

# WEST SYLVAN MIDDLE SCHOOL

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## 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Elective Courses

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### *P.E. (1/2 year class) Grades 6*

In 6<sup>th</sup> grade P.E. students will be developing movement skills through a variety of fun activities and sports and games. We welcome all ability levels in P.E. because you will be developing habits to become a lifelong active individual while safely learning a participating in activities such as: flag football, soccer, basketball, dodgeball, floor hockey, team hand-ball, team kick-ball, mat-ball, whiffle-ball, and ultimate Frisbee.

### *Technology (1/2 year class) Grades 6*

Technology focuses on developing student's computer skills along with exploring the use of the computer as a creative tool. Sample projects include keyboarding, PowerPoint presentations, word processing, and excel charts, to creating computer animation, music, art, and coding.

### *Beginning Art (1/2 year class) Grades 6*

Students will explore art in the studio through a variety of projects that teach the elements of art and design. Media may include ink, graphite, charcoal, pastel, watercolor, acrylics, metals, Papier-Mache, and clay. Within the context of our studio work, students will analyze and interpret works of art and learn to critique their own work and the work of peers. Students will incorporate techniques and ideas based on the work of seminal artists and movements, while developing their own originality and creativity. Studio projects may also incorporate culture studies of historical traditions of both the ancient and modern world, such as ancient Mesopotamia and China, Europe in the Middle Age, and Colonial America(s). **No prerequisite required.** \$25.00 materials fee

### *Makerspace – S.T.E.A.M.*

Students will tinker, create, craft, code and more while they learn to invent and invent to learn. This is a self directed project based elective where students will learn skills that develop creative problem solving and collaboration. Students can choose from a variety of projects

from a menu of themes that will have them creating objects and gaining skills from knitting to soldering.

### *Arabic Ethnic Studies(1/2 year class) Grade 6*

Students will participate in number of different activities that support an understanding of Arabic culture. They will also gain an understanding of customs and traditions throughout the Arab world and be able to compare and contrast Arab and Islamic cultures with their own cultures. Activities may include art, reading, and writing, while beginning to learn some of the Arabic Language. This is not officially a World Language course, but rather an introduction into diversity of the Arabic world.

### *Leadership (1/2 year class) Grade 6*

In Leadership Class you will be planning and providing service both to the school and community. You will plan, organize and carry out activities and projects that encourage school spirit and provide opportunities to make our school a positive and encouraging place to be. Students will identify, develop and refine personal characteristic needed to be an effective leader.. The students will be involved in administering school wide programs and assisting in important events on our campus.

### *Speech and Debate*

The number one fear of humans is speaking in public. Yes, before death! Yet, it's one of the most important skills employers look for in their employees – the ability to be an effective communicator. In this speech class, not only will you learn how to gain confidence through giving speeches, but you will also engage in impromptu speaking, debates, and slam poetry. If you're already a confident speaker, this class will further develop your public speaking abilities. Last but not least, the class is a great way to share your voice in a way you don't normally get to do in school and you will make friends with students you might otherwise not get to know!

### *Choir*

Choir at West Sylvan Middle School is a place for everyone who wants to sing. In choir, students learn to become better singers, read music, perform, and sing songs from a variety of styles, time periods, languages, and cultures. Choir is also a friendly community that gives students an outlet for their emotions and a home as they go through middle school.

### *Cadet Band (Full Year Commitment): Grade 6*

**Cadet Band is designed for students with little or no previous band experience.**

This class is designed to:

- develop individual & group skills in playing band instruments
- explore band music from a variety of musical styles & eras
- develop each student's overall musicianship.

Cadet Band members may choose from the following instruments: Flute, Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, Trumpet/Cornet, Trombone, Baritone, and Percussion. There are a few instruments available for rent from the school district, but as they are quite well used, Cadet Band members are strongly encouraged to provide their own instruments. Students do not need to have an instrument at the start of the school year as we will be spending the first couple of class sessions trying out and selecting instruments.

As a performance class, the Cadet Band can expect to be involved in 2–3 evening performances throughout the year along with several performance oriented field trips.

### *Concert Band (Full Year Commitment): Grade 6*

**Concert Band is the group for all 6th grade band members regardless of experience.**

This class is designed to:

- develop individual & group skills in playing band instruments
- explore band music from a variety of musical styles & eras
- develop each student's overall musicianship.

As a performance class, Concert Band members can expect to be involved in 2–3 evening performances throughout the year plus possible performance oriented field trips. Concert Band members will also be encouraged to participate in the PPS Middle School Solo and Small Ensemble Festival during the year.

*(<https://sites.google.com/site/eastwestsylvanband/home>)*

### *Guitar (1/2 year class) Grades 6*

Guitar Class is for any student wanting to learn to play the guitar or to increase current guitar playing skills. Individual assignments will be played for the teacher in a one-on-one situation – nobody is required to play for the whole class. The pace of individual instruction varies, as students learn at different rates of speed., but the minimum expectation is for each student to complete one assignment per week. Grading is as follows: 50% -- playing assignments; 30% -- appropriate classroom procedures; 20% -- end of quarter PowerPoint presentation on a research topic discussed in class. Students are encouraged to bring their own acoustic guitar – NO electric guitars will be permitted. School instruments are available for those without their own personal instruments.

### *String Orchestra - (Full year commitment)*

This class is designed for the advancing student with previous experience playing violin, viola, cello, or acoustic bass. If you took strings at your elementary school, this would be the next step on the path to mastery of your instrument. This class would ideally be a performance oriented class, playing in our regularly scheduled school concerts and assemblies.

### *AVID – Advancement Via Individual Determination* *(Full Year Commitment)*

AVID is an elective class that is one period a day, where students learn organizational and study skills, work on critical thinking and asking probing questions, get academic help from peers and college tutors, and participate in enrichment and motivational activities that make college seem attainable.

The AVID curriculum, based on rigorous standards, was developed by middle and high school teachers in collaboration with college professors. It is based on best teaching practices in writing, inquiry, collaboration, organization, and reading, and it is supported by state and national content standards. AVID curriculum is used in the AVID Elective and content-area classes in AVID schools to guide teachers and students, while planning strategies for success, by focusing on time management and study skills.

*(Please visit the following site's for more information about AVID)*

*<https://www.pps.net/domain/3805>*

*<https://myork46.wixsite.com/classroom/avid>*