6th Grade Electives

Course Title and Description

**Math Lab:** A trimester elective designed to align with state and district standards for math. Students who are enrolled in CC6, CC7 or CC8 are eligible for this elective based on previous state test scores, grades, and teacher recommendation. This class supports development of concepts for current math classes as well as work on concepts from previous classes. Class size is limited. This is a trimester elective, but students have the option of staying in Math Lab for the entire year.

**Beginning Band:** Students learn new instruments in a group setting starting with flute, clarinet, trumpet and trombone with opportunities to switch to sax, percussion, double reeds and specialty instruments mid-year. Students are responsible for instrument, two books (CD or tape available) and binder. Home practice required. Activities include home concerts, assemblies, league solo/ensemble contest and league band festival.

**Int/Adv Band:** Int/Adv Band is for students that have already completed Beginning Band. Students are responsible for an instrument, two books (CD or tape available) and binder. Home practice is required. Activities include home concerts, assemblies and league solo/ensemble contest, league band festival. Primarily 7th and 8th grade students.

**Chorus:** Treble Chorus is a performance based class for students who enjoy singing and learning a variety of music together. Students in the Treble Chorus will learn “new” vocal techniques to help improve their singing and some music theory and history. Students will have the opportunity to perform at concerts, assemblies, festivals, and community events. Our chorus members will also have the opportunity to participate in league festivals where they will have the option to sing solos and/or participate in small groups.

**6th, 7th, and 8th Grade Boys Chorus:** Boys Chorus is a performance based class designed especially for boys who enjoy singing and learning a variety of music together. Although we do sing songs as a boys group only, we also combine with the girls in the advanced chorus for concerts and festivals. Being part of this group will allow the boys to learn specific techniques to help them improve their singing skills and we will learn some theory and history. The Boys Chorus will have opportunity to perform at concerts, assemblies, festivals, and community events. They will also have the opportunity to participate in league festivals where they will have the option to sing solos and/or participate in small groups.

**Orchestra:** Orchestra is a performing class for students wishing to play Violin, Viola, Cello or Bass. Some students begin in the fifth grade orchestra, but you may begin this class as a sixth grader. No experience is necessary. You will get through all the curriculum of Book 1 and most of Book 2 in the year as well as repertoire graded 1-2. Many students play piano as well as a string instrument. Students wishing to “only” play piano and learn how to accompany the orchestra need to have a minimum of 2 years private lessons, sight-read well and comfortably play multiple notes in both hands. I can have 1-2 in each class. Students will have the opportunity to play in large and small groups, learn some history, theory, and work on arranging and composing on their instrument. Please note on your elective sheet the instrument you would like to play and if you have previous experience (5th grade orchestra or years of private lessons on an orchestra instrument). If you are an advanced player (2+ years) you can be place in the 7th grade class with permission from Mrs. Vail.

**Adv. Orchestra:** Advanced Orchestra is a performing class for 7th and 8th graders and is usually split by grade level. 6th graders may enroll with teacher permission. Students wishing to “only” play piano and learn how to accompany the orchestra need to have a minimum of 2 years private lessons, sight-read well and comfortably play multiple notes in both hands. I can have 1-2 in each class. Students will apply all the things learned in 6th grade orchestra and expand on them (keys, rhythms, bowing styles, styles of music, advanced vibrato, music graded 1.5-4). Students will have the opportunity to play in large and small groups, learn some history, theory, and work on arranging and composing on their instrument. We will take fun trips to the Washington State Fair (Puyallup), other performances outside school in Bellevue or Seattle, and the Eastshore League festivals.
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**Directed Exploratory:** Students will take one trimester of Visual Arts and one trimester of Industrial Arts plus one additional trimester of PE.

**Visual Arts Exploratory:** This exploratory will be an overview of the art classes currently being offered to 7th and 8th grade students. The exploratory will be broken into 3-4 week units of sculpture, painting/drawing and crafts. Lab fee.

**Industrial Arts Exploratory:** This exploratory will be an overview of the industrial arts classes currently being offered to 7th and 8th grade students. This exploratory will include units of drafting, metals and woods. Lab fee.

**Leadership – 6th Grade Senator:** As a sixth grader at Beaver Lake Middle School, you have the opportunity to serve in an appointed student Leadership position. The position is called Sixth Grade Senator. Students will be selected from each school to serve as a 6th grade Senator. All students have the opportunity to apply. Senators will be placed in the year-long Leadership class elective. This will replace the elective that you have already signed up for. Watch for more information in the Spring.