



6th Grade Elective Form

MUST BE COMPLETED AND TURNED INTO 5TH GRADE TEACHER BY FRIDAY, **MAY 3, 2024**

Student Name: _____
Last, First

If you know for certain that your student will NOT be attending LMS next year, check the box and sign below. Do not complete any other part of this form.

☐ My student will NOT be attending Lincoln Middle School next year

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Required classes for all 6th graders

Science – full year
Art* – one quarter
Music Elective – see below
Social Studies – full year

Taught in a 3-period block [**Math** – full year
Language Arts/Reading – full year
Fitness, Movement, Sport and Health (FMSH)
*3 quarters of FMSH & 1 quarter of Art are rotated through the same class period during the year

6th grade elective choices are Band, Choir, & Orchestra (previous stringed instrument experience required for orchestra). Music electives are a yearlong commitment, and may not be switched once the school year is underway. Please read the information below and make a single selection.

Choir is open to all grade 6 students regardless of experience or ability. Time in class is primarily spent exploring vocal technique through song while practicing beginning part-singing and advancing in rhythm and note reading. Students sing music of varying styles from a variety of cultures. Goal setting and home practice are required as students prepare for performances, including a choral festival. Students are expected to participate in evening performances periodically throughout the year, which are counted as a percentage of their grades. **STUDENTS WHO OPT TO JOIN THE JAZZ CHOIR, WHICH MEETS BEFORE SCHOOL, ARE REQUIRED TO ENROLL IN THIS CLASS.

Band is open to all grade 6 students regardless of experience or ability. Band students will need to rent or purchase an instrument (see instrument information on the other side of this page). The majority of the time spent in the sixth-grade band is dedicated to learning how to play a musical instrument with an emphasis on technique, music theory, and music history. Previous knowledge of music is not required. Students are expected to practice at home and participate in evening concerts periodically throughout the year, which is counted as a percentage of their grade.

Orchestra is open to grade 6 students with at least one year of strings experience. Orchestra students will need to rent or purchase an instrument (see instrument information on the other side of this page). The sixth-grade orchestra builds on the skills learned in elementary school. More advanced music and vibrato skills are introduced. This class is not designed for beginning strings students. Students are expected to practice at home and participate in evening concerts periodically throughout the year, which is counted as a percentage of their grades.

CHOOSE ONLY ONE MUSIC OPTION:

☐

Band

Please mark a first & second choice with a '1' and '2'

	Flute		Trumpet (or Cornet)
	Oboe		French Horn
	Bassoon		Trombone
	Clarinet		Baritone
	Alto Saxophone		Euphonium
	Tenor Saxophone		Tuba
	Baritone Saxophone		Bells (with stand & practice pad)

**Percussion is NOT an option in 6th grade band*

☐

Orchestra

Requires one year of previous experience on a stringed instrument

	Violin
	Viola
	Cello
	Bass (instructor approval required)

☐

Choir

Required for students who opt in to Jazz Choir

Student Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Phone: _____

Parent/Guardian Email: _____

I have reviewed and approved these course choices. I have read the course description for these courses. My signature acknowledges that I understand that my student will be held to yearlong course choices once the school year is underway.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

INSTRUMENT INFORMATION

- Band and Orchestra students will need to provide their own instrument. However, parents are encouraged not to rent or purchase a band instrument before the confirmation of instrument selection which will occur during the first few days of school.
- If you have a band instrument in your family, please make a note next to the instrument choice above, and efforts will be made to assist your child in playing that instrument. Please have the instrument checked by a qualified repair person so it will be in proper working order before school starts in the fall.
- A limited number of instruments are available for rent through the school. Band instruments are \$75 per semester and Orchestra instruments are \$50 per semester.
- Music stores also provide instrument rentals at a slightly higher rate than the school.

GRADE 6 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

2024-2025

ENGLISH/LITERATURE: This English Language Arts course teaches reading and writing standards through the lens of literature and informational structures. Throughout the course of the year, students will focus on comprehension and critical thinking in relation to a variety of different text structures. Students will also develop and establish writing skills while creating argumentative, expository, and narrative projects

MATHEMATICS COURSES:

- **MATH 6:** This course teaches in-depth the 6th grade mathematical standards that are aligned with the Common Core Standards. Instructional time will be focused on four critical areas: (1) connecting ratio and rate to whole number multiplication and division and using concepts of ratio and rate to solve problems; (2) completing understanding of division of fractions and extending the notion of number to the system of rational numbers, which includes negative numbers; (3) writing, interpreting, and using expressions and equations; and (4) developing an understanding of statistical thinking.
- **MATH 6/7:** This class is offered to qualifying 6th grade students using assessment data collected in 5th grade along with teacher input. This course teaches all 6th grade and some 7th grade math standards that are aligned with the Common Core Standards. The instructional time for this class will focus on the four critical areas described for Math 6 (above) and the following from Math 7: (1) analyzing and representing proportional relationships and (2) performing rational number arithmetic. Solving multi-step equations and working with probability will also be introduced in this class.

SOCIAL STUDIES This course is designed to lay the foundations for understanding the development of societies and civilizations from early human social groupings to more advanced societies and the rise of the first empires. As such, students will be exposed to, and become familiar with, different people, places, and cultures from around the world. Early civilizations, cultures, and geography are studied from Meso-America to pre-Mesopotamia, ancient Egypt, Greece, and Rome.

SCIENCE Sixth Grade Science covers physical science topics including light & matter and thermal energy. Earth science topics include weather systems, plate tectonics & rock cycling, and natural hazards. Life science topics include cells & cell systems. We take a phenomenon-based approach to discovering more about each topic and practice “being a scientist” by utilizing scientific practices throughout the year. These are all aligned with Next Generation Science Standards as adopted by Washington State.

CHOIR Sixth grade choir is open to all students regardless of experience or ability. Time in class is primarily spent exploring vocal technique through song while practicing beginning part-singing and advancing in rhythm and note reading. Students sing music of varying styles from a variety of cultures. Goal setting and home practice are required as students prepare for performances, including a choral festival. Students are expected to participate in evening performances periodically throughout the year, which are counted as a percentage of their grades. **STUDENTS WHO OPT TO JOIN THE JAZZ CHOIR, WHICH MEETS BEFORE SCHOOL, ARE REQUIRED TO ENROLL IN THIS CLASS.

GRADE 6 BEGINNING BAND Beginning band is open to all sixth-grade students and is designed for students who want to learn how to play an instrument that is a part of the modern wind band ensemble (see list below). The majority of the time spent in the sixth-grade band is dedicated to learning how to play a musical instrument with an emphasis on technique, music theory, and music history. This ensemble will perform at least two concerts throughout the school year. Previous knowledge of music is not required. Band instruments from which to choose: Flute, Oboe, Bassoon, Clarinet, Bass Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, Tenor Saxophone, Baritone Saxophone, Trumpet (or Cornet), French Horn, Trombone, Baritone (or Euphonium), Tuba, Bells, (bell kit required) (limit 8). School rentals are offered on a first-come-first-served basis for \$75 per semester.

ORCHESTRA Sixth-grade orchestra builds on the skills learned in elementary school. More advanced music and vibrato skills are introduced. This class is not designed for beginning strings students. Home practice will be required as a portion of their grade. Students who are currently enrolled in the elementary strings program are encouraged to continue in the orchestra. A limited number of instruments are available through the school. School rental fees per semester are \$50 for violins, violas, and cellos. Music stores also have rentals for a slightly higher rate.

FITNESS, MOVEMENT, SPORT & HEALTH (FMSH) – FMSH is taught in conjunction with Art. Three quarters of the year will be spent in FMSH and a single quarter in Art. The purpose of Fitness, Movement, Sport and Health at Lincoln Middle School is to create a safe environment for students to take positive risks, experience a variety of activities that promote healthy and fit lifestyles, and understand the benefit of purposeful movement. Students will also learn accurate health information that encourages positive life choices and influences, and demonstrate growth in their knowledge, understanding, and application of the Washington State Physical Education and Health Education Standards and important concepts.

ART FUNDAMENTALS – Art is taught in conjunction with FMSH. One quarter of the year will be spent on Art. In this course, students will be introduced to a variety of mediums and techniques to learn about the elements and principles of art. Students will also be exposed to art development across cultures and history, and explore how these contexts relate to their own work. Students will work in both 2D and 3D media, with an emphasis on exploration, creativity, and understanding of basic concepts. Drawing, painting, ceramics, and papier-mâché will be among the media explored throughout the quarter.