



**Future  
Panthers**

**TH McDonald Junior High  
6th grade  
Course Selection  
2023-2024**



# MDJH People to Know

**Principal:**

Carrie Caruso

**6th Grade Assistant Principal:**

Dr. Kristie Floyd Hargrove

**6th Grade Counselor:**

Kimberley Costello



**BJH**

**Mascot:** Panthers

**Colors:** Purple and White

**Grades:** 6th-8th grade

**School Hours:** 8:55 AM- 4:05 PM



# 6th Grade Schedule

- 8 class periods: (45 minutes)
- Lunch (30 minutes)
- Passing period between classes (4 minutes)

## Class List

- 5 core classes  
(English/Reading Block, Math, Science, Social Studies)
- 1 Fine Art
- P.E.
- Advisory

# Course Options

## Academic

- For everyone
- On grade level
- More time to review concepts
- More tutoring provided
- Prepares students for college as well as other post secondary education

## KAP

- More challenging
- Fast- paced,
- Requires independent learning
- Prepares students for AP classes in high school

## GT

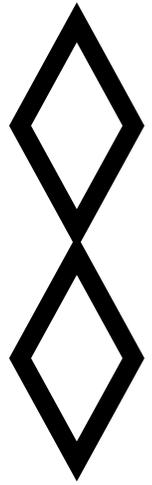
Students must be screened and identified





# KAP Math

How much  
more is  
taught in  
KAP Math ?



5th grade – 60 objectives

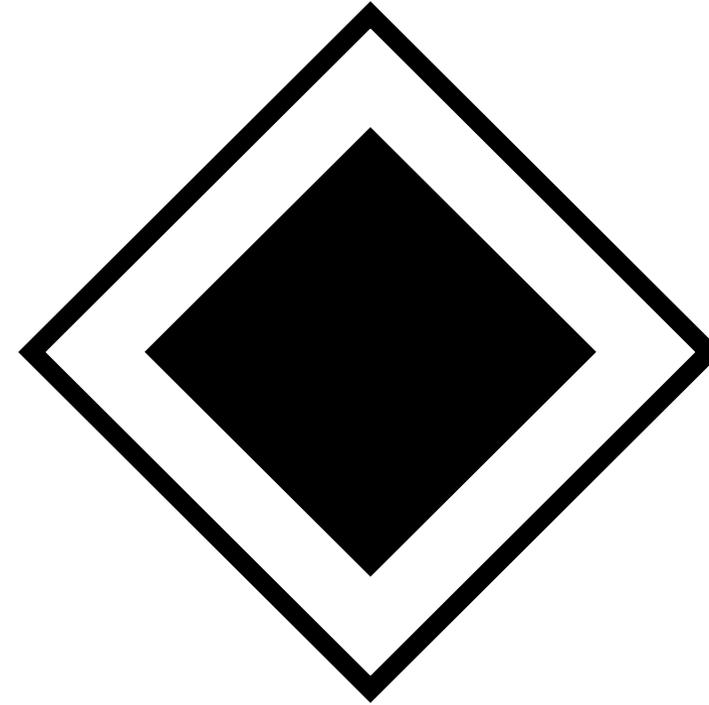
6th grade Academic – 64  
objectives

6th grade KAP – over 90  
objectives with many  
being 7th grade  
objectives

**\*6th grade KAP Math puts you on track for  
Algebra I in 8th grade**

# How to learn more about KAP ?

1. [www.katyisd.org](http://www.katyisd.org)
2. Departments
3. Gifted and Talented and  
Advanced Academic Studies



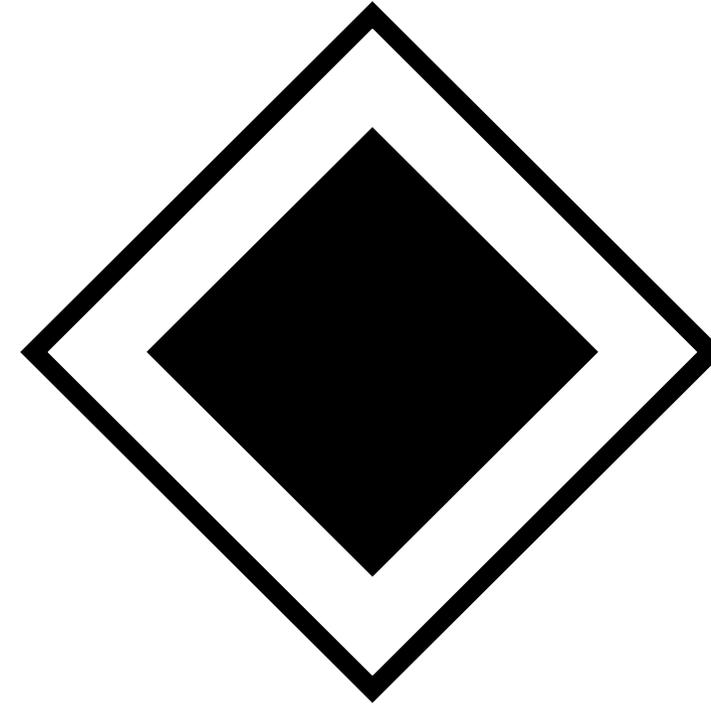
# Achieve Masters level on STAAR

Incoming 6th grade students who achieve Masters level on the Reading, Math, or Science STAAR exams in the 5th grade will be automatically placed into the corresponding KAP subject. Please make sure you circle OPT - Out on the Course Selection Worksheet if you Do NOT agree to automatic placement for each subject.

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



# Academic vs KAP/GT at McDonald 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.



## 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

## 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.



## 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.



# Exiting KAP & Differentiation between GT and KAP Cluster classes

## Exiting KAP

- ★ Student/Parent Driven Request
  - Student must complete Petition
    - Conference with teacher & implement recommendations for improvement
    - Attended all Recommended tutorials
    - Complete all Assignments \* Grade transfers with student
    - Conference with counselor
- ★ Automatic Exit
  - Failed at 6 weeks.
- ★ Schedule changes will only be made after progress report or 6 week grading periods.

## Moving into KAP afterschool starts

- ★ If a student would like to move from academic to KAP after the school year has started they may pick up a schedule change request form in the counselor's office.
- ★ The student's current academic teacher must approve the move from academic to KAP.
- ★ Schedule changes will only be made after a grading period (Progress report or Report card)

## How is GT differentiated if the students are in the same classroom as KAP?

- ★ GT identification is designed to address the particular educational needs of the gifted learner.
- ★ The teacher must have 30 hours of GT training
- ★ The teacher is aware of the GT identification and can address the unique needs of gifted learners in that class.



# Math Lab

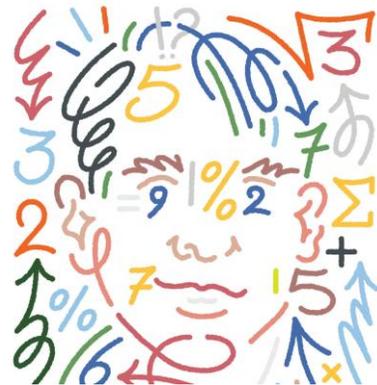
- ★ Required if you fail Math STAAR

# Strategic Reading

- ★ Required if you fail Reading STAAR

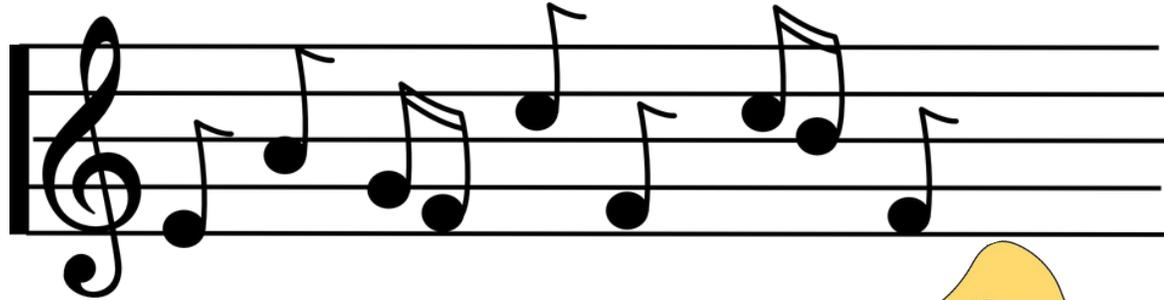
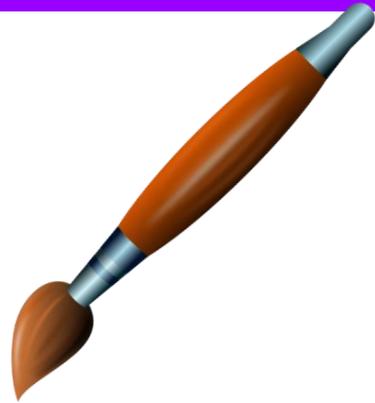
If unsuccessful on STAAR: Math Lab or Strategic Reading will take the place of your PE or Elective.

Summer School might be an option in order to obtain your hours.

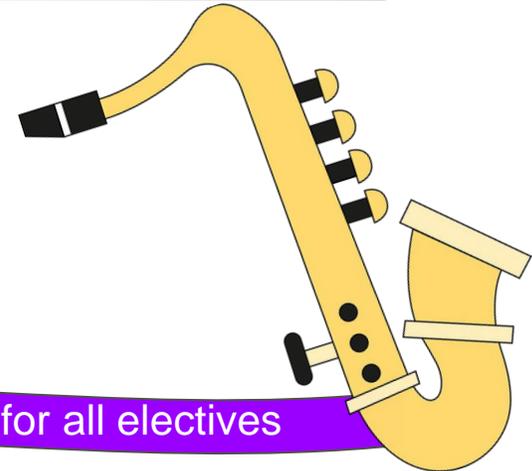


# Electives- Must take one!

- Band \*
- Orchestra \*
- Choir \*
- Art \*
- Theater
- Lead Worthy Intermediate 



Band and orchestra directors will contact you about an instrument



\*Supply fees required for all electives



**6<sup>th</sup> Grade Electives** are specialty fine arts classes in various areas of interest.

- DO- consider your interests carefully and choose the elective that interests you most.
- DON'T- Let your friends influence your choice!
- You will be in your elective course the entire school year.
- You only get to have ONE elective.



# **Lead Worthy Intermediate 6th grade ONLY**

This course focuses on nine initial character traits to grow the leadership skills of students. The LWI course builds a positive school culture that inspires and empowers students to lead with heart.





Flute



Tuba



Trumpet



Oboe



Saxophone



Trombone



Clarinet



Euphonium



Bassoon



# Band Instruments

# Orchestra Instruments

Viola



Violin





## **BAND Instrument Selection Dates**

<b>February 16th</b>	<b>4:30 - 6:30 pm</b>
<b>February 20th</b>	<b>2:00 - 5:00 pm</b>

**More information to come**

# Physical Education

- Both boys and girls (separate gyms)
- Graded class/ attend everyday
- Dress out in uniforms (PE user fee- \$15)
- Lockers in gyms
- No Athletics (competitive sports) in 6th Grade



# Pre Athletics (class might not make)

- A physical education class which designed to prepare 6th grade students for the McDonald Junior High School Athletic Program in the 7th grade.
- Anticipate daily workouts during the class period that are significantly more physical and mentally demanding than what they may experience in a regular PE class.
- Students will focus on athletic conditioning, strength and agility.
- Focus on sports in season at the time.



**You can still try out for a sport in 7th grade if you were not in a Pre-Athletic Pe class**



# Advisory

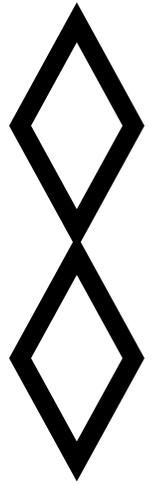
- 30 minutes
- Character Education lessons once/week
- Quiet study hall
- Opportunity to ask questions
- Library
- Tutorials





# Typical 6th grade schedule

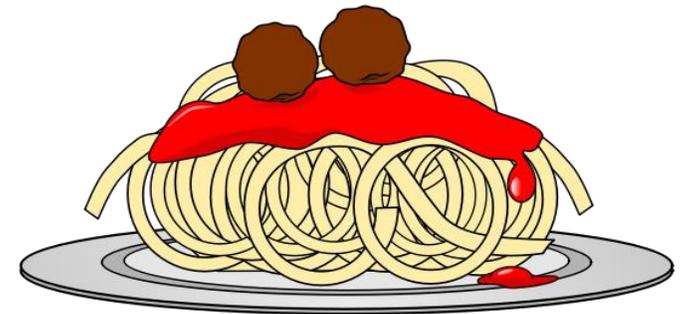
## Example:



Period	Subject	Room #
1	English	149
2	Reading	149
3	Science	136
Lunch	Lunch	Cafeteria
4	Band	Band Hall
5	Math	153
6	Advisory	151
7	P.E. (boys or girls)	Gym
8	Social Studies	141

# Cafetería

- **Respectful dining room etiquette**
- **Hot tray, Snack Bar/Pizza Bar**
- **Must stay seated and keep area clean**



# Transitioning Into MDJH

- **Panther Cub Camp**
  - 6th grade Orientation
  - Schedule Pick Up/Walk the building
  - Date: Early August (TBD)



# Transitioning Into MDJH

- **Tardies:** No tardies until 3rd week of school
- **Lockers:** Lockers are optional and you must have parent permission slip signed





5th Grade MDJH Course Selection Worksheet  
KISD 2023-2024

\*\*ALL course requests must be entered into Schoolinks by Jan. 31. 2023

Student Name: Last, First MI		KISD Student ID	Birth Date:
Address:			City / Zip
Parent/Guardian #1 Name: Last, First		Parent/Guardian #1 Email:	
Parent/Guardian #1 Home Phone:	Parent/Guardian #1 Cell Phone:	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 CIRCLING 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

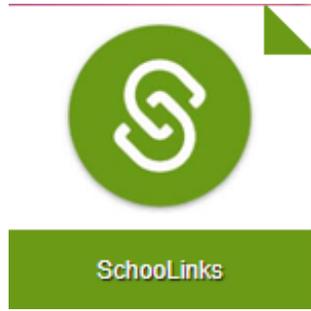
REQUIRED COURSES	
ENGLISH AND READING	
J600	English Language Arts and Reading Block 6
J606	English Language Arts and Reading Block 6 KAP
G609	English Language Arts and Reading Block 6 KAP/GT*
MATH	
J611	Math 6
J614	Math 6 KAP
G614	Math 6 KAP/GT*
SCIENCE	
J630	Science 6
J634	Science 6 KAP
G634	Science 6 KAP/GT*
SOCIAL STUDIES	
J620	Social Studies 6
J624	Social Studies 6 KAP
G624	Social Studies 6 KAP/GT*
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	
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.

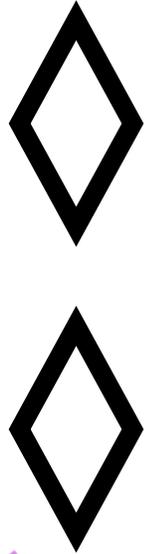
Parent and student signatures are required as confirmation that all course guidelines and course selections have been reviewed.

ELECTIVE COURSES	
FINE ARTS	
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 <i>Placement based on Director approval. Director will contact the student regarding instrument assignment.</i>
J931	Orchestra 1 <i>Placement based on Director approval. Director will contact the student regarding instrument assignment.</i>
J951	Choir 1 - Boys
J961	Choir 1 - Girls
OTHER ELECTIVE COURSE	
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.	J941 - Art (first choice)
2.	J931 - Orchestra (second choice)
3.	J961 - Choir (third choice)
4.	J941 - Theatre (fourth choice)
<i>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.</i>	

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



Course  
Selection  
Timeline



• January 20th : Course Selection in Schoollinks Opens

• January 31st: Course Selection Closes

• March 20th: Course Verification Opens  
Review requests in Schoollinks for accuracy

• March 28th: Course Verification Closes

Please continue to contact your Elementary Counselor with any questions up until May

# Reminders

- Course Selection Closes January 31<sup>st</sup>
- *All courses **need to be entered into Schoolinks** no later than Jan. 31st.*
- Course Catalog can be found on Katy ISD Website and Schoolinks
- Please carefully consider your elective choices. If you do not receive your first choice, your second or third choice will be put on your schedule.
- When entering your electives make sure you put the first choice in first, then the 2nd choice, then 3rd, and then 4th choice.



# Course Verification and Schedule Changes

**IMPORTANT**

Course verification is the time to make changes to the course requests.

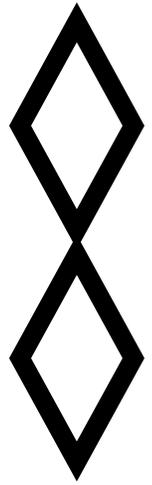
Following course selection verification selections, schedule changes for the 2023-2024 school year will be allowed only in the following cases:

1. Error in scheduling by the school (data entry error);
2. Student has not met course prerequisites;
3. Student has already earned credit for the course;
4. Change in program (athletics, fine arts, etc.);
5. Level changes as recommended by the teacher and counselor, with parent and principal approval;
6. Student did not meet standard on STAAR/EOC exam.



# Helpful Websites



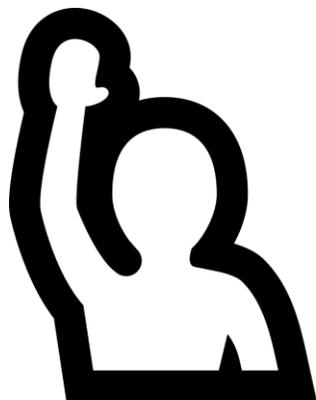
- 
- **Home Access Center:** Access to your student's grades, schedule and attendance.
  - **SpeakUp:** Anonymous reporting system
  - **Pay 'N Go:** Web-based service allows you to access your child's meal account and make payments online for school fees.

# Important Note

- **Schedules may change at least once throughout junior high because:**
  - Classes need to be leveled/balanced
  - Courses did not make
  - School growth requires the addition of new teachers

Please be flexible and open-minded about schedule changes





# Questions

Course Catalog

MDJH Counselors  
Website

