



# **ALTOONA MIDDLE SCHOOL**

## **6<sup>th</sup> Grade Course Description Handbook**

**2023-2024**

All courses, including Career and Technical Education courses, are available without discrimination based on race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation, sex (including transgender status, change of sex or gender identity), or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability, any other characteristic protected by law ("protected classes") in any of its student programs, activities, and employment.

### **Art Around the World**

Students will have a first-class seat as they travel and study different countries to create art based on inspirational facets around the world. Students will learn about & appreciate the similarities & differences in people, traditions & regions around the globe while making cool multicultural creations as they learn more about the world around them.

### **Beginning Band**

Beginning Band is the first opportunity to learn and play one of the instruments of the concert band. Students will try out different instruments and, with parent and teacher guidance, determine which instrument to play. The first year of instruction will have a strong emphasis on music fundamentals and beginning technical skills. Because this is a performance-based class, students will also need to practice outside of the school day and attend evening concerts. Parents and students will be responsible for the financial obligations of instrument upkeep, such as valve oil, reeds, and methods books.

### **Choir**

We've all heard talented singers, but did you know much of their talent boils down to hard work and an understanding of how the voice works? In choir, students will learn how to sing with healthy technique to be their very best! The class will work together to master reading music and understanding the different elements of music. Students will learn unison and two-part (or more!) songs with the class, as well as learn songs as solos or small groups. Two evening performances are required for this course.

### **English Language Arts**

English Language Arts (ELA) encompasses the standards of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Language arts skills are acquired through a variety of experiences. Targeted areas of instruction involve developing comprehension reading strategies, gathering, organizing and interpreting information from multiple sources/multiple mediums, researching and citing specific textual evidence, and presenting using written and oral communication. Students continue to develop a level of literacy that enables them to become informed and productive in all areas of the curriculum.

### **Information Processing**

Information Processing is a required class. In this class, students will continue to develop their keyboarding skills as well as explore a variety of different Microsoft applications to help get them ready for high school and beyond. Students will also be introduced to Xello, a career readiness program that they will be using in seventh grade, where they will begin to investigate their career possibilities.

### **Math**

Math 6 encompasses the Common Core Standards of ratios and proportional relationships, the number system (fractions and decimals), expressions and equations (algebra), geometry and statistics and probability. We focus on relating math concepts to real-world applications.

### **Physical Education**

Students will be introduced to a variety of fitness based warm-ups, followed by the specific unit activities and skill work. The following units will be taught throughout the year if time permits; net games, (volleyball, tennis, badminton) invasion games, (basketball, lacrosse, team handball floor hockey, soccer), fitness, (fitness testing, partner fitness), outdoor recreation, (Frisbee golf, winter games, ultimate, track & field), and team building. Students will be expected to work well in a team/partner setting as well as perform the necessary individual and group skill work to be successful in the units.

### **PIE (Prevention/Intervention/Enrichment)**

This non-graded course provides students an opportunity for additional review and instruction in the areas of math and ELA helping them stay on track. This course also provides an array of enrichment and school-community activities, as well as continuing to reinforce and review what it means to have great character and be a good citizen.

### **Science – 2.5 Block Classes per week all year**

This course is based on the Wisconsin State Standards and is designed to help students think like a scientist. Students will have opportunities to develop questions, create models, collect, analyze, and evaluate data. Topics include Living Systems (the energy cycle, adaptations, and limiting factors), Weather and Climate (air pressure, air masses, wind, weather fronts, and atmosphere) and Earth Materials (rock cycle and plate tectonics).

### **Scratching the Surface!**

Students will develop painting skills and color theory. Along with multiple 3-Dimensional skills in Ceramics and Plaster of Paris. Hold on to your shoes because it's going to go by fast.

### **Social Studies – 2.5 Block Classes per week all year**

This course will explore ancient civilizations and uncover the secrets of the human experience through geography, economics, history, art and culture. In social studies we connect the past to the present in an inquiry based program allowing students to use mind-on, hands-on, and individual strengths to gain understanding of complex systems.

### **Spanish**

¡Bienvenidos a español! Welcome to Spanish! In 6th grade Spanish the essential question is "How can I describe the environment in the world in Spanish?" Students will learn how to describe the environment by incorporating numbers, colors, animals, and more! Students will also explore the environment through learning about Colombian culture- get ready for music, movies, games, and so much fun!

**Tech Ed A:**

We will be focusing on problem solving skills using the design process steps while collaborating with others in a group to create a few open-ended projects. We will also make a take home project using tools and machines in the FabLab, as well as utilizing our newly practiced measurement skills.

**Tech Ed B:**

We will practice our measurement skills by creating a project to race across the floor. Through the use of Lego Mindstorms, we will apply simple machine properties. We will also use our creative skills to create a picture frame/magnet with the laser engraver.

# Altoona Middle School

## Extra/Co-Curricular Activities

The School District of Altoona recognizes the importance of extra/co-curricular activities as an integral part of the total educational experience. We believe the development of socially active and responsible students goes hand-in-hand with participation in school sponsored activities. Involvement will provide each student with the opportunity to learn useful skills; the awareness of the importance of teamwork, sportsmanship, fair play and the realization that a positive attitude, dedication and hard work are essential for success in life. It also challenges students by providing opportunities to attain the skills and knowledge to be mentally and physically active as part of a healthy lifestyle. In order to receive these benefits, each student must meet certain expectations for the privilege of participating in athletics and activities at Altoona Middle School.



### Extra/Co-Curricular Offerings

#### 7th Grade Students

**Fall Athletics:** Cross Country, Girls Tennis, Football, Volleyball, Boys Soccer

**Winter Athletics:** Wrestling, Boys Basketball, Girls Basketball

**Spring Athletics:** Boys Tennis, Track & Field, Girls Soccer

**Clubs/Activities:** Art Club, Best Buddies, Diversity Club, Drama Club (School Play) Fitness Club, Fuel Up to Play 60, Mathcounts, Minecraft Club, Railroader Club, In-Training Show Choir, Student Council, Yearbook

#### 6th Grade Students

**Fall Athletics:** Cross Country, Girls Tennis

**Winter Athletics:** Wrestling

**Spring Athletics:** Boys Tennis

**Clubs/Activities:** Art Club, Best Buddies, Diversity Club, Drama Club (School Play), Fitness Club, Fuel Up to Play 60, Mathcounts, Minecraft Club, Railroader Club, In-Training Show Choir, Student Council, Yearbook

#### 8th Grade Students

**Fall Athletics:** Cross Country, Girls Tennis, Football, Volleyball, Boys Soccer

**Winter Athletics:** Wrestling, Boys Basketball, Girls Basketball

**Spring Athletics:** Boys Tennis, Track & Field, Girls Soccer

**Clubs/Activities:** Art Club, Best Buddies, Diversity Club, Drama Club (School Play), Fitness Club, Fuel Up to Play 60, Mathcounts, Minecraft Club, Railroader Club, In-Training Show Choir, Student Council, Yearbook, 8<sup>th</sup> grade Mentors

# MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE PLANNING GUIDE

Name of Child \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Choose **one** of the following music electives:

\_\_\_\_\_ 6th Grade Band

\_\_\_\_\_ 6th Grade Choir

All 6th grade students will have the following Specials for 6 weeks each:

- ✓ Art Around the World
- ✓ Information Processing
- ✓ Tech Ed A
- ✓ Tech Ed B
- ✓ Scratching the Surface (Art)
- ✓ Spanish

Physical education and the music electives meet on alternate days of the week throughout the entire school year.

- ✓ Physical Education
- ✓ Music Elective