

Incoming 6th Grade Course Selection Information



Beckendorff Junior High

Course Selection Information

- Available on the [BDJH Counseling Website](#)
 - Course Selection Presentation
 - Course Request Planning Sheet

[BDJH Counseling Website](#)



Differences between Elementary and Junior High

- Students have 8 separate classes (including advisory) with different teachers.
- An Advisory period is built in to allow students time to do homework, study, organize, work on Character Strong lessons, and community building activities.
- All classes meet every day including your elective and PE.
- Expect more responsibilities and self management.
- Expect more homework than elementary school.
- Student planner/tracker - Highly recommended to organize classwork and homework for your 7 classes.

Differences continued...

- Students go between classes, to the restroom, lunch, and PE by themselves, not escorted by teachers.
- Tardies - Students must get to class on time every period. There is a 5 minute passing period between each class.
- A locker with a combination lock will be assigned to all 6th grade students.
- Backpacks are allowed to be carried to each class. Rolling backpacks are not allowed.
- Lunch - You can choose where you want to sit, and sit with anyone in the cafeteria. There is also a SNACK BAR!
- Technology allowed during lunch and it the responsibility of the student. Technology use in the classroom is at the teacher's discretion. Misuse of technology can lead to revocation of technology privileges at school.

6th Grade Schedule with “B” Lunch

Period	Subject	Room #
1 st	ELA Block	2007
2 nd	ELA Block	2007
3 rd	Social Studies	2014
B Lunch	B Lunch	Cafeteria
4 th	Science	2015
5 th	PE	Gym
6 th	Trumpet	Band Hall
7 th	Math	2011
8 th	Advisory	2011

Each class period is about 45 minutes long.

School Day

- The school day is 8:55-4:05.
- Each class period is approximately 45 minutes long.
- Lunch is 30 minutes.
- There is a 5 minute passing period between classes.
- Advisory meets every day for 44 minutes: this is a time to study/homework, organize, work on Character Strong lessons, and community building.
- 6th grade core content classes are located upstairs.
- 6th grade lockers are upstairs near most core content classes.
- Tutoring is available both before and after school (doors opens at 8:30 am).
- Principals and teachers will be available in the hallways between classes to help.
- Counselors will be available to help you during the year.

Course Requests Overview

All students must sign up for the following courses:

1. English/Language Arts Block
2. Math
3. Social Studies
4. Science
5. PE
6. List four electives in order of preference

KIPP Richardson ISD
5th Grade Course Selection Worksheet
Revised 09/2022 2023

STUDENT NAME	DOB	DOB MONTH	DOB YEAR
STUDENT NUMBER	DOB	STUDENT PHONE	
ADDRESS	CITY		
HOME/CELLPHONE NUMBER	TELEPHONE FAX NUMBER	HOME/CELLPHONE MAILING ADDRESS	

REQUIRED COURSES

ENGLISH AND READING	PEL ARTS**
ENG English Language Arts and Reading Block 5	PEL Theatre 1
ENG English Language Arts and Reading Block 5 EAP	PEL Art 1
ENG English Language Arts and Reading Block 5 EAP/ST*	PEL Band 1
MATH	Placement based on director approval. Director will contact the student regarding instrument assignment.
MAT Math 5	PEL Orchestra 1
MAT Math 5 EAP	Placement based on director approval. Director will contact the student regarding instrument assignment.
MAT Math 5 EAP/ST*	PEL Choir 1 - Boys
SCIENCE	PEL Choir 1 - Girls
SCI Science 5	
SCI Science 5 EAP	
SCI Science 5 EAP/ST*	
SOCIAL STUDIES	
SS Social Studies 5	
SS Social Studies 5 EAP	
SS Social Studies 5 EAP/ST*	
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	
PE PE 5 - Boys	
PE PE 5 - Girls	

PLEASE LIST YOUR PREFERRED ELECTIVE COURSE OR COURSES BY PREFERENCE ORDER (SWAP AVAILABLE IN SOME COURSES)

1. _____ (Elective choice)
2. _____ (Elective choice)
3. _____ (Elective choice)
4. _____ (Elective choice)

* If an elective placement requires the student to meet specific eligibility screening criteria.

Choosing Courses-Class formats:

- **Academic-** Challenging work- available to everyone, on grade level, more time to review concepts.
- **KAP-** More challenging courses, fast-paced, and more homework.
 - Students must maintain a 70% or higher each 6 weeks to remain in the KAP class.
 - Must meet passing standard on course-related state-mandated performance assessments including STAAR.
- **KAP/GT-** Students must be screened and identified to be eligible for GT courses.

Choosing Courses

The decision to take academic or KAP should be made between you, your parents, and your teachers. Think about:

- Your interests and strengths
- How hard you are willing to work
- The grades you have earned in school and the kind of grades you like to earn.
- Motivation and attitude
- Standardized test scores
- Study habits
- Extracurricular activities and time commitments
- How quickly you catch on to new material

Math: KAP & Academic

6th, 7th, and 8th grade math classes are the foundations for high school math classes and should not be rushed.

- **Academic Math** - On grade level curriculum
 - Students will have math homework every night to practice the concepts
 - Students will learn 6th grade skills/concepts only
- **KAP Math** - Accelerated math class covering all 6th grade curriculum and about 50%-60% of 7th grade curriculum
 - A new concept is learned almost every day.
 - Students will have math homework every night to practice the concepts.
 - KAP math focuses on preparing student for High School Algebra I in 8th grade.

Characteristics of a KAP Math student

- Problem solve in everyday situations
- Has developed strong learning and study habits
- Shows perseverance when challenged
- Displays emotional maturity when frustrated
- Demonstrates reasoning skills pertaining to mathematical concepts in everyday life
- Shows confidence in their own math abilities
- Strong/mastered fast facts skills
- Willingness to ask questions in class and seek out help
- Strongly values learning- Loves to learn!!

KAP Math Considerations

- KAP is the compacting of the junior high curriculum from 3 years to 2 years so that your child would be able to take Algebra I (a high school credit class) by 8th grade.
- Taking your first high school math class in junior high frees up your child's senior year, to choose to take AP Calculus, AP Statistics, or other dual credit college credit math classes.

Language Arts, Science, and Social Studies

- The difference in academic and KAP for language arts, science, and social studies comes in the *resources/materials used* and *performance expectations*.
- KAP is built upon the core academic curriculum and is designed to build student capacity to understand more rigorous content.
- KAP is designed to help prepare students for advanced courses in high school.
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Automatic enrollment into KAP Classes

- Per SB 2124, incoming 6th grade students who perform in the top two quintiles (40%) on their 5th grade Math STAAR test will be automatically placed in the corresponding KAP course.
- Students who earn “Masters” on the 5th Grade Math, Reading, or Science STAAR are automatically placed in 6th KAP. You can opt-out of this on the course selection sheet.
- All adjustments will take place during the summer or early August, depending on the date STAAR results are released.
- There will be an opt-out opportunity on your child’s course selection sheet. If you do NOT want them moved to a KAP course in a particular subject you will need to circle opt-out on your child’s course selection sheet.
- **BOTTOM LINE: If you do not want your student in a KAP course for a particular subject, circle opt-out on your course selection sheet.**

Possible Required Courses

These courses take the place of your elective class.

- **Math Lab** - designed to refine math concepts and fill in gaps.
- **Reading Elective**- designed to improve reading proficiency and comprehension.
 - ▶ Placement may be mandatory as a result of KISD standards and graduation requirements
 - ▶ STAAR results are used to determine placement in the above courses

Electives

- 6th grade is allowed to choose 1 elective for the year.
- Some electives require after school commitments.
- Have assignments and receive numeric grades
- 6th grade electives are Fine Arts classes: Art, Band, Choir, Orchestra, Theater, and Lead Worthy Intermediate.
- There is a [video on the BDJH website](#) that highlights each fine arts program.
- Due to the high demand of certain electives, **placement in elective courses will be limited based on availability and are not guaranteed.**

Choosing an Elective Class

Do Consider...

- Your interests and what you would like to learn about
- How much time outside of school is needed to participate/practice in the elective class
- What do you like to do for fun
- What outside time constraints do you have?

Don't Consider...

- Your friend's choice
- Cool field trips (a field trip is only one day)

Beginning Band

Woodwind, Brass, Percussion

- If you are interested in learning an instrument, 6th grade is the best year to start.
- Band directors will meet with the student to determine the best instrument.
- Course fees apply
- No prior experience necessary
- Plan to practice 30 min. a day outside of the regular classroom.
- Must rent or buy an instrument
- There will be two or three concerts per year.
- Instrument choices: flute, clarinet, oboe, bassoon, saxophone, trumpet, French horn, euphonium, tuba, percussion

Beginning Orchestra

Violin, Cello, Viola, Bass

- If you are interested in learning an instrument, 6th grade is the best year to start.
- Orchestra directors will meet with the student to determine the best instrument.
- Course fees apply
- No prior experience necessary
- Plan to practice 30 min. a day outside of the regular classroom.
- Must rent or buy an instrument.
- There will be four or five concerts per year.

Beginning Choir

Singing, Reading music, and Concerts

- There will be three or four performances per year.
- Course fees apply.
- No prior experience needed.
- Choirs are separated by gender and there are no auditions.
- No student will ever have to sing by themselves.

Beginning Art

- Introduction to art in the areas of drawing, painting, ceramics, sculpture, printmaking, textiles, and technology
- Exciting projects in both 2D and 3D
- Explore different mediums like colored pencils, acrylic paint, paper mache, and more
- Develop both artistic and creative skills
- Course fees apply

Beginning Theater

- Focus on vocabulary and theatrical terms
- Creating scripts and performing
- Performing short scenes from published works or self written
- Playing theater games such as improvisation
- Course fees apply

LeadWorthy Intermediate

- A newer elective being offered only to 6th graders.
- Focuses on nine initial character traits to grow the leadership skills of students.
- Builds a positive school culture that inspires and empowers students to lead with heart.

Physical Education

- Students pay a \$15 fee at the beginning of the year for their PE uniform, lock for locker, and laundry service.
- Students will dress out daily in their PE uniform.
- Students will receive a numeric grade for this course.
- Students will develop a basic level of fitness and wellness along with learning the skill of each sport.
- **Athletics** - only for 7th and 8th graders

Pre-Athletics

- We will be offering pre-athletics for 6th graders next year.
- Course is designed to prepare students for athletics beginning in 7th grade.
- Main focus will be on skills and behaviors of each sport.
- Coaches will host a meeting in February for parents to be able to find out more information.

Off-Campus PE

- Off-Campus PE is for students who participate in an individual sport with a weekly minimum amount of hours. Application & approval is required.
 - ▶ 5-14 hours a week, you may replace your PE class with a study hall.
 - ▶ 15 or more hours a week, you may be released from campus after 6th period.
- All PE waiver applications can be turned into the BDJH Counseling Office or emailed to the counseling office starting in May or at the beginning of August of the school year. The earlier the better.
- All applications must be emailed to your counselor by the first 5 days of the school year.
- ALL students will be placed in a PE class until the Off-Campus PE application is received by the BDJH counselor and approved. It will be on your course verification and in HAC.
- Information and applications can be found at: [Off-Campus PE Information](#)

Course Selection Platform

The district is using a college and career platform called Schoolinks. Course selection will use Schoolinks for the course selection process.
Your child can access Schoolinks through My Katy Cloud.



Course Selection Overview

- All course selection information will be available on the [BDJH Counseling Website](#).
- Course selection worksheets will be sent home with students on February 2nd. These must be completed and returned to the elementary campus by February 16th.
- Students will ALSO need to enter course requests in SchoolLinks by February 16th.
- All students must sign up for: Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies, PE, list electives in order of preference.

Course Verification

- The Course Verification Window is March 18th-March 26th. Parents will verify courses and request changes in SchooLinks.
- More information will come from your elementary school during this time.
- There will be directions on how to communicate any changes you may want to make to your course selections.
- This will be the last opportunity to make changes to your course requests.

REMEMBER!

- Choose your courses wisely - think carefully about your choices.
- Talk to your teachers about course level placement.
- Choose the elective that's most interesting to you (List as #1). When students enter electives in SchoolLinks, enter them in the order of preference. Make sure the alternates are listed in order of preference.
- Turn in your course selection worksheet and enter course requests in eSchool by February 16th.



QR Library



[BDJH Counseling Website](#)



[FAQ for Course Selection](#)

Course Catalog is available in SchoolLinks.

If you have additional questions, please email your child's elementary counselor.