HENLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAM DESCRIPTION
SIXTH GRADE 2020-2021

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.

All sixth graders will take a course in Science, History, Language Arts and Physical Education/Health, which are not grouped by ability. Students will be recommended either for Math 6 or Math 7 depending on their academic ability level. Elementary teachers will make these recommendations. Families will be able to view their child’s Math recommendations through the Parent Portal in late March.

REQUIRED COURSES
LANGUAGE ARTS/READING SCIENCE
MATHEMATICS SOCIAL STUDIES
PHYSICAL EDUCATION/HEALTH

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 2020-2021 school year.
HENLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL SIXTH GRADE ELECTIVE CHOICES

**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.

**CHORUS 6**—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 two required performances per year.

**STRINGS** - Interested in learning to play a string instrument (violin, viola, cello, or bass)? Join the Henley Beginning Orchestra! Open to all beginners, no experience required, just a positive attitude! The beginning orchestra has two concerts every year and learns a variety of music.

**EXPLORATORY CLUSTER** - Students selecting this option will rotate through a variety of exploratory programs such as (but not limited to):

*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. **Exploratory** – Students will learn a wide variety of skills pertaining to design as used in art. This course may be taught using a wide variety of art media and will focus mainly on design and creativity.
**Career and Technical Education**

3. **CTE-STEM Design and Construction Exploration (Formerly Workplace Tech)** -
This is a 9 week 6th grade Career and Technical Education (CTE) course that students will apply the design thinking process to examine and explore their learning around topics of personal interest to examine real-world problems. Students study technological resources through problem-solving processes and various hands-on activities. They relate the impact of technology on society, environment, and culture to future consequences and decisions. They will examine and use processes and mental models, teamwork, and communication to design and create projects hinged on their personal development of life-long learner competencies as identified by Albemarle County Public Schools.

4. **CTE Leadership Exploration 1 (Formerly Life Skills)** -
Students explore self leadership and leadership foundations in school, family, community and career roles and responsibilities. Students explore lifelong learning and leadership skills to prepare them to be responsible self advocates, effective communicators and collaborators, responsible citizens, creative thinkers and problem solvers. Students explores individual growth, goal setting, socio-emotional learning, human development, interpersonal relationships, nutritional health and wellness, and physically active lifestyles. They also explore careers and personal finance through saving and spending practices.

**World Languages**

5. **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.