

# HENLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

## SIXTH GRADE 2018-2019

Dear Fifth Grader,

Everyone at Henley is looking forward to having you join us next year. We have enjoyed meeting you through our orientation programs. The next step in the process is for you and your family to make a decision about the elective period choice. Below is a description of the elective choices; your elementary school will assist students with inputting their elective choice in the computer.

Sixth grade students will be grouped according to ability in the areas of Language Arts/Reading and Mathematics. Elementary teachers will make these recommendations. Families will be able to view their child's Math and Language Arts recommendations through the Parent Portal in late February.

The remaining classes, Science and Social Studies as well as Physical Education/Health and electives will not be grouped by ability.

### **REQUIRED COURSES**

**LANGUAGE ARTS/READING**

**MATHEMATICS**

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION/HEALTH**

**SCIENCE**

**SOCIAL STUDIES**

Henley has a block schedule consisting of four 75 minute blocks of time. Two blocks each day are devoted to Language Arts and Math. The third block alternates between Science and Social Studies and the last block alternates between Physical Education/Health and your elective choice.

For your elective choice, you may choose a music elective – either **Beginning Band**, **Beginning Choir**, **Beginning Strings**, or a full year of the **Exploratory Cluster** (small fees may be charged for some courses).

**Please Note: The combination of offerings in either the Exploratory Cluster or the Music options are subject to change as a result of budget or staffing changes that may occur prior to the start of the 2018-19 school year.**

# HENLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL SIXTH GRADE ELECTIVE CHOICES

**BEGINNING BAND** - Band is open to all students who wish to learn to play a musical instrument. Band students must either rent or buy a musical instrument. In the sixth grade, Band will be an alternate day program. An additional letter from the Band director is attached including information about a required interview and rental options.

**BEGINNING CHOIR**—Want to have fun singing with friends, while working toward excellence in music-making? Beginning Choir is open to all students. We sing music from all over the world and from many different styles. Students learn healthy singing habits, as well as music reading and listening skills which help students to make music for a lifetime. This class prepares students for **Hornet Choir**, and, in the spring, students may also **audition for Jazz Singers**, a select group that performs mainly Jazz, Pop and Broadway music. We have **three required performances**: a Fall Concert, District Choral Assessment in March, and the Spring Concert/Awards in May.

**BEGINNING STRINGS** - Strings is open to all students who wish to learn to play a string instrument. Strings students must either rent or buy a musical instrument. In the sixth grade, Strings will be an alternate day program. An additional letter from the Strings director is attached.

**EXPLORATORY CLUSTER** - Students selecting this option will rotate through variety of exploratory programs such as:

## *Visual and Performing Arts*

1. **ART** –This is a general art class designed to explore a variety of artists, skills/techniques and media. Students will create both two-dimensional and three-dimensional artwork with an emphasis on drawing, painting, collage and clay sculpture.

2. **MUSIC** – Students will create music using technology, pen-and-paper, and their bodies! Students will also experience music through singing, playing music games, listening to many types of music and playing percussion instruments. West African-style drum circle is a big part of this class.

## *Career and Technical Education*

3. **WORKPLACE TECHNOLOGY** - This course serves as both a computer literacy class and an introduction to the engineering courses offered to students as seventh and eighth graders. To introduce students to the “flavor” of the 7th/8th Grade Mechatronics course, students will learn computer coding on the programming language “Scratch” and will be challenged to create video games of their own design. To introduce students to the “flavor of the “flavor” of the 7th/8th grade Engineering and Technology course, students will learn 3D design on Google Sketchup and will be challenged to create their own unique 3D design.

4. **LIFE SKILLS** - Students will learn valuable life skills in a project-based class. These include, but are not limited to, the basics of nutrition, working in the kitchen and sewing. In addition, they will gain experience and knowledge about how to effectively work in groups. These skills will help prepare them for the demands of middle school as well as the years beyond.

5. **DIGITAL/ PRODUCTIVITY SKILLS** – Students will develop and enhance skills for utilizing digital tools. Students compose and produce personal, educational, and business documents incorporating basic proofreading, editing, and presentation techniques.

6. **AVID**-Students learn skills that will assist with the transition from elementary to middle school course work. Students learn organization, time management, reading strategies and proper note taking.

## *World Languages*

7. **WORLD CULTURE EXPLORATORY**—Students will receive experience in introductory World Languages during this exploratory course. Students will begin to develop correct pronunciation and use essential vocabulary to have conversations and learn the days of the week, months, numbers and how to say their birthdays and age. Students will also check the weather and time zones, use basic introductions and greetings as well as tell about themselves. Conversation and songs make this a participatory experience.