

# 6th grade Elective Course Descriptions

## SY 2025-2026 - Quarterly Electives Rotation

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The **6th Grade Electives Rotation** is an exciting opportunity for incoming sixth-grade students to explore a variety of electives. Participants will engage in four, one quarter (9-week exploration) areas of study. Examples of areas of study are: Art, General Music, Theatre, Family and Consumer Sciences (FACS), or Introduction to Technology and Engineering.

This program allows students to discover electives they may pursue further in 7th and 8th grade. Throughout the rotation, students will work with our experienced arts and technology staff and engage in hands-on activities such as:

- Learning drawing and painting techniques
- Playing acoustic and digital instruments (e.g., drums, ukuleles, and keyboards)
- Practicing public speaking and acting in small groups
- Exploring sewing and cooking
- Basic engineering skills that include building projects

## SY 2024-2025 - Year Long Electives

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### **Beginning Band MS & Creative Thinking A/B** ART1037A/ART1037B

*(All Grades)*

Beginning band is for students who have **never played** a band instrument or are interested in switching to a different instrument. Students will develop musical techniques and proficiency on their instruments, and they will learn to maintain an individual part in an ensemble. While the school has a few instruments available, students may need to furnish their own. Students who participate in band are required to perform in the winter and spring concerts.

### **Band 1 MS & Creative Thinking A/B** ART1033A/ART1033B

*(All Grades)*

This class is for 6th grade students **who have had experience** playing a band instrument (flute, oboe, clarinet, saxophone, bassoon, horn, trumpet, trombone, baritone, tuba and percussion). Beginners are accepted provided they already read music and have received a few private lessons - this is an ideal option for piano students without previous wind or percussion experience. Students will continue to develop musical skills and learn to play a wide variety of music in full bands. Students also have opportunities to participate in county musical events such as honors band and solo and ensemble festivals. While the school has a few instruments available, most students are expected to furnish their own. The school is able to provide a limited number of instruments, free of charge, for students with financial need. Large instruments for school use and or home use are also provided. Students who participate in band are required to perform in the winter and spring concerts as part of their regular assessments. No audition is required. All that is necessary is motivation and a desire to improve.

### **Beginning Orchestra MS & Creative Thinking A/B** ART 1038 A/B

*(All Grades)*

This course is open to all 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students interested in violin, viola, cello and bass players for the **first time**. Students will develop musical skills and concepts. Students learn to maintain an independent part in a string ensemble. The development of performance skills is emphasized. Students who participate in string orchestra perform together in the winter and spring concerts as part of required assessments. No audition is required. All that is necessary is motivation and a desire to improve. The school is able to provide instruments free of charge for students with financial need. Large instruments for school use and or home use are also provided.

### **Orchestra 1 MS & Creative Thinking A/B ART1045A/ART1045B**

*(All Grades)*

This course is open to all students who have minor experience in violin, viola, cello and bass. Students will continue to develop musical skills and concepts. Students learn to maintain an independent part in a string ensemble. The development of performance skills is emphasized. Students who participate in string orchestra perform together in the winter and spring concerts as part of required assessments. No audition is required. All that is necessary is motivation and a desire to improve. The school is able to provide instruments free of charge for students with financial need. Large instruments for school use and or home use are also provided.

### **Orchestra 3 - "Advanced Orchestra" ART1047**

*(Open to All Grade Levels - 4 years or more experience)*

This course is open to 6th, 7th and 8th grade **advanced** string players who have had 4 years or more experience in school string classes or private lessons. *Students will be placed in this course by audition or with teacher recommendation.* Students continue to develop musical skills and concepts. Students develop advanced techniques consistent with repertoire for the class. The development of performance skills is emphasized. This orchestra participates in the Montgomery County Festival and participates in competitions with other orchestras in Maryland, Virginia and Pennsylvania. Students who participate in advanced string orchestra are required to perform in the winter and spring concerts as part of required assessment. The school is able to provide instruments free of charge for students with financial need but encourages students to provide their own instruments. Cellos and Bases for school use can also be provided. **\*\*An** audition is required for placement in this course. New students should schedule an audition before the end of the current school year.

### **MS Chorus 1: Creative Thinking and Singing A/B ART1040A AND ART1040B**

Students will create, perform, and respond to music in a variety of styles/genres. Students will develop the fundamentals of proper vocal technique and choral singing in relation to posture, breath control, tone, intonation, diction, blending, singing in harmony, music literacy, and sight-singing. Students will primarily sing state level 2 music. There will likely be a minimum of two school concerts and students are expected to participate in all performances. This course is open to all students, regardless of music background.

### **Spanish 1 A/B (Accelerated) OR French 1 A/B (Accelerated)**

**Spanish code - WLG2131A AND WLG2131B**

**French code - WLG2041A AND WLG2041B**

These courses are open to students who desire an accelerated program in Spanish or French. Upon successful completion, students will enter Level 2 the following school year. Students in the accelerated program in world languages complete the objectives of Part A and Part B in one year. This course places emphasis upon the development of four fundamental language skills: speaking, listening, reading, and writing. Students are also introduced to traditions and culture related to the target language. A typical unit of study might involve projects, games, songs, or films related to the language.

### **Spanish for Spanish Speakers 1A/B WLG2141A/WBL2141B**

*All Grades*

Spanish for Spanish Speakers courses provide language instruction for students with some proficiency in Spanish, either because it is their first language or it is spoken in their home. Each course integrates history, culture, language, and connections related to the Spanish-speaking world.