

VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS

In the visual arts, music, and dance students acquire knowledge and skills to create, perform and respond in the arts.

By the end of middle school, visual art students will:

- Use and apply visual art elements: line, value, color, shape/form and texture.
- Identify and use the principles of organization: composition, rhythm/repetition and balance.
- Apply creative process and presentation skills.
- Demonstrate knowledge of art history.
- Explain how art communicates ideas and emotions.

By the end of middle school, choral and/or instrumental music students will:

- Read and write musical notation using whole through sixteenth notes and rests in treble and bass clef.
- Recognize, explain and apply musical form.
- Understand and apply use of staccato/legato and accent.
- Perform with expression individually or in ensemble.
- Use listening skills to correct personal tone, pitch, rhythm and volume.
- Apply proper audience and performance skills.

OTHER ELECTIVES

Sixth graders can also participate in electives such as Literature, AVID, Technology Exploration, and Leadership.

HOME AND SCHOOL CONNECTION

A strong partnership between home and school is a vital part of every child's education. Family members can help students succeed by understanding what students are learning in school and by supporting these learning activities at home.

To assist you, this Curriculum and Instruction Guide provides a summary of grade level standards and practices that describe what students should know and be able to do in all subject areas. Teachers focus their curriculum, instruction and assessment on the grade level standards and practices.

You are encouraged to be an active partner in your child's education. If you have questions about specific classroom activities or school programs, please contact your child's teacher.

For further information on state standards and curricular information, use this QR Code to connect with the state standards at OSPI.



ASSESSING AND REPORTING STUDENT LEARNING FOR GRADES 6-8

Teachers collect information about what students know and can do in various ways, including:

- direct observations of performance,
- reviews of written work and assignments, and
- formal assessments, including district and state-sponsored assessments.

Assessment results and other information about student learning are shared with families through:

- conferences,
- progress reports, and
- report cards.

For questions about reporting practices and/or assessments of your child's learning please contact your child's classroom teacher.



A Guide to GRADE 6 Curriculum and Instruction

The Mission of Vancouver Public Schools

Excellence in Education

In partnership with home and community, Vancouver Public Schools provides an innovative learning environment that engages and empowers each student to develop the knowledge and essential skills to become a competent, responsible, and compassionate citizen.



ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Sixth grade students will develop literacy through integrated reading, writing, speaking and listening experiences. They will learn critical reading skills and increase academic and content area vocabulary through these experiences. They will give evidence of their learning through their writing and through collaborative participation in conversations.

READING

- Read literary text for approximately 45% of their school day and read informational text for 55% of their day in classes such as science and social studies.
- Determine a theme or central idea of a text.
- Summarize texts.
- Evaluate arguments and specific claims.
- Cite evidence to support analysis of the text.
- Compare and contrast texts in different forms or genres.
- Read texts at appropriately challenging levels proficiently and with help as needed for texts at the high end of complexity by the end of the year.

WRITING

- Write to persuade or argue a point, to explain information, and to narrate experiences.
- Participate in multiple short research projects as well as more extended research projects to gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources, assess the credibility of each source and quote or paraphrase the data while avoiding plagiarism.
- Practice revising and editing writing and use technology to produce and publish writing.

SPEAKING & LISTENING

- Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions.

LANGUAGE

- Use knowledge of language and its conventions when writing, speaking, reading, or listening.

MATHEMATICS

In Grade 6, instructional time focuses on the development of the following mathematical practices and content.

Mathematical Practices

- Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.
- Reason abstractly and quantitatively.
- Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others.
- Model with mathematics.
- Use appropriate tools strategically.
- Attend to precision.
- Look for and make use of structure.
- Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning.

Ratios and Proportional Relationships

- Understand ratio concepts and use ratio reasoning to solve problems.

The Number System

- Apply and extend previous understandings of multiplication and division to divide fractions by fractions.
- Compute fluently with multi-digit numbers and find common factors and multiples.
- Apply and extend previous understandings of numbers to the system of rational numbers.

Expressions and Equations

- Apply and extend previous understandings of arithmetic to algebraic expressions.
- Reason about and solve one-variable equations and inequalities.
- Represent and analyze quantitative relationships between dependent and independent variables.

Geometry

- Solve real-world and mathematical problems involving area, surface area, and volume.

Statistics and Probability

- Develop understanding of statistical variability.
- Summarize and describe distributions.

SCIENCE

Students develop an understanding of scientific practices, engineering practices, and cross-cutting concepts with an emphasis on earth science content.

- Study the structure and function of the universe, and Earth's place in the solar system.
- Model Earth's systems.
- Design solutions to human impacts on Earth.

HEALTH

Health education provides students with the knowledge and skills necessary to practice healthy behaviors. Students study six core ideas.

- Wellness
- Safety
- Nutrition
- Sexual health
- Social emotional health
- Substance use and abuse

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

During physical education activities students practice and apply the knowledge and skills they learn.

- Motor skill development
- Knowledge and behaviors of active living
- Physical fitness: muscular strength, muscular endurance, cardio endurance, & flexibility
- Sportsmanship, self-efficacy, and emotional intelligence

SOCIAL STUDIES

The study of world civilizations allows students to deepen their understanding of the Earth and its peoples through the study of history, geography, politics, culture, and economic systems. Students will evaluate the enduring contributions of ancient and medieval global societies, recognizing the links between the historical and contemporary worlds made possible through the interconnection of peoples and the Age of Exploration.

- Mapping locations and settlement patterns in various ways helps students understand the physical and cultural characteristics of places and regions.
- Geography impacts issues and events locally and globally throughout history.
- Periods in human history are marked by events and people who have changed the course of human and global development.
- Indigenous people in all regions of the world have their own historical narrative that can differ from mainstream historical accounts of the same event.
- The role of the citizen has evolved from ancient to modern times.

TECHNOLOGY

Students learn to use and apply technology for accessing information and demonstrating learning.

- Practices using a variety of digital tools.
- Learns appropriate use of technology.

HOME AND SCHOOL CONNECTION

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ASSESSING AND REPORTING STUDENT LEARNING FOR GRADES 6-8

Teachers collect information about what students know and can do in various ways, including:

- direct observations of performance,
- reviews of written work and assignments, and
- formal assessments, including district and state-sponsored assessments.

Assessment results and other information about student learning are shared with families through:

- conferences,
- progress reports, and
- report cards.

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A Guide to GRADE 7 Curriculum and Instruction

The Mission of Vancouver Public Schools

Excellence in Education

In partnership with home and community, Vancouver Public Schools provides an innovative learning environment that engages and empowers each student to develop the knowledge and essential skills to become a competent, responsible, and compassionate citizen.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Seventh grade students will continue to develop literacy through integrated reading, writing, speaking, and listening experiences. They will learn critical reading skills and increase academic and content area vocabulary through these experiences. They will give evidence of their learning through their writing and through collaborative participation in conversations.

READING

- Read literary texts during 45% of their reading day and informational texts for 55% of their reading day.
- Determine a theme or central idea of a text.
- Analyze how elements, ideas, and events interact within a text.
- Evaluate arguments and claims in a text.

WRITING

- Write to persuade or argue a point, to explain information, and to narrate experiences.
- Participate in multiple short research projects as well as more extended research projects to gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources, assess the credibility of each source and quote or paraphrase the data while avoiding plagiarism.
- Develop and strengthen writing.
- Respond to text-based questions in short as well as more extended responses.

SPEAKING & LISTENING

- Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions.
- Analyze diverse media and formats.

LANGUAGE

- Use knowledge of language and its conventions when writing, speaking, reading, or listening.

MATHEMATICS

Instructional time focuses on the development of the following mathematical practices and content.

Mathematical Practices

- Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.
- Reason abstractly and quantitatively.
- Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others.
- Model with mathematics.
- Use appropriate tools strategically.
- Attend to precision.
- Look for and make use of structure.
- Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning.

Critical Areas

- Develop understanding of and applying proportional relationships.
- Develop understanding of operations with rational numbers and working with expressions and linear equations.
- Solve problems involving scale drawings and informal geometric constructions, and working with two- and three-dimensional shapes to solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume.
- Drawing inferences about populations based on samples.

SCIENCE

Students develop an understanding of scientific practices, engineering practices, and cross-cutting concepts with an emphasis on life science content.

- Understand cell, and body system structure, function, and information processing.
- Learn energy flow in organisms, and the reproduction of plants and animals.
- Study the interdependent relationships in ecosystems.

HEALTH

Health education provides students with the knowledge and skills necessary to practice healthy behaviors. Students study six core ideas.

- Wellness
- Safety
- Nutrition
- Sexual health
- Social emotional health
- Substance use and abuse

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

During physical education activities students practice and apply the knowledge and skills they learn.

- Motor skill development
- Knowledge and behaviors of active living
- Physical fitness: muscular strength, muscular endurance, cardio endurance, & flexibility
- Sportsmanship, self-efficacy, and emotional intelligence

SOCIAL STUDIES

Students examine Washington state, from native and European contact to the present. The study of Washington state includes an examination of the state constitution and key treaties, including popular and tribal sovereignty issues.

- Washington state maintains important relationships among sovereign states (international and tribal) through both political and economic agreements.
- Washington's location and geographic regions affect the production of goods and the state's role in the global economy.
- Geography impacts issues and events locally and globally throughout history.
- Social movements, technological developments, and cultural and ethnic groups have shaped Washington state's history.
- History is made up of a series of events that define a society, nation, or state.

TECHNOLOGY

Students learn to use and apply technology for accessing information and demonstrating learning.

- Practices using a variety of digital tools.
- Learns appropriate use of technology.

VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS

In the visual arts, music, and dance students acquire knowledge and skills to create, perform and respond in the arts.

By the end of middle school, visual art students will:

- Use and apply visual art elements: line, value, color, shape/form and texture.
- Identify and use the principles of organization: composition, rhythm/repetition and balance.
- Apply creative process and presentation skills.
- Demonstrate knowledge of art history.
- Explain how art communicates ideas and emotions.

By the end of middle school, choral and/or instrumental music students will:

- Read and write musical notation using whole through sixteenth notes and rests in treble and bass clef.
- Recognize, explain and apply musical form.
- Understand and apply use of staccato/legato and accent.
- Perform with expression individually or in ensemble.
- Use listening skills to correct personal tone, pitch, rhythm and volume.
- Apply proper audience and performance skills.

OTHER ELECTIVES

Seventh and eighth grade students will also have the opportunity to participate in electives such as world languages, technology, AVID, Leadership, and yearbook/journalism.

VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS

In the visual arts, music, and dance students acquire knowledge and skills to create, perform and respond in the arts.

By the end of middle school, visual art students will:

- Use and apply visual art elements: line, value, color, shape/form and texture.
- Identify and use the principles of organization: composition, rhythm/repetition and balance.
- Apply creative process and presentation skills.
- Demonstrate knowledge of art history.
- Explain how art communicates ideas and emotions.

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- Understand and apply use of staccato/legato and accent.
- Perform with expression individually or in ensemble.
- Use listening skills to correct personal tone, pitch, rhythm and volume.
- Apply proper audience and performance skills.

OTHER ELECTIVES

Seventh and eighth grade students will also have the opportunity to participate in electives such as world languages, technology, AVID, Leadership, and yearbook/journalism.

HOME AND SCHOOL CONNECTION

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ASSESSING AND REPORTING STUDENT LEARNING FOR GRADES 6-8

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- reviews of written work and assignments, and
- formal assessments, including district and state-sponsored assessments.

Assessment results and other information about student learning are shared with families through:

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- progress reports, and
- report cards.

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A Guide to GRADE 8 Curriculum and Instruction

The Mission of Vancouver Public Schools

Excellence in Education

In partnership with home and community, Vancouver Public Schools provides an innovative learning environment that engages and empowers each student to develop the knowledge and essential skills to become a competent, responsible, and compassionate citizen.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Eighth grade students will continue to develop literacy through integrated reading, writing, speaking, and listening experiences. They will learn critical reading skills and increase academic and content area vocabulary through these experiences. They will give evidence of their learning through their writing and through collaborative participation in conversations.

READING

- Read literary texts during 45% of their reading day and informational texts for 55% of their reading day.
- Determine a theme or central idea of a text.
- Determine an author's point of view or purpose in a text.
- Cite text evidence to support analysis.
- Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text. Analyze the impact of specific word choices.

WRITING

- Write to persuade or argue a point, to explain information, and to narrate experiences.
- Participate in multiple short research projects as well as more extended research projects to gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources, assess the credibility of each source and quote or paraphrase the data while avoiding plagiarism.
- Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.
- Write routinely over extended time frames and shorter time frames for a range of discipline-specific tasks, purposes, and audiences.

SPEAKING & LISTENING

- Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions.

LANGUAGE

- Use knowledge of language and its conventions when writing, speaking, reading, or listening.

MATHEMATICS

Instructional time focuses on the development of the following mathematical practices and content.

Mathematical Practices

- Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.
- Reason abstractly and quantitatively.
- Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others.
- Model with mathematics.
- Use appropriate tools strategically.
- Attend to precision.
- Look for and make use of structure.
- Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning.

Critical Areas

- Formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations, including modeling an association in bivariate data with a linear equation, and solving linear equations and systems of linear equations
- Grasping the concept of a function and using functions to describe quantitative relationships
- Analyzing two- and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence, and understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem.

SCIENCE

Students develop an understanding of scientific practices, engineering practices, and cross-cutting concepts with an emphasis on physical science content.

- Understands the law of conservation of mass, transfer of thermal energy, and forces.
- Interactions in systems related to kinetic, and potential energy.
- Studies the properties of waves and the way waves through various mediums.

HEALTH

Health education provides students with the knowledge and skills necessary to practice healthy behaviors. Students study six core ideas.

- Wellness
- Safety
- Nutrition
- Sexual health
- Social emotional health
- Substance use and abuse

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

During physical education activities students practice and apply the knowledge and skills they learn.

- Motor skill development
- Knowledge and behaviors of active living
- Physical fitness: muscular strength, muscular endurance, cardio endurance, & flexibility
- Sportsmanship, self-efficacy, and emotional intelligence

SOCIAL STUDIES

In U.S. History, students develop a new, more abstract level of understanding of social studies concepts. The recommended context for developing this understanding is U.S. history and government, 1776 to 1877.

- Governing is a process that evolves over time, and the effort to build a "more perfect Union" is ongoing.
- Governing requires active civic involvement by members of a society to maintain a balance of power in that society.
- People's actions are influenced by the desire for economic growth.
- Growth and expansion of the United States changed how people used the land and how cultural groups interacted.
- History is made up of a series of events that define a society, nation, or state.
- Individual people, ethnic groups, cultural movements, and technological developments have all impacted how the United States has developed.

TECHNOLOGY

Students learn to use and apply technology for accessing information and demonstrating learning.

- Practices using a variety of digital tools.
- Learns appropriate use of technology.