

2025-2026 ELECTIVE COURSE OPTIONS FOR 6TH GRADE STUDENTS

Alston Ridge Middle School

Elective courses are not required subject areas like reading and math but are optional courses that may be of interest to your child. Each middle school offers unique elective courses that your child can choose to take. The elective courses listed below are options for 6th-grade students. Your child will select Band or 4 elective options from this list. Your elementary school will support your child in entering their selections in our system. You can find out more information on our school's website: <https://www.wcpss.net/alston on the ridge>

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

Course	Course Description	
Year-Long Courses 36 Weeks/4 Quarters <i>Available for all tracks</i>		
Band I (Year-long Course)	Students choose either: Woodwind or Brass/Percussion 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. Note: A student must take Band in sixth grade if they wish to participate in Band during 7th and 8th grade. You must also be in Band in grades 6, 7, and 8 to take High School Band	
Semester-Long Courses 18 Weeks <i>All courses are available for all tracks</i>		
Level I Chorus	Students are introduced to the skills necessary for singing and playing music with accuracy and expression while interpreting the sound and symbols of music. Through the study of various genres and cultures students will analyze, evaluate, and understand the music and concepts from other areas. Students should anticipate some after-school practices and evening performances.	

Introduction to Dance	This course introduces creative movement, improvisation, and choreography through basic modern dance techniques.	
Quarter-Long Courses 9 Weeks 1All courses are available for all tracks		
Art Exploratory	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 student's own original artwork is the major emphasis while being introduced to art history and critical analysis of masterwork as well as their own.	
Computer Science Discoveries	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.	
Engineering: Exploring Technology I	Discover and use technology, engineering, and design journals and the Engineering Design Process. Construct and test prototypes for 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.	
Exploratory Language (Spanish)	This course is intended as a link between the elementary language programs or as an initial introduction to the language. The exploratory course does not aim to build proficiency in communication skills but focuses on increasing the understanding of the language culture, building an appreciation for the value of learning another language and increasing the motivation for future language study. The exploratory curriculum may emphasize the use of songs, games, and activities to practice the new language and to learn about the culture.	
Exploring Childcare	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 responsibilities of being a babysitter. Gain the knowledge and skills for careers in early childhood education.	
Exploring Economic Systems	Discover the basics of economics. Research the types of economic systems and explore the United States' economic system. Investigate concepts, including supply and demand, the stock market, e-commerce, and the Federal Reserve. Gain the knowledge and skills for careers in business, finance, and marketing.	
Exploring Personal Characteristics and	Develop an orientation to self-awareness and the world of work. Explore how interests, attitudes, values, learning styles, skills, and personality influence career	

Careers in Health Science	choices. Build an understanding of the National Career Development Guidelines, including communication skills, personal management, and teamwork. Gain the knowledge and skills for careers in Health Science.	
Keyboarding and Basic Word Processing	Improve 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.	