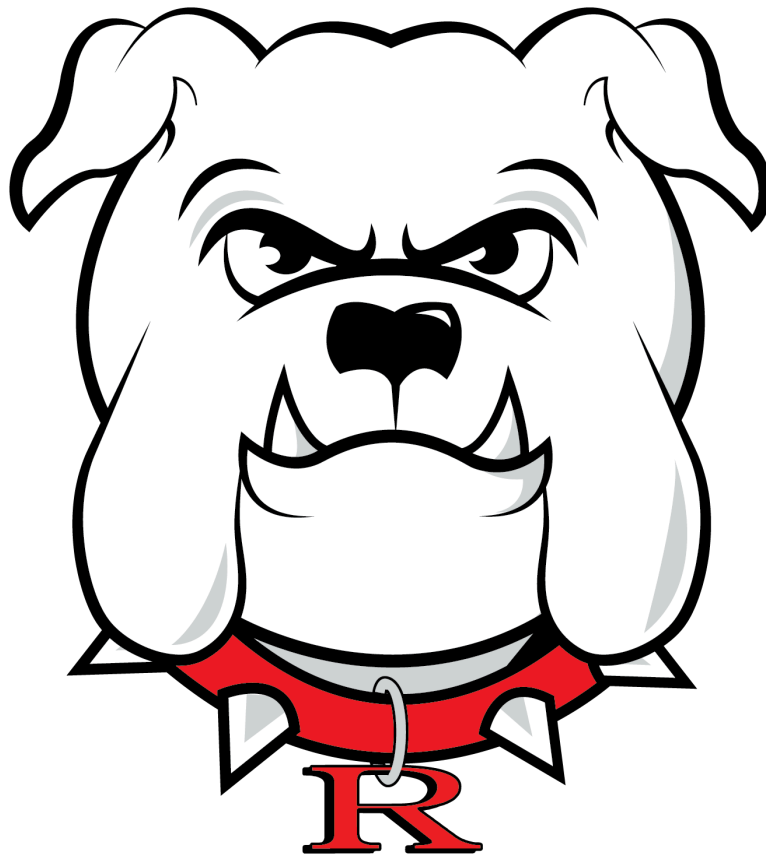


Romeo Middle School



Course Information Guide 6th Grade

"At Romeo Middle School, we believe in providing a safe and caring environment in which we embrace challenges, encourage growth, and empower everyone to make a difference."

Overview

Daily Schedule

Below outlines a typical day at Romeo Middle School. Students have six classes plus an Advisory period (3rd Hour).

Romeo Middle School Full Day Bell Schedule		
1st Hr. 8:15-9:10 (55 min)		
<i>5 Minute Passing</i>		
2nd Hr. 9:15-10:07 (52 min)		
<i>5 Minute Passing</i>		
3rd Hr. Advisory 10:12-10:42 (30 min)		
<i>5 Minute Passing</i>		
6th Grade Lunch 10:47-11:17 (30 min)	4th Hr. 10:47-11:39 (52 min)	4th Hr. 10:47-11:39 (52 min)
4th Hr. 11:22-12:14 (52 min)	8th Grade Lunch 11:44-12:14 (30 min)	5th Hr. 11:44-12:36 (52 min)
5th Hr. 12:19-1:11 (52 min)	5th Hr. 12:19-1:11 (52 min)	7th Grade Lunch 12:41-1:11 (30 min)
<i>5 Minute Passing</i>		
6th Hr. 1:16-2:08 (52 min)		
<i>5 Minute Passing</i>		
7th Hr. 2:13-3:05 (52 min)		

***Please note that schedule and times are subject to change.**

Advisory

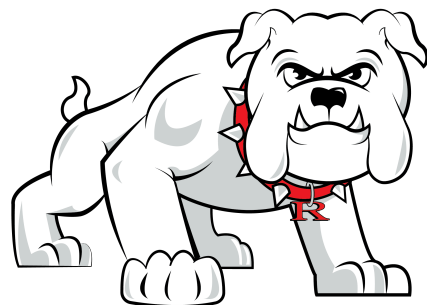
Advisory takes place daily for a period of 30 minutes. Advisory groups are made up of grade level students led by teacher mentors. The goal is to provide a personalized connection within our learning environment where all students will be known by at least one adult advocate. This relationship and connection to school is fostered through intentionally scheduled lessons, group activities, and one-to-one interactions with the advisor. The structure of the program will provide opportunities for character education, bullying prevention lessons, positive behavior support, independent reading, academic modeling, organizational meetings, school wide initiatives, and fun cooperative activities. This is a mandatory year-long class.

Teaming

In an effort to create smaller learning environments within the building, each student is placed with a team of teachers. This means that students within a team have the same teachers for their core classes.

Trimesters

RMS runs on trimesters. Each trimester is roughly 12 weeks in length. Core classes are year long classes whereas most elective classes are a trimester in length.



6th Grade Course Requirements

Sixth grade students are required to take four core courses. Students also have two hours of elective courses. Each elective course is a trimester in length with the exception of band, which is a full year course. Students will rank the elective options. Please note that it is not guaranteed that students will receive their top choice for electives, but we will make our best attempt at elective requests. Please note that courses are based on staff availability.

Required Core Courses

English Language Arts 6

Math 6 or Advanced Math 6 (Based on Placement Testing)

Science 6

World Geography 6

6th Grade Elective Course Offerings

Band Students	Non-Band Students
Choose One - <i>Year Long</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Band 6 Prioritize <u>THREE</u> - <i>Trimester Long</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Art 6 Computer Technology 6 Drama and Musical Theater 6 Healthy Living 6 Physical Education 6 PLTW - Design & Modeling 6 Vocal 6 	Prioritize <u>SIX</u> - <i>Trimester Long</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Art 6 Computer Technology 6 Drama and Musical Theater 6 Healthy Living 6 Physical Education 6 PLTW - Design & Modeling 6 Vocal 6

Remediation in reading and math may be recommended for students who would benefit from these classes based on standardized test scores and screeners in those subject areas. These courses would replace a trimester class.

Advanced Math 6 placement will be finalized with teacher recommendation and criteria met on Advanced Placement testing.

6th Grade Course Descriptions

CORE COURSES (REQUIRED)

English Language Arts 6 - Full Year

The English Language Arts sixth grade curriculum will work to strengthen student literacy by engaging in reading, writing, creating and analyzing spoken, written, electronic, visual texts, and to make connections with the world around us. Reading skills, literature units, the writing process, speaking and listening strategies are taught and reinforced. Reading complex text is emphasized with a focus on informational pieces.

Math 6 - Full Year

Illustrative Mathematics 6–8 is a problem-based core curriculum rooted in content and practice standards to foster learning and achievement for all. Students learn by doing math, solving problems in mathematical and real-world contexts, and constructing arguments using precise language. Lessons are designed with a focus on independent, group, and whole-class instruction. The sixth grade math program will have students focus on the following areas within the Michigan content standards:

1. Area and Surface Area
2. Introducing Ratios
3. Unit Rates and Percentages
4. Dividing Fractions
5. Decimal Operations
6. Expressions and Equations
7. Rational Numbers
8. Data Sets and Distributions

Advanced Math 6 - Full Year

This is a rigorous pre-algebra course designed for students who learn at an accelerated pace. Placement in the course will be available to students meeting the criteria established by the math department. Students enrolled in our advanced math pathway will complete 3 years of math standards in 2 years and will take Algebra 1 in 8th grade, which is a high school course. The course develops a deep conceptual and procedural understanding of mathematics. The Advanced Math 6 program will have students focus on the following areas:

1. Areas
2. Ratios, Rates, and Percentages
3. Fractions and Decimals
4. Equations and Expressions
5. Proportional Relationships
6. Percentage Increase and Decrease
7. Rational Numbers
8. Data Sets and Distributions

Incoming 6th grade students will be placed in math courses after evaluating a variety of criteria, including NWEA MAP assessment scores, academic grades, M-STEP proficiency (advanced), and teacher recommendations.

Science 6 - Full Year

The Romeo Middle School 6th grade science curriculum supports the Michigan Science Standards, while empowering students to use science and engineering practices to address real-world issues in the Earth, life and physical sciences. Various topics of study will lend focus to System and System Models along with Patterns and Cause and Effect. These encompassing topics are designed to use a discovery-based approach to specifically answer a question about areas in science. Students will be given opportunities to explore these topics within both a classroom setting using a variety of learning methods and using various lab equipment in a lab setting.

World Geography 6 - Full Year

Sixth grade social studies focuses on world geography. Studying the different regions of the world, students experience different geographic concepts through a visually dynamic approach. Students explore the physical and human geography of the planet while also using some of the tools used by real geographers. The children are able to use technology to investigate patterns of natural and human characteristics. The influences of culture and its effects on society are sought out within and between the regions of study. Students also explore how humans use, adapt to, and modify the environment and the positive and negative consequences of those interactions. Lastly, students delve into the basics of economics and the impact globalization has on people worldwide. Upon leaving this class, students will have a greater understanding of many of the issues that people deal with and the places in which they live in our world.

ELECTIVE COURSES

Art 6 - Trimester

In sixth grade, students will explore a variety of tools, media, theories and techniques so they can establish artistic skills, find the joy in self expression through art, and promote their creative thinking and problem solving skills. A strong emphasis on using a sketchbook for both personal thoughts, drawings and ideas as well as the trimester long sketchbook project. Beginning techniques in contour drawing, value studies and composition will be used to help students find their individual voice and learn to express themselves through the art making process at a developing level. Art history will be incorporated into the curriculum and discussed as part of many lessons.

Computer Technology 6 - Trimester

Computer Technology 6 is not just about learning how to type efficiently. We also enter the world of project-based opportunities for authentic experiences with technology literacy skills. What does that mean? You will learn very important skills that will be useful to you as you progress through school and into adulthood, such as: problem solving using technology, technology safety measures, and the basics of Google's Apps - Drive, Email, Contacts, Docs, etc.

Drama and Musical Theater 6 - Trimester

Get ready for an introduction to the theater arts to provide the first steps toward understanding the basic elements of the theater and acting. Become cultured as you are introduced to roles in the theater, develop the tools of an actor, participate in pantomimes, begin to learn an approach to a character, and perform in scenes with classmates. You will gain a foundation to continue the pursuit of the arts, while enhancing life skills of public speaking, the ability to collaborate with others to reach a common goal, listening, and thinking on your feet. You will have the opportunity to slowly ease into performing onstage, giving you time to get used to speaking in front of others in a safe and encouraging environment, all while having fun and building relationships with your classmates. Students may have the opportunity to sing, but it is never required of them.

Healthy Living 6 - Trimester

Safety in the kitchen and around food, basic food preparation based on nutrition and making overall healthy choices are units covered in this course. Learning how to read and understand recipes, developing healthy habits, and using basic equipment are also emphasized.

Physical Education 6 - Trimester

The primary focus of the physical education program is to provide students with the opportunity to learn and develop athletic fundamentals. Particular emphasis is placed on fitness, along with teaching the basic skills of individual and team sports.

PLTW - Design and Modeling 6 - Trimester

Students discover the design process and develop an understanding of the influence of creativity and innovation in their lives. They are then challenged and empowered to use and apply what they've learned throughout the unit to design a therapeutic toy for a child who has cerebral palsy.

Vocal 6 - Trimester

This class is a training course for beginning and intermediate vocalists. Students will learn the basics of music theory, vocal technique, proper choral singing, performance technique, choreography and sight singing. Class members will be exposed to and will perform a variety of music styles including: pop, rock, jazz, and classical. Students will participate in an evening choral performance at the conclusion of the course.

Band 6 - FULL YEAR

This is a beginning band class with no prior experience required. Students will learn to play a musical instrument, read music notation, and perform music with others. Instruments that are offered at the start of the year include flute, clarinet, alto saxophone, trumpet, and trombone. Students commonly obtain an instrument for class through a music store rental at the start of the school year during August Dog Days. If purchasing an instrument, please contact Mr. Hill for recommended brands. Romeo Middle School may also be able to provide an instrument if needed. The band will perform at three concerts, one in December, April, and May.

SUPPORT COURSES

Math Support - Enrollment Based on Placement Testing

Math Support provides students with daily fact fluency practice, relearning, learning concepts students have never been taught before, and reviewing core math concepts. Students receive help in a small group setting with an Intervention Specialist. As always, our goal is to prepare all students with the necessary skills to be successful in school and in life. This class uses different research-based strategies to help students find success in math and build confidence in their abilities. Math Support replaces an elective slot in a student's schedule. Students are able to test out of the class, using progress monitoring assessments. Placement in this class is limited, so students are screened by the RMS Math Interventionist teacher using the criteria listed below. (Parents may also request this intervention for their child by contacting the counseling office.)

Placement Criteria:

- Recommendation from math teacher
- Past three NWEA math assessment scores in the below average range
- Not proficient or partially proficient on the most recent Math M-STEP

AARI - Enrollment Based on Placement Testing

AARI is a small-group reading intervention class that focuses on informational text comprehension skills. It is not at all a "how to read" class, but instead teaches students how to think about academic text (such as what they'd experience in science or social studies classes) in a deeper, more meaningful way. Students focus on making inferences, analyzing text structure, and determining main ideas through thoughtful discussion in a positive and engaging learning community. AARI is designed to help improve comprehension and critical thinking skills that are used in *all* areas of learning. Placement in this class is limited, so students are screened and individually assessed by the RMS reading interventionist/AARI teacher using the criteria listed below. (Parents may also request this intervention for their child by contacting the counseling office.)

Placement Criteria:

- Teacher recommendation
- Past three NWEA reading assessment scores in the below average range
- Not proficient or partially proficient on the most recent ELA M-STEP
- Two or more levels below current grade level on **informational text comprehension** on the *Qualitative Reading Inventory Assessment* (one-on-one in-person reading assessment)

Level Up Literacy - Enrollment Based on Teacher/Counselor Recommendations and Assessment Data

Level Up is an academic reading support class that is designed to help improve comprehension and critical thinking skills that are used in *all* areas of learning. Students will learn how to apply specific strategies that will help them tackle the more rigorous text they encounter as they progress through middle school. This one-trimester class is designed to focus on improving the following academic reading skills:

- making inferences using text evidence
- determining main ideas and relevant supporting details
- summarizing
- using multiple strategies to find the meaning of unfamiliar words
- exploring craft to determine author's purpose

This credit/no credit support class will provide students with the opportunity to grow in an engaging, collaborative environment with a smaller group of students. Placement in this one-trimester class is determined by core teacher or counselor recommendation, most recent three NWEA reading assessment scores, grades, and proficiency level on the most recent ELA M-STEP. (Parents may also request this intervention for their child by contacting the counseling office.)

Level Up Academic Language - Enrollment for ELL Students Based on WIDA Scores and Academic Performance

This class supports students in developing their use and understanding of formal academic language when reading and writing. Academic language differs from the everyday language we use with friends and family. Learning how to understand and express oneself in the more complex language of Academic English is necessary for success in school. In this credit/no credit support class, students will learn strategies for comprehending and crafting texts like those seen throughout the content areas, focusing on text structure, complex sentences, and academic vocabulary. As with the other Level Up classes, students will have the opportunity to grow in an engaging, collaborative environment with a smaller group of students. Since academic language is used in every subject area, Level Up will help improve students' learning in all content areas, not just language arts. Students can qualify for this course based on their WIDA scores and academic performance.