMA – 6TH GRADE
(EXPLORATORY BLOCK – 6 WEEKS)

COURSE DESCRIPTION: In this class students will explore the basics of speech. The goal of this class will be to develop communication and listening skills. The class will focus on giving speeches that are informative and entertaining. The students will research, organize, and write an informative speech on a non-fiction topic, they will then defend that topic as they lead a class discussion. Students will also purpose a speech with the intent to entertain.

LANGUAGE EXPERIENCE – 6TH GRADE
(REQUIRED CLASS - EVERY OTHER DAY)

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This class is designed to expose students to French, Japanese, and Spanish along with their cultures, customs and traditions. This exposure will help students decide which foreign language they wish to study in depth after 6th grade.

To accomplish this, the class will use thematic learning that will design activities requiring different levels of thinking that allow for differences among students in readiness, interest, and ability. Using the target language as much as possible, TPR (total physical response), videos, tapes, visuals and music will be utilized in daily instruction.

GRADING: Assessment will be based upon daily classroom participation, assignments and thematic projects. The school year will be divided into thirds with one-third of the year devoted to each language.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION - 6TH GRADE
(REQUIRED CLASS – EVERY OTHER DAY)

COURSE DESCRIPTION: As a part of the total school curriculum, physical education offers an organized, sequential progression of activities which provide for the social, physical, intellectual, and emotional development of children through the medium of physical activity.

ACTIVITIES:

Flag Football	Soccer	Basketball	Physical Fitness Test
Wrestling	Indoor Hockey	Softball	Indoor Soccer
Cross Country	Track & Field	Volleyball	Ultimate Frisbee
Badminton/Ping Pong	Bowling	Archery	Introduction to Weight Training
Super Strength			

DAILY ROUTINE: Class period 43 minutes.
8 minutes - exercise
35 minutes - activities

UNIFORM: Must wear tennis shoes,
change of clothes required after first
nine weeks.

GRADING: 1-5 (1=Excellent; 2=Good; 3=Average; 4=Pass; and 5=Fail) Grades are determined using a demerit system based on three areas: Skill-Improvement, Attitude/Dress, and Written Test.

LOCKS: All lockers in the locker room will come with a lock. There is a \$5 fine for any lost lock.

6th GRADE CHORUS
(ADDITIONAL OFFERING)

COURSE DESCRIPTION: In chorus we will develop the singing voice needed to become a choir. Through our choral singing we will explore many musical styles, cultures, and fundamentals of music. Part-singing, singing vowels and consonants, movement, and facial expression will be taught to build the self-confidence needed to engage the audience in our performances. Three (3) concerts will be performed throughout the year to give the singers an opportunity to show the progress being made. 6th grade chorus prepares students for 7th and 8th grade chorus and the EMS "Classic" Show Choir.

Chorus is a yearlong course offered every other day. Students may transfer to General Music with permission from the instructor.

TEXT: Sing from Octavos

GRADING: Grades will be determined by participation and attitude in class and at concerts.

6th GRADE GENERAL MUSIC
(ADDITIONAL OFFERING)

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course will be an extension of the elementary music experience. This involves learning the fundamentals of music and how it affects our lives. This will include singing, piano, rhythm instruments, ear training, music analysis, music terminology, and exploring music of many cultures.

This is a yearlong course offered every other day. Students may transfer to Band or Chorus with permission from the instructor.

TEXT: Essential Musicianship and Share the Music

GRADING: Grades will be determined by participation and attitude in class.

BAND - 6TH GRADE
(ADDITIONAL OFFERING)

PREREQUISITES: Permission of instructor.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Students will be learning an instrument from the very beginning. A team teaching approach will enable the student to receive small group or individual instruction. Classes will be organized by same or similar instruments. Students will perform in three concerts plus one high school basketball game over the course of the year.

Band is a yearlong course offered every other day. Students enrolled must complete the full term of each semester. There is a one week period at the beginning of each semester during which a student may drop band. Students are asked to provide the director with a written note from the parent making this request.

TEXT: Standard of Excellence Book I

CONCERT DRESS: Students will need to wear black pants, black socks, black shoes, and an EMS "Noteworthy" t-shirt.

GRADING: Grades will be determined by participation and attitude in class, individual playing skills such as rhythms and scales, fingerings, vocabulary, and home practice.

***Parents will need to make their own arrangements for instruments. Beginning instruments are not furnished by the school.**

SPECIAL EDUCATION - 6TH GRADE
(Resource Room) (Additional Offering)

PREREQUISITES: Students must first be referred by a teacher or parent. Screening of student's records will determine if individual psychological tests are necessary. Placement is dependent on test results.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: The resource program provides collaborative support for students in the regular classroom. Adaptations of assignments and tests, study guides, oral reading of tests and use of technology such as the Kurzweil program are some of the options available where needed. Individual resource classes are offered when inclusion within the regular classroom is not conducive to student's needs and learning. Each student's program will be designed to meet individual academic, behavioral, social and emotional needs.

SPECIAL EDUCATION – 6TH GRADE
Life Skills Program (Additional Offering)

PREREQUISITES: Student's IEP Team Recommendation

COURSE DESCRIPTION: The Life Skills Program is an integration of functional academic, community living and personal/social skills. Students will work on prevocational, recreation/leisure, and home living skills. Students also work on specific curricula to assist them in becoming active participants in the community.

HIGH ABILITY LEARNER EDUCATION-6TH GRADE
(H.A.L.E.) - (Additional Offering)

PREREQUISITES: Admission to the H.A.L.E. program:

- Student must achieve 115 or above on a Scholastic Aptitude Measure
- Achievement level total composite of 95% or higher on a standardized achievement test
- Achievement level of 96% or higher on any sub test of a standardized achievement test in the areas of total reading, language arts, mathematics, science or social studies
- Nomination by teacher, parent, self, or peer using a specific list of characteristics

COURSE DESCRIPTION: The Middle School program primarily employs interest based seminars and workshops to achieve program goals. Many of the enrichment activities are related to what is happening in the core classrooms. There are also competition based activities for students seeking additional challenges: SIGMA, Current Events, Geography Bee, History Day, Quiz Bowl, Future Cities, as well as other opportunities are available/offered during the school year.