

**6th Grade
Course Guide
2017-2018**



**Pleasant Grove Middle School
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2017-2018 PGMS Course Selection Guide

6th Grade

Purpose

Pleasant Grove Middle School is committed to the general purpose that education should provide appropriate learning experiences for every child in the school. Experiences provide each child to continually develop and improve - emotionally, physically, morally, socially, and intellectually. PGMS acknowledges that the student of today will live in a society demanding knowledge and skills related to the use of computers and other technologies. The school is committed to the development of the "whole" child.

The curriculum is in a state of continuous study and revision, readily adaptable to meet the changing needs of children and provide a foundation of knowledge. Methods of instruction reflect recognition of individual differences among students. Instruction equips students with real world work skills, human relations skills, respect for authority, appreciation of our American heritage and other world cultures. Students are exposed to knowledge of how and where to obtain needed information, and an understanding of computers and other technologies which will enable them to function in an ever changing global society.

Well-trained and highly competent staff members demonstrates in their professional commitment to the intellectual, social, and moral development of school children. Continuous staff development and professional growth experiences are encouraged. Discipline is considered vitally important to a vigorous educational program. Overall, the school's efforts are directed to help each student become a productive member of our global society, capable of making a definite and positive contribution to society and to himself or herself.

Mission Statement

The mission of Pleasant Grove Independent School District, in collaboration with the community, is to empower students through experiential learning to successfully navigate the opportunities of a competitive and complex world.

Vision

Our Students:

- Embody school pride and display character and citizenship
- Recognize their potential and value and are confident in their ability to compete in an ever-changing society
- Are empowered through learning that cultivates curiosity and individual interest
- Are creative problem solvers who are prepared to actively engage and excel in their community

Our Learning Environment:

- Is driven by teachers and staff who set high expectations and are passionate about education
- Fosters an active relationship between home and school
- Cultivates positive parental and community involvement
- Nurtures each student's physical, mental, emotional and social well-being
- Promotes engaging, interactive instruction that focuses on real-world application and problem solving
- Provides total immersion in technology

Our District Along with the Community:

- Recruits and retains quality teachers and staff who are well-compensated, highly-trained and skilled
- Provides a safe learning environment
- Is innovative and proactive to meet the changing and diverse needs of our students
- Invests resources to promote student success
- Builds and extends partnerships with local businesses, civic organizations, and educational entities
- Promotes awareness of school and student accomplishments

Shared Beliefs

1. What is it we want our students to learn?
2. How will we know if each student has learned it?
3. How will we respond when some students do not learn it?
4. How can we extend and enrich the learning for students who have demonstrated proficiency?

**6th Grade Pleasant Grove Middle School Course Requirements and Descriptions
2017-2018**

Course Requirements (by grade level) Three-Year Plan

6th Grade		7th Grade		8th Grade	
English Language Arts	1 unit	English Language Arts	1 unit	English Language Arts	1 unit
Mathematics	1 unit	Mathematics	1 unit	Mathematics	1 unit
Science/Health	1 unit	Science/Health	1 unit	Science/Health	1 unit
Social Studies	1 unit	Social Studies	1 unit	Social Studies	1 unit
Reading	1 unit	Reading	1 unit	Technology Applications	1 unit
P.E./Pre-athletics	1 unit	P.E./Athletics	1 unit	Elective	1 unit
Fine Arts	1 unit	Elective	1 unit	Elective	1 unit
Technology Applications	1 unit	Elective	1 unit	Elective	1 unit

6th Grade Core and/or Required Courses and Numbers

8065 Technology Applications

1006 English Language Arts *ELA

1016 Pre-AP English Language Arts

2006 Mathematics

2016 Pre-AP Mathematics

2060 Mathematics Academy *Replaces Tech Apps.

5006 Reading

5016 Pre-AP Reading

2065 Reading Academy *Replaces Tech Apps.

4006 Science
4016 Pre-AP Science

3006 Social Studies
3016 Pre-AP Social Studies

6th Grade Electives and Numbers. Students must take one category of Fine Arts credit.

Fine Arts

7006 Art 1

Middle School Band 1 *Select one of the following instruments:

- 0001 Percussion
- 0002 Trombone
- 0004 French horn
- 0005 Trumpet
- 0006 Baritone/Tuba
- 0007 Clarinet
- 0008 Flute
- 0009 Saxophone

7026 Middle School Dance 1

Physical Education *P.E. Students must take one category of P.E. credit.

9006 Physical Education *P.E.
1206 Physical Education Dance
9016 Pre-athletics Boys'
9026 Pre-athletic Girls'

Other Elective Options for qualifying students. This elective replaces Technology Applications.

5162 Dyslexia Therapy
0050 English as a Second Language
7050 Gifted and Talented *G/T Students must be currently identified in the PGISD Gifted & Talented Program.

Use the Course Requirements Three-Year Plan chart on page 2 as a guide for creating a schedule.

Core and/or Required Courses

Technology Applications Grade 6 Course number 8065

Students will learn the technology skills as identified by the state of Texas which include: Creativity and Innovation; Communication and Collaboration; Research and Information Fluency; Critical Thinking, Problem Solving, and Decision Making; Digital Citizenship; Technology Operations and Concepts. Students will also explore Google Apps and how to use these tools as they advance in their education. Each student will have a personal account and maintain this account until they graduate. This course is for 6th grade students.

English Language Arts *ELA Grade 6 Course number 1006

English Language Arts students are expected to demonstrate critical thinking skills in reading and writing. Various genres of literature such as poetry, drama, short stories, nonfiction, and novels will be used for analyzing literature requiring open-ended responses. Literary elements will be used as springboards for writing a variety of paragraphs, compositions, and detailed compositions. Students will be exposed to a broad range of relevant and engaging topics of interest. Students will be introduced to new vocabulary and apply it when speaking, reading, and writing.

Pre-AP English Language Arts (ELA) Grade 6 Course number 1016

Students will follow the above course description *ELA with a focus on working independently. Students will use a flexible range of metacognitive reading skills in both assigned and independent reading to understand an author's message. Students will continue to apply earlier standards with greater depth in increasingly more complex texts as they become self-directive, critical speakers, readers, and writers. For admission into accelerated English in grades 6, 7, and 8, the following performance standards shall be recommended. A student shall have: (1) earned a previous year grade average of 90+ in an on-level ELA class or an 85+ in an accelerated class; (2) met the standard on the state-mandated assessment; (3) obtained permission from his or her parent(s) or guardian.

Mathematics Grade 6 Course number 2006

The primary focal areas are numbers and operations; proportionality; expressions, equations, and relationships; and measurement and data. 8th grade math also includes the foundations of functions. The mathematics curriculum follows the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skill adopted by the Texas Education Agency.

Pre-AP Mathematics Grade 6 Course number 2016

The Pre-AP math classes challenge motivated and responsible students to understand in-depth, rigorous content. The primary focal areas are numbers and operations; proportionality; expressions, equations, and relationships; and measurement and data. 8th grade math also includes the foundations of functions. Pre-AP math coursework requires students to engage in independent and analytical assignments in class and outside of class. For admission into accelerated mathematics in grades 6, 7, and 8, the following performance standards shall be recommended. A student shall have: (1) earned a previous year grade average of 90+ in an on-level math class or an 85+ in an accelerated class; (2) met the standard on the state-mandated assessment; (3) obtained permission from his or her parent(s) or guardian.

Mathematics Academy: Course number 2060

Math Academy provides support for students who score near or below the minimum expectations on the state math assessment. This course is a supplement to the student's regular grade-level math course and is taken in place of an elective. *Replaces Tech Apps.

Reading Grade 6 Course number 5006

Reading requires that students meet and master the criteria as outlined in the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). Students are expected to build on their prior knowledge and skills to improve their reading, writing, listening and speaking skills, giving the student greater opportunities to achieve academic success. Reading is designed for students to read grade-level text with fluency and comprehension.

Pre-AP Reading Grade 6 Course number 5016

Reading requires that students meet and master the criteria as outlined in the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for the state of Texas. Students are expected to build on their prior knowledge and skills to improve their reading, writing, listening and speaking skills, giving the students greater opportunities to achieve academic success. Reading is designed for students to read grade-level text with fluency and comprehension. A student shall have (1) earned a previous year grade average of 90+ in an on-level reading class or an 85+ in an accelerated class; (2) obtained permission from his or her parent(s) or guardian.

Reading Academy: Course number 2065

Reading Academy provides support for students who score near or below the minimum expectations on the state reading assessment. This course is a supplement to the student's regular grade-level reading course and is taken in place of an elective. *Replaces Tech Apps.

Science Grade 6: Course number 4006

Students will explore the discoveries and wonders of Science with a focus on Matter and Energy, Force and Motion, Earth and Space, along with Organisms and Environments. Students focus on the differences between elements and compounds based on observations, description of physical properties, and chemical reactions. Students will explore the origins and uses of renewable and nonrenewable resources while considering the ethical/social issues surrounding Earth's natural energy resources. Students will investigate the relationship between force, motion, and energy using a variety of means, including calculations and measurements. The focus of the Earth and space strand is on introducing Earth's processes. Students should develop an understanding of Earth as part of our solar system. The topics include organization of our solar system, the role of gravity, and space exploration. Students will gain an understanding of the broadest taxonomic classifications of organisms and how characteristics determine their classification. The other major topics developed in this strand include the interdependence between organisms and their environments and the levels of organization within an ecosystem.

Pre-AP Science Grade 6 Course number 4016

The Pre-AP science class requires mastery of the same TEKS as the on grade-level class, but will require more higher-order thinking and independent study. There will be at least one project per marking period to be completed outside of class. Also, students will work at an accelerated

pace and cover the material more in-depth. For admission into accelerated science in grades 6, 7, and 8, the following performance standards shall be recommended. A student shall have: (1) earned a previous year grade average of 90+ in an on-level science class or an 85+ in an accelerated class; (2) met the standard on the state-mandated assessment; (3) obtained permission from his or her parent(s) or guardian.

Social Studies Grade 6 Course number 3006

*World Geography Students study people, places, and societies of the contemporary world. Societies for study are from the following regions of the world: Europe, Russia and the Eurasian republics, North America, Central America and the Caribbean, South America, Southwest Asia-North Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, East Asia, Southeast Asia, Australia, and the Pacific realm.

Pre-AP Social Studies Grade 6 Course number 3016

*World Geography Students study people, places, and societies of the contemporary world. Societies for study are from the following regions of the world: Europe, Russia and the Eurasian republics, North America, Central America and the Caribbean, South America, Southwest Asia-North Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, East Asia, Southeast Asia, Australia, and the Pacific realm. A student shall have (1) earned a previous year grade average of 90+ in an on-level social studies class or an 85+ in an accelerated class; (2) obtained permission from his or her parent(s) or guardian.

6th Grade Electives

Fine Arts

Art 1: Course number 7006

Students will implement techniques with perception and expression with emphasis on media, creative expression, and performance, following the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). This class is for 1st year Art students: grades 6 and 7 only.

Middle School Band 1: Course numbers - 0001 for Percussion, 0002 for Trombone, 0004 for French horn, 0005 for Trumpet, 0006 for Baritone/Tuba, 0007 for Clarinet, 0008 for Flute, 0009 for Saxophone

Instrument specific, basic musicianship and performance techniques are learned on individual woodwind, brass, and percussion instruments. Beginning band emphasizes proper performance technique, breath control, tone, quality, range, and proper posture. Students are assigned a musical instrument based upon a student assessment. Performance opportunities are included.

Middle School Dance 1: Course number 7026

Four basic strands-perception, creative expression/performance, historical and cultural heritage, and critical evaluation-provide broad, unifying structures for organizing knowledge and skills students are expected to acquire. Through perceptual studies, students increase their understanding of self and others and develop clear ideas about the world. Through a variety of

theatrical experiences, students communicate in a dramatic form, make artistic choices, solve problems, build positive self-concepts, and relate interpersonally. Students increase their understanding of heritage and traditions through historical and cultural studies in theater. Student response and evaluation promote thinking and further discriminating judgment, developing students who are appreciative and evaluative consumers of live theater, film, television, and other technologies. Students will earn fine arts credit for this class.

Physical Education *P.E.

Physical Education *P.E. Course number 9006

Students acquire the knowledge and skills for movement that provide the foundation for enjoyment, continued social development through physical activity, and access to a physically-active lifestyle. The student exhibits a physically-active lifestyle and understands the relationship between physical activity and health throughout the lifespan. Students understand in greater detail the function of the body, learn to measure their own performance more accurately, and develop plans for improvement. Students learn to use technology such as heart rate monitors to assist in measuring and monitoring their own performance. Identifying the types of activities that provide them with enjoyment and challenge and that will encourage them to be physically active throughout life is reinforced during instruction in these grades.

Physical Education Dance: Course number 1206

Students acquire the knowledge and skills for movement that provide the foundation for enjoyment, continued social development through physical activity, and access to a physically-active lifestyle. The student exhibits a physically-active lifestyle and understands the relationship between physical activity and health throughout the life span. Students understand in greater detail the function of the body, learn to measure their own performance more accurately, and develop plans for improvement. Students learn to use technology such as heart rate monitors to assist in measuring and monitoring their own performance. Identifying the types of activities that provide them with enjoyment and challenge and that will encourage them to be physically active throughout life is reinforced during instruction in these grades. Students will learn the fundamentals of various types of dance, including ballet, jazz, and contemporary dance. Students will earn P.E. credit for this class.

Pre-athletics: Course number 9016 for Boys' Pre-athletics; Course number 9026 for Girls' Pre-athletics

Students prepare to participate in competitive UIL sports in 7th and 8th grade. Boys will learn fundamentals and foundations of good sportsmanship to participate in football, basketball, and track and field events. Girls will learn fundamentals and foundations of good sportsmanship to participate in volleyball, basketball, and track and field events.

Other Elective Options (Replaces Tech Apps)

Dyslexia Therapy: Course number 5162

This course is designed to assist students with dyslexia or dyslexia characteristics. Students must be in the Dyslexia Program.

English as a Second Language: Course number 0050

Students must develop the ability to comprehend and process material from a wide range of texts using the guidelines established by the Texas Education Agency.

Gifted and Talented (G/T): Course number 7050

Designed for students identified in the G/T Program who have met tested criteria. The class will include leadership, critical thinking, technology applications, problem solving, and a variety of enrichment activities including bridging STEM activities with Texas A&M-Texarkana. This course is for 6th grade students.