

# 6th Grade Academics

*The Academy provides a venue in which all students can be educated and assessed in both traditional and non-traditional ways, thereby helping children to thrive in all learning environments. The middle school curriculum is challenging, differentiated, project driven and real-world connected both in and through the arts and technology. At WMAAA, your child will become a confident and excited learner.*

## Language Arts:

Our sixth grade English Language Arts program continues to develop strength in reading, writing, speaking, listening and responding skills. Your child will increase his/her ability to analyze and synthesize information and thoughts, and become a self aware, confident reader, writer and speaker using a variety of communication skills and mediums to gain or share knowledge. The sixth grade English Language Arts student will do the following:

- Use more sophisticated word decoding skills and strategies to improve fluency and comprehension
- Continue to analyze elements and style of an expanding list of narrative genres and study how authors use various tools to develop themes, characters, and issues
- Increase knowledge of style, organizational patterns and elements of information genre and use this knowledge to improve and apply comprehension strategies
- Refine and strengthen strategies and knowledge of organization tools to self-monitor comprehension and to take initiative to recognize and correct comprehension challenges
- Continue to strengthen use and knowledge of various literary devices, pre-writing skills and writing strategies across an increasing number of writing genres
- Strengthen process writing skills while focusing on the development of personal style, grammar usage and spelling skills
- Respond thoughtfully, both orally and in writing, to a speaker's point of view and bias, while separating fact from opinion
- Identify techniques used to deliver a message through various mediums or writing genre.

## Science:

Sixth grade students combine open-ended project learning and informational learning skills to study specific units within the earth, biological and physical science fields. Science processes of inquiry, reflection, and constructing new knowledge that have been initiated in previous grades are strengthened and broadened. Specific units of study include the following:

- Wave energy including light and sound
- Describing the physical world including a study of matter and basic chemistry concepts
- Organization of living things focusing on plants and animal life.
- Ecology: Looking at man's impact on the earth.

## Mathematics:

Numbers and operations development continue to work on fraction skills in preparation for later work with proportions, ratio, rates and probability. Further experience in integers, rational numbers and exponents is provided. Students will develop fluency with the interrelatedness of decimal, fractions and percentages and their application in a real-world setting. Students will build an understanding of the fourth different representations of linear relationships and the algebraic properties that allow them to begin manipulating and solving linear equations. Geometry knowledge is deepened with explorations in lines, angles, triangles, congruence and transformations. Units of study include the following:

- Operations with fractions, decimals and percentages
- Exponents and rational numbers
- Rational and irrational numbers
- Ratios, proportions and linear relationships
- Properties of linear functions
- Coordinate plane
- Using variables and writing expressions and equations
- Solving linear equations
- Volume, surface area, angles and line relationships, congruent polygons, transformations.

## Social Studies:

Sixth Grade Social studies focuses on the beginnings of Human society, early civilizations, World religions and major empires, before focusing in on the Western Hemisphere. Using the five focus areas of history, geography, civics and government, and economics, the western world diversity is explored. The year provides multiple opportunity for exploring contemporary international issues such as the deforestation of the rainforests. As required by state content expectations, the students will be involved in a culminating capstone project. Major units of study include the following:

- Ancients societies and the agricultural revolutions
- World religions
- Major Empires
- Canada and United States
- Latin America and South America
- The Caribbean.



Every Child Successful, Everyday !

# Middle School Arts

*Great schools require the arts! Our arts programs engage all students in the acts of creating, performing, analyzing, and responding. The arts provide unique avenues for communicating ideas, stimulating creativity and enriching the academic curriculum. By providing arts opportunities to a child, that child is exposed to a variety of new ways to view and experience the world. It is our belief that the powerful combination of academics and arts addresses the needs for multiple learning styles and provides the foundation for students to transition successfully to tomorrow's world of opportunities.*

*Our middle school program supports our integration structure, while adding a locally unique arts focus requirement similar to a college major. Beginning in sixth grade, students must commit nine out of twenty-four of their middle school electives to a specific arts focus area. This provides students with a more thorough knowledge base of a particular art discipline while allowing them to continue exploration in other arts and other enrichment areas. Listed below are the opportunities available to our middle school students at their three years at the Academy.*



## Art Focus Areas:

- Band
- Piano
- Vocal music
- Tap dance
- Ballet/jazz dance
- Theatre
- Musical theatre
- Visual art

## Theatre:

- Voice and Movement for Actors
- Improvisation
- Theatre History I & II
- Drama and Social Issues
- Musical Theatre
- Creative Drama

## Vocal Music:

- Cantilena Chorale (fifth and sixth grade choir)
- Bel Canto Singers (seventh and eighth grade choir)
- Musical Theatre



## Visual Arts:

- Multi-Media Art
- Sculpture and Advanced Sculpture
- Art History I & II
- Drawing
- Painting
- Human Connections through art

## Technology:

- Technology Tools
- World Cultures and Languages (Rosetta Stone)
- CAD Drawing

## Instrumental Music:

- Piano
- Intermediate and Advanced Band
- Percussion Team

## Dance:

- Beginning and Intermediate Ballet and Jazz Dance
- Beginning and Intermediate Tap Dance
- Physical Conditioning (fitness)

## Other Elective Opportunities:

- Creative Writing I & II
- Rocket Science
- Bridges and More
- Hollywood Films: Fact or Fiction
- Intro to Film/Documentary
- STAR ( Student Tutoring Academic Resources)



*\* Specific course descriptions available upon request*



Touching Hearts...Reaching Minds