

Welcome to Swanson!



Rising 6th Grade Presentation

School Administration:

Bridget Loft
School Principal

Dr. Khethiwe Hudson - 6th grade Assistant Principal

Blandine Liquidi - 7th grade Assistant Principal

Meghan Smeenck - 8th grade Assistant principal

Rana Luthra - Director of Counseling

Trevor Holland - Activities Coordinator

Quick Facts

- School colors
 - Maroon and White
- School mascot
 - Admiral
- Current enrollment
 - ~960 students



6th Grade Courses

Current Schedule

- 7:50-2:35
- Swanson uses a “Block Schedule”
- A day, B Day, Anchor Day

Length of classes:

Block: 83 minutes

Anchor Day/Period 5: 44 minutes

A Day	B Day	Anchor Day
Period 1	Period 2	Period 1
Period 3	Period 4	Period 2
Period 5	Period 5	Period 3
STAR	STAR	Period 4
Lunch	Lunch	Period 5
Period 7	Period 6	AT
		Lunch
		Period 6
		Period 7

STAR

- Homeroom class
- Locker assignments
- SEL lessons (Social Emotional Learning)
- DEAR (Drop Everything and Read)
- IXL Boost (math practice)
- AT: Academic/reading time and academic support opportunities



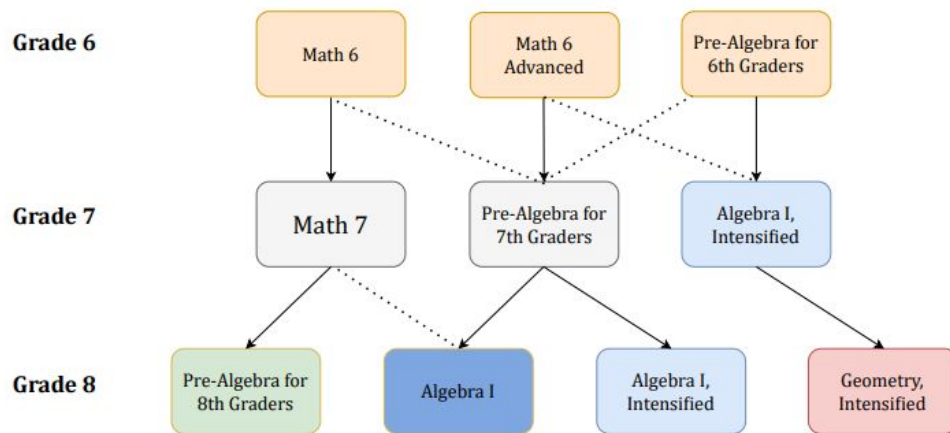
6th Grade Courses

All 6th grade students take:

- English (regular or intensified)
- Science (regular or intensified)
- History (regular or intensified)
- Disciplinary Literacy (regular or intensified)
- Math (recommendations made over the summer - will not choose math at this time)
- Health & PE
- Elective

Math recommendations available via ParentVue during the summer

Arlington Public Schools Middle School Mathematics Progression, SY 2026 - 2027



- Students needing additional support may be concurrently enrolled in Math 6, Math 7, or Pre-Algebra 8 along with an associated Math Strategies course, where available.

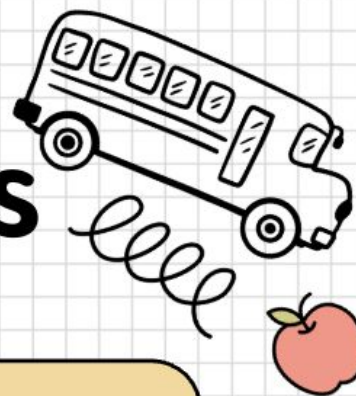
..... *Note:*

Dotted line progressions indicate that these instances are less common.

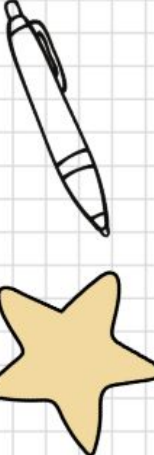
6th Grade Intensified Course Options

- Available for English, Disciplinary Literacy (reading), Science, and Social Studies
- Increased rigor
- Consider if you want to be challenged and dig deeper in the subject
- Optional! You can take 0, 1, 2, 3, or 4 intensified classes.
- Any student can register. You do NOT need a teacher recommendation.
- Choosing to take a regular or intensified option does not determine course placement for future school years.

General vs. Intensified




Comparing the Courses



Cover the same content standards

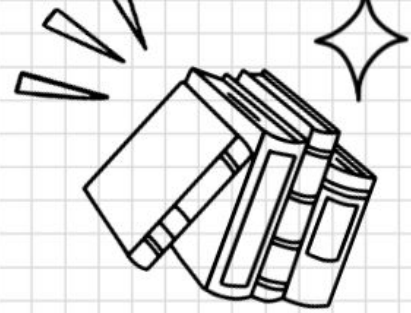
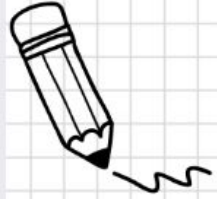
Take the same SOL assessments



Practice the same disciplinary skills

Provide the same opportunities looking toward high school

So, what is the difference?



Intensified delves deeper into the topics

Intensified use more critical thinking and analytical skills

General introduces topics and provides exploration into ideas.

General guides students to use critical thinking and analytical skills with structured support.

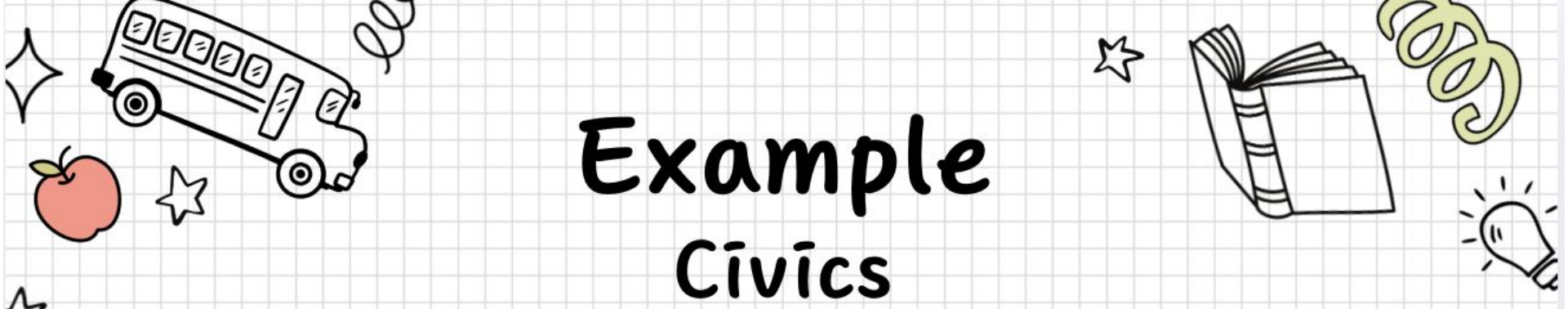
Intensified engages students to apply and investigate content to personal interests.

Intensified is for students who want to "nerd out" in a content area.

General provides students opportunities to investigate the content related to the real-world.

General is for students who enjoy a topic but it is not their passion.





Example Civics

Intensified

Do constitutional rights protect citizen while balancing individual freedoms with collective responsibilities? Explain

General

Explain how the Constitution addresses individual freedoms with collective responsibilities.

How to choose...

Talk with your student, do they want to delve deep into a content or do they want to learn the content?
What is their passion?

Follow rabbit trails
Nerd out
Passion

Intensified

Enjoys the learning
Does well

General

6th Grade Electives - CHOOSE 1

- Band
- Orchestra
- Chorus
- Admiral's Wheel
 - Rotation of elective classes (approx. 1 class each quarter)
 - Typically includes Art, Drama, Technology Education, Keyboarding, Family & Consumer Science, etc.
 - Courses change each year based on staffing



Course Request Process

Course Request Form is posted on Canvas! Swanson Rising 6th Grade Counseling Page

SCHOOL
COUNSELOR
I'LL BE THERE FOR YOU

Ms. Brown

6th Grade Counselor

chrissy.brown@apsva.us

Ms. Ortiz

EL Counselor (EL 1-4
Students)

melissa.laraortiz@apsva.us

Important Dates:

Course Request Link - Due
February 20th ➞

Please wait to complete the course
request form until AFTER a
Swanson counselor has visited your
elementary school!

Swanson Rising 6th Grade Course
Information Night

February 10th at 6:00 PM

In-person at Swanson

Course Request Google Form - Due Feb. 20th



Rising 6th Grade 26-27 Course Request Form (Swanson) Due February 20th

This form allows families to choose their classes for 6th grade.

Families will choose English, science, history, Disciplinary Literacy, and elective classes. All students will take Health & Physical Education.

You will not choose a math course at this time. Math placement recommendations will be made prior to the end of the school year. A letter noting the recommended course will be sent home to families before final assignment is made.

Intensified Course Options: Intensified classes are open to all students. **If your student is designated as gifted in the content area where an intensified course is offered, we recommend choosing the intensified option as gifted clustering will only happen in intensified courses.** We understand that course selection is a family decision.

English Language Development Program: Students enrolled in the English Language

Course Request Process

- The Google Form can be found in the Swanson 6th grade Canvas Counseling Page
- The Google Form will ask for a parent email address - you will receive an electronic copy of your submission at that email address
- Complete the form **ONLY ONCE!** If you need to make changes later, email chrissy.brown@apsva.us or rana.luthra@apsva.us
- Submit form by February 20th

Swanson Activities



Swanson Library

WELCOME!

TAB Book Club

Puzzles/Game
S

Reading Bike

Morning News

Lunch Passes

Research

Volunteer

Author Visits

After School Activities

- Clubs
- Sports
- Act II Classes
- Check-In (Extended Day)
- There is a late bus at 4:15 for students who receive bus transportation



Clubs

- Club offerings change each year depending on staffing and student interest
- Most clubs meet 1 day per week after school from 2:35-3:30
- Clubs are considered “drop-in” - students do not have to attend every meeting
- Students can start a new club by talking to Mr. Holland!

Recent Club Examples:

French Club	Game Club	Anime Club
Taylor Swift Club	Math Counts	Wavelength (Literary Magazine)
Sisterhood	Purple Frogs (welcoming new students)	Talking About Books (TAB)
Latina Youth Leading at Swanson (LYLAS)	Technology Student Association	Pep Band
Pokemon Club	Swanson Community Council	...and more!

Sports

- Soccer*
- Tennis*
- Ultimate Frisbee
- Cheerleading*
- Basketball*
- Wrestling
- Swimming
- Track & Field

* = tryout required

- Students must have an up-to-date (within a calendar year) Sports Physical on file before participating in a Swanson athletic team
- Sports Physical Form: <https://swanson.apsva.us/athletics/forms/>
- Teams have practice/games 4-5 days per week during the season

Act II Classes

- Weekly elective class
- 1 day per week - after school
- Attendance is taken and students receive a grade
- Offerings change each year based on staffing availability
- Recent classes have included Theater Arts and Band

Check-In (Extended Day)

- After-school care from 2:35-6:00 PM
- Register through APS Extended Day office for a fee
- Activities are self-directed
- Students can participate in sports, clubs, ACT II classes, and other activities during this time.

Transition Activities

- Counselors will visit elementary schools present to 5th grade students in late January/early February
- Rising 6th Grade Course Information Night - February 10th
- 5th graders will visit Swanson in April
- Summer Tours/Info Sessions - Dates TBD
- Rising 6th Grade Open House in August 27th*

**subject to change*

Contact Information

- Dr. Hudson - 6th Grade Assistant Principal
khethiwe.mdluli@apsva.us
- Chrissy Brown - 6th Grade Counselor
chrissy.brown@apsva.us
- Cindy Chiu - Reading coach cynthia.chiu@apsva.us
- Laura Partridge - Math coach laura.partridge@apsva.us



Questions?

