2024-2025

McMillan

Middle **School**

6ᵗʰ Grade Course Directory

Monarchs Get Ready to Roar!!

OMAHA+ Public Schools

McMillan Mission and Vision

The Mission of McMillan Middle School is to academically challenge students and to promote student ownership of learning in a safe, diverse, and respectful environment.

The Vision of McMillan Middle School is to:

- Collaborate with school, family, and community-based partners.
- Provide an innovative, project-based, cross-curricular school setting.
- Integrate components of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math through Project Lead the Way (PLTW).

This directory is designed to help you in planning a program of study that will best meet your needs and interests. Parents, teachers, and counselors will help you select and make decisions regarding courses for your student schedule.

Your directory contains complete information about course requirements and materials needed, as well as descriptions of each course being offered at McMillan. Read and study the course offerings before registering. Course choices become commitments, and it is difficult to make changes. Careful consideration now will help assure you of a program that satisfies your needs and interests.

The curriculum is designed to encourage exploration in a variety of subject areas. The curriculum at McMillan Middle School reflects the infusion of multicultural nonsexist educational material consistent with the philosophy adopted by the Board of Education.

We hope this directory will be an effective tool in selecting your plan of study. The courses you select in middle school are most important to your future goals and endeavors.

Dr. Andrew Walters
Principal

Dr. Matasha Jordan
Assistant Principal

Mr. Alex Curran
8th Grade-Assistant Principal
Mrs. Demetria Ballard-Counselor

Dr. Mathew Coffey
7th Grade-Dean of Students
Mrs. Jodie Rodriguez-Counselor

Mrs. Jordan Pfeiffer
6th Grade-Dean of Students
Ms. Stacey Rawlings-Counselor

Before registration, carefully review the program of study and course descriptions in this handbook and plan a program with your counselor and parents. The sequence of required courses has been outlined on the worksheet provided on this page. You will want to add the elective courses you choose. The example below is what a schedule could look like at McMillan:

Block	A-Day	Block	B-Day
Pride	20 minutes every day	Pride	20 minutes every day
1	ELA • ELA 6 or Honors ELA 6 • ELA 7 or Honors ELA 7 • ELA 8 or Honors ELA 8	1	Math • Math 6 or Advanced Math 6 • Math 7 or Advanced Math 7 • Math 8 or Honors Algebra 1-2 H *Geometry 1-2 (possibly offered off site)
2	Science • Science 6 • Science 7 or Honors Science 7 • Science 8 or Honors Physical Science 1-2	2	Social Studies • Social Studies 6 • Social Studies 7 • Social Studies 8
3	Semester or Yearlong Elective	3	Semester or Yearlong Elective
4	Physical Education/Human Growth Development • PE 6 • PE 7 • PE 8	4	Chorus/Band/Orchestra • Yearlong every other day • If not in Chorus/Band/Orchestra, then a semester or yearlong elective
5	Intro to College & Careers 6,7,8	5	A Required Course/Semester or Yearlong Elective

ELECTIVES

Students select elective courses to fill their remaining schedule. They may choose one of these options: 1) full year electives, 2) four semester electives, or 3) a combination of full year electives and one semester electives.

SIXTH GRADE ELECTIVE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

*REQUIRED ELECTIVE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Physical Education/ Human Growth & Development*
Length: Year Long
This course is designed to include a wide variety of sporting activities and teach the qualities of sportsmanship, competition and fitness. It includes learning the rules and regulations for the major sports of volleyball, wrestling, basketball, soccer, and track and field events. Students also participate in a variety of leisure and lifetime activities including badminton, aerobics and more. Students must wear appropriate attire for physical education courses (tennis shoes, T-shirts, sweats or shorts, etc.). Although the physical education locker rooms have showers available for students' use; students are not required to shower for class. This course will use current Physical Education standards and Human Growth and Development pacing.

Intro to College & Careers *
Length: Year Long
Students learn how to effectively explore careers while using the Nebraska Career Education Model and related resources. Students will learn the vocabulary and expectations of effective academic and career planning. A focus will be to discover the relationship between personal-social qualities, interests, and skills to a wide variety of careers and post-secondary options to choose from. The Nebraska Career Readiness Standards will be introduced and connected to expectations in today's workplace. Prerequisites: None

PLTW Intro to Computer Sci 1*
Length: One semester
Designed to be the first computer science course for students who have never programmed before, Introduction to Computer Science 1 (ICS-1) is the starting point for the PLTW Computer Science program. Students work individually and in teams to create simple apps for mobile devices using MIT App Inventor. Students explore the impact of computing in society and the application of computing across career paths and build skills and awareness in digital citizenship and cyber security. Students model, simulate, and analyze data about themselves and their interests.

Honor Special Projects 6
Length: Year long
This course offers a wide variety of experiences that align with gifted and talented programming standards. Learning opportunities meet grade level objectives in problem-solving, critical thinking, creative thinking, inquiry, cultural proficiency, metacognition, and affective skills. **Requires teacher recommendation.**

Introduction to PLTW 1 & PLTW 2
Length: One semester each
This course will explore a variety of Project Lead The Way (PLTW) units while infusing mathematics concepts. Specific skills taken from current mathematics standards will be taught and applied through Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM)-based activities. Units consisting of accurate measurement, architectural basics, robotics, and programming will be covered during the course. This course is designed to help students gain interest in STEM-based careers and further PLTW course opportunities. This course, in conjunction with their current mathematics course, will provide students daily exposure to mathematics and its applications to the real world.

PLTW CS Innovators & Makers
Length: One semester
This required 6th grade course will allow students to discover computer science concepts and skills by creating personally relevant, tangible, and shareable objects. Throughout the unit, students will learn about programming for the physical world by blending hardware design and software development. They will design and develop code for microcontrollers that bring their physical designs to life. Physical computing projects will promote student awareness of interactive systems, including Internet of Things (IoT) devices, and broaden their understanding of abstract computer science concepts through meaningful and authentic applications.

Art 6
Length: One semester
This course examines artists' world views. Enduring understandings and ideas include: Art reveals aesthetic theories; Artists create art from multiple perspectives of time, place and culture revealing aesthetic theories; Artistic forms follow function throughout time; Critical processes identify aesthetic theories; and Art reflects the values and beliefs of a civilization/society. Students will play the role of artist, philosopher, historian, and archeologist to explore world art throughout time.

Anthropology
Length: One semester
This course will focus on projects based on Ancient Civilizations through Medieval Civilizations. This course will integrate the following content standards throughout the school year: maps/globes, culture, history and geography, economics, citizenship, and government. This course will integrate electronic media and communication skills in its content.

Speech
Length: One Semester
This elective for 6t grade will prepare students for oral communication situations encountered in both daily life and in formal settings. Students will become acquainted with the communication process, develop and improve their public speaking skills and their oral interpretation skills. Instruction focuses on the teaching of the fundamentals of speech and requires students to perform various speaking activities.

NOTE: Enrollment in any music class requires mandatory participation in our concerts, which are held in the evening each semester in our auditorium. Additional performances may be scheduled.

Chorus
Length: One semester
In this course sixth grade students will continue to develop their skill for reading and singing two and three-part octavo music. This emphasis is on vocal ensemble performance. There will be required performances.

Band   **Teacher Recommendation**
Length: All year   **Materials Needed: Instrument**
This course is a band ensemble for sixth grade students who are continuing instruction on a brass, woodwind, or percussion instrument. Basic music concepts will be advanced as the student learns to read music and develop skills in playing their instrument of choice. A method book is used as the lesson guide. Performances will be required. **Prerequisite: one year previous in band.**

Strings   **Teacher Recommendation**
Length: All year   **Materials Needed: Instrument**

This course is the string ensemble for sixth grade students who are continuing instruction on violin, viola, cello or string bass. Basic music concepts will be advanced as the student learns to read music and develop skills in playing their instrument of choice. A method book is used as the lesson guide. Performances will be required. Prerequisite: two years of previous instruction (5ᵗʰ grade).

General Music
Length: One semester

In this course sixth grade students will explore music as part of everyday life, including studying several styles, understanding musical elements and experimenting with aspects of performance.

Reading Skills 6A
Length: All year

This course is designed for readers who have a foundation in decoding skills but have trouble comprehending grade-level material. The curriculum focuses on strengthening fluency, comprehension, and vocabulary skills. Placement is based on standardized test scores and teacher recommendation.

Reading Skills 6B
Length: All year

Students in this course will improve reading proficiency with explicit, direct instruction in fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. Strategies for phonemic awareness and phonics will be taught as needed. Students will read leveled, high interest literature for both academic and recreational purposes. Placement is based on standardized test scores and teacher recommendation.

Course Placement Appeals

All Secondary Omaha Public Schools offer procedures for appealing course placement (i.e., AP, Honors, IB, etc.). Each building may have specific forms and deadlines; however, the following general procedures shall apply:

Level One: Counselor, Curriculum Specialist, Assistant Principal/Data, or Principal
A student or parent with a course placement appeal may first discuss the matter with the counselor, or building administrator involved, with the object of resolving the matter informally.

Level Two: Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment
If the course placement appeal is not resolved at Level One and the individual still wishes to pursue the appeal, they may formalize the appeal in writing addressed to the Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment at 3215 Cuming Street, Omaha, NE 68131.

Level Three: Superintendent
If the appeal is not resolved at Level Two and the individual still wishes to pursue the appeal, he/she may formalize the appeal to the superintendent of schools after receiving a written response from the Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment.

These steps shall be taken in a timely manner to accommodate the registration of courses for the school year in question.