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**LANGUAGE ARTS**

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 6**

In Language Arts, students develop their vocabulary and reading comprehension skills in a variety of literary and informational texts, through both in-class and independent reading experiences. They deepen what they know about texts by analyzing literary/story elements, literary devices, and text organizational structures. They learn to evaluate texts and authors and to share reading experiences with others. In writing, students build on what they have learned in previous grades about writing for different audiences and purposes, the writing process and traits of effective writing. They deepen their understanding and skills with regard to expository writing and are introduced to persuasive writing. They learn to evaluate their own writing and to reflect on their own progress as writers.

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 7**

Language Arts focuses on writing and revision skills, grammar, vocabulary, and reading skills. Emphasis is on writing as a process utilizing CCSS Expository and Argumentative writing standards and the Schaeffer model of paragraphs and essays. Reading and writing skills will be emphasized in instruction throughout the year as an essential for developing lifelong learning.

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 8**

Effective communication is a fundamental tool for lifelong success. Reading and writing are basic skills for all types of communication. In 8th grade Language Arts, emphasis is placed on becoming accomplished readers with the skills required to discover meaning in both informational and narrative text. Students will learn techniques and strategies for becoming competent readers while discovering the truths of life found in literature. Reading Comprehension Strategies enable students to obtain the skills needed to read “between the lines” and “beyond the lines” of literary texts. Additionally, students will discover valuable methods for presenting their thoughts effectively and efficiently in writing. The curriculum focuses on vocabulary, grammar analysis, reading analysis through higher level thinking and comprehension skills, CCSS Writing Standards, Schaeffer model of paragraphs and essays, and correct grammar skills.

**SAFETY NET LITERACY GRADES 6, 7, 8**

Students who fall below the state’s standardized tests in reading and/or writing will be placed in a year-long Safety Net Literacy class to improve their skill sets in the areas of reading comprehension and/or reading fluency and written expression. All students will receive a LWSD Learning Plan for student success using the following adopted curricula: Jamestown Signature Series, Critical Reading Series, Timed Readings in various genre, Six Way Paragraphs, Read Naturally, Reading and Writing Sourcebook, Step up To Writing, 6+1 Traits of Writing, and various novels.

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS (ELL)**

This is a multi-leveled class of students with varying English proficiencies. It is designed to allow students to grow in their English skills at a pace that best fits their learning style and needs. We will focus on the four domains of language acquisition: speaking, listening, reading and writing. Core instruction follows the Washington State English Language Proficiency Standards, and is designed to support academic success across the middle school curriculum. Students are placed in classes by level (as determined by the WELPA and ELPA 21 Assessments) and teacher evaluations.

**SOCIAL STUDIES**

**SOCIAL STUDIES – GRADE 6**

The focus of 6th Grade Social Studies is the study of ancient civilizations. As they learn about ancient civilizations, students study
characteristics of cultures and regions, different forms of government and economic systems, and the impact of ancient civilizations on world history. As in previous grades, students use the lenses of history, economics, civics, and geography and apply important Social Studies skills, as they read, research, explore, and learn about the world around them and their place in it.

UNITED STATES HISTORY
GRADE 7
Seventh grade students will study U.S. History with concentration on the American Revolution, development of the US Constitution, Westward Expansion and the Civil War (1763-1877).

UNITED STATES HISTORY
WASHINGTON STATE HISTORY
GRADE 8
Eighth grade U.S. History is the study of the United States from the late 1800s to the present. Areas of emphasis include the Progressive Era, the Great Depression, World War II, and the Modern Era. Units are integrated with Washington State history. Students will develop an understanding of how America has been shaped and molded during the last century and a half. This is a continuation of the history taught in the seventh grade.

SCIENCE
SCIENCE – GRADE 6
This modular-based inquiry science course builds on life, earth and physical science concepts and processes learned in Kindergarten through 5th grade. In the “Diversity of Life” unit, students discover the scientific definition of “life,” how it is applied at the cellular level (and beyond), and how/why scientists organize organisms into different groups. In the “Earth History” unit, students observe the majesty of the Grand Canyon and explore the clues that its rocks give to the history of our plant. In the “Light” unit, students explore the puzzling nature of light, how it affects our everyday lives and many of the amazing ways we have learned to use it to our advantage. Throughout the class, students learn to think critically and logically to make connections between prior science knowledge and evidence produced from investigations, models and system thinking.

SCIENCE – GRADE 7
Seventh grade science continues the module-based, inquiry focused science that students are familiar with from grades K-6. However, seventh grade signals a major shift in the challenge, complexity and duration of the modules. Students are trained to use science journals as a place to design experiments, record data and analyze results as well as recording class notes and structured reflections. Three modules are studied in seventh grade: Energy and Motion (physical science), Catastrophic Events, (Earth Science) and Populations and Ecosystems (life science).

SCIENCE – GRADE 8
By eighth grade, Lake Washington School District students are well-versed in the inquiry approach to learning science and are becoming more independent in designing and conducting experiments. This includes documenting and explaining scientific processes based on evidence collected in labs. The three modules studied in eighth grade are: Properties of Matter (physical science), Earth in Space (Earth/space science) and Human Body Systems (life science).

MATHEMATICS
6TH GRADE MATHEMATICS
In this course students focus on four areas: (1) completing their understanding and conceptualization of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division with non-negative fractions, mixed numbers, decimals and percents; (2) developing an understanding of statistical thinking by analyzing events in order to calculate experimental probabilities and analyzing possible events to determine theoretical probabilities; (3) begin to write,
interpret, and use expressions and equations to solve simple one step problems; (4) build on their work with the area and perimeter of rectangles to understand the reasoning and strategies behind finding the area and perimeter of triangles and circles as well as the surface area and volume of rectangular prisms, pyramids, cones, and spheres.

7TH GRADE MATHEMATICS

In this course students build on their understanding from 6th grade by focusing on four critical areas: (1) develop understanding of and applying proportional relationships; (2) developing understanding of operations with rational numbers (explain the rules for adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing with negative numbers) and working with expressions and linear equations; (3) solving 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; and (4) drawing inferences about populations based on samples.

8TH GRADE MATHEMATICS

Prerequisite: This course is designed to follow 6th and 7th Grade Mathematics.

In this course instructional time focuses on three critical areas: (1) 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 equations; (2) grasping the concept of a function and using functions to describe quantitative relationships; (3) analyzing two- and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence, and understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem.

ALGEBRA – GRADES 7, 8

Prerequisites: Seventh grade students must have taken and scored a 42 on the Algebra Aptitude Test and must have achieved Level 4 (Exceeds Standards) on the current math state assessment. Eighth grade students must have taken and scored a 36 on the Algebra Aptitude Test and must have achieved Level 4 (Exceeds Standards) on the current math state assessment.

The fundamental purpose of this course is to formalize and extend the mathematics that students learned in the middle grades. The course focuses on five critical areas: (1) develop fluency writing, interpreting, and translating between various forms of linear equations and inequalities, and simple exponential functions, and using them to solve problems; (2) compare and contrast linear and exponential functions, translate between different representations, use function notation, and interpret arithmetic sequences as linear functions and geometric sequences as exponential functions; (3) using regression techniques to describe linear relationships quantitatively and make judgments about the appropriateness of linear models; (4) extend the laws of exponents to rational exponents, see structure in and create quadratic and exponential expressions, and solve equations, inequalities and systems of equations involving quadratic expressions; and (5) compare quadratic, linear, and exponential functions to model phenomenon. They also identify the real solutions of quadratic equations as the zeroes of a related quadratic function and expand their experience to more specialized functions – absolute value, step, and those that are piecewise-defined.

GEOMETRY – GRADE 8

Prerequisite: Algebra I

The fundamental purpose of this course is to formalize and extend students’ geometric experiences from the middle grades. The course focuses on six critical areas: (1) establish triangle congruence based on rigid motions and formal constructions and solve problems and prove theorems about triangles, quadrilaterals, and other polygons; (2) build a formal understanding of similarity and apply similarity to right triangle trigonometry and the Pythagorean Theorem, and use the Laws of Sines and Cosines to find missing measures; (3) informal explanations of circumference, area,
and volume formulas; (4) build on the Pythagorean Theorem to find distances and use a rectangular coordinate system to verify geometric relationships; (5) prove basic theorems about circles; and (6) compute and interpret theoretical and experimental probabilities of compound events and use probability to make informed decisions.

SAFETY NET MATH - GRADES 6, 7, 8

By state criteria, this course provides additional instruction for students who were not proficient on the previous year’s state test scores in mathematics. The purpose of the class is to assist the student in the acquisition of grade-level skills and concepts and to support the student in their current mathematics course.

FITNESS & HEALTH

6TH GRADE FITNESS
ONE SEMESTER

The Physical Education Department offers a Fitness Class which provides the opportunity for all students to be successful regardless of their fitness or skill level. Activities/Games are presented to encourage effort, safe movements, positive attitude, and good sportsmanship. Students learn basic rules, strategies and develop competence through skillful movement in game situations and in a variety of recreational activities. This fitness class will provide knowledge and activities which explore fitness at a personal level. Students will learn fitness concepts and experience sport activities that promote a lifelong healthy lifestyle. Fitness T-shirts will be required, fee is $10.00.

7TH/8TH GRADE FITNESS
ONE SEMESTER

It is the intent of the Physical Education Department to provide every student with the opportunity to participate in a variety of enjoyable physical activities so as to accomplish the goals of physical fitness, personal and social adjustment and the acquisition of skills and concepts which the individual can carry over into his or her future life.

Students will learn the basic rules, strategies, safety, skills and sportsmanship of a variety of team and individual sports. Students will do warm up/stretching techniques, fitness components, study rules guides, rules tests and write a fitness paper. Fitness T-shirts will be required; fee is $10.00.

HEALTH – GRADE 7
ONE SEMESTER

In Health class, a strong emphasis is placed on personal responsibility and that healthy choices promote lifelong wellness. Students have an understanding of the origins and causes of diseases, including the relationship between family history and certain health risks. They begin to relate short and long-term consequences of health choices and apply health skills to specific personal, family, and community health concerns. Students learn to refine critical-thinking skills to avoid unsafe situations, analyze health information and products, and maintain healthy relationships. Students begin to investigate health in the broader context of community.
WORLD LANGUAGES

FRENCH - GRADE 8

Prerequisites: Good study skills and strong language arts skills.
Students will develop a beginning level of proficiency in listening, speaking, read and writing. Students will develop and awareness and appreciation for French-speaking people and cultures. Workbooks will be purchased and used in class. Students can expect 20 minutes of homework per day. Workbooks and class fee of approx. $25.

JAPANESE – GRADE 8

Prerequisites: The student must have good study skills, meaning a willingness to practice vocabulary, the writing system, and sentences patterns for at least 20 minutes per day outside of class time.
The student will develop an elementary level of proficiency in listening, speaking, reading and writing. First semester we will learn Hiragana and second semester we will learn Katakana. At the end of the year, we will be introduced to the first Kanji. We will learn the polite form of speech the first year. We regularly use Japanese media to learn about popular culture and hear the language in natural contexts. “Adventures in Japanese 1 Workbook” cost is approx. $35.

SPANISH – GRADE 8

Prerequisites: Good study skills and strong language arts skills.
Students will develop a beginning level of proficiency in listening, speaking, read and writing. Students will develop and awareness and appreciation for Spanish-speaking people and cultures. Workbooks will be purchased and used in class. Students can expect 20 minutes of homework per day. Workbooks and class fee of approx. $25.

FINE ARTS

DRAMA 1 & 2 - GRADES 6, 7, 8

ONE SEMESTER

Drama is a high-energy, interactive class - get ready to be on your feet! Together we will build group dynamics and increase our performance skills and self-confidence. We will explore pantomime, tableaux, character work, script writing, vocal skills, creative interpretation of the written word, monologue, short scenes, longer scenes, and improvisation. We will also look at some different types of media where your dramatic skills could be applied in the 21st century.

INTRODUCTION TO ART

GRADE 6

ONE SEMESTER

This course introduces a variety of art concepts, vocabulary, elements of art and the principles of design. Students will be introduced to a range of art techniques using various materials to complete fun projects. There is a $15 fee assigned to this class.

ART 2 – GRADES 7, 8

ONE SEMESTER

This course goes beyond beginning techniques. Students will gain a deeper understanding of the elements of art and principles of design through fun and challenging projects. Projects are designed to bring out each student’s unique individual talents and allow for their own personal expression within the lesson criteria. The Art 2 class can be taken in both 7th and 8th grade as the projects rotate every other year. There is a $15 fee assigned to this class.

CADET BAND – GRADE 6

This class is open to students with two years of experience, primarily 6th grade, but also for students that do not have previous playing experience but would like to learn a band instrument. Music reading and instrumental rehearsal and performance skills are improved by focusing on several method books and appropriate literature in various musical styles.
We will work out of Essential Elements 2000 Book 2, along with appropriate concert band literature. Skills are assessed through Standards Based Grading. Students also evaluate recorded performances of themselves and others through written concert reviews, developing writing skills. We have an evening concert each quarter and also participate in one festival each year.

**Requirements:** Regular practice and provide own instrument, or rent from music store or school. Not all instruments are available from the school. A small maintenance fee is charged to use the school-owned instruments. Participation in evening concerts is required.

**SYMPHONIC BAND – GRADES 7, 8**

This class provides continued focus on developing reading strategies and performance skills through increasingly advanced literature, solo and chamber music, and numerous performance opportunities. We will work out of I Recommend by James Ployhar, Essential Technique by Rhodes, Bierschenk, and Lautzenheiser, and will have completed the common scales. Performance evaluations through written reviews and standards based assessments help students develop self-evaluation, and strategize for improvement.

**Requirements:** Regular practice and provide own instrument, or rent from music store or school. Not all instruments are available from the school. A small maintenance fee is charged to use the school-owned instruments. Participation in evening concerts is required.

**JAZZ BAND – GRADES 6, 7, 8**

6:40 – 7:30 A.M. 5 days per week

**Prerequisite:** 1-2 years of Band experience, and must be in another performance class

This class is an extension of performance skills developed in the larger band class. Instruments involved include saxophone, trumpet, trombone, bass, drum set, piano, and guitar. Piano and guitar skills needed are usually more advanced and students should have had at least 3 years of study on those two instruments. Students learn jazz performance skills and improvisation, and become familiar with the styles of Jazz, Latin, Rock, and Funk. Performances include evening concerts, some school assemblies, and two jazz festivals.

**Requirements:** Furnish own morning transportation and provide own instrument. 

Regular attendance is required! **This is a graded credit class.** Participation in evening concerts and extracurricular festivals (1-2) is required.

**INTRODUCTION TO GUITAR**

**GRADES - 6, 7, 8**

**ONE SEMESTER**

*This class is for the beginning guitarist. It is not intended as an advanced course for experienced players.* The student will learn how to apply basic musical concepts such as harmony, rhythm, and melody to the guitar. We will cover basic techniques, scales, note reading, chords, strum/accompaniment patterns.

The overall objective of this program is to introduce the guitar to the student and then continually improve the student's performance abilities on the instrument, improve their self-discipline, and their abilities to work within a group. This will be done through group rehearsals, performances, assigned responsibilities within the class, and specific expectations of the students.

At the end of the class you will be able to read and play basic chord symbols and melodies. You will also be introduced to some of the important personalities that have made the guitar the most popular and widely used instrument that it is.

**Students need to provide their own ACOUSTIC guitar AND book** *(Essential Elements for Guitar, by Will Schmidt)* a few basic models of guitars are available for students who may be unable to afford an instrument. A small maintenance fee is charge to use the school-owned instrument.

**ORCHESTRA 1 – GRADE 6**

This class is open to students with two years of experience, primarily 6th grade, but also for
students that do not have previous playing experience but would like to learn an orchestra instrument. Please contact the instructor for information for beginners wishing to get started in Orchestra 1—we can get you playing! This full year class is completely different from the elementary orchestra classes. Students in Orchestra 1 class will continue to build on the skills they have developed. Rehearsals are daily as part of your regular daily class schedule. We play a wide variety of music which helps individual skills and musicianship sky rocket. Students will experience both large and small ensemble performances in a variety of settings including evening concerts and solo and ensemble opportunities. Students also evaluate recorded performances of themselves and others through written concert reviews, developing writing skills. We have an evening concert each quarter and also participate in one festival each year. Requirements: Regular practice and provide own instrument, or rent from music store or school (depending upon instrument—maintenance fee). Participation in evening concerts.

**ORCHESTRA 2 – GRADES 7, 8**

**Prerequisite:** 2 years previous Orchestra experience.

This course is for students that have successfully completed Orchestra 1 or two years of previous orchestra experience. If you have had just one year of orchestra experience and are entering 7th grade, please contact the instructor as soon as possible for appropriate placement.

This full year class is for the student that is ready to continue their growth in string performance. Orchestra 2 class continues to build on the skills they’ve developed in the Orchestra 1. Rehearsals are daily as part of your regular daily class schedule. More music is covered which also allows for more performance opportunities. Students will experience both large and small ensemble performances in a variety of settings including evening concerts and solo and ensemble opportunities.

**CHOIR – GRADERS 6, 7, 8**

Love to sing? Want to make awe-inspiring sound with lots of new friends, learn how to perform confidently, and become an excellent musician? Then join choir! This class is designed for you to study and appreciate different styles of music. Develop a strong sense for musical excellence, and be a member of an ensemble that proudly represents Redmond Middle School in the community.

**TECHNOLOGY**

**COMPUTER APPLICATIONS**

**GRADES 6, 7, 8**

**1 SEMESTER**

Computer Applications is an entry level technology course that is designed to develop computer knowledge while increasing technology access opportunities for students. This course will encourage students to use computer technology in research, to communicate ideas and design software based projects using the software that is available through the school computer lab and on netbook computers. Additional creative and organizational applications may also be introduced to students depending on student pace and needs to allow for classroom differentiation.

**DIGITAL MIXED MEDIA**

**GRADES 7, 8**

**ONE SEMESTER**

This course is designed for students with computer experience ranging from basic to advanced. Students start by learning the fundamentals of digital design using Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator and work their way to creating original animations. The class also
covers essential photo and movie editing and a review of basic computer use. Each project gives student the opportunity to create a piece of work that coincides with their experience level.

**DESIGN AND MODELING**  
**GRADES 7, 8**  
**ONE SEMESTER**

This unit uses solid modeling software (a sophisticated mathematical technique for representing solid objects) to introduce students to the design process. Utilizing this design approach, students understand how design influences their lives. Students also learn sketching techniques and use descriptive geometry as a component of design, measurement, and computer modeling. Students brainstorm, research, develop ideas, create models, test and evaluate design ideas, and communicate solutions.

The Gateway to Technology (GTT) program features a project-based curriculum designed to challenge and engage the natural curiosity and imagination of middle school students. The knowledge that students gain and the skills they build from GTT create a strong foundation for further STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) learning in high school and beyond. Throughout GTT, students acquire knowledge and skills in problem solving, teamwork and innovation as well as explore STEM careers. **There is a $15 fee assigned to this class.**

**TECHNOLOGY FOUNDATIONS**  
**GRADES 7, 8**  
**ONE SEMESTER**

Using the fundamentals of a basic woodworking class and adding the elements of modern fabrication, the Technology Foundations class introduces students to the design process. Students acquire the skills for real world application by learning safety and working with hand and power tools to design, build, and test various students directed projects. The Technology Foundations class works in conjunction with other Gateway to Technology (GTT) classes in teaching the basics of the design process and the fundamentals of orthographic and isometric design sketching. **There is a $15 fee assigned to this class.**

**ROBOTICS – GRADES 7, 8**  
**ONE SEMESTER**

Do you want to learn about computer science! Do you have an interest in the basics of computer science and robotics? In this class students will learn about computer programming through the use of a robot. Students are introduced to and use the design process to solve problems and understand the influence that creative and innovative design has on our lives. Students use a robust robotics platform to design, build and program robots to solve existing problems.

The Gateway to Technology (GTT) program features a project-based curriculum designed to challenge and engage the natural curiosity and imagination of middle school students. The knowledge that students gain and the skills they build from GTT create a strong foundation for further STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) learning in high school and beyond. Throughout GTT, students acquire knowledge and skills in problem solving, teamwork and innovation as well as explore STEM careers. **There is a $15 fee assigned to this class.**

**CONSUMER SCIENCE**

**EXPLORING FOODS – GRADE 6**  
**ONE SEMESTER**

Food plays an important part of our daily life and it is important to learn about its significance. It helps us perform our activities and contributes to our wellness. Becoming independent in the kitchen and in preparing meals is essential to maintaining a healthy lifestyle. Throughout this course you will
practice skills to begin cooking in the kitchen and enjoy foods that help you maintain good health. There is a $25 fee assigned to this class.

FOODS 2 – GRADES 7, 8
ONE SEMESTER

This class provides opportunities to develop skills to plan and prepare a variety of foods from simple snacks to a complete meal. Foods choices as compared to the USDA Food Guides are explored as they influence nutrition and meal planning. Students are required to prepare foods at home each month, present a food preparation demonstration to the class, and keep an organized cookbook of the recipes and activities. There is a $25 fee for this class.

SPECIAL COURSES

LEADERSHIP 1 & 2 – GRADES 6, 7, 8
ONE SEMESTER

Are you hard working and creative? Would you like to learn more about what it means to be a leader? Do you enjoy taking charge and see projects through to completion? Redmond Middle Leadership class is responsible for the cultural, athletic, recreational, and social aspects of RMS. Students work on planning school activities and complete academic assignments and projects individually and in groups. Responsibilities include occasional before/after school work, as needed. Students frequently work before/after school during large projects, such as dances, assemblies, and various school wide events like 5th Grade Parent Night and Back to School Curriculum Night.

PEER MENTORING - GRADES 7, 8
ONE SEMESTER

Peer Mentoring is for students interested in being mentors for the transition classroom. In this class, student mentors will learn about different disabilities and related careers and work with transition room students. Application form is required and is available in the Student Services Office.