

ACADEMIC COURSES:

Language Arts 6th (Standard)

The ELA curriculum in grade 6 is a standards-based mix of literature and non-fiction and of creative endeavors and text-based analysis. There is a strong focus on helping students analyze text to find meaning, since their success in both reading and writing is dependent on it. We reinforce reading skills through a variety of texts that students will need to understand for their futures, academic and beyond. We move beyond the textbook and into real life by analyzing stories, movie clips, poetry, music, and images, both still and animated. Students build their writing skills through essay writing (informative and argumentative), evidence-based responses, poetry practice, journal entries, and creative prompts. In addition, students practice oral communication skills through formal and informal speeches and class presentations. We also practice necessary skills including grammar, spelling, and vocabulary.

Language Arts 6th (Advanced)

The ELA advanced curriculum in grade 6 is recommended for students who read at grade level or higher. The pace is faster and the content is more rigorous than a regular ELA class and is not for remediation. ELA is a standards-based mix of literature and non-fiction and of creative endeavors and text-based analysis. There is a strong focus on helping students analyze text to find meaning, since their success in both reading and writing is dependent on it. We reinforce reading skills through a variety of high-level texts that students will need to understand for their futures – high school honors, college, and beyond. We move beyond the textbook and into real life by analyzing stories, movie clips, poetry, music, and images, both still and animated. Students build their writing skills through essay writing (informative and argumentative), evidence-based responses, poetry practice, journal entries, and creative prompts. In addition, students practice oral communication skills through formal and informal speeches and class presentations. We also practice practical skills including grammar, spelling, and vocabulary.

Math 1 (Standard)

Students will:

- Develop an understanding of and fluency with multiplication and division of fractions and decimals, ratios, rates, estimation, equivalent forms for decimals, fractions and percentages.
- Write, solve and graph one and two step equations and inequalities as well as use tables, graphs and equations to describe linear equations.
- Explore the measurements of composite two-dimensional figures and volumes of rectangular prisms.
- Determine and use measures of central tendency and variability to analyze data sets.

6TH GRADE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Math 1 (Advanced)

Students will:

- Develop an understanding of and apply proportionality to solve problems involving percentages.
- Apply formulas to determine surface areas and volumes of three-dimensional shapes including pyramids, prisms, cylinders and cones.
- Develop an understanding of operations involving integers and other rational numbers, as well as solving linear equations.
- Identify and plot ordered pairs in all four quadrants of the coordinate plane.

GEMS Pre-requisite: (PRIMES)

This rigorous course combines content from 6th, 7th and 8th grades in order to prepare students to be successful in Algebra I Honors in 7th grade. **Note: Students are required to complete an online virtual bridges course that coincides with the normal school day class.**

Comprehensive Science 1 (Standard and Advanced)

A comprehensive science course that has been designed to support understanding through big ideas in science. Based on the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards for Science, this course will allow students to learn content across six interconnected units that will build throughout middle school. The major concepts covered: *Atoms and Molecules, Classification of Organisms, Ecosystems, Plate Tectonics, The Geosphere and Cryosphere, and Our Solar System*. The class will be supported by digital content as well as hands-on, cooperative, and literacy based activities. Students in Advanced & Gifted classes will be provided opportunities to dive deeper into the content and to make even more connections across science and with other disciplines. Students will maintain an academic notebook throughout the course.

World History (Standard and Advanced)

This sixth grade social studies course pertains to the world's earliest civilizations to the ancient and classical civilizations of Africa, Asia, and Europe. Students will be exposed to the multiple dynamics of world history including economics, geography, politics, and religion/philosophy. Students will study methods of historical inquiry and primary and secondary historical documents.

6TH GRADE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

ELECTIVE COURSES (YEAR LONG):

Beginning Band - Band 1 (Year Long)

No previous musical experience is required. Students will learn the basics of instrument fundamental, reading music and rhythmic notation, and independent musical performance. Students will have an opportunity to participate in various musical performances throughout the year. Instruments taught in Band are flute, oboe, bassoon, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, French horn, trombone, baritone, tuba and orchestral percussion. **Performances are an integral part of the curriculum.**

Chorus 1 (Year Long)

Students with little or no choral experience develop beginning vocal technique skills, music reading and notation skills, critical and creative thinking skills, and an appreciation of music from around the world and through various periods of time. Performances will serve as a culmination of specific instructional goals. **Students will be required to participate in the 3 major performances outside the school day to support, extend, and assess learning in the classroom.**

Experimental Science (Year Long)

Experimental Science is a research class that focuses on *experimental research* during Semester 1, culminating in a science project, and *investigative research* during Semester 2, focusing on both Rube Goldberg machines and other investigative scientific avenues, culminating in a final project. **Participation in the school and district Science Fair is a required part of the coursework.**

Musical Theatre 1 (Year Long)

Students with little or no experience will develop basic acting, basic vocal performance, basic dance/movement, non-dance movement, and staging, which transfer readily to musical theatre literature. Performances will serve as a culmination of specific instructional goals. **Students will be required to participate in rehearsals and performances outside the school day to support, extend, and assess learning in the classroom.**

Physical Education – PE (Year Long)

The purpose of this course is to provide a foundation of knowledge, skills, and values necessary for the development of a physically active lifestyle. The course content provides exposure to a variety of movement opportunities and experiences, which includes, but is not limited to: Fitness Activities, Educational Gymnastics and Dance, and Team Sports. The integration of fitness concepts throughout the content is critical to student success in this course and in the development of a healthy and physically active lifestyle.

6TH GRADE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

ELECTIVE COURSES (SEMESTER):

Art 2D / 3D (Semester)

Art 2D/3D is designed to develop confidence and facility in foundational artistic skills, regardless of the students' previous training or artistic ability. Students refine techniques used to create a variety of two-dimensional and three-dimensional artworks through developing skills in drawing and painting, while also using various techniques and mediums to create 3D artwork. Composition, technique, the elements and principles of design, and attention to detail are explored. The student artists develop perceptual, creative, technical and problem-solving skills as they design and produce works of art with personal expression.

Business Keyboarding (Semester)

This is a half year (1 semester) virtual course offered through Seminole County Virtual School. Using a special online library of software, you will gain typing speed while learning the proper technique to become a keyboarding master. You will also learn business skills to prepare for your future career.

iJourney (Semester) *Required *

“There is no greater journey than the one that you must take to discover all of the mysteries that lie within you” (Michelle Sandlin). This is your chance to have the choice and freedom you've ALWAYS dreamed of to go wherever you want in life! On this journey you will get to explore yourself (hence the title "i" Journey), get to know your interests, and figure out where it is you want to go both in school and in life! You will discover the many educational pathways offered in Seminole County Public Schools that lead to careers and make a plan for your prosperous future. **This course provides an opportunity to earn one digital tool certificate.** *This course is part of the 'iSeries'.* *See note below for more information.*

iSeries Courses

The Student Progression Plan requires **iJourney** (semester course) **and** either **iConnect** (high school credit, semester course) **or** **iChallenge** (yearlong course).

Rock Lake Middle School presents the **Raider Triple Crown Challenge**: Over the course of your middle school career, take **iJourney**, **iConnect**, & **iChallenge** and

- Earn an overall A, B or C grade for each course
- Take and pass the certification exams in all three courses

Meeting the **Raider Triple Crown Challenge** will earn distinction at the eighth grade awards assembly and honor on the future Raider Triple Crown Challenge Wall of Fame.

6TH GRADE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Introduction to Programming and Gaming (Semester)

In this hands-on course, students will apply the basic principles and processes of game design and object oriented programming to the development of their own games. Throughout this process, we will incorporate several game design programs to help students learn by playing. We will prepare for an industry respected certification test – **ICT Gaming Essentials**.

Pre-Robotics (Semester)

This is a science-based elective that investigates key aspects of the STEM program to include Robotics, Nanotechnology, Genetics, and other topics.

Speech & Debate (Semester)

The goal of this course is for students to be able to organize and effectively deliver speeches that entertain, inform and persuade and are supported with evidence from text and research.

T.V. PRODUCTION 1 (Semester)

Students learn basic skills and techniques for shooting and editing video in this semester-long course. The quarter project at the end of the first nine weeks is a performance assessment of those skills. The second quarter begins with a unit on studio production. Students will learn the roles and duties of every position in the television studio. The rest of the semester will focus on script writing and creating storyboards for commercials and short films. Students will be able to choose one of those formats as their final project at the end of the semester.

T.V. PRODUCTION 2 (Semester)

Students must have completed Intro to T.V. Production 1 in order to be enrolled in this semester-long course. Students will expand on the shooting and editing skills and techniques learned in T.V. Production 1 with more challenging assignments and projects that give closer attention to technical detail. The second half of the semester will focus on basic journalism concepts involved in producing studio productions and news stories. Student work will contribute to the broadcast of the morning announcements.

ePathways - Classes offered through Seminole County Virtual School

Seminole County Schools recognize that today's students learn using multiple methods, at different rates, and on different schedules. Our schools now offer the flexibility to accommodate today's students and families through a variety of educational pathways.

Full-time and part-time virtual coursework is available to students in grade six through twelve. These programs offer a wide-range of acceleration opportunities," as well as credit recovery and remediation, through blended schedules that permit students to take some face-to-face courses and some virtual courses, depending on each student's most optimal learning situation. With ePathways, students can choose the learning pathway that best suits their learning style, personal interests, and academic strengths. Students have a variety of course options, both core and elective, that can be taken in a modern classroom setting or in a virtual environment.

Please visit the Seminole County Virtual School website for more information and course descriptions:

<http://virtualschool.scps.k12.fl.us/>