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**Required Full-Year Courses**

**English (B-MS611; G-MS610):** This single-gender English course encompasses the study of writing, literature, reading comprehension, grammar, and vocabulary.

Using a multi-sensory, project-based approach, grammar instruction focuses on parts of speech and sentence parts and structures as a foundation for writing instruction. Grammar and usage are taught through both direct instruction and application in students’ written assignments.

The sixth grade writing curriculum emphasizes organization and idea development as students write paragraphs, multi-paragraph essays, and creative pieces. Students learn various techniques as part of the writing process, including prewriting and revision strategies, to help them communicate their ideas more effectively. Writing activities throughout the year provide an opportunity for students to develop their personal writing voices.

The focal points of the literature component of the curriculum are appreciation and enjoyment. Students are introduced to basic literary elements for critical response and are exposed to the historical or cultural frameworks for what they read. Through reading comprehension work, students enhance their ability to identify main ideas, supporting points, and conclusions.

Vocabulary instruction includes learning meanings and correct usage of new words.

Learning strategies and study skills are interwoven into the curriculum.

**Math 6 (B-MS622; G-MS620):** This single-gender math course begins the transition from arithmetic skills to the study of more advanced mathematical concepts. The course includes units that explore patterns and number sense; relationships among and operations with fractions and decimals; ratio and proportion; geometry; statistics; and probability. In addition, there is an introduction to basic pre-algebra concepts.
Students discuss, practice, and select appropriate calculation techniques and problem-solving strategies. The course combines a discovery approach with traditional skill-building practice and review.

**Advanced Math 6 (B-MS623; G-MS621):** A single-gender math course, this class moves at a fast pace and includes units that introduce students to advanced mathematical concepts and deep critical thinking and problem solving. The course includes units that explore patterns and number sense; relationships among and operations with fractions, decimals and integers; ratio and proportion; geometry; statistics; probability and pre-algebra concepts.

Students discuss, practice, and select appropriate calculation techniques and problem-solving strategies. The course combines a discovery approach with traditional skill-building practice and review.

**Earth Science (B-MS631; G-MS630):** This science course consists of an overview of Earth Science, encompassing meteorology, astronomy, plate tectonics, robotics, rocks and minerals, earthquakes, and volcanoes. In this up-to-date study, the Earth is viewed as an ever-changing entity, and the processes that form the Earth and the internal and external forces that shape it are studied. Emphasis is placed on the role of the Earth as a member of the solar system.

An investigative approach toward the subject matter and cooperative learning strategies are complemented by independent reading, laboratory skills, global connection and problem-solving techniques, and field studies. Metric measurement, the scientific method, and graphing skills are interwoven throughout the course. Critical thinking, reading, and study skills are emphasized.

**United States History (MS650)** focuses on domestic and international affairs from the late 19th century to the present. Students examine the geographic, economic, social, and political growth of our nation into a superpower. Emphasis is on students’ understanding of the underpinnings and consequences of U.S. policy after the Civil War. Using current events, technology, role play, and simulation activities, U.S. History encourages interaction and participatory learning.

**Physical Education/Health (B-MS690; G-MS692):** This physical education course allows for the continued refinement and use of locomotor, nonlocomotor, and manipulative skills. Combinations of these skills are used in modified game-like situations that involve increasingly complex strategies. By understanding the components of fitness, students will be able to assess their own fitness levels and develop plans to improve or maintain healthy lifestyles. In addition, current health topics will be covered. The student will be able to participate in moderate to vigorous activities that will help develop group cooperation and productivity, while fostering a respect for others and an acceptance of peers of all skill levels. Health topics include introduction to personal health, basic nutrition, body awareness, cyber bullying, protecting your health, and safety.

**Music and Rotating Classes**

**Band (MS683):** In this year-long course, students learn basic skills on their individual instruments. Great emphasis is placed on the proper use of breath, rhythm reading, posture, and
individual practice habits. Exercises and repertoire designed to emphasize the importance of developing musicianship are used on a daily basis. All students perform in a holiday concert and the Spring Prism Concert. In addition, the sixth grade band performs at a local nursing home in the spring.

Students in the sixth grade who have not previously played a band instrument are welcome to join the band. During the first part of the semester, the beginning students will receive instruction aside from the other students to focus on choosing an instrument and acquiring the skills needed to join the rest of the group. Students are encouraged to take private lessons in addition to their class instruction and many pursue All-State membership.

**Chorus (MS681):** In this year-long course, singers are viewed as “choral artists” who develop skills in singing, music reading, and aural training. Students will study a varied and diverse repertoire. This carefully chosen literature will broaden student’s perspective of the world, strengthen musical skills and build self-confidence. Choral singing helps the young artist make a significant step towards discovering what it means to be in community. Students will come to understand that the shared efforts of each person will create a product much greater than the sum of the individual talents. Performance opportunities include a Lessons and Carols Service, singing for chapels, and a spring concert.

Students have the opportunity to participate in the GMEA 6th Grade Statewide Honor Chorus. Applied Voice Lessons are encouraged, but not required for MS students participating in a choral ensemble. The Applied Lessons program offers lessons for an additional fee, with registration at the beginning of each semester.

**Orchestra (MS685):** Students in the sixth grade who have never played a string instrument have the opportunity to join the orchestra. During the first part of the semester, the beginning students will receive instruction aside from the main group to focus on acquiring the skills needed for their chosen instrument (violin, viola, cello, and bass). By the second semester, the students will have acquired the skills necessary to join the group.

The chamber orchestra performs various styles of music. Many students also participate in small chamber ensembles. The orchestra performs numerous concerts throughout the year, including a holiday concert, the Founder's Day all-school chapel, the String Spectacular concert in March, a community outreach concert in late spring, and the Music in the Parks Festival in May. Students are encouraged to take private lessons in addition to their class instruction. These instrumental lessons are offered through Lovett’s Applied Lessons Program.

**Religion (MS660):** In this course, students explore the history and belief systems of the five major world religions: Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, Judaism, and Christianity. Students examine each religion’s answer to the following questions: What is good in life? What is bad in life? What is the purpose of life? Additionally, students look closely at each religion’s understanding of what it means to be a ‘good’ or virtuous human being. Throughout the class, students are encouraged to examine their own religious/moral convictions that they may better understand who they are and who they wish to be.
Visual Arts (MS660): This visual arts course focuses on developing a love, appreciation, and better understanding of art. Students work to recognize the enriching qualities that the appreciation or practicing of art can bring to one’s life. Goals of the course include introducing art history into the daily curriculum; practicing the use of drawing and painting techniques, such as perspective; understanding color theory through daily classroom projects; and utilizing a variety of materials to create three-dimensional projects.

World Languages (MS614): This course gives sixth-grade students the opportunity to explore different languages and cultures. The course’s objectives are to create an awareness of language as a vehicle of communication, to introduce the functional purpose of language study, to present the sounds and written systems of other languages, to instill an appreciation of other peoples and cultures, and to provide motivation to learn other languages. After an introductory unit, students study all four languages offered at Lovett, i.e. Chinese, French, Latin, and Spanish.

Reading Strategies (MS660): In this course, students learn about the reading process and strategies they can use to become more effective readers. They will apply these strategies to the content areas of social studies, science, and math.

Reading (MS600): The purpose of this year-long course is to provide students with the opportunity to become more fluent readers. They will learn strategies to improve reading comprehension, vocabulary development, and test taking skills. Students will learn to recognize their reading challenges and determine the best strategies that will address these challenges. Various genres will be incorporated, using works from both fiction and non-fiction.