Southwest Middle School
6th Grade Elective Course Offerings & Descriptions 2024-2025

Yearlong Courses – 36 weeks (every other day)

- **Band 6th (woodwinds, brass, percussion):** This course provides beginning class instruction in playing a musical instrument. Level I performance standards for band are achieved. Prior music experience is not required. Might need to provide your own instrument, although the school does have some. Students will be able to select instruments at the beginning of the school year, selection is not guaranteed. **CMS Performing Arts Department - Instrumental Music Study Permission Form required** located on the Registration Process tab on SCMS website.

- **Orchestra 6th:** This course provides beginning instruction in playing violin, viola, cello, or bass. Level I performance standards for orchestra are achieved. Prior music experience is not required. Might need to provide your own instrument, although the school does have some. Students will be able to select instruments at the beginning of the school year, selection is not guaranteed. **CMS Performing Arts Department - Instrumental Music Study Permission Form required** located on the Registration Process tab on SCMS website.

Semester Courses – 18 weeks (every other day)

- **PLTW (Project Lead The Way) Gateway: Design and Modeling:** is an intro to engineering class. Students investigate, research, and compare topics and careers in the STEM areas. Students apply the design process to solve problems and understand the influence of creativity and innovation in their lives and around the world. They work in teams to design real world applications such as hovercrafts, airplanes, cars, catapults, 3D printing and more.

- **Exploring Careers and Employment:** This course is comprised of two instructional modules designed to provide project-based instruction in self-awareness, understanding the work of work and the career planning process. The two modules covered explore the world of work, employment success and job search techniques. Students also participate in Future Business Leaders of American (FBLA) competitive events, community service, and leadership activities. These activities provide students the opportunity to apply essential standards and workplace readiness skills through authentic experiences. Language and mathematics reinforced.

- **Exploring Spanish 6th:** This course provides an introduction to world languages with an emphasis on basic communication and cultural concepts. Students learn some basic expressions and vocabulary. We present conversations, play games, and sing songs. If students enjoy Spanish, they have the option to take a high school level course in 7th and 8th grades.

- **Computer Science Discoveries I:** covers topics such as programming, physical computer, HTML/CCS, and data. Students will be empowered to create authentic artifacts and engage with computer science as a medium for creativity, communication, problem solving, and fun.

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- **Dance 6th:** This course provides beginning instruction in dance as personal expression. Students learn to create compositions, learn performance values, use movement skills, analyze dance, and understand cultural, historical, and interdisciplinary connections with dance.

- **Art 6th:** builds upon students' individual skills in visual arts. The focus is on applying elements and principles of design to interpret the environment, to elaborate on an idea, and to use as a means of communication. Students use creative and critical thinking skills as they study the purpose and function of art, the history of art, and the impact of art in cultures.

- **Chorus 6th:** Students learn beginning singing techniques within a group setting. Students dive into the music basics while singing fun, exciting, and engaging music from pop songs to songs from broadway, as well as some classics! In addition to building music skills, students learn how to work with others in a fun way. Classes typically conclude with music games!