

Rio Rancho Middle School

2009-2010 Sixth-Grade Course Catalog

Sixth-grade students are assigned to interdisciplinary teams. A group four teachers share the same schedule and the same students. The teachers meet daily to plan instruction that crosses all curricular areas. All district and state requirements in each curriculum area are met. The following areas are included in the interdisciplinary teams:

Required Year-long Courses for Sixth-Grade Students

Course Number	Core Subject	Course Description
116098	Language Arts	This course features reading, writing, and oral communication skills. Students read short stories and novels while expanding their vocabulary, improving comprehension, and developing reading strategies. Skills emphasized are: grammar, punctuation, capitalization, parts of speech, and vocabulary development. Students write for a variety of purposes and learn about sentence structure and writing techniques.
126098	Math	Designed to provide a mathematical foundation for students living in a world of rapidly developing technology, this core subject gives students the opportunity to apply and connect old and new knowledge. Students will investigate graphs and statistics, decimal operations, pattern and number sense, fraction operations, geometry, ratio, proportion and percent, area and volume, integers, and be introduced to algebra and probability.
136098	Earth Science	Students will study the structure of Earth systems, Earth's history, weather, and Earth in the solar system. Life and physical science will be integrated into the curriculum throughout the school year. The understanding of scientific process, basic measurement tools, and organization skills are introduced. Basic laboratory and safety skills are emphasized through student centered activities, with emphasis given to practical implications and every day applications that are meaningful to students.
146098	World History/Geography	The focus of this course is on the geography and history of Europe, Asia, and Africa. The geography curriculum includes the use of maps and globes, geographical terms, place locations, climate, latitude, longitude, time zones, the earth's physical features and how they affect human life. World History includes the past and present history, cultures and economies of the area. The foundations of culture, ancient civilizations and how they have influence modern culture are also studied.

Special Education classes offered at RRMS are designed to meet the Individual Educational Program (IEP) requirements at each grade level for individual students. The programs are diagnostic and prescriptive in nature with instructional strategies designed to address the needs of students. The focus of special education classes is on providing an individualized curriculum for those students possessing identified exceptionalities. Depending on a student's needs inclusion classes are offered as well as self-contained classes with lower student to teacher ratios.

Related Arts classes will be offered based on enrollment. Students may choose **four** semester-long elective courses, **two** semester-long electives and **one** year-long elective, **or two** year-long elective course. Note: Two semesters of Physical Education are required at some point between 6th and 8th grades.

Full-Year Classes

Course Number	Course Name	Course Description
161228	Beginning Band	This class is for all students who wish to play a band instrument. No previous experience is necessary to enroll in this class. Students will learn the basics of playing a woodwind, brass or percussion instrument. Daily practice is essential. Attendance at all performances is mandatory for the class. A black band shirt (which can be purchased from the director,) and tan or khaki pants/skirt are required for performances. Fundraising may be done during the school year.
161238	Beginning Orchestra	This class is for all students who wish to play a stringed instrument. No previous experience is necessary to enroll in this class. Students will learn the basics of playing a violin, viola, cello or bass. Daily practice is essential. Attendance at all performances is mandatory for the class. A white shirt and black pants/skirt are required for performances. Fundraising may be done during the school year.
162228	Intermediate Band	This class is for band students who have played a band instrument in elementary school emphasis is placed on developing the student's basic musical skills while preparing them to progress to advance band. Theory, scales, and musical terms will be introduced at a rate necessary for the development of the student and the group. Daily practice is essential. Attendance at all performances is mandatory. A black band shirt (which can be purchased from the director,) and tan or khaki pants/skirt are required for performances. Fundraising may be done during the school year.
162238	Intermediate/Advanced Orchestra	This class is for orchestra students who have played an orchestra instrument in elementary school. This class is to further advance the techniques and abilities of students who are currently playing stringed instruments. Daily practice is essential. Attendance at all performances is mandatory. Performances at festivals are part of this class. A white shirt and black pants/skirt are required for performances. Fundraising may be done during the school year.

161218	Chorus	This is a year long class that is open to any student who would like to learn more about music. No previous experience is necessary. The class learns simple choral songs, plays simple percussive instruments, and an introduction to piano concepts. Students will learn to read music notation and study music history. This class will have two after school concerts. Attire: Choir Polo Shirt and Black Bottoms for performances.
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Semester Classes

Course Number	Course Name	Course Description
161108	Art	This course introduces students to studio art and art history. The art program provides students with an art curriculum that emphasizes problem solving. This class focuses on the elements of art through direct hands-on experiences in different media.
196208	Food and Nutrition	This introductory class in foods and Nutrition introduces safety, first aid, nutrition, personal development, cooking and sewing.
176008	Computers	This course introduces students to the use of computer technology.
156308	Dance	If you say "I wish I could move like that," well now you can! Learn how to move with the music. Learn that improving your posture will make you look better. Show off your new skills at dances and parties. This class will teach the basics of hip-hop, salsa, 4-count swing, American two-step, some ballet, and perhaps even a little tap.
156008	Physical Education/Health	This course is designed to introduce students to basic physical fitness and health concepts that promote total health. Students will participate in a variety of cooperative games, dance and tumbling activities, fitness activities and assessments, and team sports.
160308	Performing Arts	This course will provide a basic understanding of self-expression through a variety of physical exercises, improvisation, and dialogue, culminating in character work. This will include the following: how to care and develop the actor's vocal and physical instrument, basic techniques used in the construction of scenery, props, and sound, training in the singing and acting styles required for performing in musical theatre, and participating in a wide variety of music theatre-related activities.
196308	Media Literacy	Students will be introduced to the different types of media in the United States, both print and electronic. They will learn how to recognize the purpose and analyze the effectiveness of media, which includes understanding propaganda and persuasion techniques. They will also learn about the laws and ethics governing media. As a major project, students will plan and create a media campaign for a product or service of their choice, and use technology to present their campaigns to the class.
116208	Exploring the Spanish-Speaking World	Students will explore various cultures around the world, and learn about their traditions, food, music, art, and language dialects.

Rio Rancho Middle School

2009-2010 Seventh-Grade Course Catalog

Seventh-grade students are assigned to interdisciplinary teams. A group four teachers share the same schedule and the same students. The teachers meet daily to plan instruction that crosses all curricular areas. All district and state requirements in each curriculum area are met. The following areas are included in the interdisciplinary teams:

Required Year-long Courses for Seventh-Grade Students

Course Number	Core Subject	Course Description
117098	Language Arts	This course concentrates on reading, writing and oral communication. Students strengthen vocabulary and reading skills through short stories, essays, and novels. Expanded use of grammar, parts of speech, and the mechanics of writing are taught. Students apply various writing techniques and develop essays. Opportunities to write for a variety of purposes are given.
127098	Math	This course will expand on skills acquired in sixth-grade and also concentrate on applications with decimals, statistics, and data analysis, applications with fractions, investigations in geometry, surface area and volume, applications with percent, discrete mathematics, probability, and functions and graphs.
127198	Pre-Algebra (Accelerated course: contract required)	The purpose of this course is to prepare the student for 8 th grade Algebra. Throughout this course students will develop understanding in Numbers and Operations (including proportions, rates, ratios, similarity, indirect measurement, percentages, order of operations) Measurement (Metric, Metric conversion, Customary, Customary conversion, conversion between the two systems), Algebra (one, two, multiple step equations, as well as linear relationships), Geometry (Two dimensional and Three Dimensional Geometry) and finally Data Analysis and Probability.
137098	Life Science	Students will concentrate on the study of nature and methods of science while examining the concepts of biological evolution, the structure and function of life, geologic time, ecology, animal diversity, bacteria, plants, and Earth's systems and atmosphere. Earth and physical science will be integrated into the curriculum throughout the school year. The understanding of scientific process, basic measurement tools, and organization skills are introduced. Laboratory and safety skills are emphasized through student centered activities, with emphasis given to practical implications and every day applications that are meaningful to students.
147098	New Mexico History	This course gives students the opportunity to examine the history, geography, and culture that surround them in New Mexico. Students will study the multi-cultural environment of the Land of Enchantment, and learn to respect and understand the peoples, traditions, and challenges of New Mexico.

Special Education classes offered at RRMS are designed to meet the Individual Educational Program (IEP) requirements at each grade level for individual students. The programs are diagnostic and prescriptive in nature with instructional strategies designed to address the needs of students. The focus of special education classes is on providing an individualized curriculum for those students possessing identified exceptionalities. Depending on a student's needs inclusion classes are offered as well as self-contained classes with lower student to teacher ratios.

Related Arts classes will be offered based on enrollment. Students may choose **four** semester-long elective courses, **two** semester-long electives and **one** year-long elective, **or two** year-long elective course. Note: Two semesters of Physical Education are required at some point between 6th and 8th grades.

Full-Year Classes

Course Number	Course Name	Course Description
182008	AVID	AVID is a 6 th – 12 th grade program designed to prepare students for four-year college eligibility. Acceptance into the program is determined through an application process. The curriculum consists of reading and writing strategies, inquiry, team building, collaboration techniques and organization skills. Weekly tutoring and additional support is provided to assist students in advanced classes along with motivational activities to encourage college aspirations.
161228	Beginning Band	This class is for all students who wish to play a band instrument. No previous experience is necessary to enroll in this class. Students will learn the basics of playing a woodwind, brass or percussion instrument. Daily practice is essential. Attendance at all performances is mandatory for the class. A black band shirt (which can be purchased from the director,) and tan or khaki pants/skirt are required for performances. Fundraising may be done during the school year.
161238	Beginning Orchestra	This class is for all students who wish to play a stringed instrument. No previous experience is necessary to enroll in this class. Students will learn the basics of playing a violin, viola, cello or bass. Daily practice is essential. Attendance at all performances is mandatory for the class. A white shirt and black pants/skirt are required for performances. Fundraising may be done during the school year.

162238	Intermediate/Advanced Orchestra	This class is for orchestra students who have played an orchestra instrument in elementary school. This class is to further advance the techniques and abilities of students who are currently playing stringed instruments. Daily practice is essential. Attendance at all performances is mandatory. Performances at festivals are part of this class. A white shirt and black pants/skirt are required for performances. Fundraising may be done during the school year.
162228	Intermediate/Advanced Band	This class is for students who have previously played in band. Emphasis is placed on developing the student's basic musical skills while preparing them to progress to advanced band. Theory, scales and musical terms will be introduced at a rate necessary for the development of the student and the group. Daily practice is essential. Attendance at all performances is mandatory. A black band shirt (which can be purchased from the director,) and tan or khaki pants/skirt are required for performances. Fundraising may be done during the school year.
161218	Chorus	This is a year long class that is open to any 7 th or 8 th grade student who would like to learn more about music. No previous experience is necessary. The class learns simple choral songs, plays simple percussive instruments, and an introduction to piano concepts. Students will learn to read music notation and study music history. This class will have performing opportunities in and out of school hours through out the school year. Attire: Choir Polo Shirt with Black Bottoms for performances and/or Issued Performing Choral Uniform.
163218	Advanced Mixed Chorus	This is a year long class that is open to 7 th or 8 th grade students who have previous choral experience or have been recommended by the choir director. The class is an advanced class that focuses on the continuance of choral ensemble technique and performance. Students will learn choral songs, plays simple percussive instruments to accompany, and apply piano concepts. Students will continue to read music notation and study music history. This class will have performing opportunities in and out of school hours through out the school year. Attire: Choir Polo Shirt with Black Bottoms for performances and/or Issued Performing Choral Uniform.
117298	Spanish	This course will give students the opportunity to learn the basics of Spanish, including numbers, commonly-used words, and conversational Spanish. Cultural awareness will also be explored.

Semester Classes

Course Number	Course Name	Course Description
162108	Art	Art is an introduction of both 2-dimensional and 3-dimensional design elements in art. Students will explore principles of art through drawing, painting and ceramics, while developing an awareness of artwork through history and various cultures. It is designed for both first time art students as well as those students who have had exploratory art. The art program provides students with an art curriculum that emphasizes problem solving.
199218	Food and Nutrition	This intermediate class reviews basics and students learn more advanced cooking, sewing, nutrition and consumer skills.
199208	Computer Graphics	This class is an introductory course in using graphics in a multimedia environment. The course is project-based and will develop students' basic knowledge in the use of a wide variety of hardware and software, such as scanners, digital cameras, video equipment, Word, Excel, and Power Point. The course will prepare students to work with Internet and design multimedia presentations.
157308	Dance	If you say "I wish I could move like that," well now you can! Learn how to move with the music. Learn that improving your posture will make you look better. Show off your new skills at dances and parties. This class will teach the basics of hip-hop, salsa, 4-count swing, American two-step, some ballet, and perhaps even a little tap.
171108	Web Design	This class will address everything about the Internet, including safety, and the design and publication of a useful and stylish web site.
157008	Physical Education/Health	PE offers students opportunities to participate in a variety of individual and team sports and fitness activities which promote team as well as individual skill development. Physical fitness will be emphasized.
160308	Performing Arts	This course will provide a basic understanding of self-expression through a variety of physical exercises, improvisation, and dialogue, culminating in character work. This will include the following: how to care and develop the actor's vocal and physical instrument, basic techniques used in the construction of scenery, props, and sound, training in the singing and acting styles required for performing in musical theatre, and participating in a wide variety of music theatre-related activities.
199208	Media Literacy	Students will be introduced to the different types of media in the United States, both print and electronic. They will learn how to recognize the purpose and analyze the effectiveness of media, which includes understanding propaganda and persuasion techniques. They will also learn about the laws and ethics governing media. As a major project, students will plan and create a media campaign for a product or service of their choice, and use technology to present their campaigns to the class.

Rio Rancho Middle School

2009-2010 Eighth-Grade Course Catalog

Eighth-grade students are assigned to interdisciplinary teams. A group of four teachers share the same schedule and the same students. The teachers meet daily to plan instruction that crosses all curricular areas. All district and state requirements in each curriculum area are met. The following areas are included in the interdisciplinary teams:

Required Year-long Courses for Eighth-Grade Students

Course Number	Core Subject	Course Description
118098	Language Arts	This course emphasizes and integrates reading, writing, speaking, and listening with language and literature. Students will continue to learn the skills, strategies, and processes of reading while also improving their vocabulary, grammar, and research skills. The goals of this course are to challenge students to write for varied purposes and audiences, and to read a variety of literary genre.
118198	Pre-AP Language Arts (Accelerated course: contract required)	This course is recommended for students who want take Pre-AP English 9. It emphasizes and integrates reading, writing, speaking, and literary analysis skills by exposing students to a variety of genres. Skill acquisition in vocabulary, grammar, and research will also be a component. The goals of this rigorous course are to challenge students to write for varied purposes and audiences.
128098	Math	Math 8 is a yearlong course that will expand the skills acquired in seventh grade and concentrate on an introduction to algebra (writing and solving one, two, and multiple step equations), integers, rational and real numbers, and applications with proportions, percents, probability, statistics, linear functions and graphing, and two and three dimensional geometry. Evaluation of knowledge will include investigations, problem solving activities, along with formative assessments.
128198 and 128298	Algebra (Accelerated course: contract required)	This is a full year course equivalent to Algebra course offered at the 9 th grade level, and will be counted as a High School Algebra credit. It will serve as the prerequisite, however, for Pre-AP Geometry, Geometry, and Introduction to Statistics. This course is designed to teach students how to solve problems that involve variables and work with rational numbers. Students will learn the basic structure of the real number system and recognize techniques for solving equations and inequalities, graphing, operations with polynomial expressions/equations, techniques of factoring, systems of equations and quadratic equations. Evaluation of knowledge will include presentations, projects, reports, and tests.
138098	Physical Science	Science 8 is a yearlong course devoted to teaching Earth and Physical Science. The areas of concentration are New Mexico Geology, Oceanography, Astronomy, Physics, and Chemistry. Skills of measuring and testing the world by working with the concepts of motion, force, and energy will be the under-lying theme. Emphasis is given to laboratory techniques, cooperative work, math analysis and interpretation of data for all students to grow as problem solvers.
138198	Pre-AP Physical Science (accelerated course: contract required)	The Pre-AP Science 8 course is for students who have an interest in the sciences in addition to having a well-defined work ethic, cooperation with others, and a demonstration of self-discipline toward their own learning. Pre-AP Science 8 a yearlong course devoted to teaching Earth and Physical Science at an advanced level. The areas of concentration are New Mexico Geology, Oceanography, Astronomy, Physics, and Chemistry. Skills of measuring and testing the world by working with the concepts of motion, force, and energy will be the under-lying theme. Emphasis is given to laboratory techniques, cooperative work, math analysis and interpretation of data for all students to grow as problem solvers.
148098	American History	This course covers United States history from the age of exploration through the Civil War and Reconstruction. During the first semester key attention will be heeded to the colonization, Revolutionary, and Constitutional eras. Students will learn about the consequences of colonization and the resultant Revolution and creation of a more just government as provided by the US Constitution. The second semester will further develop students reasoning skills and their ability to show evidence of this through writing. Westward expansion, industrialization, immigration, the scourge of slavery, and the causes and consequences of the Civil War will provide the hub that the curriculum will extend from. Throughout this course students should develop their ability to research historical events, interpret these events, and defend their interpretations using fact-based evidence.
148198	Pre-AP American History (accelerated course: contract required)	This course is recommended for students who desire to enroll in high school AP Social Studies courses. By implementation of a rigorous curriculum centered on extensive writing, reading, and research, instructors will guide students through the span of US history from the age of European exploration through the US Civil War. As the year progresses students will hone their ability to write thoroughly while researching and reporting on the historical and intellectual origins of the United States and our democracy. Key attention will be heeded to the Colonial, Revolutionary, and Constitutional eras during the first semester. Students will learn about the consequences of colonization and the resultant Revolution and creation of a more just government as provided by the US Constitution. The second semester will further

develop students reasoning skills and their ability to show evidence of this through writing and research. Westward expansion, immigration, the scourge of slavery, and the causes and consequences of the Civil War will provide the hub from which the curriculum will extend. Throughout this course students should develop their ability to research historical events, interpret these events, and defend their interpretations using fact-based evidence.

Special Education classes offered at RRMS are designed to meet the Individual Educational Program (IEP) requirements at each grade level for individual students. The programs are diagnostic and prescriptive in nature with instructional strategies designed to address the needs of students. The focus of special education classes is on providing an individualized curriculum for those students possessing identified exceptionalities. Depending on a student's needs inclusion classes are offered as well as self-contained classes with lower student to teacher ratios.

Related Arts classes will be offered based on enrollment. Students may choose **four** semester-long elective courses, **two** semester-long electives and **one** year-long elective, **or two** year-long elective course. Note: Two semesters of Physical Education are required at some point between 6th and 8th grades.

Full-Year Classes

Course Number	Course Name	Course Description
183008	AVID	AVID is a 6 th – 12 th grade program designed to prepare students for four-year college eligibility. Acceptance into the program is determined through an application process. The curriculum consists of reading and writing strategies, inquiry, team building, collaboration techniques and organization skills. Weekly tutoring and additional support is provided to assist students in advanced classes along with motivational activities to encourage college aspirations.
161228	Beginning Band	This class is for all students who wish to play a band instrument. No previous experience is necessary to enroll in this class. Students will learn the basics of playing a woodwind, brass or percussion instrument. Daily practice is essential. Attendance at all performances is mandatory for the class. A black band shirt (which can be purchased from the director,) and tan or khaki pants/skirt are required for performances. Fundraising may be done during the school year.
161238	Beginning Orchestra	This class is for all students who wish to play a stringed instrument. No previous experience is necessary to enroll in this class. Students will learn the basics of playing a violin, viola, cello or bass. Daily practice is essential. Attendance at all performances is mandatory for the class. A white shirt and black pants/skirt are required for performances. Fundraising may be done during the school year.
162238	Intermediate/Advanced Orchestra	This class is for orchestra students who have played an orchestra instrument in elementary school. This class is to further advance the techniques and abilities of students who are currently playing stringed instruments. Daily practice is essential. Attendance at all performances is mandatory. Performances at festivals are part of this class. A white shirt and black pants/skirt are required for performances. Fundraising may be done during the school year.
162228	Intermediate/Advanced Band	This class is for students who have previously played in band. Emphasis is placed on developing the student's basic musical skills while preparing them to progress to advanced band. Theory, scales and musical terms will be introduced at a rate necessary for the development of the student and the group. Daily practice is essential. Attendance at all performances is mandatory. A black band shirt (which can be purchased from the director,) and tan or khaki pants/skirt are required for performances. Fundraising may be done during the school year.
161218	Chorus	This is a year long class that is open to any 7 th or 8 th grade student who would like to learn more about music. No previous experience is necessary. The class learns simple choral songs, plays simple percussive instruments, and an introduction to piano concepts. Students will learn to read music notation and study music history. This class will have performing opportunities in and out of school hours through out the school year. Attire: Choir Polo Shirt with Black Bottoms for performances and/or Issued Performing Choral Uniform.
163218	Advanced Mixed Chorus	This is a year long class that is open to 7 th or 8 th grade students who have previous choral experience or have been recommended by the choir director. The class is an advanced class that focuses on the continuance of choral ensemble technique and performance. Students will learn choral songs, plays simple percussive instruments to accompany, and apply piano concepts. Students will continue to read music notation and study music history. This class will have performing opportunities in and out of school hours through out the school year. Attire: Choir Polo Shirt with Black Bottoms for performances and/or Issued Performing Choral Uniform.
118298 and 118398	Spanish 2	Students develop communication skills (listening, speaking, reading, and writing) for basic situations: greetings and introductions, descriptions of families and friends, and daily conversation. Basic geography and culture (music, film, food) are introduced. Students have opportunities to compare the new language and culture with their own and to observe the use of the language in communities beyond the classroom. Personalized oral and written projects enrich the course.

Semester Classes

Course Number	Course Name	Course Description
163108	Art	Art is an introduction of both 2-dimensional and 3-dimensional design elements in art. Students will explore principles of art through drawing, painting and ceramics, while developing an awareness of artwork through history and various cultures. It is designed for both first time art students as well as those students who have had exploratory art. The art program provides students with an art curriculum that emphasizes problem solving.
190008	Food and Nutrition	This class expands on the basic skills of cooking and nutrition, covering shopping skills, recipe math, meal service and careers in foods and nutrition.
170908	Computer Graphics	This class is an introductory course in using graphics in a multimedia environment. The course is project-based and will develop students' basic knowledge in the use of a wide variety of hardware and software, such as scanners, digital cameras, video equipment, Word, Excel, and Power Point. The course will prepare students to work with Internet and design multimedia presentations.
189208	Student Aide	This class provides students with opportunities to assist classroom teachers, front office staff, or the Librarian in a variety of capacities. In order to be a student aide an application must be completed and signed by a recommending and accepting teacher, parent, and student.
158308	Dance	If you say "I wish I could move like that," well now you can! Learn how to move with the music. Learn that improving your posture will make you look better. Show off your new skills at dances and parties. This class will teach the basics of hip-hop, salsa, 4-count swing, American two-step, some ballet, and perhaps even a little tap.
170508	Web Design	This class will address everything about the Internet, including safety, and the design and publication of a useful and stylish web site.
158008	Physical Education/Health	PE offers students opportunities to participate in a variety of individual and team sports and fitness activities which promote team as well as individual skill development. Physical fitness will be emphasized.
160318	Performing Arts	This course will provide a basic understanding of self-expression through a variety of physical exercises, improvisation, and dialogue, culminating in character work. This will include the following: how to care and develop the actor's vocal and physical instrument, basic techniques used in the construction of scenery, props, and sound, training in the singing and acting styles required for performing in musical theatre, and participating in a wide variety of music theatre-related activities.
199208	Media Literacy	Students will be introduced to the different types of media in the United States, both print and electronic. They will learn how to recognize the purpose and analyze the effectiveness of media, which includes understanding propaganda and persuasion techniques. They will also learn about the laws and ethics governing media. As a major project, students will plan and create a media campaign for a product or service of their choice, and use technology to present their campaigns to the class.
159008	Weight Lifting	This is a fundamental strength and conditioning class. Students will be introduced to weight training safety and basic techniques of lifting. Students will also have a short training over the dangers of steroid use. This class will seek to improve the following areas: Muscular strength and endurance conditioning, flexibility, speed, agility, and quickness. The training will be consistent, progressive, and specific.