

MORTON RANCH JUNIOR HIGH

Course Selection
Incoming 6th Graders

2025- 2026



6th Grade Counselor 2025 - 2026

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Differences between Elementary & Junior High

What to expect in Junior High

- ☐ 7 Academic classes per day with different teachers
- ☐ All classes meet everyday which includes all electives as well as PE
- ☐ Students switch classes each period.
- ☐ Students will transition independently between classes as well as to the restroom. There is a 5 minute passing period.
- ☐ Expect more homework, responsibilities and self management
- ☐ Tardies- Students must get to class on time every period. There is a 5 minute passing period.
- ☐

DIFFERENCES CONTINUED...

- ☐ Backpacks are allowed to be carried throughout the day.
- ☐ Technology allowed during lunch and it is the responsibility of the student.
- ☐ Misuse of technology can lead to revocation of technology privileges at school.
- ☐ A locker with a combination lock is assigned after school starts if requested in writing by parent

Lunch

You may choose to sit anywhere,
with anyone in the cafeteria.
There is even a SNACK BAR!

Must have a ID with you at all times.
You must use you ID to purchase
breakfast or lunch.

More responsibility on student!

A TYPICAL 6TH GRADE DAY!

Period	Subject	Room#
1	ELA Block	153
2	ELA Block	153
3	Math	144
4	Social Studies	151
	LUNCH	Cafeteria
5	PE	Gym
6	Art	159
7	Science	136

SCHOOL DAY

- Each Class Period is approximately 45 minutes long and Lunch is 30 minutes long
- 5 minutes between classes
- The school day is 8:55-4:05
- Before & After school tutoring is available
- 6th grade Core Content classes and lockers are located upstairs

TRANSITION

- Most classes will be close together.
- Principals and teachers will be available in the hallways between classes to help.
- Counselors will be available to help you during the year.



COURSE SELECTION

- All students must complete a course selection sheet and return it to your counselor

Your parents must sign your sheet

All students must sign up for the following courses:

1. English Language Arts and Reading Block
2. Math
3. Social Studies
4. Science
5. PE or Athletics
6. One elective and THREE alternate electives



CHOOSING COURSES

- Class Formats

1. Academic- Challenging work- for everyone, on grade level, more time to review concepts
2. KAP- More challenging courses, fast-paced, and more homework
3. GT- Must be screened and identified

CHOOSING COURSES

- Class placement should be a decision made between you, your parents and your teachers.
- Think about your interests, your strengths, your outside commitments, and how hard you are willing to work.

CHOOSING COURSES

Things to consider when choosing a KAP class:

- Past grades in school and the kind of grades you like to make
- Motivation and attitude
- Standardized test scores
- Study habits
- Willingness to complete homework
- Extracurricular activities and time commitments
- How quickly you catch on to new material

Math KAP

- 6th Grade Math KAP is the first course in the Advanced Math Pathway. It sets students up to take Algebra I in 8th grade.
- The 6th, 7th, and 8th grade math TEKS are taught in an accelerated format, so students complete all three courses in 2 years – 6th and 7th Grade Math KAP.

6 th Grade School Year	7 th Grade School Year	8 th Grade School Year
6 th Grade Math KAP (all of 6 th grade + ½ of 7 th grade math curriculum)	7 th Grade Math KAP (½ of 7 th grade + all of 8 th grade math curriculum)	Algebra I

KAP Courses

Incoming 6th grade students who achieve Masters level on Reading, Math, or Science State assessment will be placed as follows: Parents have the option to opt out of these courses.

Masters on State Assessment	Placement
Reading State Assessment	6th grade KAP English Language Arts and Reading
Reading State Assessment	6th grade Social Studies KAP
Math State Assessment	6th grade Math KAP
Science State Assessment	6th grade Science KAP

Physical Education (P.E.)

- P.E. is a graded class
- Meets every day
- Must dress out
- Assigned a locker and a combination lock
- All students must purchase a PE uniform



Pre-Athletics PE

Pre-Athletics P.E. is another option that you can choose instead of doing regular P.E.

- ☐ Students that choose pre-athletics will be treated as though they are in athletics.
- ☐ You will participate in exercises that will prepare you for sports as 7th and 8th grade athletes.
- ☐ Pre-Athletics P.E. will focus on skills related to football, basketball, track, volleyball, soccer, and tennis!

ELECTIVES

- Elective- A specialty class in various areas of interest, you get one elective at MRJH
- You will attend daily and be graded!
- DO- consider carefully and choose the one that is of most interest to you.
- DON'T- Let your friends influence your choice!
You will keep your elective choice for the entire year!

ELECTIVES

BAND

Woodwind, Brass, Percussion-

Band directors will meet with the student to determine the best instrument.

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.

ORCHESTRA

Stringed instruments
Violin, Cello, Viola and Bass.

Director will meet with the student to determine the best instrument.

Must rent or buy an instrument.

Plan to practice 30 min. per day outside of the regular classroom.

There will be 2-3 concerts per year.

BAND

Beginning Band

- No experience necessary-we will teach you everything you need to know!
- Directors will assist you in choosing the right instrument for you.
- Beginners meet in classes based on instrument selection once a day.
- You must rent or buy a instrument
- Time commitment for band is similar to any other academic class. Practicing is homework.

BAND INSTRUMENTS OPTIONS

- Flute
- Oboe
- Bassoon
- Clarinet
- Saxophone
- Trumpet
- Horn
- Trombone
- Euphonium
- Tuba
- Percussion

NOT BAND INSTRUMENTS

*Piano

*Guitar

*Drum Set

ORCHESTRA

Beginning Orchestra

- No experience necessary-we will teach you everything you need to know!
- Directors will assist you in choosing the right instrument for you.
- Beginners meet in classes based on instrument selection once a day.
- Time commitment for orchestra is similar to any other academic class. Practicing is homework.

Instruments

Violin, Viola, Cello, Bass



NOT ORCHESTRA INSTRUMENTS

Piano, Guitar

Beginning Choir



Start singing on day 1!

Individual boys' choirs and girls' choirs

Very few after-school rehearsals

Opportunities to win medals and trophies for solos and small groups at competitions.

Fun Choir Events!!!
(Movie night, Altitude party, choir night out)

Learn self-confidence, discipline, coordination, teamwork, cultures, goal setting, communication, problem solving and MORE!



If you WEREN'T in choir in elementary...GREAT! We will teach you everything.

If you WERE in choir in elementary...GREAT!

**** Junior High Choir is TOTALLY DIFFERENT from Elementary school****

ELECTIVES

Theatre

Introduction and development of expression, acting skills, and theater production

Choir

Singing, Music Reading, and Concerts. There will be three or four performances per year.

ART

Painting, drawing, mixing colors to create contrast, drawing from imagination, art vocabulary and art history, ceramics

Leadworthy Intermediate

- One year of junior high Fine Arts is required for all students. Students who elect to take Leadworthy (intermed) during their 6th grade year, will be expected to satisfy the Fine Arts requirement during their 7th or 8th grade year.
- Develops the leadership skills
- Time-management and organization.
- Helps build student confidence and personal growth.

OTHER COURSES

- Math Lab - designed to help refine and review math skills in preparation for the STAAR test.
- Reading Elective - designed to help improve reading level and basic reading skills in preparation for the STAAR test.
- You will be *recommended* to take these classes if you do not pass the Math or Reading section of the 5th grade STAAR test on the first administration. This class will replace your elective.

REMEMBER!

- Course Selection via Schoolinks must be completed by February 28th.
- Choose courses wisely-think carefully about choices
- Talk to teachers about KAP placement
- Choose alternate electives
- Refer back to the 6th grade booklet for more information.