

Fossil Ridge Intermediate School Course Descriptions

6th Grade Core

Language Arts 6

Co-taught LA 6- Students with special learning needs will be placed in this class with two teachers, one of whom is a special education teacher, to assist students to learn core concepts at a modified pace.

LA 6 Inclusion- This is a regular LA 6 class comprised of a mixture of regular education students and students with Individualized Education Plans. Core concepts are taught with support from a teacher's aide.

LA 6 Grade Level- This is grade-level Language Arts 6. Each student will read and comprehend grade-level text, write for any task, audience, purpose; present information in a useful manner, and demonstrate command of the English language. The Utah Core State Standards will serve as the core for this class. These standards include college and career-ready skills for writing, reading, speaking and listening. Successful mastery of the key concepts in this course will enable students to continue on a college and career-ready path.

LA 6 Advanced- Students who perform well on 5th grade end-of-level testing, and with the recommendation of their 5th grade teachers, will be considered for this class. Students will be instructed based on general core concepts, but will also have additional extensions and writing assignments.

Mathematics 6

Co-taught Math 6- This class covers the Utah 6th grade core standards for mathematics. The focus of this class is teaching the basic foundations of Math 6. The class size is small with additional teacher support which allows for more individual instruction. The purpose of this class is to assist students with specific learning disabilities, major math anxiety, non-proficient end-of-level test scores, behavior problems, language gaps, absence of home support, and so on.

Math 6 Inclusion- This class covers the Utah 6th grade core standards for mathematics. Class instruction is identical to Math 6 Grade Level, but includes a teacher's aide to assist with needed accommodations for students with Individualized Education Plans. Students are encouraged to retake quizzes as needed to demonstrate proficiency, and students who fall short of proficiency on any assessment will be re-taught and re-assessed during intervention time (REACH).

Math 6 Grade Level- This class covers the Utah 6th grade core standards for mathematics (equations and expressions, number system, ratio and proportional relationships, geometry, and statistics and probability). Students are encouraged to retake quizzes as needed in order to be proficient. Students who fall short of proficiency on assessments will be re-taught and re-assessed during intervention time (REACH).

Math 6 Advanced- This class covers the Utah 6th grade core standards for mathematics. Students are placed in this class according to 5th grade end-of-level test scores, teacher recommendation, and other data. Math 6 concepts are taught with greater depth and at a quicker pace. Students must maintain a B average to remain in the class. The same emphasis on proficiency and mastery of core concepts is taught as with other math levels, and interventions are still available during REACH.

Math 6 Advanced Plus- This class covers the Utah 6th grade core standards for mathematics, as well as part of the 7th grade math core (number system, expressions and equations, ratios, unit rates and proportions). Students are placed in this class according to 5th grade end-of-level test scores, teacher recommendation, COGAT and IOWA scores, and other data. Students will need to maintain a B average to remain in this class, and the same emphasis on proficiency, mastery, and interventions as needed in this high level math class is fostered in this class.

Integrated Science 6

Science 6 Grade Level- Course content is focused on the Utah Science Education Standards. This class incorporates the three dimensions of science understanding: science and engineering practices, crosscutting concepts, and disciplinary core ideas. The theme of the content is the cycling of matter and the flow of energy.

Science 6 Advanced- Course content is focused on the Utah Science Education Standards. This class incorporates the three dimensions of science understanding: science and engineering practices, crosscutting concepts, and disciplinary core ideas. The theme of the content is the cycling of matter and the flow of energy. Course content is focused on the Utah Science Education curriculum and this class will go deeper into the subject matter. Science Fair participation will be mandatory. Requirements to take this course: teacher recommendation and 4's on end-of-level tests in Math, Language Arts, and top scaled scores in Science.

Social Studies- This course focuses on the history of the world. It emphasizes the development and contributions of ancient world civilizations, the transformation of cultures during the Middle Ages and the Renaissance, the impact of revolutions on the modern world, and current global issues in the interconnected world. This course will also develop the reading and writing in content area skills that will build the foundation for secondary social studies in middle and high school.

Physical Education 6- This course is an activity-based course designed to promote student knowledge of and positive disposition toward physical activity, fitness, and nutrition. Students will participate in competitive and cooperative activities. Organized games will promote physical fitness, social interaction, and fun. In addition, students will learn the importance of physical activity and proper nutrition for physical and emotional health.

Computer keyboarding- In this beginning formal keyboarding course students will master touch operation on a computer keyboard. Correct fingering by touch and good techniques will receive primary emphasis; speed and accuracy will be given secondary emphasis. The fourth row numbers and symbols and 10-key pad will also be taught. Students will also use basic word processing functions on a variety of document types.

7th Grade Core

Language Arts 7

Co-taught LA 7- Students with special learning needs will be placed in this class with two teachers, one of whom is a special education teacher, to assist students to learn core concepts at a modified pace.

LA 7 Inclusion- Inclusion LA is a regular language arts class with a greater percentage of students with Individualized Education Plans. This class is taught by a regular teacher with additional support from a teacher's aide or special education teacher.

LA 7 Grade Level- Students in LA 7 will read a variety of texts, both fiction and non-fiction; will research and write informative and argumentative essays as well as summaries, narratives, and other genres; and will practice speaking, listening, and language skills. All standards and tasks are based on the Utah Core Standards for Language Arts.

***LA 7 Advanced-** Honors clusters are opportunities for students who are quicker learners or who are more advanced in language arts skills. These students are grouped together in regular core LA classes (same period)

providing opportunities for collaboration with other LA 7 teachers' honors cluster students when appropriate. The core curriculum presents a huge advance in basic skills that provides opportunities for learning, growth and challenges for all students. In addition, enhancement activities will be offered to students in REACH to allow more advanced students to challenge themselves with more difficult, creative, or out-of-curriculum tasks.

*Students must complete an Honors Cluster form to apply for this placement.

Mathematics 7

Co-taught Math 7- This class covers the three most important Math 7 core standards as identified by the FRIS Math 7 Team (number systems, expressions and equations, ratios, unit rates and proportions). Students in this course will also be exposed to geometry and probability as a secondary priority. Students in this class will demonstrate understanding of the three main standards on a basic level. More time is spent teaching the basic foundations of mathematics and less time is spent on extension of the content. There will always be two teachers co-teaching this class. The class size is low (8-12 students). This allows for more one-on-one instruction and remediation for each student's specific needs. A limited number of spots are available for students who have previously shown major struggles with mathematics. In order to qualify for this class a student will have a major mathematical learning gap due to, but not limited to, any of the following disadvantages: identified learning disability with an IEP, major math anxiety, extremely low (non-proficient) test scores, behavior problems, language gaps, absence of home support etc. A student does not require an IEP to qualify for this course.

Math 7 Inclusion- This class covers the three most important Math 7 core standards as identified by the FRIS Math 7 Team (number systems, expressions and equations, ratios, unit rates and proportions). Students in this course will also be exposed to geometry and probability as a secondary priority. Students in this class will demonstrate an understanding of the three main standards on a proficient level. Students are given opportunities for intervention if they are struggling, and also opportunities for extensions if they are proficient. This course will always have one math-certified teacher and one special education teacher or aide. The class sizes are of average size. The SPED teacher/aide will be available to support students with specific identified learning disabilities, but may also assist in working with students who may not necessarily be at a specific disadvantage. Students who qualify for this class are any 7th grade students who are approaching proficiency or already proficient in mathematics. This class is not exclusively reserved for students with an IEP. The majority of students attending this course will be Math 7 students without an IEP. The SPED teacher/aide provides support to give those students who have an IEP the opportunity to function on the same level as an average 7th grade math student.

Math 7 Grade Level- This class covers the three most important Math 7 core standards as identified by the FRIS Math 7 Team (number systems, expressions and equations, ratios, unit rates and proportions). Students in this course will also be exposed to geometry and probability as a secondary priority. Students in this class will demonstrate an understanding of the three main standards on a proficient level. Students are given opportunities for intervention if they are struggling, and also opportunities for extensions if they are proficient. This class will have one teacher to support every student. Students in this course show a basic level of understanding of 6th grade math core and this class may contain students who have an IEP who do not need special attention in math.

Math 7 Advanced- This class covers the three most important Math 7 core standards as identified by the FRIS Math 7 Team (number systems, expressions and equations, ratios, unit rates and proportions). Students in this course will also be exposed to geometry and probability as a secondary priority. Students in this class will demonstrate an understanding of the three main standards on a proficient level. Students are given opportunities for intervention if they are struggling, and also opportunities for extensions if they are proficient. The class will have one teacher to support every student. Student work is more rigorous and students are expected to display a high level of self-dedication to the completion of their work. This class will spend more time exploring in-depth the Math 7 core standards, and will have more opportunities to extend their knowledge through real-world application. Students who attend this class should already show a proficient-above proficient understanding of Math 6 core standards based on teacher recommendation and assessment data.

Math 7 Advanced Plus- Students in this class will explore both Math 7 and Math 8 Utah State Core concepts concurrently. Mid-year these students will take the 7th grade SAGE assessment and students will take the 8th grade SAGE assessment at the end of the year.

Integrated Science 7

Science 7 Grade level- This grade-level science course will cover forces and motion, earth science, cells, heredity, and natural selection. This course also includes science and engineering practices with a hands-on approach.

Science 7 Advanced- This course will include a student-driven approach of the study of forces and motion, earth science, cells, heredity, and natural selection. This course also includes science and engineering practices with a hands-on approach. This course will also require participation in the Science Fair, along with a more in-depth look at each approach. Requirements to take this course: 4 on SAGE Science 6 test, teacher recommendation, and an application essay.

Utah History- This course is an extension of the language arts core. Therefore, the Guaranteed Viable Curriculum (GVC's) are focused on language arts. There will be several writing assignments and many reading comprehension activities. The content of the class is the study of Utah based on the Utah State Core. Students will learn about Utah's geography, native peoples, explorers, pioneers and government.

Physical Education 7- This course is an activity-based course designed to promote student knowledge of and positive disposition toward physical activity, fitness, and nutrition. Students will participate in competitive and cooperative activities. Organized games will promote physical fitness, social interaction, and fun. In addition, students will learn the importance of physical activity and proper nutrition for physical and emotional health.

College and Career Awareness- These College and Career Awareness courses are designed to help students identify their interests, abilities and skills. With appropriate developmental information related to careers, educational pathways and self-knowledge, students are able to begin to make college and career goals for the future. These classes are designed to acquaint students with the Utah labor market and the employment opportunities for which they can prepare by defining a College and Career Ready Plan.

REACH- Every student is assigned a REACH intervention class at the end of each school day. REACH is designed to allow every student the opportunity to achieve mastery learning in all subjects. Students may be stamped for mastery learning or to attend a tutorial or extension learning opportunity with teachers who have stamped specific students. Students who are stamped by a teacher attend REACH on that particular day in the class of the teacher who gave the stamp. REACH helps every student achieve his or her potential.

Fine Arts Electives

Art 1- This class is designed to give entry-level students a solid overview of art production, history, aestheticism and criticism. A strong emphasis is placed on the elements and principles of art and the use of multiple two-dimensional and three dimensional techniques and media. This broad-based curriculum provides a good general overview of the foundation for advanced art classes.

Art 2 (Prerequisite: Art 1) - This course is designed to expand knowledge and skill through an in-depth study of tools, artists, techniques, and media associated with painting, drawing, charcoal, mixed media, and so more. Students will complete both two-dimensional and three-dimensional art works.

Advanced Studio Art (Prerequisite: Art teacher's signature required for admission) - This course is designed for those students who want to further develop their art ability. This course will include learning to make canvases,

acrylic and oil painting, ceramic wheel throwing, guest artists, and so much more! Students will also work on a project of their choice to enter into the WCSD Art Show. Problem solving, creativity, and originality are expected in study, planning, art making, and reflection.

Choir 1- This beginning choir classes is for 6th and 7th grade students who have NOT taken Choir 1. Emphasis will be placed on quality vocal production, part singing, and music-reading skills. Rehearsals and performances outside of class time are part of this course requirement and will constitute a portion of each student's grade.

Choir 2- This one-trimester class is for 7th grade students who have taken Choir 1 as 6th graders and want to take another trimester choir class as 7th graders, but who do NOT want to take the full-year show choir. This class includes the basics of singing, confidence, and fun is the focus. This choir does not perform at festivals and events.

Show Choir (Prerequisite: Choir teacher's signature required for admission) – This choir is the intermediate level performing choir. This course is a full-year class and will perform at festivals and events.

Theater 1- (This class is for 6th and 7th grade students who have not taken Theater 1 in grades 6 or 7) – Students will learn the basic concepts of theater performance including team building, stage presence and confidence, improvisation skills, movement, voice and diction, characterization, performance, production, and audience participation. The end of the trimester will culminate in a final performance, during class, with the invitation to have friends and family attend.

Theater 2 (This class is for 7th graders who took theater 1 as 6th grade students) – This class will build upon the concepts learned in Theater 1. This class will explore more advanced concepts of Theater Foundations 1 including theater genres, improvisation, acting techniques, stage presence, confidence, solo performance, small-group performance, theater as art evaluation, along with other necessary concepts. This class will conclude with a final performance and possibly (but not necessarily) an opportunity to perform in the WCSD Fine Arts Festival.

Beginning Orchestra- This class is for students who want to learn to play a violin, viola, cello, or string bass. No experience is necessary. Practice outside of class is required. An instrument is also required. Violas, cellos, and string basses may be rented from the school for a nominal fee.

Intermediate Orchestra- This class is a second year orchestra class for students who have previously taken Beginning Orchestra.

Beginning Band-Woodwinds, Brass and Percussion- Beginning band students will learn music concepts by playing an instrument in an ensemble setting. Concepts include posture, tone production, reading notes, reading rhythms and articulations. Students are expected to acquire an instrument (with cleaning kit and accessories) and a method book for use in class. Instruments must be able to go back and forth between school and home to meet practice requirements. If you ride the bus or walk to and from school, please consider this when choosing a large instrument. Our method book (blue and white) is called **Sound Innovations Book 1** and is instrument specific. Limited copies are available for checkout from our school library. In the Brass class, students may begin playing trumpet, trombone, French horn, or baritone/euphonium. Students will need slide or valve oil and tuning slide grease to maintain their instruments. In the Woodwinds class, students may begin playing flute or clarinet, with options to extend to alto saxophone or bass clarinet following winter break. These students will need to purchase several reeds throughout the year. In the Percussion class, students will use a percussion kit on wheels consisting of a bell set (metal bars arranged like piano keys) and a practice pad. Students will need to acquire a set of drumsticks and soft rubber mallets.

The school has a limited number of used but maintained instruments that may be rented for the year. Students are encouraged to purchase or rent instruments on their own if possible. Local music stores offer quality instruments through rent-to-own programs. Information on instrument quality and brands is available on our class website: www.trexbands.org.

Students will have both written and playing assessments and assignments. There will also be regular concert performances outside of the school day and students are expected to participate. Band students will also be taking field trips to music festivals or combined school events during the year. Contact Mr. Nielsen with any questions at Jacob.nielsen@washk12.org.

Intermediate Band- Intermediate Band students must complete a beginning band course or be able to play at an equivalent proficiency level to enroll in this class. Music concepts in the curriculum will build on the knowledge gained in Beginning Band and will include posture, tone production, reading notes, reading rhythms and articulation. Students are expected to acquire an instrument (with cleaning kit and accessories) and a method book for use in class. Students will learn songs, chorales and scales from our method book, **Sound Innovations Book 2** (red and white). Beginning band classes were separated by instrument families. Intermediate band classes will be mixed instrumentation.

Students who played clarinet in Beginning Band have the option to extend to alto or tenor saxophone, or bass clarinet. Brass players may consider branching out to the baritone or tuba if interested. Percussion students will need to have a way to practice both a keyboard instrument (bell set, piano, xylophone, etc.) at home and a practice pad with sticks and mallets. Percussions students in class will be assigned to different auxiliary percussion instruments for each piece students play in an ensemble. Playing a drum set is not part of the curriculum, although there may be an occasional piece that calls for it.

Intermediate Band students will have regular concert performances outside of school and all students are expected to participate. Intermediate Band students will also be taking field trips to festivals, shows or combined school events during the year. Contact Mr. Nielsen with any questions at Jacob.nielsen@washk12.org.