

**Intermediate School
Course Description Guide
2016-2017**



In its efforts to promote nondiscrimination, Crowley ISD does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, gender, or disability in providing education services, activities, and programs, including vocational programs, in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

ACADEMIC AND GENERAL INFORMATION

CISD GRADING SYSTEM FOR GRADES 5-6

The district intermediate schools use a weighted numerical grading system.

A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
F	Below 70

ENROLLMENT

A student enrolling in the district for the first time must be accompanied by his/her parent(s) or legal guardian and must provide satisfactory evidence of required immunization, proof of residency (*acceptable*: utility bill or lease agreement), copy of birth certificate and social security card, and a withdrawal form from the previous school. To complete admission, the following demographic information is necessary: home address, home phone, mother's name, place of business and work phone, father's name, place of business and work phone, and a friend or relative's name and number in case of emergency.

For students entering CISD for the first time in grades 5-6:

The following conversion chart shall be used to enter transfer grades if the previous school does not have a conversion chart. CISD will use the conversion chart of the student's previous school if one is provided.

A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D	F
98	95	92	88	85	82	78	75	72	70	60

Students transferring from unaccredited schools or homeschooling shall be individually assessed. Please see the campus counselor.

INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL SCHEDULE

In 5th grade, each student may have more than one teacher for the core subject areas: math, Reading, science, and Social Studies. Students also attend special classes which include physical education, music, or technology.

In 6th grade, each student is served by four teachers—one for each of the core areas of math, science, Social Studies, and Reading. Students also attend special classes—physical education, technology or music; however, students may elect to be in band instead of music. The decision to be in band is made at the end of the 5th grade year.

PRE-ADVANCED PLACEMENT

A student may enter the Pre-Advanced Placement course sequence at the beginning of the 6th grade year. A Pre-AP course offers rigorous, accelerated curriculum. Students in Pre-AP courses should be self-directed learners and will have additional coursework outside of the regular school day. The Pre-AP program is an open enrollment program designed for students who demonstrate high ability, motivation, and interest to study and learn at a higher level. Excellent class attendance and good organizational skills are preferable for students to experience success.

GIFTED AND TALENTED PROGRAM

The Gifted and Talented (GATE) Program within the Crowley Independent School District is an integral part of the district's fundamental commitment to meet the individual needs of all students. The school district is dedicated to the development of each student's talents and abilities. During 5th grade, Gifted and Talented students attend GATE for one full day each week and are responsible for completing the regular classroom work they miss while attending their GATE class. During 6th grade, GATE is addressed through Pre-AP classes.

AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination)

All CISD Intermediate campuses incorporate AVID strategies in daily instruction. AVID Elementary Essentials focus on the four necessary areas to ensure that all students are poised for academic success: Instruction, Culture, Leadership, and Systems. AVID incorporates:

- **Student Success Skills** – encompassing communication skills (e.g. listening, speaking, writing), self-advocacy skills, note-taking strategies, critical thinking, and study skills.
- **Organizational Skills** – both mental and physical; students learn to use organizational tools, as well as learn and practice skills around time management and goal-setting.
- **WICOR Lessons** – emphasize instruction on writing to learn, inquiry, collaboration, organization, and reading to learn in all content areas.
- **Partnerships** – among students, classrooms, grade levels, schools, feeder patterns, families, and communities.

INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS

Grade 5 Language Arts

The content of this course covers spelling, grammar, literature, reading skills, composition, and vocabulary development. The course emphasizes concepts and skills in speaking, reading and writing. Students will read from classic, contemporary, and informational texts.

Grade 6 Language Arts

The content of this course covers spelling, grammar, literature, reading skills, composition, and vocabulary development. Students demonstrate mastery of previously learned skills in more complex presentations, reading selections, and written compositions. Students will read from classic, contemporary, and informational texts.

Grade 6 Pre-Advanced Placement Language Arts

Pre-AP students are introduced to the rigor and building blocks for Pre-Advanced Placement strategies in reading and writing. These skills are developed through reading, critical thinking, composition, vocabulary, and grammar. Students will be responsible for reading and working outside of class time.

MATHEMATICS

Grade 5 Mathematics

5th Grade mathematics includes students developing an understanding of and fluency with addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division of fractions and decimals. Students apply their understanding of fractions and fraction models to represent the addition and subtraction of fractions with unlike denominators as equivalent calculations of fractions with like denominators. Students make reasonable estimates of fraction and decimal sums and differences and add and subtract fractions and add, subtract, multiply, and divide decimals to solve problems. Students apply their understanding of multiplication and division to build understanding of multiplication and division of fractions. Students will also develop an understanding and generate expressions and equations to solve problems involving the four operations. Students will represent and solve problems with perimeter, area, and volume by applying their understanding of measurement to select appropriate units for measuring perimeter, area, and volume in specific problem contexts. Students use a variety of representations to build connections between direct measurement of perimeter, area, and volume to the use of related formulas. Students will also organize, represent, and interpret sets of data by using appropriate graphic displays (e.g., table, bar graph, coordinate plane) to describe data based on the attributes of a particular data set.

Grade 6 Mathematics

6th Grade Mathematics includes students using operations with integers and positive rational numbers to solve problems and extend understanding of and develop procedures for addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division of integers and positive rational numbers. Students will understand and apply ratios and rates and use equivalent ratios to represent proportional relationships. Students will use their knowledge of multiplication and division and fractions to develop understanding of and solve ratio and rate problems.

Students extend their understanding of equivalent fractions to create equivalent ratios that describe situations that involve proportionality and use various representations (e.g., graphs, tables, equations) to solve problems involving proportional relationships. Students will also use expressions and equations to represent relationships in a variety of contexts. Students use mathematical symbols to represent linear relationships and formulas. They will understand data representation and use descriptions of center, spread and shape to summarize and compare data sets. Students will organize and display data to pose and solve problems.

Grade 6 Pre-Advanced Placement Mathematics

Pre-Advanced Placement courses are on-grade level academically advanced courses designed to challenge motivated students to understand rigorous content. Pre-AP courses are designed to prepare students for middle school and high school Pre-Advanced Placement and Advanced Placement (AP) courses. In addition to the primary focal points of using operations with integers and positive rational numbers to solve problems, understanding and applying ratios and rates and using equivalent ratios to represent proportional relationships, using expressions and equations to represent relationships in a variety of contexts, understanding data representation, and financial literacy, the curriculum will include a rigorous problem solving component. Students should expect additional out of class time requirements and be willing to work independently.

SCIENCE

Grade 5 Science

Fifth grade science focuses on the objectives prescribed by the State of Texas. It includes investigations used to learn about the natural world, hands-on experimentation, inquiry-based learning, and opportunities for vocabulary expansion.

Grade 6 Science

Sixth grade science focuses on the objectives prescribed by the State of Texas. Grade 6 science is interdisciplinary in nature; however, much of the content focus is on physical science. The class includes hands-on experimentation, inquiry-based learning, and opportunities for vocabulary expansion.

Grade 6 Pre-Advanced Placement Science

Pre-AP sixth grade science focuses on the objectives prescribed by the State of Texas. The curriculum is accelerated at a greater depth and students are challenged to become successful problem-solvers through analysis, synthesis, and evaluation of higher order questions. Students will be responsible for completing some assignments and projects outside of class time.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Grade 5 American History

In fifth grade, students learn about the history of the United States from its early beginnings to the present with a focus on colonial times through the 20th century. Historical content includes the colonial and revolutionary periods, the establishment of the United States and issues that led to the Civil War.

Grade 6 Contemporary World Cultures

In sixth grade, students study people and places of the contemporary world. Societies selected for study are chosen from the following regions of the world: Europe, Russia and the Eurasian republics, North America, Middle America, South America, Southwest Asia, North Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, East Asia, Southeast Asia, Australia, and the Pacific Realm.

Grade 6 Pre-Advanced Placement Contemporary World Cultures

In Pre-AP Contemporary World Cultures, students analyze global patterns and processes. Students will be made aware of culturally diverse ideas and values while discovering human commonalities. Students will be responsible for reading and completing some assignments outside of class time.

ELECTIVE COURSES

6th Grade Band

This class is a beginning level band class. There will be occasional after-school rehearsals in preparation for semester concerts. Instruments chosen during this first year will be the instrument the students will continue on during middle school and through high school. The exceptions would be oboe and bassoon, as they will be expected to learn a second instrument for marching band in high school. The financial obligations of student instruments are the responsibility of the student's parents/guardians. This elective is a full-year course.

6th Grade Choir

This is a beginning level choir class. Students will perform in one or more concerts a year. The class focuses on music reading skills and vocal production. The choir also does community activities and public performances. The class will meet up to twice a week depending on campus schedule, with the potential to have before or after school rehearsals at the discretion of the choir director.