

MARYVILLE MIDDLE SCHOOL
DESCRIPTION OF CLASSES
SIXTH GRADE

TEACHER ADVISOR (TA) – Teacher Advisory will be held at the beginning of the school day. It will attempt to meet the needs of the middle school student. It will provide an opportunity for each student to be known well by at least one member of our faculty and a group of peers. It further provides an opportunity for group programs on many topics pertinent to this period in the child’s life. These same students meet at the end of the school day for dismissal.

BASIC SKILLS SUBJECTS

LANGUAGE ARTS – Since communication is the core of our human experience, skills in writing, speaking and listening are taught in sixth grade language arts class. These skills help students find success and joy in their personal and work worlds. Specifically, state and district objectives are strengthened through grammar, argumentative, informative, and creative writing.

MATHEMATICS – Sixth grade mathematics provides the foundation for advanced mathematics classes. It involves problem solving, measurement, data collection, estimation, probability, and consumer math. Students need to understand the value of math and be able to communicate mathematically in our society. The main focus of this class is to prepare students for future mathematics courses. This class teaches a structural approach to problem solving and provides opportunities for developing reasoning skills and independent thinking with a variety of instructional strategies. The concepts taught provide the knowledge for the practical uses of mathematics in everyday life.

READING – Each of the lessons include a specific skill, vocabulary, comprehension, and fluency instruction. Through the combination of the various components of each lesson, the student will come to realize that comprehension instruction is literally instruction in thinking. There is a large emphasis on building and expanding 6th grade vocabulary. The fluency instruction is geared to increase their reading rate to better prepare them for the many challenges that they will face in the future.

SCIENCE – Sixth grade science is a foundation for advanced science courses. Topics of study include energy, matter, light & sound, ecosystems and microorganisms, using inquiry. The primary focus of this class is to enhance positive attitudes about science, as well as relate classroom science to the science of everyday life. Cooperative learning and hands-on discovery activities are used to encourage independent thinkers who are able to communicate effectively in society.

SOCIAL STUDIES – Sixth grade social studies is designed to make enthusiastic learners for understanding our world today. It centers on the physical, cultural, historical and environmental events that define who we are today. Many ancient civilizations are taught throughout the school year, including the study of Egypt, Mesopotamia and China which provides an opportunity for students to compare and contrast the culture of early river valley civilizations. The sixth grade students also get the chance to study Greece and Rome and how they influenced the government of the United States.

STAT (STUDENT/TEACHER ACADEMIC TIME) – The objectives of this class are to make the student an independent and responsible learner and to give the student a scheduled supervised quiet time to do homework or independent reading. The goals of this class are to improve listening skills, increase motivation, improve organization, review basic skill class materials, memorize and develop test-taking skills. We have also adopted the use of an assignment book which is checked regularly. The student is evaluated in STAT class for bringing and completing his assignment book, for being “on task” during study time, and having necessary materials in class.

EXPLORATORY CLASSES

PHYSICAL EDUCATION (2 quarters) – Physical education is designed to: 1) help the student develop an understanding of the need for physical fitness and exercise; 2) help the student improve fine and gross-motor coordination and eye-hand coordination through basic skills of catching, throwing, kicking, and hitting; 3) help the student develop social skills by stressing good sportsmanship; 4) develop an understanding of how to play different games by teaching the rules and procedures; and 5) help improve physical fitness through vigorous exercise activities.

KEYBOARDING 2 (1 quarter) – This class continues to develop keyboarding skills by employing more advanced levels of difficulty in the Type to Learn program. The program engages the students while providing progress monitoring to allow for individual reteaching and enrichment. Ergonomics are stressed to improve both speed and technique. Desktop publishing, digital photography photo editing, internet research, focusing on website reliability, and Digital Citizenship will be explored. The continued use of Google Apps will also be used.

BAND (all year) – This class will provide beginning instruction on a flute, clarinet, trumpet, trombone, and percussion. Students will be taught to play with a good fundamental tone, to read and count rhythms and to continue to develop their musical notation reading skills. Band is co-curricular course meaning that graded events happen during and after the school day. Concerts are generally presented in October, December, and April. Students may have additional, voluntary performance opportunities. Students are placed on instruments after completing 5th Grade instrumental music. New students are always welcome and will be given an adequate opportunity to explore instruments. Providing an instrument is the responsibility of the parents, however the band staff will gladly serve to advise parents during the rental or purchasing process.

ART (1 quarter) – Students will explore the basic visual arts concepts using a variety of 2-dimensional and 3-dimensional art materials and techniques. Emphasis is on drawing, individual creativity and skills development. Students will be exposed to various cultural themes and artistic styles, as well as experiences in mixed media.

PROJECT LEAD THE WAY (PLTW) Computer Science for Innovators and Makers (1 quarter) – Students will explore computer science concepts and develop their maker skills by creating physical computing devices. They will make their devices interactive by coding micro:bits to incorporate lights, sound, and/or motion.

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES (FACS) (1 quarter) – This course is designed to provide students an exploration of an array of Family and Consumer Science related topics. Students will explore qualities to help them become a good communicator and family member. This course also takes a look at the importance of food and kitchen safety through culinary labs. Other units covered include laundry, household sanitation, personal hygiene, and hand sewing.

VOCAL MUSIC (1 quarter) – Students in sixth grade will learn the basics of vocal music and proper singing techniques. We will listen to a variety of music to learn about the elements of music and different cultures. They will sing a variety of music with one or two voice parts. Students will participate in a variety of activities, games, and projects to learn more about different musicians and musical ideas. They will perform in one graded concert which will be at the end of the quarter they have Vocal Music.

HOUSING & DESIGN (1 quarter for non-band students only) - This course is an introduction to the concepts of housing and design. Students will learn about the history, many styles of housing, and how the elements and principles of design relate to our homes. There will be many opportunities for creativity while learning about the world of design and the careers connected to it. Grades for this course are based on participation and completion of projects.

SPECIAL SERVICE

SPECIAL EDUCATION – Special education teachers provide assistance to students with disabilities including speech who are not succeeding in the regular basic skills classrooms. These students must meet federal and state eligibility requirements prior to receiving services. Depending on individual needs and abilities, a student may be served in a class within a class setting, given resource help in a resource room or taught basic skills classes in a self-contained classroom setting.

COUNSELOR – A counselor provides students the opportunity to experience career planning, knowledge of themselves and others (such as self-concept, peer relations, decision making), educational development (scheduling study skills, etc.) and immediate guidance in special situations. Students have the opportunity to grow through class presentations, discussion in small groups and individual meetings with the counselor.