



**Twin Falls School District  
O'Leary Middle School**

**6th Grade  
Course Offerings  
2024-2025**



**Vera C. O'Leary Middle School**



**This guide is to assist you  
in registering for classes at  
O’Leary Middle School**

**Required Classes**

Mathematics  
Language Arts  
Reading  
Science  
Social Studies  
Cub Essentials

**Elective Classes**

**In addition to required classes, 6th graders take 1 elective class**

Band  
Orchestra  
Choir  
Physical Education  
Exploratory Rotation, which includes the following:  
Drama, IDLA Keyboarding, Art, Family and Consumer Science (1 quarter each)

**Middle School Credit System**

Please be aware that the Twin Falls School District adopted a Middle School Credit System in accordance with Idaho Law. A student must pass 75% of their courses and have 90% attendance each semester.

**Extra Help/Intervention**

Students with ISAT scores basic or below may lose their electives and be placed in

an intervention class for Math, Reading, and/or Language Arts.

# **REQUIRED SUBJECTS**

## **MATHEMATICS**

### **MATH**

This course will focus on five critical areas: (1) connecting ratio and rate to whole number multiplication and division using those concepts to solve problems; (2) completing understanding of division of fractions and extending the notion of number to the system of rational numbers, which includes negative numbers; (3) writing, interpreting, and using expressions and equations; (4) solving real-world and mathematical problems involving area, surface area and volume; (5) developing understanding of statistical thinking.

### **ACCELERATED MATH**

This course will focus on five critical areas: (1) connecting ratio and rate to whole number multiplication and division and using concepts of ratio and rate to solve problems; (2) completing understanding of division of fractions and extending the notion of number to the system or rational numbers, which includes negative numbers; (3) writing, interpreting and using expressions and equations; (4) solving real-world and mathematical problems involving area, surface area and volume; (5) developing understanding of statistical thinking. Accelerated math students will receive instruction on all 6<sup>th</sup> grade standards as well as extensions into the 7<sup>th</sup> grade math curriculum.

## **LANGUAGE ARTS**

This year-long course addresses writing standards outlined in the Idaho Core Standards. In language arts, students complete several major projects designed to develop independent, capable learners. Students analyze professional and peer writing samples in order to understand how a writer makes a piece “work,” and then students apply those lessons to their own writing. Students immerse themselves in several genres: narrative, poetry, explanatory, informational, argument, etc. However, emphasis is given to use of argument (claims, reasons, evidence, opposing viewpoints, and refutation) to inform and to analyze. Our goal is to create lifelong learners who can read, write, speak and think in ways that are articulate, socially just, informed, and culturally responsive.

## **READING**

In this course, students will read a broad range of increasingly complex texts including informational texts, literature and poetry. Students will develop reading comprehension and critical thinking skills. Our reading Common Core State Standards focus on examining key ideas and details, analyzing a text’s craft and structure, integrating knowledge and ideas. Our school also uses the Accelerated Reader program, which provides students with the opportunity to independently select and practice reading literature and informational texts.

## **SCIENCE**

The 6<sup>th</sup> grade Earth Science curriculum builds on the natural curiosity of students. By connecting them to the beauty of geological history, the amazing landforms around the globe, the nature of the sea and air, and the newest discoveries about our universe. It gives students an opportunity to relate to their everyday world. The 6<sup>th</sup> grade science course also assists students in becoming life-long learners who grow in their understanding of the world. The nature of science includes the concepts that scientific explanations are based on logical thinking; are subject to rules of evidence; are consistent with observational, inferential, experimental evidence; are open to rational critique; are subject to refinement and change with the addition of new scientific evidence. The nature of science includes the concept that science can provide explanations about nature, can predict potential consequences of actions, but cannot be used to answer all questions. The course presents an integrated focus on Space Science, Earth's Water and Atmosphere, Geological Processes and History. Idaho Science Content Standards are the basis of this course. (see <https://www.sde.idaho.gov/academic/shared/science/ICS-Science-Legislative.pdf>) for more information on the standards.

## **SOCIAL STUDIES**

This course will provide an overview of the geography and history of the world including early civilizations of Africa, Europe, Asia, North America and South America. The 5 Themes of Geography form the core of this class as students work to develop map and globe skills, learn to identify cultural patterns. The 5 Themes of Geography include locations, place, human/environment interaction, movement and region. Also, vocabulary development, reading, research skills, and current events are emphasized throughout the year.

## **CUB ESSENTIALS**

In this class, students will gain the skills necessary to be a successful middle school student. Students will learn techniques for organization, planning for assignments/tests, tracking grades, study skills, test taking skills, digital citizenship, and task completion. Students will be taught about a positive mindset and learn that with hard work, they are able to accomplish their goals. This will be accomplished with the help of the online program Brainology, which helps students learn how their brains work. This is not a "study hall" class – students will be working daily to improve their skills. The Cub Essentials teacher will be connected to the other teachers on your student's team so the skills they are learning are carried over into all the other classrooms.

## **ELECTIVE CLASSES**

### **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

The primary goal of this course is to provide students with a physical fitness program. This will be accomplished through exercises, conditioning and a variety of activities. A well-rounded education is vital to all students and a healthy body produces a healthy mind.

### **6<sup>th</sup> GRADE CHOIR**

Cub Chorus is a grade 6-8 course designed to teach beginning choral/singing techniques. The various methods used include music reading, 2 (SA) part singing, vocal training, choral blending, basic music theory, music history, music appreciation and the opportunity to sing many styles of music literature. Students will also learn and practice proper concert and performance etiquette. The choir will have 4 required evening performances.

### **BEGINNING ORCHESTRA**

This course is for students who are interested in the study of the violin, viola, cello, or bass. **NO PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE IS NECESSARY.** Instruments are provided. Beginning techniques and music will be studied. Students will learn basic fundamentals of reading music, counting rhythm, and performance techniques. Performance opportunities will be provided.

### **6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE BEGINNING BAND**

6<sup>th</sup> grade Beginning Band is for any 6<sup>th</sup> grade students who want to learn to play flute, oboe, clarinet, alto saxophone, trumpet, French horn, trombone, euphonium, tuba or percussion. Students are strongly encouraged to supply their own instruments; students can use a school instrument for the year, free of charge if needed. The availability of school instruments is limited. Through the Band Instrument scholarship fund you are able to purchase a flute, clarinet, trumpet or trombone for the price of \$400.00.

# **EXPLORATORY ROTATION**

## **6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE MIDDLE SCHOOL KEYBOARDING ROTATION – QUARTER**

This course is designed to help you learn the touch-typing method of keyboarding. You should build your skill and be able to touch type with minimal errors. Since keyboarding is a skill developed through repetition, you will need to practice with the keyboarding software provided daily. Online typing tests and participation in the course discussion boards are also mandatory, as they will help you build your keyboarding skills.

## **6<sup>th</sup> GRADE FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE ROTATION – QUARTER**

Family and consumer science will last one quarter and will give the student a basic overview of the subject. In this course, students will learn lifelong skills that can assist them in making educated choices. Some of these lifelong skills are in the areas of money management, communication, relationships, basic hand/machine sewing, problem solving, basic nutrition, food preparation and kitchen safety.

## **6<sup>th</sup> GRADE DRAMA ROTATION – QUARTER**

Drama class will last one quarter and will give the student a basic overview of the subject. Students will gain an understanding for appropriate audience behavior and begin exploring performance skills such as terminology, vocal skills, and stage movement. Students will also experiment with different performance styles using drama games, memorization skills, mime and puppetry.

## **6<sup>th</sup> GRADE ART ROTATION – QUARTER**

Sixth grade art is an exploratory course of art. The student will develop an understanding of the Elements of Art: Line, Space, Form, Shape, Texture, Color and Value. Major emphasis of study will be on contour line drawing, one-point perspective, basic shading techniques, and knowledge of the color wheel. The student will express in writing a self-critique of his/her own artwork, as well as the artwork of others. The student will connect the importance of art and how it relates to other fields of study, such as math, science, language arts, social studies, and the community. Where applicable, references to historical art masters will be studied.

# Honors Opportunities

Each year, there is an opportunity for honors/advanced coursework. Every core class will have an honors component within the course that will require students to extend (go deeper) into their class project/assignment as assigned by their teacher.

Honors Opportunities will be made available in all core subjects (with the exception of math, which will accelerate students based on established criteria in order to identify students that would most likely be successful in an upper level class). All students are eligible without application for Honors classwork. Each teacher will specify the particular requirements for students to earn the “Honors” designation for that class. The intention is to include more students in the honors program and to base the honors status on a student’s willingness and ability to do the depth of work and maintain high expectations for themselves.

## **Requirements for Honors Opportunity Language Arts and Reading:**

1. No more than 1 late assignment in the semester
2. No missing work
3. All test scores at or above a 90%
4. Completed honors work at a satisfactory level (minimum of one assignment per quarter). This will be the same for all teachers at that grade level.
5. Students must meet A.R. goal
6. Students must have a minimum cumulative grade of at least 85% at quarter and semester
7. Must complete requirements for both quarters in order to have honors status for semester
8. Students will be responsible for tracking their own progress towards meeting the honors status

## **Requirements for Honors Opportunity Science and Social Studies:**

1. No more than 1 late assignment in the semester
2. No missing work
3. All test scores at or above a 90%
4. Completed honors work at a satisfactory level (minimum of one assignment per quarter). This will be the same for all teachers at that grade level.
5. Must complete requirements for both quarters in order to have honors status for semester.
6. Students will be responsible for tracking their own progress towards meeting the honors status
7. Students must have a minimum cumulative grade of at least 85% at quarter and semester