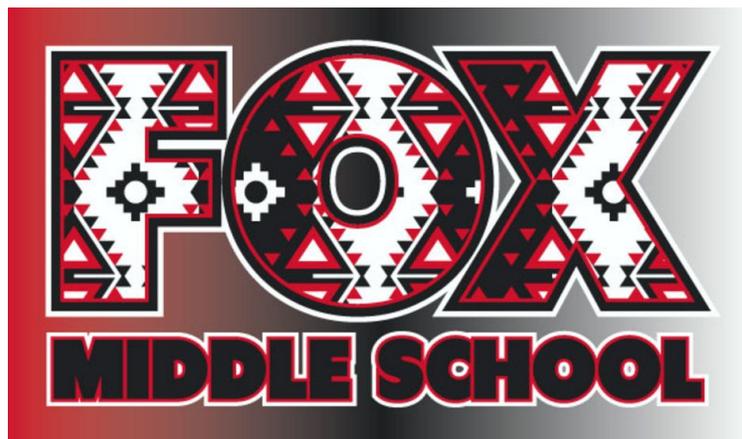


FOX MIDDLE SCHOOL

COURSE DESCRIPTION GUIDE 2019-2020



Achievement • Character • Excellence
FOX C-6 SCHOOL DISTRICT
National District of Character

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Letter from the Principal



Fox Middle School
Principal: Dr. Marilyn Jackson
Assistant Principal: Mr. Kevin Griffin

Dear Students and Parents,

I am excited to begin another successful school year with each of you. The purpose of this specific course description guide is to inform you of some basic information about the courses offered at Fox Middle School as you begin registration for the 19-20 school year. The main purpose of middle school is to prepare students for a successful entrance into high school while addressing their physical, emotional, and intellectual needs as adolescents. Long range planning is a critical step.

You will note that all our academic classes are rigorous and are aligned for more opportunities in high school. In following the middle school philosophy, students will have opportunities to participate in many exploratory classes as his/her schedule will allow. All students are required to take Language Arts, Social Studies, Science, Math, and PE classes. We offer both grade level and advanced level courses. The exploratory classes include district level electives and building specific electives (and are subject to change).

It is not too early to begin thinking about college and careers . College entrance requirements are becoming more restrictive each year and early planning is almost an absolute. Your counselor will help you through this process. We realize that each child is unique and this guide will help you with information on the the various courses we offer.

If you have any questions about this guide, please do not hesitate to contact us. We will work together to ensure a great school year!

Sincerely,

Marilyn Jackson
Principal
Middle School

Table of Contents

Letter from the Principal	1
Table of Contents	2
How to Use this Guide	3
INTRO	3
COUNSELING CONTACTS	3
REGISTRATION INFORMATION	3
BELL SCHEDULE	3
Grade Level and Advanced Courses	4
Academic Support Programs	5
English / Language Arts	5
Courses Offered:	5
Course Descriptions:	5
Social Studies	6
Courses Offered:	6
Course Descriptions:	6
Science	7
Courses Offered:	7
Course Descriptions:	7
Math	8
Courses Offered:	8
Course Descriptions:	8
Elective Courses	10
District Elective Courses Offered:	10
Building Elective Courses Offered:	10
Elective Courses	11
Course Descriptions:	11

How to Use this Guide

Introduction

The purpose of this booklet is to inform you and your parents of some basic information about the courses offered at Fox Middle School. The main purpose of middle school is to prepare students for a successful entrance into high school while addressing their physical, emotional, and intellectual needs as adolescents.

You will note that academic classes are required. In following the middle school philosophy, students will have opportunities to participate in many exploratory classes as their schedule will allow. All students are required to take English Language Arts, Social Studies, Science, Math, and PE classes. There are also a wide variety of elective options.

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COUNSELING CONTACTS

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REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Mrs. Rebecca Hudson - Hudson@foxc6.org

BELL SCHEDULE

7:15 - Warning Bell

7:20 - 8:00 1st hour (Advisory).

8:03 - 8:51 2nd hour

8:54 - 9:42 3rd hour

9:45 - 10:33 4th hour

6th graders

10:36 - 11:01 (LUNCH)

11:04 - 11:52 5th hour

11:55 - 12:43 6th hour

12:46 - 1:34 7th hour

1:37 - 2:25 8th hour

B Lunch Students

10:36 - 11:24 5th hour

11:27 - 11:52 (B LUNCH)

11:55 - 12:43 6th hour

12:46 - 1:34 7th hour

1:37 - 2:25 8th hour

C Lunch Students

10:36 - 11:24 5th hour

11:27 - 12:15 6th hour

12:18 - 12:43 (C LUNCH)

12:46 - 1:34 7th hour

1:37 - 2:25 8th hour

Grade Level and Advanced Courses

Middle school is the perfect time to start exploring your interests and see how far you can push yourself academically. Taking advanced classes in middle school allows you to learn new things and gain new experiences that will help you later in life. Think about the questions below to help you decide whether choosing an advanced course is the best option for you.

Am I ready for the advanced courses?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advanced students spend a great deal of time learning about the content, so it is important to have a strong interest in the subject area. Advanced students are expected to be self-starters and hard workers. Advanced students show strong, consistent effort in their school work.
Do I have the time to commit to advanced academics?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advanced courses are demanding of time. Complex reading and writing assignments are often assigned to students. In-depth research and projects are a regular part of the course. Students who are involved in many extracurricular activities or have many responsibilities outside of school should consider the demands on their time when choosing an advanced course.
What type of learner am I?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advanced courses move at a fast pace, and students are expected to pick-up new material at a fairly fast rate.
Would my current teacher recommend that I take advanced courses?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your teacher knows you and how you learn. He/she can help you decide whether, as a learner, you display the skills that typically lead to success in an advanced class: work ethic, work completion, desire to learn new things, and responsibility.
What are my grades like in the subjects I am considering advanced courses?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If your grades have been consistently good in the subject area, an advanced course might be a good option for you. Students with lower grade averages in a content area may want to consider whether enrollment in an advanced course is right for them.
Am I choosing advanced courses for the right reasons?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advanced courses let you start learning advanced study skills, thinking skills, and content. Grades are only one way to look at your achievement. The number of advanced courses you take also tells a story about your achievement and learning. Students who take an advanced course show a willingness to take on academic challenges regardless of the potential impact on their grade.

Academic Support Programs

Response to Intervention (RTI)

Part of the Fox C6 Continuous Improvement Plan (CSIP) includes academic achievement for all students. To ensure that our students are graduating from our district as college and career ready, our teachers work in Professional Learning Communities (PLC). Their work is centered around 4 corollary questions:

- What do we want all students to learn?
- How will we know they have learned it?
- What will we do if they don't learn?
- What will we do if they have learned it?

RTI focuses on question 3 which is what do we do if our students don't learn? When students face academic challenges we have a systematic approach to ensure they succeed. Many interventions are developed keeping each student's unique strengths and needs at the forefront. Some of the interventions include, parent conferences, tutoring, homework recovery, additional school instruction through a course designed for specific targeted intervention which may require a schedule change, etc. A team consisting of administrators, teachers, and counselors will determine which intervention is appropriate.

We assure you that proper academic interventions will be provided for our students to succeed at Fox Middle School and look forward to partnering with the parents in this.

Individualized Academic Support

For a student with an Individualized Education Plan (IEP), the IEP team which includes educators and parents determines the educational placement for educational services for each student in the least restrictive environment.

Advisory

Advisory is a year-long 40-minute class designed to help students balance their academic load with their future goals. You will have lessons on how to respond to bullying, harassment, and intimidation, coping with stress, time management, study skills, college readiness, goal setting, and grade calculation. There will be tutoring time available as well through advisory.

English Language Arts

Courses Offered:

Course Title	Grade Level		
	6	7	8
Grade Level Language Arts	X	X	X
Advanced Language Arts	X	X	X
Academic Literacy	X	X	X

Course Descriptions:

The *Missouri Learning Standards* for English Language Arts emphasize writing for three purposes:

1. writing informational texts
2. writing academic argument based on evidence and reasoning
3. writing narratives

When addressing reading, the standards emphasize three modes of reading:

1. Approaching text as a reader to engage with ideas and understand people and the world,
2. Reading as a writer to study the craft of writing and learn how authors capture readers' attention, influence opinions, and communicate important ideas,
3. Reading as a researcher to understand, evaluate, organize, and remember information about topics of study.

Each English Language Arts course in middle school addresses these standards through thematic units. These units provide students rich opportunities to read and write for real purposes. Students read a balance of fiction and nonfiction. The readings provide opportunities for class discussion and study of the style and content choices writer make. Students learn to use advanced academic vocabulary, and to edit their writing for clarity and conventions.

Academic Literacy: Every student takes one semester of Academic Literacy each year as an extension of the English Language Arts curriculum.

6th-grade English Language Arts: This grade-level course will introduce students to the various ways people talk and a write about literature. Reading skills will emphasize selecting evidence to support opinions about character, setting, conflict, and point of view. Writing skills will emphasize building organized paragraphs and including evidence from sources.

6th-grade Advanced English Language Arts: This advanced course emphasizes how readers connect multiple events and ideas to discover themes in literature. Writing tasks will emphasize building complex ideas across multiple paragraphs in a fully developed writing piece.

7th-grade English Language Arts: This grade-level course emphasizes students combining multiple pieces of evidence to support their opinions. Students study the structure of texts and how structure influences what people remember and understand. Students will compare and contrast multiple versions of a story, drama, or a poem to consider how different media use different techniques to communicate.

7th-grade Advanced English Language Arts: This advanced course introduces students to the literary analysis of theme and literary elements. Students produce creative works with attention to style and word-choice. They also conduct research and write evidence-based opinions using appropriate sources.

8th-grade English Language Arts: This grade-level course emphasizes connecting works of literature to the cultural and historic events of specified time-periods. Students learn to notice author's bias while studying the techniques authors use to support arguments with evidence. They will also analyze literary devices and compare texts from specified time-periods.

8th-grade Advanced English Language Arts: This advanced course has been designed to prepare students for advanced language arts courses at high school. Literary analysis of entire works of fiction, longer research based informational texts, and evidence based opinion writing will be the emphasis of this course. Students participating in this course are those who seek eventual AP level coursework in high school.

Social Studies

Courses Offered:

Course Title	Grade Level		
	6	7	8
Ancient World History	X		
Ancient World History and Geography	X		
Geography and Modern World Cultures		X	
Advanced Geography and Modern World Cultures		X	
Early US History			X
Advanced Early US History			X

Course Descriptions:

6th Grade Social Studies: Ancient World History—In 6th grade the course will explore the geography, history (ancient through medieval), government, economics, religion and culture. The emphasis would be for students to gain an understanding and appreciation of the contributions of the ancient world.

6th Grade Advanced Social Studies : Ancient World History and Geography—6th grade the course will explore the geography, history (ancient through medieval), government, economics, religion and culture. The emphasis would be for students to gain an understanding and appreciation of the contributions of the ancient world. Students will also explore connections between current national and international events and issues. In our increasingly global society, learning about different cultures prepares students to relate to and appreciate those with diverse backgrounds.

7th Grade Social Studies: Geography and Modern World Cultures—This world cultures course is a combination of geography and cultural anthropology. It is designed to introduce the student to the concepts of culture in human experience and the concepts of geography. What culture is, how it develops, how it changes, and how it is transferred in time and space, and its power to influence our lives and events, are some of the main topics examined. Because of the substantial influence of religion on human cultures and history, understanding major world religions will also be a focus of this course. Of course, such topics as language, art, political ideologies, government types, gender roles, work, status and rank, war, and human rights are also examined.

7th Grade Advanced Social Studies: Geography and Modern World Cultures—Students with a passion for geography, travel, and world cultures will have the opportunity to extend their learning with advanced reading, and more independence as they read content-rich informational texts, and write using evidence to inform and persuade.

8th Grade Social Studies: Early US History— Students will conduct social science inquiries from Colonization through the Civil War. Emphasis will be placed on economics, government and politics, community and culture, and continuity and change. Students will compose informational and argumentative texts for authentic audiences and purposes.

8th Grade Advanced Social Studies: Early US History— Students with a passion of history and background knowledge in US geography will have the opportunity to extend their learning with advanced reading, and more independence as they read content-rich informational texts, and write using evidence to inform and persuade.

Science

Courses Offered:

Course Title	Grade Level		
	6	7	8
Grade Level Science	X	X	X
Advanced Science	X	X	X

Course Descriptions:

6th Grade Integrated Science: Structures of Life and the Earth – Sixth graders will study the scientific process, characteristics of living organisms, photosynthesis, ecosystems and populations, earth's resources, technology, and human activity.

6th Grade Advanced Integrated Science: Structures of Life and the Earth – Sixth graders with a passion for and some background knowledge in science will extend their study of unit topics by applying the ideas to additional topics and increasing their independence in reading and writing.

7th Grade Integrated Science: Interactions in Physics and Earth Science– Seventh grade science emphasis is on scientific inquiry and interrelationships between science and its practical applications. Some topics discussed are force and motion, water and weather, astronomy, magnetism, and gravity.

7th Grade Advanced Integrated Science: Interactions in Physics and Earth Science–Seventh graders with a passion for and some background knowledge in science will extend their study of unit topics by applying the ideas to additional topics and increasing their independence in reading and writing.

8th Grade Integrated Science: Chemistry and Biology–Eighth grade science focuses on key scientific laws and theories in chemistry and life science. Some of the key topics will be atoms, elements, the periodic table, and chemical reaction in chemistry. Life science will cover cells, DNA, genetics, genetic disorders, and human body systems.

8th Grade Advanced Integrated Science: Chemistry and Biology–Eighth graders with a passion for and some background knowledge in science will extend their study of unit topics by applying the ideas to additional topics and increasing their independence in reading and writing.

Math

Courses Offered:

Course Title	Grade Level		
	6	7	8
Grade Level Math	X	X	
Advanced Math	X		
Pre-Algebra		X	X
College Prep Algebra			X

Course Descriptions:

6th Grade Math – Our sixth grade mathematics course covers applying and understanding whole numbers to millions, fractions and decimals to the thousandths. They must multiply and divide fractions and decimals; apply properties of operations, and solve problems using ratios. Students also begin to work with expressions and equations. Students study geometry, units of measurement, convert systems of measurement.

6th Grade Advanced Math – Sixth grade students who are interested in the challenge of above grade level math should consider taking this course. The course moves through the same units as the grade-level 7th grade math course with additional instruction with the few topics that are new in 6th grade. The course is challenging and students will be supported as they work in groups to model with math, solve problems, and reason mathematically.

7th Grade Math – Seventh grade math students work on representing math concepts in multiple ways. They work with positive and negative numbers, equivalent expressions and factoring, solve geometric problems using scales. They also introduced to the ideas of probability, statistics, and sampling.

7th Grade Advanced Math – Pre-Algebra– Seventh grade students who are interested in the challenge of above grade level math should consider taking this course. The course moves through the same units as the grade-level 8th grade pre-algebra course. The course is challenging and students will be supported as they work in groups to model with math, solve problems, and reason mathematically.

8th Grade Math – Pre-Algebra – Pre-algebra is focuses heavily on equations, functions, and graphing. Students will learn how to analyze problems and apply a variety of strategies to solve them and communicate the solutions. In the geometry units, student study similar triangles, and learn to calculate volume of a variety cones, cylinders, and spheres.

8th Grade Advanced Math –College Prep Algebra – Eighth grade students who are interested in the challenge of above grade level math should consider taking this course. The course moves through the same units as the grade-level high school College Prep Algebra course. The course is challenging and students will be supported as they work in groups to model with math, solve problems, and reason mathematically. Students who are successful in this course may earn high school credit in College Prep Algebra and move into advanced courses in 9th grade. Students in this course take the Algebra End-of-Course exam. The grade for this course is not weighed in the student's high school GPA.

Elective Courses

District Elective Courses Offered:

Course Title	Grade Level		
	6	7	8
Art I	X	X	X
Art II		X	X
Art III			X
Music: Band and/or Choir	X	X	X
Physical Education	X	X	X
Exploratory Spanish (Sem)	X	X	X
Spanish A (Year-long)		X	
Spanish B (Year-long)			X
Business Technology I	X	X	X
Business Technology II		X	X
Business Technology III			X
FACS I	X	X	X
FACS II		X	X
FACS III			X
Challenge	X	X	X
6th Grade Academy	X		

Building Elective Courses Offered:

Course Title	Grade Level		
	6	7	8
Teen Leadership		X	X
STEM		X	X
Music Appreciation	X	X	X
Communications	X		
Contemporary Issues		X	X

District Elective Courses

Course Descriptions:

ART

Art I - Art I is an entry-level art course that emphasizes the basic elements and principles of the visual arts. It provides a foundation of art experiences to be expanded and developed in further specialized art courses. In Art I, students will have the opportunity to create in two- and three-dimensional art formats using a variety of art materials and art techniques. Art vocabulary, art forms, aesthetic concepts, and aspects of art history will be presented. Non-studio activities will include analyzing works of art, writing short reports, and taking written tests.

Art II– In Grade 7th/8th grade art, you will further explore ways to creatively express ideas and original designs with two and three dimensional projects. You will work on a variety of projects using many different types of media. You will experience projects in drawing, painting, sculpture, and design. You will be encouraged to communicate strong visual images, tell stories with your artwork, and express unique and individual ideas

Art III- This course is an advanced study guiding the development of skills relating to three-dimensional art forms. Various media could include plaster, clay, paper/cardboard, wire, wood, and found objects to explore modeling, carving, and construction. Students will learn a vocabulary of sculpture terms and concepts as they relate to the elements and principles of design. Special emphasis is placed on the manipulation of the relationship of mass, space, and form. Students must like to work with their hands. *This class is for 8th grade only and needs teacher approval.*

BAND

Band - 1st, 2nd, and 3rd year band students develop in the areas of individual and ensemble tone, technique, intonation, balance and blend. Students will further develop their ability to sight read music and participate in assigned solos and small ensemble performances. Students are required to participate in concerts, parades and festivals throughout the school year. All 8th grade members will audition for placement in a high school ensemble at the beginning of 2nd semester. *Prior experience is not required.*

VOCAL MUSIC

Choir – 1st, 2nd, 3rd year students in Choir will develop skills reading musical notation and interpreting musical terminology. In this course, students will be able to sing their part independently and will perform in the ensemble before various types of audiences. Students will understand the role of music in the context of changing societies, past, present, and future. Students will appreciate the role of the performer in music and will learn the importance of working together with other musicians to achieve the desired level of performance. These students will experience the joy of striving for excellence through their musical performance.

BUSINESS

Business Technology I - is designed to teach students basic Google Drive and Classroom skills, Digital Citizenship and Keyboarding. Students will also learn how to properly research and format a research paper/essay using Microsoft Word and Google Docs. Students will advance their presentation skills utilizing PowerPoint and Google Slides. All of these skills will be valuable to students for the rest of their academic careers.

Business Technology II - is designed to further the student's knowledge once basic skills are learned. Students will learn advanced skills in Microsoft Word and Google Docs. Students will also be introduced to Microsoft Excel and will become proficient in laying out and analyzing basic spreadsheets, using formulas and making graphs. Students will explore publishing software to produce professional documents while also using film making software to enhance presentations.

Business Technology III is a one-semester course designed for the advanced student to utilize skills learned in Business Technology 2 with a hands on business project using word processing features, spreadsheets, electronic presentations, publishing materials, and various computer programs. This course would benefit any student wanting to enrich their computer skills as well as prepare them for real life situations and future employment.

FACS

Family and Consumer Science I--This exploratory course introduces students to the subject of family and consumer science. Students study food and nutrition, leadership and character development, and clothing care. Students are introduced to food preparation/nutrition skills. The food and nutrition unit introduces nutrition and safety skills and basic measurement in relation to the preparation of recipes. Students will explore their personality and relationships with family and peers. Students will discover their values, goals and determine how they align with their personal needs and wants.

Family and Consumer Science II--Students develop problem solving and cooperative skills during food lab experiences. Students will develop introductory culinary skills while preparing and serving a variety of foods. Construction of a creative textile project will emphasize design thinking and cost considerations. All the course activities will emphasize safety and teamwork in an interactive environment.

Family and Consumer Science III--The third course in the FACS sequence emphasizes creativity and technical skills development. Students learn to balance cost, time, and quality considerations through problem solving, cooperation and hands-on skills learned during experiences.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

Exploratory Spanish - This semester course is designed to introduce students to the world of Spanish-speaking cultures. Students begin to speak, understand, read and write in Spanish. They study the similarities between English and Spanish and learn how people communicate when they don't share a common language. The course emphasizes pronunciation, basic conversation and expression.

Spanish A--This year-long course is designed to develop appreciation of another culture through its language. The goal is to establish a foundation for student ease with the language, whether speaking, listening, reading, or writing. Class participation is required. Students are expected to spend 15-20 minutes per night learning vocabulary and reviewing new material.

Spanish B - This is the second year-long course in the Spanish A-B sequence. Students who successfully complete the two-year sequence will earn a high school credit in Spanish and enroll in Spanish II in 9th grade. Class participation is required. Students are expected to spend 15-20 minutes per night learning vocabulary and reviewing new material.

GIFTED EDUCATION

Challenge – This class is open to 6th, 7th, and 8th graders who have been certified gifted after being tested and qualified according to state and district criteria. Students will use critical thinking and problem solving to complete individual projects and work as a team to communicate and collaborate in group projects in the areas of Philosophy, Literature, Science, Math, Technology and Art.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

PE/Health – Each student is required to take at least one semester of PE/Health each year in middle school.

6th GRADE ACADEMY

6th Grade Academy – This semester course is designed to ensure that 6th grade students are successful in the middle school setting. Students will explore digital citizenship, leadership, character, and study-skills.

Building Elective Courses

Course Descriptions:

Communications - Communications is a semester class emphasizing various communication skills: oral, written, and published.

Teen Leadership - Students in Teen Leadership work on various projects in the school and in the community. This course is based on building problem solving and decision making skills in today's society. Classroom assignments are also an expectation in this class. Teen Leadership is a semester long course.

Contemporary Issues - Students in this semester course will examine, discuss, analyze, and debate a multitude of contemporary issues and social problems in the world today. The instructor will rotate between local, national, and global issues based on events and student interest. Class participation and argumentative analysis will be a major component of a student's grade.

Music Appreciation - This semester course explores the history of contemporary music including rock and roll, rap, jazz, and blues. Students listen to samples of music from each decade beginning with the 1950's to the present. No prior experience is required.

STEM - STEM is an engineering technology semester course in which creates a foundational knowledge & skill base, using both technology, design, & construction activities. Students will be involved in designing & planning before making, working in groups with other students & collaborating on exciting activities that reinforce & teach content. This course emphasizes the use of exercising problem solving skills in order for students to program a solution to solve an existing problem.