2024-2025 ELECTIVE COURSE OPTIONS FOR 6TH GRADE STUDENTS

\<Heritage Middle School\>

Elective courses are not required subject areas like reading and math but are optional courses that may interest your child. Each middle school offers unique elective courses your child can choose to take.   The elective courses listed below are options for 6th-grade students at Heritage Middle School.

If your child would like to enroll in BAND, then BAND will be your child's yearlong elective for 6th grade. Your child need not make any further elective choices. Welcome to the HMS Band! Contact estauffer@wcpss.net with any questions regarding our band program.

If your child is NOT enrolling in band, please select **two (2) top-choice** electives from this list. Each student will also select **two (2) alternate** choice electives from this list. Your elementary school will support your child in entering their selections into PowerSchool.

You can find **more information** about HMS on our school's website: (www.wcpss.net/heritagems)

It is important to note- the availability of elective courses is dependent upon each school's master schedule, and choosing an elective does not guarantee its availability in your child's individual schedule.

Course	Course Description
Beginning Band (year-long)	Emphasis is on the acquisition of basic musical skills as students learn to play a brass, woodwind, or percussion instrument. Band classes prepare several concert compositions that are performed for an audience. Students should anticipate some after-school practices and evening performances.
Visual Arts Exploratory (Semester-long)	This course introduces students to the elements of art through a variety of media that may include drawing, painting, printmaking, mixed media, pottery, and weaving. Application of these elements to the students' own original artwork is the major emphasis while being introduced to art history and critical analysis of master work as well as their own.
Computer Science Discoveries Level I / Minecraft Coding - Introductory (Semester-long)	Students will learn how to solve a series of puzzles, challenges, and real-world scenarios using problem-solving processes. Explore how computers take input, output, store, and process information to help humans resolve problems. Design original content and share it on a webpage using HTML and CSS. Explore the knowledge and skills for careers in the Computer Science, IT, and Technology pathways. Students will learn how to design algorithms using the Minecraft platform. Investigate how to determine the outcome of running a series of programming statements. Perform the process of debugging and resolving problems in algorithms. Explore the knowledge and skills for careers in the Computer Science, IT, and Technology pathways.

Engineering: Exploring Technology I/ Exploring Technology II (Semester-long)	Students will discover and use technology, engineering, and design journals and the Engineering Design Process. Construct and test prototypes to various design challenges. Experiment with different types of energy sources. Explore the knowledge and skills for careers in the Computer Science, IT, and Technology pathways. Students will develop an invention timeline that includes the major innovations to the product. Design and build prototypes, solve design problems, and write interactive stories using the design process. Discover and use the upcycling process. Explore the knowledge and skills for careers in the Computer Science, IT, and Technology pathways.
Exploring Nutrition and Wellness/ Exploring Child Care (Semester-long)	Students gain an understanding of the impact of choices on wellness by examining the current USDA Food Guidelines. Practice nutritious meal planning and preparation. Explore basic kitchen skills, safety needs, and sanitation. Gain the knowledge and skills for careers in hospitality and tourism or human services. Investigate children's development from birth to age seven. Practice basic care of infants, toddlers, and preschoolers, discuss proper nutrition, understand how to prevent accidents, and how to use positive guidance while working with children. Illustrate the importance of well-prepared and trained babysitters and how to prepare for the diverse responsibility of being a babysitter. Gain the knowledge and skills for careers in early childhood education.
Keyboarding and Basic Word Processing/ Digital Literacy (Semester-long)	Improve in the application of the touch method of keyboarding. Draft basic documents using proper formatting techniques. Establish a foundation for effective technology use by learning to type. Explore the knowledge and skills for careers in the Computer Science, IT, and Technology pathways. Explore critical digital literacy skills and evaluate content for accuracy and motive. Research the benefits of online communities and how to effectively navigate potential pitfalls in their digital lives. Formulate practical steps to protect privacy and safety online. Explore the knowledge and skills for the careers in the Computer Science, IT, and Technology pathways.
Spanish Beginning Less Than 1 Year (Semester-long) *This course is one of the curriculum series for high-school credit.*	This course is the first in a multi-course sequence for high school Level I credit. In this course, students will learn the foundations of the language's vocabulary and structures in order to communicate in simple, memorized, sentences related to basic necessary skills in the target language. Classes are conducted primarily in the target language with a strong focus on comprehensible input at a level appropriate for novice learners. Activities focus on students'

	abilities to perform in the interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational modes of communication. Students who successfully complete this course will demonstrate Novice Low proficiency and should enroll in the Intermediate course to continue the HS Level I credit curriculum.

CORE/REQUIRED COURSES

- **English/Language Arts 6**
- **Math 6 OR Math 6 Plus**
- **Science 6**
- **Social Studies 6**
- **Healthful Living 6 --** *year-long or semester-long*

Placement in Math courses is determined by county data points as well as 5th grade teacher recommendations.