

# MIDDLE SCHOOL INFORMATION FOR LPES 5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE FAMILIES

Can you believe it is already time to start planning for your student's middle school experience?

Through their December life skills lessons with the School Counselor, Mrs. Hewlett, 5th grade students have learned about the course selection process, available electives, and completed a "practice" registration sheet to help them better understand the process. Please use this sheet to facilitate a conversation regarding their elective course interest and course selection.

Within the students' January life skills lesson, Mrs. Hewlett will continue the middle school conversation and address their fears and concerns. Letters from current 6th grade students at Virginia Beach Middle School, written in response to letters written by LPES 5th grade students, will further answer their questions and hopefully allay their fears.

The official course registration form will also be distributed at this time. ***That official registration form will need to be returned to the school counselor at Linkhorn Park ASAP***, as they are due to the middle schools in early January. In March, students will receive a Course Verification printout showing all chosen and assigned courses. This will be the LAST CHANCE to make changes to course selections. Students will receive their final class schedules in August.

ALL students must complete a course registration form for their zoned school even if they know they will be moving, applying for out-of-zone, or applying to a specialty school/program such as the Brickell Academy at Old Donation School, IB MYP at Plaza Middle School, Gifted Dance at Old Donation School, or Gifted Art at Virginia Beach Middle school.

## **Application Deadlines:**

**Brickell Academy @ Old Donation School): Friday, January 10, 2020**

**IB MYP @ Plaza Middle School: Friday, January 10, 2020**

**Gifted Visual Arts @ VB Middle School: Monday, February 3, 2020**

**Art Portfolio Requirement: Monday, February 3, 2020**

**Gifted Dance Education Program @ Old Donation School: Monday, February 3, 2020**

Should you have any questions regarding the registration process, please feel free to contact me. I am happy to help.

Warmly,

Jasmine Hewlett

School Counselor

Linkhorn Park Elementary

(757) 648-2932

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## **LPES Feeder Schools:**

**[Virginia Beach Middle School](#)/[Lynnhaven Middle School](#)/[Great Neck Middle School](#)**

Linkhorn Park ES students feed into either of the 3 middle schools mentioned above. Students will automatically roll over to the school they are zoned for, so you do not have to apply or register. Virginia Beach, Lynnhaven, and Great Neck Middle School each offer core and advanced classes, gifted clusters for identified students, as well as many sports, clubs, and extracurricular activities.

If you are unsure which school your fifth grader is zoned to attend, you can check using the link below!

**[https://www2.vbschools.com/map\\_center/locate.asp](https://www2.vbschools.com/map_center/locate.asp)**

## **Information on Middle School Courses**

6<sup>th</sup> grade classes students must take are:

- Language Arts (required- placement based off teacher recommendation)
- Mathematics (required- placement based off teacher recommendation)
- Science (required-placement based off teacher recommendation)
- Social Studies (required)
- Health and Physical Education (required)
- 1 years' worth of electives (Different, student selected, course options; each listed below)

Teachers will be submitting their recommendations for which core (required) subject classes they think would be the best fit for students. Please know that careful thought goes into these recommendations. Their main goal is to set students up for success!

## **Electives**

Within our December life skills lesson we reviewed all elective options. Please review these options with your student and aid them in selecting 1 years' worth of classes. To fill their elective space, students may take 1 year-long class, 2 semester classes, 4 nine weeks classes, or 1 semester and 2 nine weeks classes.

In class, we used the analogy of spending exactly \$1.00, no more, no less, to "buy" their elective classes; year-long classes cost \$1.00, semester classes cost 50 cents, and nine weeks classes cost 25 cents. This seems to help them understand the selection process!

### **Year Long Classes (\$1.00)**

Band 6

Orchestra 6

Chorus 6

*Semester Classes (0.50 cents each)*

Band 6 - same as above, but half a year

Orchestra 6 - same as above, but half a year

Chorus 6 - same as above, but half a year

### **Nine-Weeks Classes (0.25 cents each)**

Art 6

Creative Coding/ Computer Solutions I

Creative Coding/ Computer Solutions II

Teen Living

Technology Education

Exploratory World Languages (French, Spanish, Latin, Japanese, or German)

**\*\*Please note that all students need to write two alternative elective classes, in rank order on their registration form.**

Course descriptions of 6<sup>th</sup> grade classes (core and elective) can be found at the link below:

**<https://www.vbschools.com/cms/one.aspx?pageId=297842>**

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## Advanced Level Courses

Below you will find the criteria our 5<sup>th</sup> grade teachers use when deciding whether to recommend a student for an advanced level course.

### Criteria for Advanced Grade 6 Classes

**Advanced English 6:** to do well, students usually possess the following characteristics:

- read two or more years above grade level and make connections in reading
- maintain an AP in 5<sup>th</sup> grade writing and reading
- attain Pass Advanced status on most recent reading and writing SOL tests
- use higher level thinking skills, draw inferences and conclusions easily
- support answers with examples from the text, etc.
- ask thought provoking questions, creative
- synthesize and analyze information when writing
- read a variety of materials independently
- receive teacher recommendation

**Pre- Algebra curriculum includes 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade SOLs. Students seeking enrollment in grade 6 Pre-Algebra generally possess the following traits:**

- maintain an AP average in elementary mathematics
- attain Pass Advanced status on most recent mathematics SOL test
- demonstrate good work habits regarding homework assignments and class activities
- possess strong foundation and understanding of fraction and decimal operation, and have a working knowledge of basic facts (math fact automaticity)
- ability to work quickly, accurately, and able to persevere when attacking complex problems
- ability to work independently to solve challenging, unstructured problems
- receive teacher recommendation

\*\* Recommended that students enrolling in Pre-Algebra take a summer school class called Getting Ready for Pre-Algebra prior to entering 6<sup>th</sup> grade. More info forthcoming.

**Advanced Science 6 covers 8th grade Physical Science objectives. To do well in Advanced Science 6, students should do the following:**

- exhibit strong reading, writing, and mathematical abilities
- maintain an AP or B or better average in elementary science
- attain Pass or Pass Advanced status on most recent science SOL test
- think critically and synthesize ideas
- be able to work well in a fast-paced class
- work well independently and in groups
- enjoy problem solving and research
- demonstrate good work habits regarding homework assignments and class activities
- receive teacher recommendation

**Note: Students who satisfactorily complete Advanced Math 6 will take Algebra I in grade 7 and Geometry in grade 8; those satisfactorily completing Advanced Science 6 and 7 will take Earth Science in grade 8. Algebra I, Geometry, and Earth Science are high school credit courses.**

\*\*5<sup>th</sup> grade teachers make their course recommendations based upon the level they consider to be most appropriate for your student. Although it is strongly discouraged for parents to override teacher recommendations, parent input is valued, and a written letter will be required should you disagree with your student's recommendation. Additionally, LMS & VBMS require parents fill out a form to override. GNMS asks that you attach a written letter to consider your request

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2020-2021 6th Grade **PRACTICE** Course Registration Form

## Core Course Selections (required subjects)

\*\*Teacher Recommended

### **English**

- \_\_\_\_\_ English 6 (LA1109)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Advanced English 6 (LA1125)

### **Science**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Science 6 (SC4105)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Advanced Science 6 (SC4106)

### **Math**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Math 6 (MA3140)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Advanced Math 6 (MA3110)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Pre-Algebra (MA3215)

### **Social Studies**

- \_\_X\_\_ Social Studies 6 (SO2354)

### **Health/PE**

- \_\_X\_\_ Health/PE 6 (PE7110)

### **Lunch**

- \_\_X\_\_ Lunch (OT0013)

**Before selecting elective options, please note the following:**

- ☐ In addition to the core classes above, 6<sup>th</sup> grade students have the opportunity to take an elective course.
- ☐ The elective course selection(s) **must** total one full year.
- ☐ Students must select *alternate* elective courses of interest in the event that a class is full or not available (to replace primary elective requests).
- ☐ In addition to electives, students will be enrolled in an appropriate lab/course for remediation or enrichment based on standardized test results or prior academic performance.

**Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student ID:** \_\_\_\_\_

## Elective Course Selections

### **Year-Long Electives (one full year)**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Band 6 (MU9230)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Orchestra 6 (MU9235)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Chorus 6 (MU9269)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Independent Reading (LA1128)  
☐ *Independent Reading course is based on teacher recommendation and/or test scores. Assessments are used to exit students from the class.*

### **Semester-Long Electives (one half of the year)**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Band 6 (MU9330)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Chorus 6 (MU9255)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Orchestra 6 (MU9335)

### **Nine-Week Electives (one quarter of the year)**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Art 6 (AR9103)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Creative Coding & Computer Solutions 1 (BE3215)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Creative Coding & Computer Solutions 2 (BE3216)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Technology Education 6 (TE8481)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Teen Living 6 (HE8204)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Exploratory French (FL5114)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Exploratory Spanish (FL5514)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Exploratory Japanese (FL5113)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Exploratory German (FL5214)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Exploratory Latin ((FL 5314)

### **Alternate Elective Selections (rank order):**

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_  
2) \_\_\_\_\_