

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF STURGEON BAY

ANCHORED IN EXCELLENCE

2025-2026 T. J. WALKER MIDDLE SCHOOL
6TH GRADE COURSE DESCRIPTION BOOKLET



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Welcome, students and parents/guardians, to our middle school! You are about to embark upon three of the most formative years of your life. Throughout this time, you will grow, make new friends and become a better version of yourself three years from now.

Sixth grade is perhaps the most important year for our students. Students make the transition from elementary to middle school. They enter into a new school environment with new staff and new expectations. Often, they did not have the options in elementary school to store books and materials in their own locker, walk unescorted to class and receive letter grades over four quarters.

In sixth grade, all students are required to take the following core classes English, Math, Science and Social Studies. Students are also required to take one music class; band or choir. In addition, students can choose a variety of elective courses such as FACE, Modern Technology, Computer Game Design, Outdoor Adventure, or STEM.

Similar to elementary school, middle school teams determine if a student needs a Math or Reading Intervention per a variety of test scores (Forward, STAR and Fastbridge). How our team determines intervention placement has included reviewing two previous Forward tests and five STAR test results to determine placement. A request to drop an intervention can be reviewed with the Principal.

Note: Math or Reading Intervention has precedence over courses such as Computer Game Design and Outdoor Adventure.

Students are also encouraged to participate in co-curricular activities such as Battle of the Books, Clipper Kindness Club, Destination Imagination, Rainbow Warriors GSA, Student Council, Yearbook Club, Athletics (cross country, football, wrestling and track) and Club Athletics (soccer, swimming and basketball). Also, we host quarterly PBIS celebrations, after school dances and field trips.

Some of the aforementioned activities have attendance, behavior and grade requirements that must be met to participate. Acceptable school conduct, attendance and academic progress are examples that determine participation.

Please return the attached registration form to your fifth grade teacher by **January 31, 2025**. If you have any questions about schedules or classes, please contact Ms. Barlament at 746-2806 or Mrs. Kiedrowski at 920-746-3875.

6TH GRADE COURSE OFFERINGS

REQUIRED COURSES:

English Language Arts 6 - English Language Arts class combines writing, reading, speaking, and listening. One major focus is writing, and the writer's workshop format is used. This involves brainstorming, drafting, peer and teacher conferencing, revising, editing, and publishing. Major skill areas developed are based on the 6 + 1 traits of writing: ideas and content, organization, sentence fluency, voice, word choice, conventions (this includes spelling, punctuation, capitalization, and grammar studies), and publishing. Cooperative learning and peer conferencing are used to help student writers understand and apply revising and editing skills. Writing experiences include writer's notebooks, narratives, poetry, short stories, biographies and research, essays, and speeches. Reading is done both in and out of the classroom and is a journey through authentic text, making connections, and analyzing literature of all genres.

Mathematics 6 - In Mathematics 6, students will transition from Math Expressions to Big Ideas Math. Students master content through inductive reasoning opportunities, interactive activities that provide deeper understanding, concise stepped-out examples, thought-provoking exercises, and a continual building on what has been previously taught. Students gain a deeper understanding of math concepts by narrowing their focus to fewer topics at each grade level. In sixth grade mathematics, students will: write, analyze, and use expressions, equations, and inequalities; solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume; perform fraction and decimal operations and understand rational numbers; understand ratio concepts and use ratio reasoning; and summarize and describe data sets and understand variability.

Science 6 - In sixth grade science, we will explore our planet and beyond. Through hands-on activities, experiments, and projects, students will discover the amazing science behind Earth and its system. Some of the topics we will learn about are astronomy, by exploring our solar system and phases on the moon, weather and climate, by investigating how Earth's climate works, and Earth's atmosphere, through studying each layer of the atmosphere and how it protects and supports life. Through interactive labs, group projects, and real-world applications, students will develop a deeper understanding of how Earth's systems connect and change over time.

Social Studies 6 - Social Studies 6 uses the five themes of geography: location, place, human & environment interaction, region, and movement as a framework to study the regions of the world. Extensive work is done incorporating map skills, geography, longitude and latitude reading, and cultural patterns effects on the world.

Physical Education 6 - A wide variety of activities to improve the physical well-being of students. This includes physical conditioning, muscle coordination and exercise as they relate to various games and activities. Exemption from Physical Education participation may only be accomplished with a current medical release by a licensed physician on file in the school office. A school gym uniform is required. Sweat clothes and/or a jacket may be needed for cold days.

6th Grade Studio Art - This course is an introduction into the studio arts. The class emphasizes the Elements and Principle of Design; and the materials, processes, techniques, tools and terminology related to the art field. We will explore both 2-dimensional and 3-dimensional techniques of creating

art. Art history and technology will be incorporated within the course. Students will be discussing artworks; this includes discussing their own work as well as other artist's works.

Intervention 6 - In Middle School, instructional supports are assigned to students by a team that determines required intervention classes in Math and Reading. Students are selected for Intervention if their STAR scores are 49% or lower and if they have scored Below Basic or Basic on the Forward Exam.

ELECTIVE COURSES:

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

Family and Consumer Education 6 - This course is an introduction to a few of the various areas in Family and Consumer Education. The family and friendship unit focuses on drawing connections between FACE class and family life, and recognizing qualities of good friends. The foods unit teaches how to follow a recipe, measuring techniques, kitchen safety, and proper table settings. Several recipes will be prepared and eaten in class. Basic hand-sewing skills will be taught in the sewing unit, and a project made. The class has a \$5 fee that will cover the project supplies.

MODERN TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Modern Technology 6 - This course offers 6th grade students the opportunity to explore the world of technology and engineering. As part of this class, the student will learn about various tools available and how to use them safely. Students will construct a simple woodworking project using basic hand and power tools. They will also investigate Electricity Basics, Laser Engraver technology, and Plastic Injection Molding. A Material fee of \$5 per student will be applied.

WORLD LANGUAGES

Spanish 6 - This class is an engaging journey through the rich cultural landscapes of Mexico, Costa Rica, Peru, and Guatemala. Designed to immerse students in the vibrant traditions and histories of these countries, this course incorporates a wide range of reading, writing, speaking and listening exercises to enhance language proficiency. Students will delve into the unique aspects of each culture, exploring traditional food and art that bring the lessons to life. Through hands-on activities and interactive learning experiences, students will gain a deeper understanding of the diverse Spanish speaking world while building foundational skills in the language. This course is perfect for those eager to discover the colorful tapestry of Latin American cultures while developing essential language skills.

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

(Students will be automatically enrolled in a credit of music, please select which one)

Band 6 - Band at the sixth grade level is designed to further extend the musical abilities learned in the fifth grade band program. Sixth grade Band will provide the opportunity to enjoy music through active participation in large group and small group activities. In addition to the large ensemble band rehearsals, students must attend a weekly lesson and perform in concerts, music festivals and other public performances outside of the school day hours.

Prerequisites:

1. ***Participation in the fifth grade band program.*** If you did not participate in the fifth grade band program you will need to see the instructor to get fitted for an instrument and you **MUST** participate in the summer band program before admission into the sixth grade band.
2. Students are responsible for obtaining an instrument and supplies. Rental opportunities are available through music stores or by renting a school-owned instrument if available. Students must purchase their lesson book and supplies needed (reeds, valve oil, drum sticks, etc.). Damage to or loss of school-owned instruments is the responsibility of the renter.
3. Students attend and participate in Fall and Spring concerts throughout the year.

-OR-

Choir 6 - 6th Grade Choir is open to all students who want to experience a fun, supportive learning environment to grow as a singer and musician. Students will learn introductory choir skills including vocal technique, music notation, and the ability to work with other singers toward a shared goal through a variety of individual, small group, and large group activities. Grades in choir are based on in-class assignments and participation. We sing a variety of music from folk songs to world music and pop songs, so there are songs that every student can enjoy throughout the year!

****Note:** Students are graded on attendance and participation in required performances outside of school day hours

NON-DEPARTMENTAL

Computer Game Design 6 - Computer Gaming and Design courses prepare students to design computer games by studying design, animation, artistic concepts, digital imaging, coding, scripting, multimedia production, and game play strategies. Advanced course topics include, but are not limited to, level design, environment and 3D modeling, scene and set design, motion capture, and texture mapping.

Outdoor Adventure Skills 6 - This is super exciting and a great opportunity for you and your classmates! One of the main goals of the class is to certify you in the outdoor courses (Hunter's Education, Snowmobile, ATV and Boater Safety) that the Department of Natural Resources offers.

Each course in this class has a study manual and a \$10 non-refundable fee. In addition, students participate in a wide variety of outdoor activities throughout the year. This yearlong class is for students who have NOT taken their DNR safety classes. The class limit is 40 students.

Science of Technology 6 - Science impacts the technology of yesterday, today, and the future. Students apply the concepts of physics, chemistry, and nanotechnology to STEM activities and projects, including making ice cream, cleaning up an oil spill, and discovering the properties of nano-materials.



T. J. WALKER MIDDLE SCHOOL
GRADE 6 REGISTRATION FORM

Student Name: _____ **DUE DATE:** January 31, 2025

Welcome to TJ Walker Middle School for the 2025-26 school year! Below are all required subjects for sixth grade students. **Students may choose their courses, but courses may be subject to teacher recommendation and course availability.** Check the Course Description Booklet attached to help make your decisions

English Language Arts 6: All 6th graders are automatically enrolled into one credit of ELA.

Math 6: All 6th graders are automatically enrolled into one credit of Math 6.

Science 6: All 6th graders are automatically enrolled into one credit of Science.

Social Studies 6: All 6th graders are automatically enrolled into one credit of Social Studies.

Physical Education 6: All 6th graders are automatically enrolled into a Physical Education class.

Art 6: All 6th graders are automatically enrolled into Art class.

Music : All 6th graders are automatically enrolled into a music class, please select one.

Please sign indicating that you have read the Course Description Booklet.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Registration form continues on other side

Departmental Elective 6 Options: Please **rank 1 - 4** your top **four** choices in order of preference (i.e. #1 for your first choice, #2 for your second choice, etc.).

Family and Consumer Science

____ FACE 6

Music (*must select one or the other*)

____ Band 6

____ Choir 6

Modern Technology

____ Modern Technology 6

World Languages

____ Spanish 6

Non-Departmental Elective 6 Options: Please **rank 1-2** your top **two** choices. If your child is selected for math and/or reading intervention, they may not receive this course.

____ Computer Game Design 6

-OR- (*choose 1*)

____ Outdoor Adventure Skills 6

____ Science of Technology

NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

It is the policy of The School District of Sturgeon Bay that no person be denied admission to any public school in this district or be denied participation in, be denied the benefits of or be discriminated against in any curricular, extracurricular, pupil service, recreational, or any other program or activity because of the person's sex, race, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, religion, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, or physical, mental emotional, or learning disability or handicap as required by s. 118.13 Wis Stats. This policy also prohibits discrimination as defined by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (sex), Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (race, color and national origin), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (handicap), and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (disability).