



**LAKE ORION COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**  
**MIDDLE SCHOOLS**  
**Oakview • Scripps • Waldon**

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## Middle School Curriculum Handbook

### 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

Dear Student:

This curriculum handbook is designed to introduce you to our middle school program. You will find information that describes our required courses and elective opportunities for each grade level. Take some time to familiarize yourself with these courses so you will be able to make appropriate decisions to achieve your educational goals.

The Lake Orion Community Schools middle school program provides a structure for you to explore academic areas of interest. As you progress through middle school, you will have increased opportunities to select a variety of courses. We are committed to providing positive learning experiences for our students to develop a foundation for success in high school.

Please make thoughtful, well-informed choices because schedule changes are discouraged.

If you need assistance, please contact the counseling office.

Sincerely,

*Sarah Perry*

Sarah Perry  
Oakview Principal

*Dr. Dan Haas*

Dan Haas  
Scripps Principal

*Dr. Randy Groya*

Randy Groya  
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## Welcome to 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

### Course Availability

Courses described in this Curriculum Handbook are offered based upon sufficient student requests and teacher availability determined by administration.

### Academic Schedule

**Report Cards issued at the end of each semester** -2 per year (approximately 20 weeks)

- For rotation classes (10 week, quarter classes) final grades will be issued at the end of the 10 weeks

**Academic Updates** are available on Power School mid-semester

### Schedule Changes

The counselors will make schedule changes when the following exist:

- Incomplete schedule
- Medical reason (with documentation)
- Correcting class overloads

**All other schedule change requests must be approved by the Principal.**

### 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Required Classes

- **STAR ~ Student/Teacher Affective Relationships**
- English Language Arts
- Science
- Social Studies
- Mathematics 6 or Advanced Mathematics (Teacher recommendation required)
- Exploratory Rotation (**Art 6, Technology & Computer Science for the Fundamental Learner, Physical Education 6, Discovering Solutions through Engineering and Technology 6 (DSET)**)

### Math Sequencing

Please Note: Placement for all math classes is determined by the district based on assessment data and teacher input. Notification of math placement will be communicated in a letter from your child's elementary school, prior to the end of the school year.

Grade	Course Title	Course Title
6	Math 6	Advanced Math 6
7	Math 7	Accelerated Math 7
8	Math 8	High School Algebra 1

### Elective Courses: Choose One

- Band 6 (yearlong commitment)
- 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Choir (yearlong commitment)
- Exploring Theater & Life Skills (each course is one semester)

## Required Course Descriptions – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

### **STAR – Student-Teacher-Affective Relationships      Year**

The STAR program is designed to meet the diverse needs of Lake Orion Community Schools' middle school students as they interact with peers and adults through their adolescent years. The goals for the STAR program are to build relationships between students and staff and for every student to have an adult advocate in the building.

### **English Language Arts 6      Year**

This course uses a reading and writing workshop model to study both fiction and informational texts. The course focuses on the development of a community of readers and writers with an emphasis on student choice. A combination of direct instruction, independent practice and dynamic grouping provide a venue for comprehension, interpretation and appreciation of literature. Additionally, students explore multiple writing genres in preparation for various kinds of academic writing. Students will also develop oral communication skills and become active listeners.

### **Science 6      Year**

Science 6 is a required science course designed around the Michigan Science Standards that focuses on topics in Physical Science, Life Science, Earth and Space Science, and Engineering and Design. Science 6 will help prepare students for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade M-Step as well as Science 7 and Science 8. Students will engage in Science and Engineering Practices and use Cross-Cutting Concepts to explore: Forces and Motion, Energy, Waves and Electromagnetic Radiation, Matter and Energy, Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems, Growth and Development of Organisms, Weather and Climate, Human Impacts on Earth Systems, and Engineering, Technology and Applications of Science.

### **Social Studies 6      Year**

The sixth grade social studies curriculum is a geography-based course which introduces students to the physical and human geography of the world. Students will explore how humans have used, adapted, and modified their environment, and the consequences. In this course, students will examine a variety of global issues that result from human activities such as population change, migration, urbanization, culture and cultural diffusion, resource use, increased networks of trade and economic interdependence, and the interactions among nations.

## **Mathematics**

### **Math 6      Year**

This course will focus on concepts of ratio and rate. The course structure and format will extend student thinking of rational numbers. Students will write, interpret, and use expressions and equations. Students will develop an understanding of statistical thinking.

### **Advanced Math 6      Year**

This course will focus on concepts of ratio and rate. The course structure and format will extend student thinking of rational numbers. Students will write, interpret, and use expressions and equations. Students will develop an understanding of statistical thinking. Additionally, students will be expected to grasp deeper levels of understanding, demonstrate exceptional perseverance, and make connections utilizing complex problem solving strategies. This course will cover all grade 6 standards in addition to the following grade 7 concepts: two-dimensional geometry, integers, rational numbers, and similarity.

## Required Exploratory Rotation Classes – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

### Art 6 10 Weeks

Students will utilize skills and concepts they experienced at the elementary level and apply them to middle level art problems. The elements of design, basic art principals, problem solving, different media and a variety of techniques will be emphasized through a wide range of projects and assignments. The art curriculum is designed to enhance self-esteem, provide the opportunity for students to discover their potential in new areas, and provide emotional & creative outlets. Students will also experience art history & culture as well as gain awareness of how art is integrated into the world around us.

### Technology & Computer Science For the Fundamental Learner 10 Weeks

This course is designed to develop essential computing skills for the 21st century learner. Students will utilize keyboarding techniques and learn word processing, presentation, online safety, troubleshooting, and introductory programming fundamentals. The introductory computer programming and STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Math) projects incorporate the use of authentic problem-solving skills.

### Physical Education 6 10 Weeks

Physical education is a co-educational class emphasizing involvement in a variety of activities to promote physical fitness, including cardiovascular endurance, strength, and flexibility. In addition, skill-enhancing games and sport skills will be introduced to encourage a positive attitude towards life-long involvement in physical activity.

### DSET 6 – Discovering Solutions through Engineering and Technology 10 Weeks

A 10 week course structured to provide students with an opportunity to discover and engage in various elements of the science and engineering concepts using various hands on projects.

## Elective Classes – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

### Band 6 Year

Sixth Grade Band is a beginning instrumental music class. Students are expected to provide an instrument that is in good working condition, a method book, and supplies (oil, reeds, etc.) Students do not need prior music experience to take this course. Music fundamentals are taught, including tone production, posture, breath control, note & rhythm reading, and musical terms. Classes may be in like-instrument groups. There are several evening performances throughout the year. All performances are required and graded. Band is a year-long commitment. Students are expected to remain in band for the entire year. Families that are financially unable to provide necessary equipment may contact the Band Director.

### 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Choir Year

This course is open to any 6<sup>th</sup> grade student interested in singing, and will focus on developing the voice while at the same time promoting self-confidence and musicianship. No previous experience is necessary. Students will be exposed to proper singing technique, music theory, harmony, and movement. 6<sup>th</sup> grade choir students will be given the opportunity to sing a varied repertoire of music, including choral, popular, Broadway, world and jazz selections. Choir students will also have the opportunity to attend district level choir workshops. This ensemble will perform at least two times during the year. Participation in all performances is required and a part of student evaluations. Special concert attire may be required.

### Exploring Theater & Life Skills (each class is one semester)

#### Exploring Theater 20 Weeks

This course will allow students an opportunity to experience and explore the dramatic arts. Students will develop basic dramatic skills through the use of voice and body. In addition, they will also develop an understanding of the dramatic and theatrical traditions found in the history of theater. They will learn poise and self-confidence as they work cooperatively with others.

#### Life Skills 20 Weeks

This course will focus on developing the skills necessary to help students effectively manage their lives and move toward independence. Skills taught will be in the areas of health and wellness, cooking and nutrition, human/personal development, money management, and safety. Management of time and resources is emphasized in each area empowering students to be successful at home and in the workplace.

**Academic Literacy 10 - 20 Weeks**

Academic Literacy focuses on increasing student reading engagement, accuracy, fluency and comprehension. Students will analyze key idea and details, study author's craft and develop strategies for comparing and contrasting multiple texts by the same author or on the same topic. Students will benefit from individualized learning plans and small class sizes focused on closing literacy achievement gaps. This course is available to students based on student data and teacher recommendation only.

**Math Lab 10 - 20 Weeks**

This course is designed to provide students with a variety of essential skills and experiences to support and enrich their mathematics development. Math Lab is designed to help students improve their mathematics work, through improving mathematics reasoning and sense making. This course includes, but is not limited to; computational and problem solving skills, the number system, and ratios & proportional relationships. Math Lab is a time for more math instruction for the student, and is NOT homework help or study hall. School Administration determines approval and/or required placement.

**Special Education – Course Descriptions**

All Learning Resources Center (LRC) courses follow the general education curriculum and are designed to meet a student's individual needs. A student's placement is determined by an Individual Education Planning Committee (IEPC).

**LRC English Language Arts Year**

This course continues to build English skills begun at the elementary level. The curriculum includes proper sentence structure, grammar, and variety of writing, study skills and spelling. Practical application of these skills will be used whenever possible. The LRC Reading program contains basic reading in both vocabulary and comprehension. Both fiction and non-fiction materials are used for learning and enjoyment. Specialized instruction is provided to reinforce the lessons given within the general education curriculum and achieve the goals and objectives in the IEP.

**LRC Mathematics Year**

This course is designed to reinforce and expand mathematical concepts including computation and understanding of whole numbers, fractions, decimals and measurement. Special emphasis is placed on applying knowledge of these concepts to problem solving, using calculators when necessary. Specialized instruction is provided to reinforce the lessons given within the general education curriculum and achieve the goals and objectives in the IEP.

**LRC Science Year**

This course parallels that of general education science with its focus on life, physical and earth sciences. Substance awareness, human sexuality, health and nutrition are also included. Hands-on experiences are provided whenever possible along with modifications for individual needs.

**LRC Social Studies Year**

This course is designed for students who need basic knowledge of self, their community, their state and nation, and the world.

**LRC Lab Year**

The primary purpose of LRC Lab is to support special education students so that they may achieve the goals written in their Individual Educational Plans as well as become successful in their general education classes. Specialized instruction is provided to reinforce the lessons given within the general education curriculum and achieve the goals and objectives in the IEP.

**Prevocational Language Year**

This course is designed to cover functional reading and writing skills. In this course students will increase vocabulary and word recognition skills. In addition, students will increase reading comprehension and handwriting skills.

**LRC Science - Prevocational Year**

This course deals with basic science survival skills that the student will need to know in everyday life. Human sexuality may be covered. Instructional content and method address the individual needs of the student.

**LRC Math – Prevocational Year**

This course covers basic skills needed for daily living. Students will increase math computation skills and money skills. Students will apply what they learn through many hands-on activities.

**Prevocational Social Studies Year**

Students will study family and school, as well as their local community. This course will also cover regional communities and Michigan.

