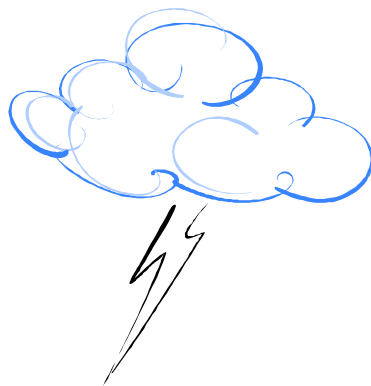


GRADE 6

**2010-2011
CURRICULUM
HANDBOOK**



**ELKHORN RIDGE
MIDDLE
SCHOOL**

WELCOME

We welcome you and your children to ELKHORN RIDGE 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 children make the incredible journey from childhood to adolescence.

ELKHORN RIDGE MIDDLE SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

It is the mission of Elkhorn Ridge Middle School to:

- Provide a safe learning environment that nurtures, challenges and encourages each to reach his or her full learning potential.
- Create an educational program teaching to the needs and characteristics of early adolescents.
- Work collaboratively with students, families, school district personnel, and the community in equipping students with the necessary skills to become productive and responsible citizens.

TEAM CONCEPT

The ELKHORN RIDGE MIDDLE SCHOOL program is designed to promote success. Students are assigned to an academic team 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 behavioral and instructional 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, the ELKHORN RIDGE 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 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. Middle School grades 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 performance and attendance. 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

POWERSCHOOL

Parents have the ability to view their child's academic progress through the internet. Parents can request a username and password for each child that would allow them to track homework completion and current grade status.

COMMUNICATION/TECHNOLOGY

Communication is an essential part of Elkhorn Ridge Middle School. At no time should parents be in doubt of what and how their child is doing in school. If parents are concerned about their child's progress or have questions about the curriculum at Elkhorn Ridge Middle School, please use one of the communication tools available for parents/students, or check out the full curriculum on the school web site at www.elkhorn.esu3.org. Curriculum is located under the school programs link.

We will make a sincere effort to keep you informed about your child's educational progress, needs and successes. We also encourage you to keep us informed of any problems your son or daughter is experiencing that may be affecting his or her adjustment and performance at school. Together, as partners in education, our youth will be provided with the knowledge, skills, attitudes and character development necessary to lead productive lives.

Elkhorn Ridge Communication Tools:

- Teacher - Voicemail - 334-9302
- Counselor - Ms. Sideris - 334-9302
- Assistant Principal - Mr. Soupir - 334-9302
- Principal - Mr. Riggert - 334-9302
- Power School - See grading description
- Myelearning (teacher web page) (located on school web page under teacher web page tab)

Reporting Student Progress

The school year is divided into four periods called quarters. Each quarter is approximately nine weeks in length. Grade reports are issued at mid-quarter and at the end of the quarter. Teachers may issue progress reports for their individual courses on a more frequent basis. The quarter schedule for 2009-2010 is:

- Quarter 1 – October 22nd
- Quarter 2 – January 15th
- Quarter 3 – March 18th
- Quarter 4 – May 27th

HIGH FIVE CURRICULUM

The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens

By Sean Covey

In the 21st century, our students need to be better equipped to handle and manage a schedule that can easily be overloaded with information. An effective tool for learning time management is found in this book by Covey. This is a step-by-step guide to building self-image, identifying priorities, setting goals, building relationships with friends and parents, and resisting peer pressure.

The foundation for instruction is built around the 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens. The examples included in the book are stories by today's teens. The workbook includes activities that help students to identify where they spend their time and how to use it more efficiently.

PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES FORMAT

We will be using a student-led conference format for sixth grade. Student-led conferences provide a stronger sense of accountability among students, a stronger sense of pride in achievement among students, more productive student-teacher relationships, improves student-parent relationships, and develops leadership skills among students.

Each student invites his or her parents and teachers to attend a meeting concerning their educational goals and progress in meeting those goals. The meetings are facilitated by the student and follow an agenda that the student has developed prior to the meeting. During the meeting, the student shares his or her educational goals and examples of his or her work (portfolio). The student also analyzes his or her strengths and weaknesses, and reflects upon the educational consequences of choices the student has made. Together, the student, teachers and parents determine what each will do to help the student move closer to the student's educational goals.

Parents will be notified with details when your child will be presenting their student-led conference.

If this format does not meet your needs, please notify your child's teacher to schedule a conference with them.

COURSES OFFERED

6 th Grade	7 th Grade	8 th Grade
High 5	High 5	High 5
Core: Math 6 / Pre-Concepts Language Arts Reading Social Studies Integrated Science	Core: Math 7/Pre-Algebra Language Arts Reading Social Studies Integrated Science	Core: Pre-Algebra/Algebra Language Arts Reading Social Studies Integrated Science
Exploratory: (6 weeks) Art Family Consumer Science Fitness for Life Health Industrial Technology Key Boarding	Exploratory: (6 weeks) Art Family Consumer Science Fitness for Life Health Industrial Technology Computer Applications	Exploratory: (6 weeks) Art Family Consumer Science Fitness for Life Health Industrial Technology Advanced Applications
Specials: *Chorus *Band Physical Education Language Experience	Specials: *Chorus *Band Physical Education *Spanish	Specials: *Chorus *Band Physical Education *Spanish

* See registration for further explanation

ACTIVITIES AT ELKHORN RIDGE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Athletics:

Boys Athletics:

Sport	Season	Grade Level	Interscholastic/Intramural
Football	Fall	7 th & 8 th	Interscholastic
Basketball	Winter (Nov. – Jan.)	7 th & 8 th	Interscholastic & Intramural
Wrestling	Winter (Jan. – March)	7 th & 8 th	Interscholastic
Track	Spring	7 th & 8 th	Interscholastic

Girls Athletics:

Sport	Season	Grade Level	Interscholastic/Intramural
Volleyball	Fall	7 th & 8 th	Interscholastic & Intramural
Basketball	Winter (Jan. – March)	7 th & 8 th	Interscholastic & Intramural
Track	Spring	7 th & 8 th	Interscholastic

Non-Athletics:

Activity	Season	Grade Level
Science Bowl	Fall – Winter	All
Math Counts	Fall – Winter	All
Computer Club	Fall – Spring	All
Year Book	Fall – Spring	All
Student Council	Fall – Spring	All
Chess Club	Fall – Spring	All
Science Olympiad	Fall – Spring	All

LANGUAGE ARTS - 6TH GRADE
(CORE CLASS)

PREREQUISITES: None

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)
5. Exposure to various literary genres (may include short story, novel, and poetry)
6. Library/Research Skills

TEXTS: The Write Source: A Student Handbook, 1987. Holt Handbook, 2003.

READING - 6TH GRADE
(CORE CLASS)

PREREQUISITES: None

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, oral language, reading comprehension, reading fluency, and analyzing literary elements are also emphasized. The second component, 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.

TEXT: Literature Timeless Voices, Timeless Themes, Pearson Prentice Hall, 2005.

MATH 6 - 6TH GRADE
(CORE CLASS)

PREREQUISITES: None

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.

COURSE OUTLINE:

1. Problem Solving
2. Graphs and Statistics
3. Decimals: Addition, Subtraction, Multiply, and Division
4. Patterns and Number Sense
5. Fractions: Addition, Subtraction, Multiply, and Division
6. Investigations of Geometry
7. Ratio, Proportion, and Percent
8. Area and Volume
9. Investigations with Integers

TEXT: **Mathematics Applications and Connections** – Glencoe – Course 1

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 whole number operations, with a deeper coverage of decimals, fractions, geometry, and problem solving. Algebraic concepts are introduced in units throughout the year and other more abstract mathematics will be taught. Several other higher mathematical concepts are introduced.

COURSE OUTLINE:

1. Problem solving
2. Statistics and data analysis
3. Patterns and number sense
4. Applications with fractions
5. An introduction to Algebra
6. Integers
7. Investigations into geometry
8. Area, Surface area and Volume
9. Ratio, proportion, and percent
10. Probability
11. Functions and graphing

TEXT: **Mathematics Applications and Connections** – Glencoe – Course 2

INTEGRATED SCIENCE - 6TH GRADE
(CORE CLASS)

PREREQUISITES: None

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Elkhorn Ridge Middle School delivers its science through an integrated approach. The 6th grade science covers topics that are integrated through Life, Physical, and Earth Science. As part of the science curriculum, students will use technology to enhance lab experiences and day to day objectives.

TEXT: Holt Science and Technology short course series, Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 2007

SOCIAL STUDIES - 6TH GRADE
(CORE CLASS)

PREREQUISITES: None

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course is a multi-media survey of Social Science areas including geography, economics, politics, cultures and histories of different groups of the Western Hemisphere. Map and chart reading will be a point of emphasis during the year. Current Events and modern problems of the 21st century will also be discussed on a regular basis. The class will culminate with an early American History review up to 1800.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION - 6TH GRADE
(REQUIRED CLASS)

PREREQUISITES: None

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	Frisbee
Badminton	Bowling		

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

UNIFORM: Must wear tennis shoes and have change of clothes.

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.

LANGUAGE EXPERIENCE - 6TH GRADE
(EVERY OTHER DAY OPPOSITE P.E.)

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.

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.

CHORUS - 6TH GRADE
(ELECTIVE OFFERING)

PREREQUISITES: None

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course involves establishing proper vocal technique and musical style. It will introduce meter, counting rhythms, and dynamics, as well as focus on students reading the music. More than just singing, this course will build a musical foundation to prepare students for the future, as well as providing a fun, exciting way to experience music first-hand. It is a semester long class, with performances throughout to share our learning.

Chorus is a semester course with a semester commitment. 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 chorus. Students are asked to provide the director with a written note from the parent making this request.

GRADING: Grades will be determined by participation and attitude in class and performances, individual skills such as solfege, rhythm, notes, and classroom work.

BAND - 6TH GRADE **(ELECTIVE 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. Woodwinds will meet on days alternating with brass and percussion.

Band is a semester course with a semester commitment. 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**

GRADING: Grades will be determined by participation and attitude in class, individual playing, skills such as rhythms and scales, fingerings and attendance at events.

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

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 and painting unit, and a 3-D pottery unit. Both focus on Elements of Art and Design.

GRADING: Pass/Fail

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.

GRADING: Pass/Fail

FITNESS FOR LIFE
(EXPLORATORY BLOCK - 6 WEEKS)

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Students will gain the necessary tools to develop their own fitness plan that they can apply throughout their entire life. Each student will learn how to maintain their fitness plan while taking into consideration certain health concepts such as healthy nutrition, caloric intake and proper hydration. By learning fitness and health concepts, students will hopefully create positive lifetime habits.

GRADING: Grading 1-5 scale

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 and writing assignments and parent discussion sheets.

GRADING: Pass/Fail – Based on class participation.
Classroom resources are available for parent preview. See the health teacher.

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 for the appropriate computer
- startup and appropriately use portfolios
- 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

GRADING: Pass/Fail

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.

GRADING: Pass/Fail

ADDITIONAL STUDENT PROGRAMS

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 90% 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 independent study to achieve program goals. Appropriate pacing of curriculum ensures that the rapid learner is challenged. Curriculum compacting is available for those students able to demonstrate mastery of skills. Creative activities such as Destination Imagination are also included. Competitions such as Math Counts, Sigma, American Junior High Mathematics Competition, Math Olympiad, Science Olympiad, Speech Contest and History Day are some of the activities available for students seeking additional challenges.