

David Getz, Principal

Amanda Hyman, Assistant Principal

EAST SIDE MIDDLE SCHOOL WELCOMES THE CLASS OF 2025!

Congratulations and welcome! Take a deep breath and relax….

 ESMS is a friendly, safe space to be!

Here’s some information to prepare you for 6th grade.

**Getting Around**: Rest easy. We will take care of you. At ESMS, you will be traveling with your homeroom class throughout the day and most of your classrooms are located on the second floor. On the first day of school, you will have a tour and you will find your way easily as you navigate the hallways with your homeroom class. Remember, we’re all here to help you.

**Managing your Time**: Sixth grade is an important year for developing your organizational and study skills. Time management will be the first major middle school adjustment. *You can expect to receive between twenty minutes to half-an-hour of homework in each academic subject per night.* Humanities homework may require closer to an hour because it is considered two classes (English Language Arts and Social Studies. Part of your humanities homework will be to read for 30 minutes per night. It is essential that you complete your homework and come to each class prepared to learn. Being prepared is the first step toward success.

**Assessing Your Skills and Understanding**: Teachers will assess your skill development and understanding in many ways including:  nightly homework, notebook checks, review of class work, written tests, quizzes, assessments (check-ins), projects, journal writing, and presentations.

**Learning and Growing**: Here’s some information about your 6th grade classes:

Humanities

Humanities is a combination of social studies and English Language Arts. The 6th grade social studies curriculum focuses on ancient cultures. Two overarching themes that we will explore in our study of ancient cultures  include: *How do we learn about history*? and *How does physical geography influence the development of a society and culture*? As part of our social studies curriculum, we will be studying Civics (citizenship and how to be a member of a community), physical geography, and ancient cultures: ancient Egypt and ancient Greece. Our Language Arts curriculum includes developing skills towards becoming stronger readers, writers, and thinkers. We will be responding to literature, reading and writing memoirs, responding to nonfiction texts, and completing persuasive writing pieces.

Science

We will explore specific areas of study in Earth science such as: Weather and Rocks and Minerals. Students will work as a class on various unit challenges.

Math

We will explore rational numbers, ratio, rates, decimals,  percent, expressions, equations, geometry, statistics, and negative numbers. The focus will be on perseverance and problem solving. Students will improve their ability to talk about their mathematical thinking and explain why it makes sense.

Graphic Arts

Our artistic objectives in graphic arts will be aimed at gaining skills in using professional computer programs and at effectively utilizing targeted elements and principles of design. Class time will be used for tutorials and demonstrations for using digital tools and hands-on experience with computers to complete short exercises and larger projects, self and peer critiques. At the end of this course, students will have greater comprehension of effective communication in the 21st century and will appreciate designing with digital media technology for its ability to creatively problem solve in the modern world.

Dance

All 6th graders will be taking dance class 2-3 days a week. The goal of our dance program is to bring creativity into our school and provide a fun and educational way for students to express themselves. Classes at this level focus on introductory/beginner level movement in a variety of dance styles, such as jazz, contemporary, Latin and hip hop. Over the course of the year, we will focus on basic dance vocabulary and technique, performance skills, choreography, and dance history. The culmination of our program is the 6th Grade Dance Showcase in June.

Physical Education

In sixth grade P.E., students will learn the foundations of sports such as: soccer, football, basketball, volleyball and frisbee. They will learn basic skills and participate in team games and tournaments. In addition, students will follow a weekly fitness program with cardiovascular and strength training workouts.

Intensives

We focus on study skills, health, social issues, and ways that we can contribute to our communities. Students will read literature on a variety of topics and write responses, as well as engaging in thoughtful discussions.

Independent Reading

Afternoon homeroom is devoted to silent reading. Please have an independent reading book on the first day of school.

Each sixth grade teacher sets a high standard for work and behavior. We expect your best effort in everything you do and the utmost respect for your fellow classmates and teachers at ESMS in order to foster a fun and cooperative learning environment.

We can’t wait to meet you, and we all look forward to working with you!

Sincerely,

The Sixth Grade Team

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