

**PARSONS MIDDLE SCHOOL ENROLLMENT INFORMATION**  
**AND COURSE DESCRIPTIONS 2020-2021**  
**6TH GRADE**

Listed below are the required and elective classes available to a 6th grader at Parsons Middle School. (Please refer to the course descriptions to help answer any questions you may have concerning a particular course.)

Sixth graders are required to take English Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies, and Physical Education for a full year. Communications is required for 2 consecutive quarters.

6th grade students will be assigned to 6 exploratory classes that meet for 1/4 year. As a result there are no classes to be chosen in 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Students sample each elective to get an idea of which semester long electives they would like to choose as 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders.

If a student chooses Orchestra or Beginning Band, or if they are involved in Reading or Math Support classes, they will lose a semester of PE and/or some of the elective classes.

The number "1" in front of the courses listed below means that this class meets for the full year. The "1/4" means that this class is only one 9 weeks.

**Required Classes**

1 English Language Arts 6  
1 Math 6  
1/2 Communications 6  
1 Social Studies 6  
1 Science 6  
1 Physical Education 6

**Exploratory Classes**

1 Beginning Band  
1 Beginning Orchestra  
1/4-1 Choir 6  
1/4 Exploring Music  
1/4 Keyboarding 6  
1/4 FACS 6  
1/4 Art 6  
1/4 Explorations in Multimedia 6

## REQUIRED COURSES

### English Language Arts 6

All Year

English Language Arts will provide an integrated balance of reading narrative and informational texts to fully comprehend and be able to analyze and evaluate information. The ELA curriculum is digital and print; the students will use their online accounts to read and annotate the stories and answer the questions. Students can log on to their accounts from any location and work on their assignments. The learner will read and participate in various activities in connection with novel studies. The students will use various types of articles and short stories to apply the appropriate reading strategies. The student will participate in various types of book reports to include written summaries, posters, brochures, and powerpoint presentations. The College and Career Readiness Standards will be taught and practiced throughout the year.

### Reading Support 6

All Year

This intervention class provides students additional instruction based on diagnostic testing to raise their achievement level. Placement is based on 5<sup>th</sup> grade state assessment and MAP scores. Class size is limited.

### Communications 6

One Semester

Sixth grade language arts is a course designed to improve the students' writing, spelling, and grammar skills. Students will compose descriptive, informatory, and argumentative paragraphs and write creative stories and essays using correct capitalization, punctuation, and graphic organizers. The learner will incorporate research skills, note taking, and organizational skills to produce a written report.

### Math 6

All Year

Sixth grade math will include a variety of skills based on the Kansas 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Math Standards and Common Core State Standards (College and Career Readiness Standards). Some examples are: ratio and proportion understanding; computation of fractions, decimals and integers; pre-algebra (expressions, equations, inequalities, exponents); geometry (coordinate plane, graphing and surface area and volume of 3D shapes); and data collection and analysis. The teacher will use the Big Ideas Math program and other supplementary materials including manipulatives to encourage understanding of concepts.

### Math Support 6

All Year

This intervention class provides students additional instruction based on diagnostic testing to raise their achievement level. Placement is based on 5<sup>th</sup> grade state assessment, MAP scores, and math letter grade. Class size is limited.

**Science 6**All Year

This course will be a blend of physical science and earth science. We will study energy, force, simple machines, weather, plate tectonics, and much more. We will also perform lab experiments and projects that pertain to the previously mentioned topics.

**Social Studies 6**All Year

Social Studies will include map reading skills, ancient through modern day history, geography, and economics of both the western and eastern world.

**6th Grade Physical Education**All Year

A curriculum called Physical Focus is used to expose students to a variety of activities to keep them healthy and active for a lifetime. This program will teach students through a variety of exciting nontraditional activities such as Rhythm and Dance, Circuit Training, Fitness Games, Frisbee, and also through traditional activities such as Jump Rope, Tumbling, Basketball, Softball, and Volleyball. Gym clothes are required.

**EXPLORATORY COURSES****Beginning Band**All Year

Beginning Band is open to all students. This is a full year elective course. The students will learn the basics of a concert/marching band situation working on different types of music. Students without instruments will need to make arrangements with the instructor or a music store concerning the availability of instruments on a rental basis. Obtaining an instrument is the responsibility of the student, not the instructor. A limited selection of school instruments are available for a fee of \$30.00 per year. The students assume the responsibility for the care of the rented instrument. A beginning band book will need to be purchased. Cost for a book is \$10.

**Beginning Orchestra**All Year

This is a full year elective course. Orchestra is offered to any 6th grader who would like to learn to play violin, viola, cello, bass, bells or marimba. School instruments are available for a fee of \$30.00 per year. The students assume the responsibility for the care of the rented instrument and replacing strings when needed.

**Choir 6**One Quarter up to All Year

In this class, students will learn the fundamental skills required to be in a choir. This class covers note reading, singing on solfege, proper warm-ups, and vocal technique. This class will perform at the quarterly concerts with the 7th and 8th grade choir, as well as Music Company, Viking Concert Choir, and Sweet Melodies. Students have the option of taking this class for one quarter, but can take it as much as all year if they so choose. Beginning Choir will cover a wide range of music including standard choral music, holiday music, and popular music.

**College and Career Readiness 6**One Quarter

The purpose of the College and Career Readiness Elective Class is to give support and instruction to help students succeed in preparing for college. Students learn to take Cornell notes as well as organizational strategies to help them be successful in college.

**Keyboarding 6**One Quarter

Keyboarding 6 is a nine week elective class which introduces the alphabetic keys of the keyboard using the proper hand position. Students will be exposed to the different components of the Microsoft Word program. They will also work on an internet project and learn how to set up a Power Point presentation.

**FACS 6**One Quarter

FACS 6 is an introductory course where students will explore careers, learn about and demonstrate kitchen safety as they prepare simple snacks, and participate in grade-level financial literacy activities.

**Art 6**One Quarter

In this introductory course, students will acquire a basic understanding of art concepts. Skills in drawing and craftsmanship will be developed through the creation of artwork using a variety of media. Students will recognize connections between the visual arts, cultures, and art history.

**Explorations in MultiMedia 6**One Quarter

Creating reports for your classes; Taking notes; Composing music; Taking virtual trips around the world; Researching the web - All will be done in Explorations in MultiMedia by using an iPad. Learn to incorporate this tool into your everyday life, both at school and at home. This hands-on class will allow each student to learn to use an iPad to make their classwork fit with the 21st century.

**Exploring Music**One Quarter

The intent of the course is to provide a worthwhile musical experience for students, regardless of individual skill or talent level. Emphasis is placed on developing an affective and cognitive appreciation as a listener of all genres of music. This course provides instruction in music appreciation, theory, and history. Students will experiment with the different facets of music as they gain musical background. Students will talk about instrument families and composition. Student's will be required to participate in all activities and complete homework when assigned.

**PARSONS MIDDLE SCHOOL ENROLLMENT INFORMATION**  
**AND COURSE DESCRIPTIONS 2020-2021**  
**7<sup>th</sup> GRADE**

Listed below are the required and elective courses available for 7<sup>th</sup> graders. (Please refer to the attached course descriptions to help answer any questions you may have concerning a particular course.)

The number "1" in front of the courses listed below means that this class meets for the full year. The "1/2" means that this class is only one semester or one-half year.

**REQUIRED COURSES**

**ELECTIVE COURSES**

1	Math	1/2	Spanish
1	English Language Arts	1/2	French
1/2	Communications	1/2	FACS 7
1	Science	1/2	Speech and Drama
1	Social Studies	1/2	Explorations in Multimedia
1/2	PE or Fitness	1/2	Art
1/2	Keyboarding	1/2	Advanced Art
		1	Middle School Concert Band
		1	Beginning Band
		1/2 or 1	Concert Choir
		1	Orchestra

**REQUIRED COURSES**

**Math 7**

All Year

Instructional time will focus on four critical areas: (1) developing understanding of and applying proportional relationships; (2) developing understanding of operations with rational numbers and working with expressions and linear equations; (3) solving problems involving scale drawings and informal geometric constructions, and working with two- and three-dimensional shapes to solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume; and (4) drawing inferences about populations based on samples.

**Advanced Math 7**

All Year

Advanced 7<sup>th</sup> grade Math covers all of the 7<sup>th</sup> grade common core state standards listed under the Math 7 course description at a faster pace. The focus is on Pre-algebra skills to make sure students are prepared to be successful in Algebra the next year.

## **English Language Arts 7**

All Year

The English Language Arts program provides an integrated balance of reading narrative and informational texts. Students will become adept at gathering information, evaluating sources, and citing material accurately, reporting findings from their research and analysis of sources in a clear and cogent manner. To be college and career ready writers, students must take task, purpose, and audience into careful consideration, choosing words, information, structures, and formats deliberately. Through an integrated approach within the English Language Arts and Reading courses, skills and strategies will be developed and applied through the common core state standards.

## **Math or Reading Support 7**

All Year

This intervention class will provide an additional period of math or reading (students will also be enrolled in Math 7 and Literary Arts 7) to assist students in achieving grade level requirements. Placement will be determined by their 6<sup>th</sup> grade state assessment and MAP scores. Class size will be limited.

## **Communications 7**

One Semester

Students in the semester-long Communications 7 course will focus on conducting research on a wide range of topics and will improve their abilities to consider what is valid, peer-researched, current, and objective. They will be able to locate, organize, and present their findings informatively as well as argumentatively. That research will be written and published through blogs, discussion boards, and essays, and oral presentations. Students will improve their proofreading abilities so that their presentations are logical, well supported, grammatically correct and aesthetically appealing.

## **Science 7**

All Year

Integrated Science 7 will include the following areas of study: Physical Science, Newton's Laws of Motion, atoms and elements. Life Sciences - cells, cell processes, reproduction, and ecosystems. Earth Sciences – Earth's cycles and processes. The students will use the scientific method of problem solving, metric system measures, and proper lab techniques, such as using lab equipment safely, to conduct scientific investigations.

## **Social Studies 7**

All Year

7th graders will study World Geography and Kansas History. A semester of World Geography and map skills will be introduced during this course and the study of the world's formal regions will also be presented during the class. A semester of Kansas History will also be taught starting at pre-historic times and ending early 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Material will also be presented that will enable the student to better handle concepts that will be assessed by the Kansas Assessment Test that include American History, Kansas History, Economics, and Government/Civics.

## **Physical Education/Health**

One Semester

Students will spend about two-thirds of the time in the Physical Education and one-third in the Health Classroom. Health topics covered are: Growth and Development (adolescence, reproductive systems, and human development), Communicable Diseases (including sexually transmitted diseases and AIDS), Nutrition, Alcohol, and Drugs. P.E. classes will be using the Physical Focus curriculum which teaches students how to be physically active through a variety of exciting nontraditional activities such as Aerobics, Fitness Games, Line and Folk Dancing, Eclipseball, and Badminton; as well as traditional sports such as Jump Rope, Tumbling, Basketball, Softball, Flag Football, Soccer, and Volleyball. Gym clothes are required and should consist of: gym shorts (suggested color is blue), t-shirt (suggested color is white or gray), socks, and tennis shoes.

**Fitness (Advanced PE)****One Semester**

Fitness is a course designed to introduce basic weightlifting concepts. This will include basic lifts and routines involved with weightlifting that can be used to improve muscular strength and muscular endurance. Along with this we will introduce a variety of training designed to improve areas such as aerobic endurance, coordination, foot speed, and agility.

**Keyboarding and Information Processing****One Semester**

During the course, students will use the MicroType 5 tutorial program to learn the keyboard and help develop speed and accuracy. The touch typing technique will be emphasized. Students will then learn how to set up reports, business and personal letters, simplified and standard memos, and outlined documents. Students are also taught how to set tabs, work with columns, and format tables. After taking this class, students will also be familiar with the different components of the Word program.

**ELECTIVE COURSES****Spanish****One Semester**

Spanish is available for students in either 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade. It is an introductory course which will help students acquire basic pronunciation, vocabulary, useful phrases and the ability to understand, read, write and speak simple Spanish. Other relevant information covered will include the geography, culture and customs of Spain and Latin America. The class is a good introduction to Spanish I for students wanting to take Spanish at the high school level.

**French****One Semester**

French is available for students in either 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade. It is an introductory course which will help students read, write, speak and listen for meaning in basic French. There will be an emphasis on the culture and customs of France. The class is a good introduction to French I for students wanting to take French at the high school level.

**FACS 7****One Semester**

FACS 7 is where students study nutrition and how it affects their bodies as they prepare simple meals. We will also be introduced to budgets and savings in the grade-level financial literacy activities. Units on family relationships and child development will also be covered. You do not need to take FACS 6 to be in FACS 7.

**Speech and Drama****One Semester**

Speech/Drama is for the seventh and eighth grade students and lasts one semester. Activities will include interpersonal and group communication, basic verbal communication processes, interpretive reading, expressive use of body and voice, an introduction to creative drama, acting concepts and skills, theater production concepts and skills and an appreciation for theatrical events. This is a participation class

**Explorations in Multimedia****One Semester**

Technology skills are necessary to be successful in the future. Students will get familiar with apps, and complete projects and presentations on the iPad2.

**Art**One Semester

Students will create two-dimensional artworks exploring a variety of media, techniques, and processes. The elements of art and principles of design will be emphasized as students continue to develop drawing and painting skills.

**Advanced Art**One Semester

Students will build on the drawing skills they developed in Art I. Perspective, contour line and realism will be practiced. Pencil, pastels, pen and ink, watercolor, watercolor pencils will be used to create artwork.

**Middle School Concert Band**All Year

This will be a full band situation for 7th & 8th grade students. This is a full year elective course. Students will play both marching and concert band music. Emphasis will be placed on improving the skill and techniques on students chosen instruments. Prior successful band experience is a prerequisite.

**Beginning Band**All Year

Beginning Band is open to all students. This is a full year elective course. The students will learn the basics of a concert/marching band situation working on different types of music. Students without instruments will need to make arrangements with the instructor or a music store concerning the availability of instruments on a rental basis. Obtaining an instrument is the responsibility of the student, not the instructor. A limited selection of school instruments are available for a fee of \$30.00 per year. The students assume the responsibility for the care of the rented instrument. A beginning band book will need to be purchased. Cost for a book is \$10.

**Concert Choir**One Semester or All Year

This performing group works on basic choral skills; understanding the fundamentals of singing, pitch identification and basic rhythm. This group will sing for the community and at festivals. Choreography will be added when applicable. If you love to sing and want to advance your skills – this class is for you, even if you have never been in a choir! The more the merrier! Concert Choir strives for quality performances to represent our school.

**Orchestra**All Year

Knowledge of the third position and use of vibrato are necessary requirements for this course. Individually and as a group, the students will increase their proficiency on their chosen instruments through classroom instruction and several public performances throughout the school year.



**PARSONS MIDDLE SCHOOL ENROLLMENT INFORMATION**  
**AND COURSE DESCRIPTIONS 2020-2021**  
**8TH GRADE**

Listed below are the required and elective courses available 8th graders. (Please refer to the attached course descriptions to help answer any questions you may have concerning a particular course.)

The number "1" in front of the courses listed below means that this class meets for the full year. The "1/2" means that this class is only one semester or one-half year.

**REQUIRED COURSES**

- 1 Math
- 1 English Language Arts
- 1/2 Communications
- 1 Science
- 1 Social Studies
- 1/2 PE or Fitness
- 1/2 Keyboarding (if not in 7<sup>th</sup> grade)

**ELECTIVE COURSES**

- 1/2 Spanish
- 1/2 French
- 1/2 Art
- 1/2 Advanced Art
- 1/2 Career and Life Planning
- 1/2 Speech/Drama
- 1/2 Exp in Digital Media Design & Production
- 1/2 Yearbook
- 1/2 Video and Graphic Production
- 1/2 Introduction to Industrial Technology
- 1/2 Investigations in Industrial Technology
- 1 Middle School Concert Band
- 1 Beginning Band
- 1/2 or 1 Concert Choir
- 1 Orchestra

**REQUIRED COURSES**

**Math 8**

All Year

Instructional time will focus on three critical areas: (1) formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations, including modeling an association in bivariate data with a linear equation, and solving linear equations and systems of linear equations; (2) grasping the concept of a function and using functions to describe quantitative relationships; (3) analyzing two- and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence, and understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem.

**Algebra** (8th Grade)

All Year

Algebra will be an advanced eighth grade mathematics course. Students will be selected for placement based on the required criteria. This is a course designed to align our curriculum with the state of Kansas Math Standards and to challenge high achieving students. Students will receive High School math credit for this course.

**English Language Arts 8**All Year

This course provides an integrated balance of reading narrative and informational texts. Students will also focus on writing, speaking and listening, and language skills. The College and Career Ready Standards will be developed and applied through skills and strategies.

**Math or Reading Support 8**All Year

This support class provides an additional period of math or reading (students will also be enrolled in Math 8 and English Language Arts 8) to assist in achieving grade level requirements. Placement will be determined by 7<sup>th</sup> grade state assessment and MAP scores. Class size will be limited.

**Communications 8**One Semester

Students in the semester-long Communications 8 course will focus on conducting research on a wide range of topics and will improve their abilities to consider what is valid, peer-researched, current, and objective. They will be able to locate, organize, and present their findings informatively as well as argumentatively. That research will be written and published through essays and oral presentations. Students will improve their proofreading abilities so that their presentations are logical, well supported, and grammatically correct.

**Science 8**All Year

Integrated Science 8 will include the following areas of study: Physical Science - atoms and the periodic table. Earth Sciences - the theory of Plate Tectonics, Earth's geologic history, the Earth, Moon, and Sun relationship, and stellar evolution. The students will implement Science as Inquiry skills through the use of the scientific method of problem solving, metric system measures, and proper lab techniques to conduct scientific investigations throughout the year.

**Advanced Science 8**All Year

Advanced Science 8 covers all of the 8th grade common core state standards listed under the Science 8 course description at a faster pace. The focus is to make sure students are prepared to be successful in Honors General Science the next year.

**Social Studies 8**All Year

This course will concentrate on American History from 1877-Present. The geography and history of our nation will be investigated to observe and understand the growth and development of our nation. Additional Geography and Civics will be provided throughout the course.

**Physical Education/Health**One Semester

Students will spend about two-thirds of the time in the Physical Education and one-third in the Health Classroom. Health topics covered are: Growth and Development (adolescence, reproductive systems, and human development), Communicable Diseases (including sexually transmitted diseases and AIDS), Nutrition, Alcohol, and Drugs. P.E. classes will be using the Physical Focus curriculum which teaches students how to be physically active through a variety of exciting nontraditional activities such as Aerobics, Fitness Games, Line and Folk Dancing, Eclipseball, and Badminton; as well as traditional sports such as Jump Rope, Tumbling, Basketball, Softball, Flag Football, Soccer, and Volleyball. Gym clothes are required and should consist of: gym shorts (suggested color is blue), t-shirt (suggested color is white or gray), socks, and tennis shoes.

**Fitness**One Semester

Fitness is a course designed to introduce basic weightlifting concepts. This will include basic lifts and routines involved with weightlifting that can be used to improve muscular strength and muscular endurance. Along with this we will introduce a variety of training designed to improve areas such as aerobic endurance, coordination, foot speed, and agility.

**Keyboarding and Information Processing**One Semester

During the course, students will use the MicroType 5 tutorial program to learn the keyboard and help develop speed and accuracy. The touch typing technique will be emphasized. Students will then learn how to set up and reports, business and personal letters, simplified and standard memos, and outlined documents. Students are also taught how to set tabs, work with columns, and format tables. After taking this class, students will also be familiar with the different components of the Word program.

**ELECTIVE COURSES****Spanish**One Semester

Spanish is available for students in either 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade. It is an introductory course which will help students acquire basic pronunciation, vocabulary, useful phrases and the ability to understand, read, write and speak simple Spanish. Other relevant information covered will include the geography, culture and customs of Spain and Latin America. The class is a good introduction to Spanish I for students wanting to take Spanish at the high school level.

**French**One Semester

French is available for students in either 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade. It is an introductory course which will help students read, write, speak and listen for meaning in basic French. There will be an emphasis on the culture and customs of France. The class is a good introduction to French I for students wanting to take French at the high school level.

**Art**One Semester

Students will create two-dimensional artworks exploring a variety of media, techniques, and processes. The elements of art and principles of design will be emphasized as students continue to develop drawing and painting skills.

**Advanced Art**One Semester

Students will build on the drawing skills they developed in Art I. Perspective, contour line and realism will be practiced. Pencil, pastels, pen and ink, watercolor, watercolor pencils will be used to create artwork.

### **Career and Life Planning**

One Semester

Career and Life Planning is a FACS class that helps students learn about themselves, their skills, their strengths and weaknesses, and their potential fit for a particular career. Here students learn about the importance of careers, and also learn the basic steps and techniques for preparing for and having a successful career and balanced life.

### **Speech/Drama**

One Semester

Speech/Drama is for the seventh and eighth grade students and lasts one semester. Activities will include interpersonal and group communication, basic verbal communication processes, interpretive reading, expressive use of body and voice, an introduction to creative drama, acting concepts and skills, theater production concepts and skills and an appreciation for theatrical events. This is a participation class

### **Explorations in Digital Media Design and Production**

One Semester

Technology skills are necessary to be successful in the future. Students will get familiar with apps, and complete projects and presentations on the iPad2.

### **Yearbook**

One Semester

The prerequisite for this class is completion of the Keyboarding and Information Processing class with a grade of an A or B. Students enrolled in this class will continue using Microsoft Word to format more detailed assignments. Each semester will produce two school newspapers and work on the school yearbook.

### **Video & Graphics Production**

In this class we will learn photography basics, website design, design and create posters for athletics, and create a weekly school announcement video production.

### **Computer Applications I**

One Semester

Students will study how a computer is used in business, school, and everyday life. Basic knowledge of the Windows operating system will be taught. Students will develop their skills in word processing, database management, spreadsheets, graphics and desktop publishing using Microsoft Word and Excel which are components of the software package Microsoft Office. This course will prepare students to use computers in college and give them important job qualifications. In addition, workplace skills will be emphasized including the ability to set priorities, meet deadlines, proofread, file correctly, and manage time.

### **Intro to Industrial Technology 8**

One Semester

Intro to Industrial Technology is an introductory course for the construction, manufacturing, and transportation vocational pathways at the high school level. The course will utilize curriculum developed by the National Center for Construction Education and Research, (NCCER). Students who complete this course will have the opportunity to earn an industry recognized credential in the construction trades. Successful completion of the unit assessments and performance tasks will qualify students for a core curriculum credential card from NCCER. Students that choose to take classes at the high school in the construction pathway will have an opportunity to add further credentials through NCCER. Some course highlights will be small wood projects, CO2 powered dragsters, and assembly of a small engine.

### **Investigations in Industrial Technology 8**

One Semester

This course prepares students to understand and use technology concepts and processes. Students will build projects, develop innovations, and engineer practical solutions to real world problems. A wide variety of technology equipment including: digital graphic software, wood and metal fabrication equipment, engineering software, and many others will be experienced. The focus of the class is on "Technological Literacy".

### **Middle School Concert Band**

All Year

This will be a full band situation for 7th & 8th grade students. This is a full year elective course. Students will play both marching and concert band music. Emphasis will be placed on improving the skill and techniques on students chosen instruments. Prior successful band experience is a prerequisite.

### **Beginning Band**

All Year

Beginning Band is open to all students. This is a full year elective course. The students will learn the basics of a concert/marching band situation working on different types of music. Students without instruments will need to make arrangements with the instructor or a music store concerning the availability of instruments on a rental basis. Obtaining an instrument is the responsibility of the student, not the instructor. A limited selection of school instruments are available for a fee of \$30.00 per year. The students assume the responsibility for the care of the rented instrument. A beginning band book will need to be purchased. Cost for a book is \$10.

### **Concert Choir**

One Semester or All Year

This performing group works on basic choral skills; understanding the fundamentals of singing, pitch identification and basic rhythm. This group will sing for the community and at festivals. Choreography will be added when applicable. If you love to sing and want to advance your skills – this class is for you, even if you have never been in a choir! The more the merrier! Concert Choir strives for quality performances to represent our school.

### **Orchestra**

All Year

Knowledge of the third position and use of vibrato are necessary requirements for this course. Individually and as a group, the students will increase their proficiency on their chosen instruments through classroom instruction and several public performances throughout the school year.