COURSE SELECTION GUIDE
2016–2017

6th Grade

Kettle Moraine Middle School
www.kmsd.edu

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The School District of Kettle Moraine does not discriminate on the basis of religion, sex, race, color, national origin, age, ancestry, creed, political affiliation, membership in the National Guard, state defense force or any reserve component of the United States Military or state military forces, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability or handicap or other basis prohibited under state or federal law.
February, 2016

Dear Parents & Incoming 6th Grade Students:

The 2016-17 school year is on the horizon and holds the promise of another great year in Kettle Moraine. This course catalog has been developed to provide information for students and parents as they seek to explore new areas of learning and grow in areas of strength. We encourage you to read the information provided and to ask as many questions as needed to clearly understand the choices available. Our counselors are available to all parents and students as these important decisions are made.

Kettle Moraine Middle School utilizes the house plan of organization. A house is comprised of a group of teachers instructing in the five core academic areas (reading & language arts, science & math and social studies). The team of house teachers collaborate to create an environment that responds to the educational needs of individual students. Placement in houses is based on a number of considerations, including feedback from previous teachers and talent development staff, special education needs, assessment results, boy/girl ratios, class sizes, and elective selection. Parents with specific suggestions for the type of classroom environment that is best for their student must submit their reasoning in writing to the principal by April 1, 2016. Requests for particular teachers cannot be granted.

For 6th grade students, you can elect to be a part of our traditional house structure or select KMMS Create for your house. Create, begun in the 2014-2015 school year, uses an interdisciplinary model of more personalized, blended instruction and includes all three grades in the one house. There is more information about Create on page 4 of the course description section of this guide.

We look forward to another rigorous and exciting year at Kettle Moraine Middle School!

Michael Comiskey          Laura Lloyd            Donna McKonly          Kerry Neimon
Principal                  Associate Principal  Counselor              Counselor
965.6500 ext 2001          965.6500 ext 2002  965.6500 ext 2060      965.6500 ext 2059
Registration and Scheduling Timeline

INFORMATION DISTRIBUTION –
• Information will be distributed to students in late February.
• The counselors and teachers will meet with students to provide information and answer questions.

REGISTRATION -
• Incoming sixth grade students and their parents must return forms to their elementary schools by Friday, March 4, 2016.

SCHEDULING -
• Student schedules are created and revised throughout the summer.
• Schedules will be available on Infinite Campus after district-wide registration.

SCHEDULE REVISIONS -
• Once schedules are distributed, changes will be considered only under the following circumstances.
  o computer error
  o failure of the student to meet proper course prerequisites
  o teacher recommendation
  o a need to balance classes by size
  o physical limitations

THE KETTLE MORAINE SCHOOL DISTRICT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO CANCEL CLASSES BASED ON INSUFFICIENT ENROLLMENT.

COUNSELORS - The primary purpose of the counseling program is to assist students with academic, career, social and personal concerns. Your school counselor will be a very helpful person to work with in planning your middle/high school schedules and post high school career. If you have any questions through the scheduling and registration process, please contact your counselor.

Counselors
Kerry Neimon 6th and 7th Grade neimonk@kmsd.edu 965-6500 x2059
Donna McKonly 8th Grade and Create mckonlyd@kmsd.edu 965-6500 x2060
Make Course Selections Very Carefully
Once a course selection is made, students will be expected to stay with their decision.

REQUIRED COURSES:
All sixth grade students will take their required “core” academic classes under an arrangement called the House Concept. A team of teachers will have the same students for the following subjects:

| Literacy 6 | Social Studies 6 |
| Math 6 | Gateway to Technology 6 |
| Science 6 | Art Experiences 6 |

The remainder of the sixth grade student schedule will include a combination of the following:

| Physical Education 6 | World Language Exploratory 6 |
| Music 6 |

Grade 6

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS:

LITERACY
6XLA

The 6th grade literacy strand is a combination of literature/language arts in an integrated block. A reader’s and writer’s workshop frame the student experience. There is a strong focus on vocabulary, reading comprehension strategies, research, and reading and writing in a workshop environment. Students will increase their knowledge of our world and develop a critical appreciation of literature. They will select books of their choice while engaging in thematic units. Students will read and write in a variety of genres.

MATH 6
6XMA

Students will be engaged in a rigorous and balanced math program that encompasses geometry, measurement, algebra, statistics, problem solving, critical thinking, algorithm skills and probability. Students are expected to have fluency with addition, subtraction and multiplication and division basic facts. There is a $15.00 fee charged for this course.

SCIENCE 6
6XSC

This course is designed to immerse students in the process of science through a hands-on, lab-based physical science curriculum. Covering the units of matter & energy, motion, sound, light, heat, and chemistry, the students are introduced to standard laboratory skills and safety awareness. There is a $4.00 lab fee charged for this course.
SOCIAL STUDIES 6
6XST

Students will gain an understanding of ancient cultures in Western Civilization and how their accomplishments have impacted the development of our society. This will include examining, organizing, and analyzing information from the Prehistoric times to the Middle Ages. In the process, students will learn reading strategies for understanding how geography, economics, religion, government, culture, and historic events impact the movement and development of people. They will make connections between the challenges and accomplishments of ancient cultures to their own lives as 21st Century global citizens.

GATEWAY TO TECHNOLOGY 6
(GTT)
6XTE

Gateway to Technology, referred to as “Tech”, is a required semester class that is the middle school portion of the Project Lead The Way engineering curriculum. This curriculum provides project based, problem solving, and hands-on learning situations and experiences that link students to technology and engineering. The instructional units and projects excite and motivate students to use their imagination and teach them to be creative and innovative. This is a lab based class where most of the work needs to be completed in class. Students do not have nightly homework. However, there will be a few evenings when the students will have to study for quizzes or gather supplies and materials for group projects. There is a $8.00 fee charged for this course.

ART EXPERIENCES 6
6XAR

Students will be introduced to new artistic media and techniques while engaging in creative problem solving. Students will explore the structure of art including line, texture, color, value and space in a variety of two- and three-dimensional projects. There is a $12.00 fee charged for this course.

6TH GRADE
PHYSICAL ED
/HEALTH
6XPE

All sixth graders are required to take Physical Education all year on alternating days. This course will promote physical, emotional, social, and psychological growth through a variety of individual and team activities. The students will understand the importance of a positive attitude and good sportsmanship as well as how to maintain a healthy, active lifestyle. The students will also be exposed to basic rules, vocabulary and skills needed for successful participation in all physical education classes. The emphasis at the 6th grade level is on skill development. Physical Education uniforms are $5.00 for the shirt and $8.00 for the shorts for a total of $13.00 per uniform. These will be available for purchase at District Wide Registration in August.

HEALTH UNIT: The five-day human growth and development curriculum has been carefully screened and chosen for this particular age level. The boys and girls are split into separate groups for this unit of instruction. This material has been presented to our sixth graders for many years, and it has received very positive support from parents and professional staff. However, as a parent, you do have the right to excuse your child from this unit if you so choose. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Middle School Counseling office at 262-965-6500.
Sixth grade World Language Exploration meets on alternating days for 6th graders. In the 6th grade Exploratory course, students will be introduced to Chinese, French, German, and Spanish (one quarter of every other day instruction per language). The course will provide an awareness of each culture and an introduction to each language. These experiences will help students make an informed decision regarding future language study and will develop the intellectual flexibility necessary for subsequent language acquisition. There is a $15.00 fee charged for this course.

Intervention/Structured Study meets on alternating days. Students will be assigned to interventions based on data gathered in math and reading classes. Interventions will include intensive instruction for students demonstrating below grade level performance.

KMMS Create

KMMS Create is a house within Kettle Moraine Middle School for students of all grades. Students in Create will work within an inquiry-based, interdisciplinary model of personalized instruction. The CCSS (Common Core State Standards) will frame a continuum of expectations and assessments.

- Reading / Language will use a workshop approach to engage students in literacy instruction and practice individually and in small groups. Instruction in strategies and processes will directly impact each learner’s ability to meet the goals outlined in personal learning plans in other curricular areas.
- Math learning will utilize a blended learning and blended delivery approach to include small group instruction, individual instruction, and computer-assisted instruction. There is a $15.00 fee charged for this course.
- Science learning will encompass an in-depth focus on the physical, life, and earth/space sciences utilizing some large group experiences and individual inquiries of related concepts for deeper exploration. Core concepts will frame overarching content with students having choice and voice to co-create a learning plan. There is a $4.00 fee charged for this course.
- Social Studies learning will use interdisciplinary approach to include reading and writing. Students will be engaged in inquiries that allow them to “think like a historian” as they co-create learning plans to address areas of their personal inquiry.

Learning in other courses will occur in a combination of legacy courses and through interdisciplinary seminar experiences:

- Art and Gateway to Technology (Project Lead the Way) and Career learning will occur as these content specialists provide a combination of large group instruction and seminar experiences. Interdisciplinary learning will be reflected in the learner’s inquiry projects.
- Music, Physical Education, World Language Exploration (6th graders) and World Languages (for 7th and 8th graders) will occur within the legacy environment.

Some important considerations for the 2016-2017 school year:

- Incoming 6th grade students may select the Create house and will be selected with a lottery if the requests for spots exceed the spots available.
Because we have a very limited number of spots available, we will consider entry into the Create house for next year’s 7th and 8th graders based on enrollment. 

Students not admitted into Create will be placed on a waiting list. 

8th grade students in Create may have fewer elective choices because of the requirements of the Create structure.

MUSIC OPTIONS:

Sixth graders may choose one of the following options:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Band 6 (.5)</th>
<th>Concert Orchestra (.5)</th>
<th>Choir (.5)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Band 6 (1.0)</td>
<td>Concert Orchestra (1.0)</td>
<td>Choir (1.0)</td>
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.5 courses meet year long, every other day

BAND 6 6810

The 6th grade Band is open to all sixth grade band members (including beginners). Band 6 is designed to stress the development of beginning musical skills such as music vocabulary, notes, rhythms, and how to perform together as a group. Students will learn these skills by studying a wide variety of musical repertoire. This band performs several concerts each year as part of the course requirement. We strive for excellence and the discipline it takes to achieve it. 

All band members receive a weekly lesson which may occur during a lunch period, study hall or band. The class size of a lesson ranges from 1-10 students. Students will learn concepts and techniques specific to their instruments. Students will have an opportunity for individual growth. There is a $3.00 binder fee and a $10.00 lesson book fee charged for this course.

CONCERT ORCHESTRA 6 6861

The sixth grade Concert Orchestra is open to all sixth grade string players (including beginners) who want to learn the joy of making music on a string instrument. Players will explore a variety of musical techniques from different styles of music. Lunch lessons are included to help students learn concepts and techniques specific to their instrument. Seating auditions will take place twice a year. Various concerts and field trips are scheduled throughout the year.

CHOIR 6 6920

Choir 6 is a non-auditioned choir open to all sixth grade boys and girls. Choir 6 is a performance-based musical ensemble, giving students an opportunity to explore choral music written in a variety of styles. Students are introduced to vocal technique and production, music reading, and music theory. In addition to the choir class, every Choir 6 student participates in a group lesson once a week during a study hall or lunch period. This lesson time is dedicated to more individualized musical skill building and learning. There is a $2.00 binder fee charged for this course.

There will be opportunities for students to receive instruction every day in music. Please indicate your student’s interest in this option on your course selection form.