



T.H.  
MCDONALD  
JUNIOR HIGH

# **6<sup>th</sup> grade**

## **Course Selection**

### **Preview**

**2023 - 2024**



Incoming 6<sup>th</sup> graders



Panther Preview

of

6<sup>th</sup> grade Courses including Electives

January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023

T.H. McDonald Junior High Cafeteria

6 pm - 7 pm



# MDJH Campus Administration

School Principal: Carrie Caruso

## Assistant Principals

Dr. Kristie Floyd Hargrove

Mark Balsler

Giovanni Serna

## 2023 – 2024 Counselors

Kimberley Costello – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

Ruben Espinosá – 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

Guenevere Cargill – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

## 5<sup>th</sup> grade Parent Information Night

January 17<sup>th</sup> at MDJH Cafeteria 6 pm- 7 pm

Power Point can be found on the MDJH Counselor Homepage after the meeting.

For further information:

Contact Mrs. Costello (future 6th grade Counselor)

[KimberleyKCostello@katyisd.org](mailto:KimberleyKCostello@katyisd.org)

281-237-5322

Espinosá Contacto español: Sr.Espinosá [RubenJEspinosa@katyisd.org](mailto:RubenJEspinosa@katyisd.org)

281-237-4232

Guenevere Cargill – MDJH Lead Counselor

281-237-5333

[GuenevereACargill@katyisd.org](mailto:GuenevereACargill@katyisd.org)

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

❖ Course Requests must be entered in Schoolinks and All Course Request Sheets are due by 1-31-23



T.H. McDonald  
Junior High

Dear Incoming 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent/Guardian,

Today we had the opportunity to meet with your child's class to discuss 6<sup>th</sup> grade required and elective course opportunities. All course information can be found on the MDJH Counseling website including a copy of the PowerPoint that was presented and a junior high course selection planning sheet. Your child was encouraged to explore course options, seek your assistance, and ask for teacher recommendations in making an informed choice about courses that will best meet his or her educational needs.

The different core course formats are Academic, KAP, and KAP/GT. GT placement requires the student to have met specific KISD screening criteria and have been accepted into the program prior to selecting classes for 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Only students identified as gifted may enroll in a class designated as GT. Katy ISD academic classes (on grade level) are courses that are designed to prepare students for high school and college. Courses designated as KAP are designed to prepare students for Advanced Placement courses (college level instruction) while in high school. KAP course selections are pending state- mandated performance assessment results (ex. STAAR). Students must achieve "meet grade level" or "masters grade level" in the subject area (math, reading, and/or science) where the KAP level is selected. Each course should be considered separately when making a decision regarding Academic or KAP courses. Please note that students often enroll in a combination of course formats.

Katy ISD has established guidelines to assist parents and students as they consider course requests for the upcoming school year. On the second page of the course selection planning sheet, there is additional information on the considerations for placement into advanced courses (KAP). To help you and your child make an informed decision, there are several sources of information available to assist you in assessing your child's academic readiness. The data that has been previously made available to parents of fifth graders include:

- Grades earned in fifth grade core content classes
- Grades earned for Work Habits and Citizenship in fifth grade
- STAAR results from previous years

On the MDJH course selection worksheet, your child will request the following courses: English/Language Arts Block, Math, Social Studies, Science, P.E., one elective, and three alternate elective choices if their first choice is unavailable. A student and parent/guardian signature is required on the course selection form. This will confirm that all course guidelines have been reviewed and course selections have been made based upon the student's individual academic strengths, interests, and commitment.

**The course selection window is as follows:**

**January 20 – January 31, 2023** Students select courses in SchoolLinks using Course Planner and Course Selection Worksheets turned into the 5<sup>th</sup> grade Counselor

**January 31, 2023 @ 11:59 pm** Course Planner becomes "viewable only" in SchoolLinks

**February 6 – March 10, 2023** Counselors meet with students individually to review course requests

**March 20 – March 28, 2023** Course Verification – Parents verify courses and request course changes using Schoolinks

**Course verification** is your last opportunity to make changes to your child's course request. A course verification sheet will be available after spring break and **MUST** be returned.

Parents are encouraged to attend the **Incoming 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Course Selection Presentation at MDJH – Jan. 17<sup>th</sup> at 6pm or on the MDJH Counseling Website available on Jan. 18<sup>th</sup>**. The presentation will assist you in making appropriate course selections for your child. We look forward to meeting each of you and for the opportunity to be actively involved with your child's education. Thank you for your careful consideration of courses for your child.

# What You Want to Know about MDJH!

## **1. How much time do we have between classes?**

Currently 4 minutes. During the first week of school, teachers will not be as strict so that it gives time for the students to get used to knowing where to go. After that, students will be expected to be on time.

## **2. What clubs are offered at the Jr. High for 6th graders?**

6th graders currently can participate in Pep Squad and Student Council. Also, have your parents check MDJH e-news for postings about clubs being offered. Students should tune into the daily announcements on campus as well.

## **3. Can 6th graders participate in school sports?**

No, athletics begin in the 7th grade. This applies to all students in Texas.

## **4. What PE activities are available to 6th graders?**

Students will have at least 45 minutes of regularly scheduled PE class daily. Some of the PE activities include flag football, soccer, basketball, physical fitness, indoor games, track, volleyball, kickball, and indoor team games.

## **5. Are 6th graders required to dress out for PE and take showers?**

Students are required to dress out each day. (It is part of the PE grade) They are **NOT** required to take showers. Laundering of your gym clothes is taken care of by the school. Lockers will be provided.

## **6. How long is the lunch period?**

The lunch period is 30 minutes long.

## **7. How much should we bring for lunch?**

Typically, lunch is \$2.75 for the hot tray lunch. The snack bar has individually priced items that cost \$1. Breakfast is \$1.25. These prices are subjected to change.

## **8. Are there assigned seats at lunch?**

Students are not assigned seats for lunch (unless the cafeteria monitor feels a student's behavior is not appropriate). Currently we have 4 -mixed grade lunches so we have designated tables for each grade level.

## **9. Where can we find information about the Jr. High's dress code?**

This information is found on the KISD website and in your PowerSchool Enrollment when you do your update.

## **10. What is a hall pass?**

Anytime a student leaves class he/she must have a hall pass (except during regular class change time).

## **11. How many students attend the junior high?**

Currently, we have about 1,150 students at McDonald Junior High!

**12. What do we do if we are absent from school?**

Please have your parents call the attendance office (281-237-5305) on the day you are absent. Bring a note, explaining your absence, to the ATTENDANCE OFFICE before school starts on the day you return to school. You are also responsible to go to your teachers to find out what assignments were missed.

**13. Does the junior high offer tutoring?**

Tutoring is available to ALL students, but you would need to check with your teacher first. Most tutoring is held before school starting at 8:30 am or afterschool until 4:45pm. In order to retake a test, students are required to attend a tutorial. Students must make arrangements with the teacher for both the tutorial and the retake.

**14. Do we have to wear ID badges?**

Yes, students will be required to wear ID badges. Your ID badge is used to check out books at the library and is required when making any lunch purchases. Your first ID badge, plastic sleeve and lanyard are free. It will cost \$3.00 to replace your ID. The plastic sleeve cost \$1.00 and the lanyard cost \$2.00 to replace. You may use your own lanyard. If you forgot your Student ID you will need to go to the front office and get a temporary ID which will cost you \$1.00.

**15. What do you do in Advisory?**

Advisory is a time during which tutorials take place, STAAR remediation, Character Education lessons are learned, or students may work on homework assignments. Make use of this time!!

**16. What classes are offered for sixth graders?**

Every sixth grader will take the following classes: English/Reading Block, Math, Science, Social Studies, PE, Advisory and one Fine Art Elective.

**17. What type of curriculum levels does MDJH offer?**

MDJH offers Academic, KAP (Katy Advance Placement), GT (Gifted Talented), ESL and Special Education levels.

**SAMPLE Bell schedule**

The bell schedule will be as follows:

Students report to holding area or tutorials at 8:30 a.m.

\*\*Extra minutes added for pledge and announcements

1 <sup>st</sup> Period	Math	8:55 - 9:45*
2 <sup>nd</sup> Period	Science	9:49 - 10:37
3 <sup>rd</sup> Period	Social Studies	10:41 – 11:29
LUNCH	LUNCH	11:33 – 12:05
4 <sup>th</sup> Period	ELAR Block	12:07 – 12:55
5 <sup>th</sup> Period	ELAR Block	12:59 – 1:47
6 <sup>th</sup> Period	Advisory	1:51 – 2:21
7 <sup>th</sup> Period	PE	2:25 – 3:13
8 <sup>th</sup> Period	Elective	3:17 - 4:05

**18. What Electives are offered at MDJH?**

MDJH offers Art, Band, Choir, Orchestra, Theater Arts, and Lead Worthy Intermediate

# McDonald Junior High Course Selection – Incoming 6<sup>th</sup> Graders

## Weighing KAP Decisions

*We would like to extend an early welcome to our future Panthers! Whether this is your first child to move on to secondary or you are a veteran junior high parent, there are many decisions to be made, and we want to make sure that you have all the information needed to feel comfortable with your child starting junior high. 😊*

*At McDonald Junior High it is our belief that students should take the most challenging content possible to maximize their learning. Parents should strongly consider Katy Advanced Program (KAP) classes. Additionally, success with KAP and AP coursework in high school is dependent on starting KAP in junior high. However, KAP is not a good choice for every student, so we have provided some guiding information to consider.*

How do you know if your child should be in a KAP class? KAP students should:

- Be an A/B or **strong** C student
- Possess a good work ethic – and be willing to do extra work
- Be relatively organized
- LIKE the subject area
- Mastered on either the STAAR Math, Reading or Science Assessments.

**Each student is different, and each decision must be a personal one for you and your child. Choose according to what is in their best interest.**

KAP classes are fast paced and have very high expectations. The homework is often increased or given at a faster pace. These classes are, however, a great place to challenge students in the various subject areas.

**Our Recommendation:** Select **KAP** for the courses that your child loves and in which he/she has experienced success. Select **Academic** for the classes that present more of a challenge for your child. We are fortunate that the district does offer so many choices for so many different classes.

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade KAP Math** is a little different than the other core subjects. Sixth grade KAP math covers all of the 6<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum objectives and half of 7<sup>th</sup> grade objectives. In 7<sup>th</sup> grade KAP math students learn the second half of 7<sup>th</sup> grade objectives and all of 8<sup>th</sup> grade math objectives. At the end of 7<sup>th</sup> grade KAP math, students will take the 8<sup>th</sup> grade STAAR test, because they will have covered all of the junior high math content. In 8<sup>th</sup> grade, if successful on 8<sup>th</sup> grade STAAR test, they will take Algebra 1. Because of this accelerated pace, students **MUST** take 6<sup>th</sup> grade KAP math in order to select KAP math in 7<sup>th</sup> grade.

**GT Classes** – If your child is currently in Gifted and Talented, he/she will select the GT classes for which they qualify. Some qualify in all areas of GT, while some are math/science only, etc. If your child is not all-inclusive GT, he/she will most likely select KAP for the remaining courses. GT classes follow the KAP curriculum yet are differentiated for the GT learner and may require some additional GT activities.

- If you have more questions about selection of GT classes, please contact your child's Challenge teacher.
- The best person (besides you!) that knows your child's academic strengths and challenges are their 5<sup>th</sup> grade teachers. Please contact them first with any questions you may have in regard to level selection of courses.

# Academic vs KAP/GT in Junior High

## English & Reading Block

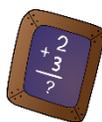
KAP/AP courses are designed to challenge motivated students and prepare them for success in college level coursework in high school and beyond. These advanced or above grade-level courses move at a faster pace, are more academically challenging and require more independent learning than academic courses.



\*Students who enroll in KAP, KAP/GT, and AP/GT English Courses in grades 6-12 are expected to complete a *summer reading assignment*.

All students in junior high school ELA have the same curriculum.

## Math



**There is a big difference in the # of objectives covered.**

For example: 5th grade – approx. 60 objectives  
6th grade Academic – approx. 64 objectives  
6th grade KAP – over 90 objectives with some being 7th grade objectives

\* 6th grade KAP: covers all of 6th and approximately 1/2 of 7th grade math  
KAP level of instruction will focus on preparation for taking **Algebra I (HS credit)** in the 8th grade.

## Social Studies

All classes cover the same state standards, but KAP classes are differentiated in the following ways:

- Rigor of tests: Higher level test questions, require students to apply knowledge at a greater depth.
- Projects: Differentiated Requirements
- Writing assignments - Inquiry Questions
- Activities that prepare KAP students for AP courses in High School

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## Science

KAP & KAP/GT courses provide for the development of skills and concepts necessary for success in Advanced Placement courses in high school

**All students in middle school science have the same curriculum.**

**Tests:** KAP/ GT students have a writing portion (Open Ended Response-OER) in addition to the multiple-choice portion of the test.

**Menus:** KAP/GT students will have “menus” in which they will have approximately one week to complete a product of their choice. Menu requirements will be discussed at the beginning of each unit.

Extension labs and activities will be planned throughout the year.

# Fine Art and Other Elective Choices

## Art

Course number: J911

Course name: Art 1 (JH)

Fee: \$0

### Description:

Art is a year-long introductory course designed to show students all of the possibilities awaiting them in advanced level art classes. Students will do many different projects including portraits, sculptures, drawings, paintings, and projects exploring new art materials.

### Contact:

Madison Sample

[MadisonNSample@KATYISD.ORG](mailto:MadisonNSample@KATYISD.ORG)

281-237-4225

## Choir

Course number: J951 and J961

Course name: Choir 1 Boys / Choir 1 Girls

Fees: \$40.00

### Description:

Choir is a performance-based organization, but it is also a great way to make new friends. Choir is made up of all types of students including shy, athletic, out-going, enthusiastic, and computer experts! Students learn teamwork, sight-reading, musical skills, audience and performance behavior and how to sing! We go beyond the curriculum and use higher level thinking skills, creativity, self-discipline, independence, public performance skills, organization, problem solving and perseverance. Students are required to participate in 4 concerts a year, possible 3-5 after school rehearsals, and The Katy 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Choral Festival. Students have the opportunity to participate in both field trips and parties. CHOIR-IT'S THE PLACE TO BE!!!

### Contact:

Ariel Ortega

[ArielOrtega@KATYISD.ORG](mailto:ArielOrtega@KATYISD.ORG)

281-237-4238

## Orchestra

Course number: J931

Course name: Beginning Orchestra-First Year Orchestra (FYO)

Fee: Orchestra Fee--\$30.00 for all students

Instrument Maintenance Fee--\$80.00 for use of school instruments only Cello/Bass

Rentals: Cello and bass students rent home instruments

Violins/violas rent instruments and transports them to and from school

Orchestra Fee Covers:

- Orchestra T-shirt or Hoodie
- Concert Music / Sheet Music
- Winter Party

Description:

In orchestra, you can choose to play any of the string instruments (violin, viola, cello or bass). Students study their instruments and learn important concepts about reading music, rhythm and play different types of music all over the world. Students study many different styles of music playing, such as fiddle, jazz, classical, modern 20<sup>th</sup> century, and lots of famous pop music tunes! Orchestra students have several concerts throughout the school year and enjoy social events outside of school.

Ms. Houston will meet with you individually to find out which instrument will fit you best. Parents are given contact information for local string instrument shops where they can rent their instrument for the year. Please do not buy any instrument from online since their quality is not good. The tuning has always been an issue with the on-line purchased instruments. Please consult with Ms. Houston. The school does have a limited number of instruments that students may use by paying the instrument Maintenance fee.

Please do not let finances step in the way of your child learning how to play a string instrument. Many colleges and universities offer scholarships to students who play an instrument, so why not start in your child's 6th grade year?

Contact:

Kelli Houston

[KelliEHouston@KATYISD.ORG](mailto:KelliEHouston@KATYISD.ORG)

281-237-4214

## Lead Worthy Intermediate (Other elective)

Course number: Unknown currently JXXX

Course name: Lead Worthy Intermediate

Fees: \$0

MORE INFORMATION to come

An interactive course designed to improve student communication skills, foster character development, and create a growth mindset. The goal is to empower students to see how they can improve and participate in their community in a positive way.

## **Theatre**

Course number: J941

Course name: Theatre 1

Fees: \$0

### Description:

Theatre is a performance-based class that will explore a variety of theatre activities. In this class, students will be expected to make presentations, prepare projects, and gain an appreciation for all performing arts. Students will engage in activities to achieve their grade. Some examples of classroom activities include memorization and interpretation of written material, study of theatre history, radio, television, film, special effects, and technical theatre. Students' performances and presentations are required and count as major grades. Theatre students will have the opportunities to participate in main stage play productions and theatre field trips.

### Contact:

Brigitte Becker

[BrigitteLBecker@KATYISD.ORG](mailto:BrigitteLBecker@KATYISD.ORG)

281-237-4207

## **Band – Beginner**

Course number: J921

Course name: Band

Fee: \$50 for t-shirt, most events, supplemental material. Payment plans can be arranged!

Rentals/purchases: Students will supply instrument and supplies (school owned instruments are available for an \$80.00 per year maintenance fee).

Payment plans are available. Fees do not need to be paid all at once, and we can work out any financial concerns.

### Description:

Band is a performance-based organization, but it is also a great way to make new friends. You can learn to play an exciting instrument, read music and be part of a team. You will also be able to take trips, attend parties, dances, concerts, and do other fun activities. Any student can join band! In beginning band, you do not need to know anything about music. The band directors will help you select an instrument, and they will teach you everything you need to know. In 6<sup>th</sup> grade, you can choose flute, oboe, bassoon, clarinet, alto saxophone, trumpet, French Horn, trombone, baritone, tuba, or percussion. There is a limit to the number of students who play some instruments due to equipment availability and classroom size. Instruments may be rented for a small monthly charge or purchased through a music company. Please do not let cost keep you from joining the band. We will do everything we can to help you.

### Contacts:

Luis De La Garza

[luisdelagarza@KATYISD.ORG](mailto:luisdelagarza@KATYISD.ORG)

281-237-4261

Scott Taylor

[ScottSTaylor@KATYISD.ORG](mailto:ScottSTaylor@KATYISD.ORG)

281-237-4212

BAND  
Instrument Selection Dates

February 16th	4:30 – 6:30 pm
February 20th	2:00 – 5:00 pm

MORE INFORMATION Coming Soon

ORCHESTRA  
Instrument Selection Dates  
More information to Come later  
April 18<sup>th</sup>- MDJH and MRJH

incoming beginner student instrument drive from  
5:30-pm-8pm

## GENERAL INFORMATION AND FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT BAND

Q. Does my child have to know how to read music to be in band?

A. No, we will teach them to read music.

Q. What instruments are taught in band class?

A. Band instruments are flute, oboe, bassoon, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, French horn, trombone, baritone, tuba, and percussion.

Q. When is instrument selection if my child has not selected one?

A. We will contact parents of incoming students to set up a date and time for selection.

Q. How will my child select an instrument?

A. Students who sign up for band will be given an *instrument selection form*. Students will select THREE instruments from those listed on the instrument selection form. The directors will take each student through a short musical aptitude drill and assess the student's natural physical qualities and select an instrument based upon the child's selection of instruments and physical/musical aptitude. **Whereas our goal is to put each student on their first choice of instrument, there are a limited number of 'spots' for each instrument. We have to have a balance of instruments in the band.**

Q. Do I have to purchase an instrument or are there school owned instruments that my child can use?

A. There are some instruments that are school owned and require an **\$80** maintenance fee for cleaning and repair of the instrument. There are a limited number of these instruments available, and they are issued on a first come, first served basis and the **\$80 deposit is due on or before September 20<sup>th</sup>. If you need to make payment arrangements, speak to a band director.**

Q. Are there after school rehearsals for beginners?

A. There are two rehearsals after school in the fall and two in the spring. A calendar will be issued at the beginning of the school year with details.

Q. Does the band take any trips?

A. We usually go on a trip in the late Spring semester, the cost, date, and location of which will be determined at a later date.

Q. Does the beginning band play at football games or have concerts?

A. Beginners do NOT play at football games; however, they will have a Winter concert in December and a Spring concert in May.

Q. Can my child change their instrument once one has been selected?

A. We try not to change instruments after one has been selected, however in some circumstance we may ask a student to try a different instrument if they exhibit special qualities that enable them to play certain instruments.

Q. Does the band do fundraisers?

A. The band has several fundraisers throughout the school year. If you wish to not do fundraising, we ask that you pay a fundraiser opt out fee of \$50 per semester.

Q. Can my child be removed from band?

A. Band students are expected to practice their instruments and exhibit good behavior in all classes. If a student exhibits behavior that distracts others from learning or is unwilling to practice, they may be removed from band.

Q. Does band cost money?

A. There are some fees associated with being in band such as instrument rental/purchase, band shirt fee and trip fee. We try to keep costs to a minimum.

Q. Is there a parent organization associated with band?

A. We have a **band booster club** which is open to all band parents and does not cost money. We do ask that parents volunteer from time to time to chaperone or help with fundraisers?

Q. How will my child's grade be determined?

A. Students' grades are determined by their practice record, their participation in class and their individual improvement.

Q. Can my student join the jazz band if offered this school year?

A. Students must be in band for at least one year before they audition for the jazz band. The jazz band is comprised of saxophones, trumpets, trombones, guitar, piano, bass, and drums. Students must audition and be selected for participation in Jazz band and must remain part of their other band class.

# SCHOOLINKS

## 2023-2024 Junior High Course Request Step-by-Step Guide

The Course Requests process will be open from 7:00AM on January 20, 2023 through 11:59PM on January 31, 2023. Access will be available 24 hours a day during this time.

### Accessing SchoolLinks to enter Course Requests

Go to [www.Katyisd.org](http://www.Katyisd.org)

Click on the MyKaty login button in the top right corner:



Click on the home MyKaty button again



Or go to MyKaty Cloud, [www.MyKaty.Katyisd.org](http://www.MyKaty.Katyisd.org) and login using Student Username and Password



Click the search arrow

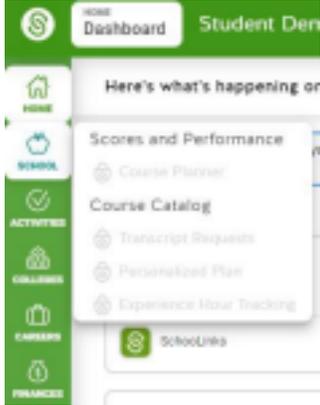


Search the word SchoolLinks and click on the Icon:



## Entering Course Requests through Course Planner

Once you are in SchoolLinks, click on the School Icon (apple) in the menu bar on the left. Then, select course planner:



Course Planner appears grayed-out in this picture. It will be active January 20th-31st.

### This will direct you to the course planner summary.

Classes will be preloaded based on the students STAAR scores from the previous year. Click on each subject to add / change or view course requests for each specific department. Please note you can plan your courses for all your junior high years, but are not required to do so.

**\*Students will review/edit request each school year.**

 A screenshot of the Course Planner summary page. The page is divided into sections for different subjects: English, Math, Science, Social Studies, Language Other Than English, Physical Education, Fine Arts, Health, and Electives. Each subject section contains a list of course options with details like course number, name, and credits. The 'English' section shows 'English Language I' and 'English Language II'. 'Math' shows 'Math 1' and 'Math 2'. 'Science' shows 'Science 1' and 'Science 2'. 'Social Studies' shows 'Social Studies 1' and 'Social Studies 2'. 'Language Other Than English' shows 'Spanish I' and 'Spanish II'. 'Physical Education' shows 'Physical Education 1' and 'Physical Education 2'. 'Fine Arts' shows 'Art 1' and 'Art 2'. 'Health' shows 'Health 1' and 'Health 2'. 'Electives' shows 'Electives 1' and 'Electives 2'. The page has a navigation bar at the top and a footer with a 'Submit Plan' button.

Make your selections until requirements are met. **Then submit plan.** 2023-2024 course requests will be finalized during your individual course selection meeting with your counselor in the Spring.



### 5th Grade Course Selection Worksheet

KISD 2023-2024

Student Name: Last, First MI Panthers, Penelope	KISD Student ID K123412	Birth Date: 7/31/2012
Address: Street 3635 Lakes of Bridgewater	City / Zip Katy, Tx 77449	
Parent/Guardian #1 Name: Last, First Panthers, Momma	Parent/Guardian #1 Email: MommaPanthers@gopanthers.org	
Parent/Guardian #1 Home Phone:	Parent/Guardian #1 Cell Phone: 281-237-5300	Parent/Guardian #1 Work Phone:
Parent/Guardian #2 Name: Last, First	Parent/Guardian #2 Email:	
Parent/Guardian #2 Home Phone:	Parent/Guardian #2 Cell Phone:	Parent/Guardian #2 Work Phone:

**DIRECTIONS:** CHOOSE one course from each of the required areas of English, Math, Science, Social Studies and PE. Mark required courses by CIRCULING the course number for the course. **IMPORTANT: List Fine Arts/Elective choices in order of preference.** Students may not receive their first choice elective due to insufficient enrollment in a course, scheduling conflict, or over enrollment in course. Student and parent signatures confirm that all course guidelines have been reviewed and course selections have been made based on the student's individual strengths, interests and commitment.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Incoming 6th grade students who achieve Masters level on Reading, Math, or Science STAAR exams in the 5th grade will be automatically placed in KAP if they did not already select KAP. Please circle OPT-OUT if you DO NOT agree to automatic placement for each of the subject areas listed below:

SUBJECT:  
 English Language Arts and Reading      OPT-OUT  
 Social Studies                                      OPT-OUT  
 Math    OPT-OUT  
 Science     OPT-OUT

REQUIRED COURSES	
<b>ENGLISH AND READING</b>	
J600	English Language Arts and Reading Block 6
J606	English Language Arts and Reading Block 6 KAP
G609	English Language Arts and Reading Block 6 KAP/GT*
<b>MATH</b>	
J611	Math 6
J614	Math 6 KAP
G614	Math 6 KAP/GT*
<b>SCIENCE</b>	
J630	Science 6
J634	Science 6 KAP
G634	Science 6 KAP/GT*
<b>SOCIAL STUDIES</b>	
J620	Social Studies 6
J624	Social Studies 6 KAP
G624	Social Studies 6 KAP/GT*
<b>PHYSICAL EDUCATION</b>	
J680	PE 6 - Boys
J681	PE 6 - Girls

\* GT course placement requires the student to meet specific Katy ISD screening criteria. For more information visit KISD's Gifted/Talented and Advanced Academics website.

ELECTIVE COURSES	
<b>FINE ARTS</b>	
One year of junior high Fine Arts is required for all students	
ALL Fine Art Placement is based on Director Approval	
J941	Theatre 1
J911	Art 1
J921	Band 1
Placement based on Director approval. Director will contact the student regarding instrument assignment.	
J931	Orchestra 1
Placement based on Director approval. Director will contact the student regarding instrument assignment.	
J951	Choir 1 - Boys
J961	Choir 1 - Girls
<b>OTHER ELECTIVE COURSE</b>	
JXXX	Lead Worthy Intermediate
CHOOSE FROM FINE ARTS ELECTIVES AND ELECTIVE COURSE OPTIONS TO LIST CHOICES IN ORDER OF PREFERENCE **Please be advised that scheduling conflicts may prevent your student from getting his/her first elective choice.	
1.	J911 – Art 1 (first choice)
2.	J961 - Choir (second choice)
3.	JXXX – Lead Worthy (third choice)
4.	J941 – Theatre 1 (fourth choice)
Strategic Reading and Math Lab are intervention courses that may be required for students who did not pass the STAAR and/or based upon documented reading and/or math levels. These courses will take the place of the student's PE or Elective.	



## 5th Grade Course Selection Worksheet

### KISD 2023-2024

Dear 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent/Guardian,

Course selection for the upcoming 2023-2024 school year has begun. Important dates for course selection are listed below:

January 20 – January 31, 2023	Students select courses in SchoolLinks using Course Planner
January 31, 2023 @ 11:59 pm	Course Planner becomes "viewable only" in SchoolLinks
February 6 – March 10, 2023	Counselors meet with students individually to review course requests
March 20 – March 28, 2023	Course Verification – Parents verify courses and request course changes

Students received information about all required and elective courses that are available to them for the next school year. Now students need to make informed choices about courses that will best meet his or her educational needs.

There are different formats for the core courses from which to choose:

- **Academic** - on grade level and designed to prepare students for high school and college
- **KAP (Katy Advanced Placement)** - prepare students for Advanced Placement courses (college level instruction) while in high school
- **KAP/G/T (Gifted and Talented)** - placement requires the student to have met specific KISD screening criteria and have been accepted into the G/T program

Katy ISD has an open enrollment policy for advanced academics. Early enrollment in these courses contributes to student achievement in later years. KAP courses are designed to challenge students beyond grade-level academic courses and prepare them for success in future advanced level coursework. Students may require encouragement and support from both family and campus to be successful in advanced academics. Please review your child's report card and test scores in making course level decisions. Please note that students often enrolling a combination of course formats. Consider each course separately when deciding to select Academic or KAP.

**OPT-OUT Required:** Incoming 6<sup>th</sup> grade students who achieve Masters level on Reading, Math, or Science STAAR exams in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade will be placed as follows:

Masters on STAAR	Placement
5 <sup>th</sup> Grade STAAR Reading	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade KAP English Language Arts & Reading
5 <sup>th</sup> Grade STAAR Reading	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade KAP Social Studies
5 <sup>th</sup> Grade STAAR Math	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade KAP Math
5 <sup>th</sup> Grade STAAR Science	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade KAP Science

On the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Course Selection Worksheet, your child will request the following courses: English/Language Arts Block, Math, Social Studies, Science, P.E., and list your top four elective choices in order of preference. Students identified as gifted may opt for a class designated as GT.

If your student changes his/her mind about course selections after January 31, your child will have an opportunity to request changes to their selections during Course Verification during the week of March 20-28, 2023.

Thank you for your careful consideration of courses for your child.

After completing the worksheet, please see the next steps on how to enter courses in Course Planner in SchoolLinks.



Directions for entering course requests in SchoolLinks



KISD Course catalog - view to read course descriptions