

Warren Woods Middle School

2024-2025 Course Guide

SIXTH GRADE

Core Academic Classes

LANGUAGE ARTS (Full Year) Mandatory

In this course written and verbal communication skills are covered. The writing process is used to develop competency in written communication. Sentence structure, parts of speech, spelling, and vocabulary are taught to foster fluency in writing. Oral communication is also emphasized. Emphasis is placed on the strategies to become better readers. The students read both fiction and nonfiction of varying lengths. Essential reading skills and strategies are taught within the context of the selections.

SOCIAL STUDIES (Full Year) Mandatory

The focus is on the study of the countries of the Western Hemisphere including Latin America, United States and Canada, Europe and Russia may also be studied. Students are involved in research projects, which help them to understand the increasing importance of interdependence among countries in a global society.

MATHEMATICS (Full Year) Mandatory

Emphasis is placed on a brief review of the four processes: addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. Knowledge of decimals, percentages, metrics, fractions, ratios/proportions, geometry, and probability are extended. Problem-solving techniques are stressed. Algebraic operations are also applied.

ADVANCED MATH (Full Year) By Recommendation

6th Grade Advanced Math is a faster paced math class combining both 6th grade and 7th grade math content standards. Topics covered include fraction and decimal operations, integers and rational numbers, ratios, rates and proportions, linear relationships, statistics and data analysis, and geometry. Students must meet certain criteria to be considered for this class. Criteria includes student Spring NWEA scores, MSTEP scores, and recommendation by their 5th grade teacher.

SCIENCE (Full Year) Mandatory

This course introduces and builds knowledge about the scientific concepts of: matter, solid earth, energy, scientific measurement, ecosystems, human interaction with the environment, cell theory, heredity and classification of organisms.

CORE ENRICHMENT ROTATION

ELA ENRICHMENT (10 weeks) Mandatory

This course is used to reinforce and strengthen students' ELA skills. Using Daily Language Review students practice language skills covering punctuation, verb tense, conjunctions, word meanings, and more.

MATH ENRICHMENT (10 weeks) Mandatory

This course focuses on weekly review topics to help build fluency with key math skills. Topics include fraction operations, graphing, and a spiral of 6th grade math skills. Students also complete three different math projects related to number sense, problem solving, and data analysis.

SCIENCE ENRICHMENT (10 weeks) Mandatory

Students will participate in enrichment activities focusing on helping student decipher Science Informational text particularly analyzing data, summarization and vocabulary.

21 THINGS FOR STUDENTS (10 weeks) Mandatory

This course helps students improve their technology proficiency as they prepare for success in the real world. Focus areas include helping students build information literacy and digital citizenship skills and become knowledgeable about internet safety.

ADVISORY (Full Year) Mandatory

Using Character Strong, a research based social and emotional learning curriculum focused on foster the Whole Child, this course provides students with vertically-aligned lessons that teach SEL and character, side-by-side. The goal of Advisory is to establish a strong foundation of social & emotional skills among students by teaching healthy habit development, social awareness strategies, empathy building techniques, and more.

Elective Class Options

Students select either the exploratory rotation or band:

EXPLORATORY ROTATION

EXPLORING FINE ARTS (10 weeks)

The course will provide a basic overview of various types of art media. Emphasis will be placed on learning the elements and principles of design and how they influence the success of a work of art. The four disciplines of art, which include art criticism, art history, art aesthetics, and art production, will also be discussed.

WORLD CULTURES (10 weeks)

In World Cultures, students dive into various cultures, their customs, the language and food. Students learn popular expressions, sample authentic food and view artifacts and video clips of real cultural activities. Students learn about important holidays, traditions and festivals around the world. Basic Spanish and French language is explored.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION (20 weeks)

Emphasis is placed on games and activities used to develop self-confidence, team work, and sportsmanship. These activities are large group sport activities. A battery of tests, recommended by the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Fitness for Youth, is administered.

BAND

BEGINNING BAND (Full Year)

In this yearlong course, sixth graders have the opportunity to explore traditional band instruments. The acquisition of instruments is discussed in the fall. The classes are offered in two sections. The band teacher will place students in the appropriate section.

BRASS AND PERCUSSION

Beginning brass instruments are the trumpet and the trombone. In the second semester, students who show interest and aptitude can transfer to the French horn, baritone, or tuba. Percussion students study techniques using a percussion kit with a practice pad and bells. Beginning band students perform four concerts during the school year.

WOODWINDS

Beginning instruments in the woodwind family are the flute and clarinet. During the second semester, students can transfer to bass clarinet, alto sax, tenor sax, oboe, or bassoon. Beginning band students perform four concerts during the school year.

SEVENTH GRADE

Core Academic Courses

LANGUAGE ARTS (FULL YEAR) Mandatory

The basics of writing are stressed to foster effective communication skills. Grammar, usage, and mechanics are applied to the writing process. Spelling and vocabulary development provide increased writing competency. Literature also exposes students to the insights and ideas of authors from diverse cultures and ethnic backgrounds.

SOCIAL STUDIES (FULL YEAR) Mandatory

Throughout the year students will study various regions in the Eastern Hemisphere: Africa, Middle East, Asia, and the Pacific Nations. As students consider each of these regions, they will analyze information and construct knowledge about the physical landscape, ancient civilizations, history, economy, government, and culture of each of these locations and apply their knowledge in both discussions and coursework. Students will also study major world religions, the five themes of geography, and the analysis of geographic data.

MATHEMATICS I (FULL YEAR) Mandatory

Students will study basic topics in mathematics such as geometry, statistics, fractions, decimals, and percentages while also applying algebraic skills in each of these areas. Additional topics include inequalities, linear equations, and polynomials.

ADVANCED MATH (FULL YEAR) By Recommendation

This is an advanced math course. Students must be recommended for this course by their 6th grade math teacher as well as pass an entrance exam and meet a set minimum score on their Spring NWEA. The students will study first-degree equations, verbal problems, polynomial operations, factoring, fractional expressions, and quadratics.

SCIENCE (FULL YEAR) Mandatory

Students will examine energy transformations by participating in hands-on explorations dealing with sound and light. Investigations into the chemical properties of matter and the periodic table will be introduced. Explorations into cells, heredity and plant life will also occur.

ADVISORY (FULL YEAR) Mandatory

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Year-Long Elective Classes

CADET BAND (FULL YEAR)

Seventh grade students meet in a combined band class. Work continues on scales, theory, and expansion of range, tone production, and musical expression. The students prepare for the M.S.B.O.A. Solo and Ensemble Festival, Band Festival, Elementary School tour, four concerts and the Memorial Day Parade.

SPANISH I (FULL YEAR)

Spanish I is a **HIGH SCHOOL LEVEL COURSE**. In this class students will learn about the Spanish language and culture. Students will learn to write, read and speak in Spanish. Students will be able to continue their study of the language and culture in eighth grade and high school. With successful completion of this course, including a passing score on a proficiency exam given at the end of the school year, students may earn one world language credit needed for high school graduation.

Quarter Elective Classes

2D/3D ART (10 WEEKS)

Students will explore different art materials and techniques while creating two-dimensional and three-dimensional art project. Hands-on activities will provide students an opportunity to practice creative and critical problem-solving.

GAME OF LIFE (10 WEEKS)

Students will focus on developing life skills through the teaching of functional academics and daily living skills. Students practice and learn about strategies for healthy living including emotional regulation and awareness, relaxation, nutrition, exercise science.

MYTH BUSTERS (10 WEEKS)

Students will engage in scientific inquiry and experimentation. Students will learn how to design and test experiments as well as generate solutions to scientific problems.

PERSONAL FITNESS/ SPORT AND GAMES (10 WEEKS)

This class will focus on the development of individual physical fitness through the use of the fitness center and a variety of indoor and outdoor team and individual sport activities. A battery of tests, recommended by the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Fitness for Youth, is administered.

SIMPLE MACHINES AND MECHANISMS (10 WEEKS)

In this class, you will have the opportunity to work as young scientists, engineers, and designers using Lego materials. Through real world investigations, you will make assumptions and predictions about how simple machines hidden in everyday machines and structures works and test your ideas. This course will encourage creativity and problem-solving skills.

SPEAK YOUR MIND (10 WEEKS)

This is an introductory course in public speaking. Students in this course will be participating in a wide variety of speaking opportunities, including round-table discussions, small group demonstration and whole group speeches. The focus of this course will be to develop and improve public speaking, argumentative and critical thinking skills in communication settings. Techniques will be taught to control speech anxiety, help improve confidence, and structure and organize information to present to a variety of audiences.

WHO'S THE BOSS (10 WEEKS)

Students will experience job-like situations where weekly they will complete tasks working on using spreadsheets, video production, game design and verbal presentation skills.

WORLD MARKETS & MEDIA (10 WEEKS)

In this course students will immerse themselves learning about economics and current events through the use of hands- on learning experiences and projects. Students will make personal connections to social studies and the wonders of the world, past and present.

YOU AND YOUR FUTURE (10 WEEKS)

This class uses a research-based curriculum to provide students with tools and life skills to be successful now and in the future. Activity based lessons provide students with the opportunity to learn skills that will teach them to communicate more effectively and make informed decisions. Students will also learn skills needed to set and achieve goals, resolve conflicts, solve problems, and respect one another.

YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS (10 WEEKS)

Students draw on their own passions and concerns to create a new business, and then are guided through some of the major decisions entrepreneurs face in starting their own company. This class culminates in a "Shark Tank" inspired presentation to potential investors.

EIGHTH GRADE

Core Academic Classes

LANGUAGE ARTS (FULL YEAR) Mandatory

This curriculum uses the various aspects of language. Reading, speaking, listening, grammar, usage, and mechanics are taught through different writing techniques. Spelling and vocabulary development are integrated to provide clarity of ideas. Literature is included as a model for writing styles, as well as reading enrichment.

SOCIAL STUDIES (FULL YEAR) Mandatory

This course teaches students about the birth and growth of our nation and the significant events that shaped our history from the Revolution Era through the year 1898. The study of American history is completed in tenth grade.

MATHEMATICS II (FULL YEAR) Mandatory

Topics covered in this course include linear and quadratic equations, inequalities, polynomial operations, data analysis, and systems of equations, factoring, rational expressions, and problem solving.

ALGEBRA I (FULL YEAR) BY RECOMMENDATION

This is an advanced math course that is offered for high school credit. Students must be recommended for this course by their 7th grade math teacher as well as pass an entrance exam and/or meet a set minimum score on their Spring NWEA. The students will study first-degree equations, verbal problems, polynomial operations, factoring, fractional expressions, and quadratics.

SCIENCE (FULL YEAR) Mandatory

Students will engage in investigation about the history of the Earth, Earth's Systems and how they interact. The class will learn about weather patterns and catastrophic events. During the second half of the year, students will examine solar system motion and explain patterns among planets, moon, sun, and other celestial bodies.

ADVISORY (FULL YEAR) Mandatory

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Year-Long Elective Classes

SYMPHONIC BAND (FULL YEAR)

Eighth grade students continue to work on expanding their musical ability and knowledge. Performance opportunities are the same mentioned for the Cadet Band. The Concert Band has traditionally gone on an overnight trip to destinations such as Lansing or Mackinac Island.

SPANISH II (FULL YEAR)

This course is for students who took Spanish I in the seventh grade and have passed the proficiency exam. Students will continue their study of the Spanish language and culture. Students will have the opportunity to take a proficiency exam and earn a second world language credit. Students must have the teacher's approval and signature to sign up for this course.

Quarter Elective Classes

ALL AROUND ART (10 WEEKS)

Students will study the elements of art and principles of design, which are the building blocks the all art is made of. Students will learn about the lives, inspirations and artistic qualities of famous artists throughout history. This course allows students to develop their creative ideas and interests with more involved and complex projects that involve a variety of materials.

AMERICAN POP CULTURE (10 WEEKS)

Students will be able to explain different aspects of American pop culture and compare them to different generations in American history. We will consider how these things have changed over the course of time and how they connect to the history of our country.

FILM CRITIC (10 WEEKS)

Focusing on various '80s and '90s films, students write well-thought-out opinion-based movie reviews using their class notes and movie analysis materials. Genres are as follows, but not limited to, Disney animated, sports, romantic comedy, adventure, fantasy, and comedy.

MATH LAB (10 WEEKS)

Math Lab is available for all 8th graders to provide extra exposure to math concepts outside the traditional Math 8/Algebra I classroom. Students will continue to build upon their current math skills and practice applying those skills in real world situations.

NEWS MEDIA (10 WEEKS)

Students participate in all steps involved in publishing a school yearbook and newspaper. Students learn the basic elements of yearbook creation including: writing articles, layout, design, copyrighting, editing and photography. The publication is created using computer software and is published for student distribution. This course will also focus on informational writing for journalism purposes. Students will learn the processes needed in planning and presenting informative news stories

PAST PRESENT AND FUTURE MEMORIES (10 WEEKS)

Students will dive into memory, how we remember, why we forget and reflect on their own memories. Class projects include scrapbooks, collages, time capsules, reflecting on their own experiences as inspiration for their projects.

PERSONAL FITNESS/TEAM SPORTS AND GAMES (10 WEEKS)

This class will focus on the development of individual physical fitness through the use of the fitness center and a variety of indoor and outdoor team sport activities. A battery of tests, recommended by the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Fitness for Youth, are administered.

ROBOTICS (10 WEEKS)

In this "Hands On" class, students will be using the Lego Mindstorms EV3 Kit. This introductory course will have student build robot models and program the robots. Several different robots will be constructed throughout the course along with different programming challenges.

SOCIAL JUSTICE (10 WEEKS)

In Social Justice we explore three specific topics that have shaped our world and that are currently changing the landscape of our world. Topics include: racism, gender, LGBTQ+ issues, immigration, homelessness, gun rights and gun violence, social class, and the role of media on society. We dive into each of the topics to understand their historical relevance as well as their impact on current events. In this class you will get a better understanding of the world around you and a better understanding of the world you will one day inherit

YOU BE THE JUDGE (10 WEEKS)

Students will participate in meaningful civic learning, from how the court system works to voting rights, as well as what character traits and judgement abilities are needed for a person to be a meaningful part of civic society.