

## Neuse River Middle School

### 2020-2021 Sixth Grade Elective Course Descriptions

All sixth graders will take language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, and healthful living. All students will take one quarter of Health & PE and one quarter of Computer Skills & Applications. **Students should select 4 electives from this list to enter into PowerSchool.** Elective courses are unique courses that your child can request to take. Your elementary school will support your child in entering their selections in PowerSchool.

The WCPSS Middle School Program Planning Guide for 2020-21 is available online ([www.wcpss.net](http://www.wcpss.net)) by clicking the “academics” tab at the top of the page, then “middle.” This guide provides more detailed information regarding the middle school program and course descriptions..

**Note:** Some electives will be assigned based on IEP & LEP decisions. The availability of elective courses depends upon the school’s master schedule and staff. Requesting an elective does not guarantee your child will get that class in his/her schedule.



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### **Physical Education & Healthful Living**

#### **Exploring Nutrition and Wellness (18-weeks/semester-long)**

Students will understand the factors that influence nutrition and wellness and the impact of choices on wellness and understand how to safely use kitchen tools and follow recipes to plan and prepare a meal. Teamwork, English Language Arts, and mathematics are reinforced.

#### **Healthful Living (9-weeks/quarter-long) REQUIRED\***

This course provides students with the opportunity to learn a variety of sports and sport-related movements as well as health and fitness concepts. Health topics relate to nutrition, fitness, health and wellness. Emphasis is placed on active participation and positive social interaction during fitness/sport activities and health discussions.

\*All students will take one quarter of Health & PE and one quarter of Computer Skills & Applications.

### **The Arts**

#### **Beginning Band (year-long)**

The 6th Grade Beginning Band at Neuse River is comprised of students in their first year of playing an instrument. This band is divided into two classes, based on tracks. Students will be allowed to select one instrument from the following choices: flute, clarinet, trumpet, and trombone. 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.

#### **Music Exploratory/Chorus (18-weeks/semester-long)**

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.

### **Arts Exploratory/ Visual Arts (18-weeks/semester-long)**

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 masterwork as well as their own.

### **Introduction to Dance (9-weeks/quarter long)\***

This course introduces creative movement, improvisation, and choreography through basic modern dance techniques. Students will use whole-body movements, strength, flexibility, endurance, and proper alignment to develop dance technique. Students will use dance to explore concepts in world history and relate them to significant events, ideas, and movements from a global context. Students will use appropriate behaviors and etiquette while observing, creating, and performing dance. Dance attire is required and will be determined by the teacher. Participation in class and performances are expected.

### **Introduction to Theatre (9-weeks/quarter long)\***

This course introduces students to the beginning aspects of movement, vocal expression, and ensemble work. Class activities include pantomime, improvisation, vocal development, playwriting, and solo/collaborative presentations in acting and theatre production (costumes, lighting, makeup, scenery, and sound). Students will have the opportunity to perform for an audience.

\*Intro to Dance and Theater are paired courses to create a semester long elective. Students will be able to choose if they would like to pursue theater or dance as 7th graders.

## **World Language**

### **Beginning Spanish - Less Than 1 Year (18-weeks / semester-long)**

This course begins the study of the Spanish language and culture and is the first part in the Spanish curriculum series for high school credit. Major topics include greetings, conversation questions, telling time, classroom objects, asking for help, the parts of the body, infinitive verbs, expressing likes and dislikes, definite and indefinite articles, adjectives, subject pronouns, the present tense of -ar verbs, and the plurals of nouns and articles. Students who successfully complete this course should continue the Spanish curriculum series for high school credit by taking Intermediate Spanish.

## **Science & Technology**

### **Keyboarding and Basic Word Processing (9-weeks/quarter long) - REQUIRED\***

This middle school course is designed to provide hands-on instruction in basic keyboarding and word processing skills. English language arts is reinforced.

### **Olympics of Science and Math -Robotics, Coding & Engineering (18-weeks / semester-long)**

Students will work through challenges and levels in the FUSE studio. Developed by educators at Northwestern University. FUSE is an interactive science lab where students get to choose the project that interests them. Beat making, video game design, and 3D printing challenges are just a few of the challenges you'll get to explore.

### **Project Lead the Way - Design & Modeling (18-weeks / semester-long)**

Students use solid modeling software, a sophisticated mathematical technique for representing solid objects, as part of the design process. Utilizing this design approach, students understand how design influences their lives. Students also learn sketching techniques

and use descriptive geometry as a component of design, measurement, and computer modeling. Students brainstorm, research, develop ideas, create models, test and evaluate design ideas, and communicate solutions.

\*All students will take one quarter of Health & PE and one quarter of Computer Skills & Applications.