

**Jamesville – DeWitt Middle School**

**Grade Six**

**Academic Program Guide**



**2019 – 2020**

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We believe that a robust academic program challenges students to think deeply about what they are learning, inspires students to seek out new ideas, and prepares students for the challenges of the outside world. We want our children to excel as:

- **Communicators**
- **Collaborators**
- **Thinkers**
- **Problem Solvers**
- **Innovators**
- **Individuals committed to themselves and others**

With that in mind, our teachers work throughout the school year and over the summer to carefully design curriculum and units of study aligned with the New York State Common Core Learning Standard and the specific above mentioned values held by our unique Jamesville-DeWitt community. All of this work occurs with an eye towards enriching and enhancing the quality of student learning throughout our school.

If you have questions about any of our programs, please feel free to contact any member our our administrative curriculum team at **315-445-8360** as follows:

Principal Curriculum Leader: Andy Eldridge  
Vice Principal Curriculum Leaders: Kerri McKee & Mia Woolery  
Math Department Chairperson: Molly Anthony  
Science Department Chairperson: Anna Endreny  
E.L.A. Department Chairperson: Denise Stillitano  
LOTE Department Chairperson : Kitty Robinson  
Social Studies Department Chairperson: Kari Sebast

We are proud of the academic programs our school offers your children. We want Jamesville-DeWitt Middle School to be a place where learning is challenging, joyful, and inspiring for our students. At the same time, we always strive to improve the quality of our work with your children, and we are eager for your feedback and comments. As you continue your journey with us, please do not hesitate to reach out to me directly.

Sincerely,

*Andy Eldridge*

Principal

# Table of Contents

<b>Grade 6 Program Overview</b> .....	4
Units of Study.....	5
<b>The Academic Core</b>	
English Language Arts.....	6
Mathematics .....	7
Social Studies & Science .....	8
<b>Wellness</b>	
Physical Education.....	9-10
<b>Fine Arts</b>	
Technology,, Health.....	11
General Music & Art .....	12
<b>Language Other Than English</b>	
World Languages.....	13
<b>Electives</b>	
Band, Orchestra, Chorus.....	14
<b>Student Services</b>	
Academic Intervention Services / Resource.....	15
Counseling Services.....	16

# Grade 6: Program Overview



Our grade 6 program recognizes the developmental growth of our middle level students and is designed to challenge our students to take on coursework in a caring and supportive middle level atmosphere. As such, we continue to organize students on to teams, and we continue to focus on grade level essential questions that will prepare our students to be: **Communicators, collaborators, thinkers, problem solvers, innovators, and individuals committed to themselves and others.**

It is our goal to support our students as we want our 6<sup>th</sup> graders to be excellent readers, writers, and communicators, guaranteeing their success in high school and beyond. In addition, we will continually improve our educational program through the concurrent development and regular re-evaluation of a high quality standards-based curriculum, diverse extra-curricular programming, a comprehensive instructional delivery system, effective assessment methods and technological support for teaching and learning.

# Units of Study



## **Academic Core:**

- English Language Arts – 2 Units, 2 periods a day all school year
- Mathematics – 1 Unit, 1 period a day all school year
- Social Studies – 1 Unit, 1 period a day all school year
- Science – 1 Unit, 1 period a day all school year

## **Wellness:**

- Physical Education –  $\frac{1}{2}$  Unit, 1 period every other day all school year

## **Fine Arts:**

- Technology -  $\frac{1}{4}$  Unit, 1 Period, every other day for 20 weeks of the school year
- General Music –  $\frac{1}{4}$  Unit, 1 period every other day for 20 weeks of the school year
- Art –  $\frac{1}{4}$  Unit, 1 period every other day for 20 weeks of the school year
- Health -  $\frac{1}{4}$  unit, 1 period every other day for 20 weeks of the school year.

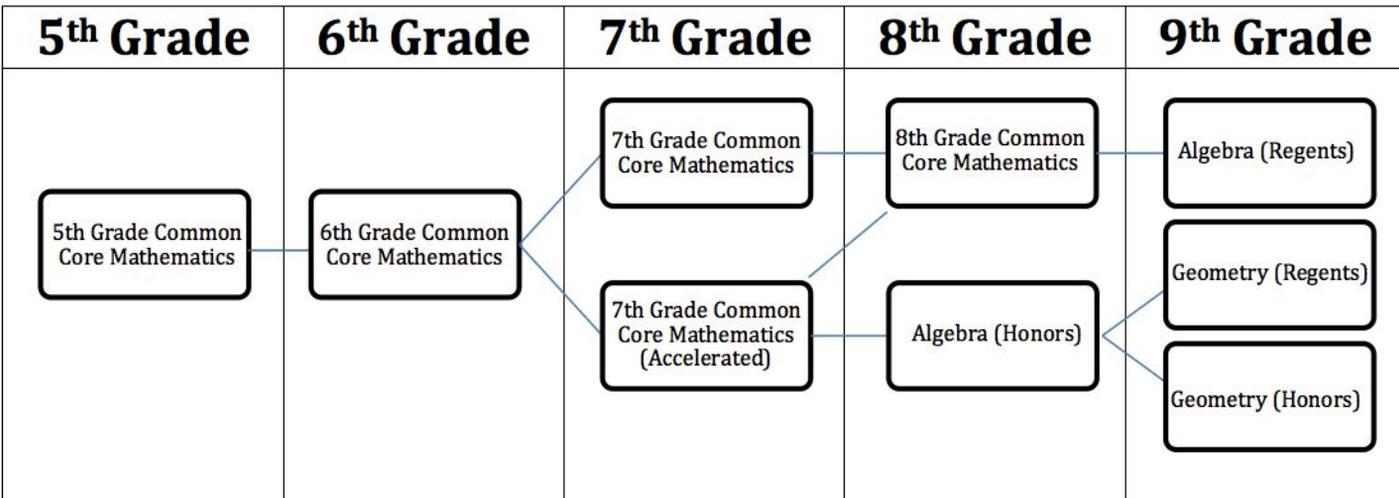
**Language Other Than English:** 1 Unit, 1 period a day all school year

## **Electives:**

- Band / Orchestra – 1 period every other day all school year (weekly lessons)
- Chorus – 1 period every other day all school year



# The Academic Core: Mathematics



The goal of the mathematics program at Jamesville-DeWitt is to provide a rigorous mathematics experience for all students, in accordance with NYS Common Core Standards, National Standards for Mathematics Education, and best practices in the teaching of mathematics. Students will learn to persevere as problem solvers and thinkers throughout their mathematics coursework at JDMS.

**6<sup>th</sup> grade Common Core Mathematics:** Sixth grade mathematicians will experience the NYS CCLS in an engaging learning atmosphere. Students will use an Interactive Student Notebook and class activities to learn and review material. Students will follow and be able to explain the procedures for dividing fractions, and reason about the order and absolute value of rational numbers and the location of points on a coordinate plane. Students use reasoning and simple drawings about multiplication and division to solve questions about ratio and rate problems. Students understand the use of and solve for variables in mathematical expressions, equations, and inequalities. Our sixth graders manipulate shapes and use formulas to determine area, surface area, and volume. Lastly, students will begin to develop their ability to think statistically and work with probabilities. After increasing fluency in these areas students will develop a deeper understanding by applying these concepts to real life situations.

**Prerequisites: Successful completion of 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Common Core Mathematics.**



# Wellness: Physical Education



**Grade 6 Physical Education:** The Jamesville-DeWitt Physical Education program is based upon the acquisition of knowledge and skills that are the foundation for engaging in physical activity. Our mission is to empower all students to sustain regular, lifelong physical activity as a foundation for a healthy, productive and fulfilling life.

The Physical Education curriculum is a sequential educational program. It is based on physical activities undertaken in an active, caring, supportive and non threatening atmosphere in which every student is challenged and successful. We aim to provide every student with a wide variety of physical activities and challenges that will contribute to the development and maintenance of their physical, cognitive, and affective well being. Ultimately, students will be provided with the foundation for making informed decisions that will empower them to achieve and maintain a healthy lifestyle.

# Wellness: Physical Education

<b>Unit Themes</b>		
Fitness	Aquatics	Striking/Fielding Sports
Project Adventure	Team Passing Sports	Personal Performance
Net & Wall Activities	Target Activities	Dance/Aesthetic Movement

<b>Physical Education Participation Proficiencies/Student Targets</b>
Develop and consistently demonstrate appropriate dress and participation.
Develop and demonstrate at a novice skill level, basic skills in as many kinds of activities as possible.
Develop and consistently demonstrate good sportsmanship.
Continually develop good safety habits while playing sports and partaking in physical activity.
Develop physical fitness by partaking in activities, which enhance their endurance, coordination, strength, agility, and speed.
Develop and consistently demonstrate appropriate decision making ability and accepting responsibility.
Perform and develop the areas of flexibility, abdominal, upper body strength, agility, and endurance.
Demonstrate the ability to work cooperatively with peers and teachers through a variety of physical activities.

\*Students will need to bring a change of clothes and wear sneakers to Physical Education. There are no Physical Education locker or locks. Students will need to bring their clothes to and from Physical Education.

# Technology

*Technology education uses concepts of science, math, social studies, and language arts in a hands-on, systems-based approach to problem solving. It guides students in the understanding, design, and development of systems, devices, and products to serve human needs and wants. Students will learn the fundamentals of design and materials processing through the use of hands-on activities. Learning the safe use of hand and power tools will enable our students to construct their designs. They will learn to use the computer as a tool by completing activities that include laser cutting, 3D printing, and robotics. Students that develop their problem solving skills in technology education will be better prepared for their future in any area of study. Hands on activities will focus on increasing student's technical literacy and encourage them to pursue careers in the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics fields.*

## **Technology Grade 6:**

In sixth grade students will focus on the engineering design process and how to define a problem starting with measurement and technical drawing. Students will be introduced to graphic design and CAD software to help them develop solutions to technological problems. They will also learn how to safely use tools and machines to process materials.

# Wellness: Health



**Grade 6 Health:** This class is designed to give students practice with a variety of life skills within the subject of health through individual and whole class activities. Topics that we will cover in this 20-week course are the aspects of physical, mental and social health (peer pressure, decision making, goal setting, self-esteem, stress and relaxation), as well as the dangers of alcohol, tobacco and drugs. We will also discuss cell phone usage and internet safety. The course will wrap up with human growth and development, where they will learn about their body's changes, hormones and grooming.

## Fine Arts: General Music & Art



**Grade 6 General Music:** Sixth Grade General Music is a ten-week course in which students are engaged in musical activities involving: singing, listening, playing instruments, dancing, composing, and performing. Students explore music from the Middle Ages, Renaissance, and Baroque periods, including: the beginnings of music notation; the development of musical instruments and genres; and the location of music in history and culture. Music literacy is emphasized through both vocal and instrumental music, and students perform using the voice, recorder, classroom instruments, and movement, in addition to composing original works.

**Grade 6 Art:** Eighth grade Art is a 10 week class that meets every day. This class is built upon and is an extension of the previous seventh grade basic skills. Students will focus on 2D and 3D Art concepts of drawing, painting, graphics, printmaking, ceramics, and sculpture. Composition is reinforced as the core and substance of all Art production. Students develop and refine basic skills as well as develop concepts and subject matter that answer the questions “Who Am I” and “What Do I Want To Say?” Career awareness is introduced as students learn to take their ideas to the next creative level by problem solving and arriving at original, unique solutions. Students learn the importance of exhibition through community Art shows including the CNY Scholastic Arts Show. Students are also able to participate in the Theatre Arts set production

# Languages Other Than English: World Languages



**Grade 6 World Languages:** Students will embark on their exploration of Spanish, French or Chinese cultures and languages. Our goal is to expose students to introductory vocabulary and grammar through interactive, creative activities in the areas of reading, writing, listening, speaking and culture. Students will learn basic communication skills and will collaborate with peers to begin the pathway to proficiency. Language classes meet daily for 38 minutes.

## **French**

*Topics:* greetings, personal identification, education, family, meal taking, food and drink, numbers, days, months, dates, weather, telling time, expressing likes and dislikes, interrogative expressions, history of the French language, rivers and mountains of France, countries bordering France

*Grammar:* articles, regular and irregular verb conjugation, forming questions, noun adjective agreement

## **Mandarin Chinese**

*Topics:* greetings and introductions, personal identification, education, classroom objects, days, dates, family, meal taking, foods, drinks, and numbers 1-10

*Writing and Grammar:* introduction to simplified Chinese characters and punctuation, learning the four tones of pronunciation, learning the pinyin system of writing and pronunciation, basic sentence structure, nouns, verbs, pronouns, forming questions, possessive cases, basic tense usage

## **Spanish**

*Topics:* greetings and goodbyes, classroom objects, animals, weather, calendar, body parts, clothing, family, food, drinks, numbers

*Grammar:* articles, noun adjective agreement, regular and irregular verb conjugation

## Electives: Band, Orchestra, Chorus



**Grade 6 Band:** Band is an elective, full-year course. The bands at JDMS are performing ensembles consisting of members of the woodwind, brass, and percussion families of instruments. Band meets every other day (in addition to weekly group lessons) and all band students are expected to perform in their respective ensemble's concerts. In addition, musical growth and achievement are encouraged through participation in NYSSMA Solo Festival, All County Band, Jazz Ensemble, and Pit Band.

**Grade 6 Orchestra:** The Jamesville Dewitt Sixth grade orchestra consists of students that will potentially have 1-2 years of experience. Orchestra meets every other day. Students in the orchestra will work on techniques and develop skills to perform in the ensemble. Concerts are a mandatory part of the orchestra program.

**Grade 6 Chorus:** Sixth Grade Chorus is an extension of the general music classroom. In Sixth Grade Chorus there is a focus on multiple part singing, the developing voice, sight singing, and ensemble. As in Fifth Grade Chorus, Sixth Grade Chorus members sing from a variety of historical periods and cultures, while developing an understanding of personal responsibility and what it means to make music with others. Sixth Grade Chorus rehearses every other day throughout the school year, and gives three concerts annually.

# Student Services



**Grade 6 Academic Intervention Services:** To increase student learning in all curricular areas, staff engage in ongoing analysis of multiple sources of student data resulting in modification of instruction and instructional resources. Instruction will be differentiated for students where a gap exists between their performance and the performance of the total population. Success will be evaluated based upon positive trends in student data. Academic Support Services are used to strengthen students' skills as well as build confidence with academics. Students attend Academic Intervention Services every other day in a small group setting. We use this time to reinforce basic skills, reteach concepts, and help students grasp new material when introduced in the classroom.

**Jamesville-DeWitt Middle School Goal:** We will continue to use STAR Reading and grade book to create academic intervention priorities. We will use STAR Mathematics data to create intervention priorities within the classroom. We will continue to use the academic data from individual students to improve remediation and pre-teaching opportunities.

# Counseling Services

**OUR MISSION:** The mission of the counseling staff at Jamesville-DeWitt Middle School is to provide high quality, comprehensive, school counseling services to all students. Our programs are designed to help all students develop and enhance their academic, social and personal strengths in order to become responsible and successful students.

The middle school years are characterized by the term "transition." During these years, students experience more physical and emotional changes than in any other year other than infancy. The middle school counselors assist students, parents, and staff in dealing with this transitional phase. Programs in the middle school assist students in:

- Making choices and dealing with changes
- Setting goals
- Organizing information
- Learning about themselves and dealing with personal relationships
- Developing skills related to decision making and problem solving

The middle school counselor's role encompasses coordination, consulting, and counseling. Coordination involves managing various aspects of services that help students succeed. Consultation is a key vehicle used to address the needs of the emerging adolescent student. The middle school counselor consults with parents, teachers, other educational professionals on personal, social, and academic matters. The school counselor delivers services through a variety of methods such as individual counseling, small group counseling, and classroom activities and lessons. In any counseling situation the particular topics presented or discussed are based upon the needs of the students.

Parents are encouraged to contact their child's counselor if they have concerns about their progress or well being. By working closely together, parents, counselors, and teachers can help students achieve success.