



2025–2026 OSS 6th Grade Elective Guide

Elective Descriptions

ACBL JumpStart Youth Bridge: Math & Strategy

Instructor: Mrs. Moroglu

This semester-long elective introduces students to the card game Bridge through a math and strategy lens, helping them develop foundational skills such as counting, probability, logical reasoning, and strategic decision-making. While learning the mechanics of the game—including bidding and scoring—students explore real-world applications of math in a fun, interactive setting. The course fosters critical thinking and collaboration as students engage with the game's rules and terminology. Through gameplay, they apply mathematical concepts like probability and point counting, while also enhancing their strategic thinking. Additionally, the course promotes teamwork and communication skills essential for success both in and out of the classroom.

Art In World Cultures

Instructor: Mr. Rego

Students explore art from around the world throughout history through project-based activities. Based on directed investigation, students reinterpret selected forms to promote understanding of themes, purposes, symbolism, and traditional formal characteristics. Students compare various cultural responses in art to universal themes, gaining respect for diverse perspectives and the rich heritage shared by cultures from around the world. Supporting geographic, cultural, and societal studies, and historical context help students refine their understandings of time and place in global cultures. Students consider the value of preserving these works in today's museums and other public buildings, private collections, and in digital format for sharing and study via the internet. This course incorporates hands-on activities and consumption of art materials.

Competition Math – Year Long Elective

Instructor: Ms. Kim

Open to students who score Level 5 on FAST Math and are concurrently enrolled in Pre-Algebra, this elective is designed for gifted math learners interested in advanced problem-solving and competitive mathematics. Through preparation for contests such as MathCounts and AMC 8, students develop higher-level algebraic concepts and sharpen analytical skills necessary for success in competitions at invitational, local, and state levels. This course is not intended as remediation but as enrichment for high-performing students.

Creative Writing

Instructor: Ms. Pitoniak

This course helps students develop a deep understanding of the art and craft of creative writing. Through reading a diverse range of published stories, essays, and poems, students learn to analyze and apply effective writing techniques to their own work. Emphasis is placed on developing a unique and authentic voice, while building strong critical and editorial skills. Students will engage in thoughtful peer review and self-reflection to refine their writing, preparing them to create polished, meaningful pieces across a variety of creative genres.

Eco-STEM & Sustainable Living Solutions

Instructor: Mrs. Jersey

Dive into the interconnected world of nature and explore the complexities of our planet's ecosystems. Discover how human actions impact these systems and be part of the solution by developing innovative strategies for conservation, sustainability, and environmental resilience. This course will focus on topics such as the Florida Everglades, marine habitats, and environmental sustainability education through holistic approaches like hydroponics. Gain the knowledge, mindset, problem-solving, creative and critical thinking skills, and values needed to support and contribute to a more sustainable future through hands-on activities. Main resources will be provided to students, who will need a pencil, composition notebook, and folder. Colored pencils and markers are helpful but not required. A donation of one or more rolls of paper towels and Lysol/Clorox wipes is appreciated.

English Essentials & Remedial Lab

Instructor: Mr. Nemcik

Students who received a level 1 or low level 2 on the ELA FAST will be automatically placed into English Essentials (if not already placed in Math Essentials) and therefore may only have one, or no, elective choices. This course is designed as a support course for those that need extra practice in English/Language Arts. Students may be placed in this course at the start or during the school year, with opportunities to exit upon demonstrating proficiency. The course standards include reading informational texts, reading literature, conventions and writing concepts.

Global Voices: Cultures, Connections, & Diplomacy

Instructor: Mr. Lawrence

Step into the shoes of a global citizen! In Global Voices, students will explore diverse cultures, examine world regions, and dive into real-world issues facing our planet today. Through hands-on activities, creative projects, and a mini Model UN simulation, students will research global challenges, represent different countries, and practice the art of diplomacy. This course builds critical thinking, collaboration, and communication skills while celebrating the richness of our world. If you're curious about culture, passionate about making a difference, or interested in international leadership, this course is for you.

Math Essentials & Remedial Lab

Instructor: Mr. Cardoso

This course is designed for students needing additional support in math, particularly those who scored Level 1 or low Level 2 on the Math FAST assessment or require Tier 2 or Tier 3 intervention. The curriculum focuses on foundational skills such as number sense, fluency, problem solving, working with expressions, and understanding functions and equations. Instruction includes hands-on activities, visual models, and personalized practice through AI-based intervention platforms to build mastery and confidence. Students may be placed in this course at the start or during the school year, with opportunities to exit upon demonstrating proficiency.

STEM Forward: Science and Technology of the Future

Instructor: Mrs. Zarate

A dynamic, hands-on STEM course introduces students to the core principles of innovation and discovery. Students will explore cutting-edge technologies and sustainable solutions that are shaping our future. Through a series of engaging, project-based challenges, students will design chain reaction machines, investigate the principles of space exploration, experiment with renewable energy sources, delve into sustainable agriculture practices, Artificial Intelligence, and explore 3D printing technology. Participants will develop problem-solving skills, enhance collaboration, and cultivate an innovator's mindset.

Study Hall

Instructor: Mrs. Bravo

Study halls are to be utilized by students for academic reasons and are an integral part of our educational process. Students have a quieter space to complete homework, class assignments and any other work that is related to their classes to remain prepared for the school year. Students that do not complete homework and classroom assignments might be placed in the Study Hall elective.

Team Sports

Instructor: Ms. Masuoka

The purpose of this course is to develop the physical skills necessary to be competent in many forms of movement, knowledgeable of team sports concepts, such as offensive and defensive strategies and tactics, and aware of appropriate social behaviors within a team or group setting. The integration of fitness concepts throughout the content is critical to the success of this course.

YES-O STEM Environmental Science

Instructor: Ms. Duenas

STEM Environmental Science (YES-O) includes an integration of standards from science, mathematics, and English language arts (ELA) through the application to STEM problem solving using environmental sciences knowledge and science and engineering practices. Environmental sciences through applications such as ecosystem management, human-environmental impact, ecology and agriculture, land and resource management, and civil and environmental engineering, are emphasized in this course. The elective includes YES-O which serves as a significant venue for students' actions and movements towards safeguarding, protecting and conserving the environment.

Frequently Asked Questions

What are electives?

Electives are special-interest classes that give students the chance to explore topics outside the core curriculum, such as art, technology, writing, or global studies.

How do we submit preferences?

After reviewing this guide, families should submit their child's top four elective choices using the Microsoft Form linked at the end of this guide.

What's the difference between semester and year-long electives?

Semester electives change halfway through the school year, while year-long electives remain the same all year.

Will we get our top choices?

We do our best to honor preferences, but placement depends on interest, availability, and support needs.

What if my child is placed in Math/English Essentials?

Students who need academic support may be automatically placed in a remedial elective. They may still have a chance to take one general elective.

Can I switch electives during the year?

Generally, no. Elective choices are final once schedules are released.

When will I know my schedule?

Student schedules will be shared shortly before meet the teacher.

Is there a fee? What materials are needed?

There are no elective fees. Any supplies needed will be shared via the syllabus and at Meet the Teacher and Curriculum Night.

What if my child is failing a class during the school year?

Students who are failing core academic subjects may be removed from their elective and placed into a study hall or academic support course. This allows additional time during the school day to focus on the required coursework and get back on track.