

# ANCHOR BAY MIDDLE SCHOOL NORTH COURSE GUIDE

2025-2026

5<sup>th</sup> & 6th grade



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# **VISION STATEMENT**

Educational Excellence Together

# **MISSION STATEMENT**

Empowering all students to succeed in an ever-changing world.

Anchor Bay School District does not discriminate on the basis of religion, race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age or genetic information in its programs, activities, or employment.

# **BOARD OF EDUCATION**

President: Patrick Green  
Vice President: Jill Knox  
Secretary: Dennis Richards  
Treasurer: Dominic Vendittelli  
Trustee: Lisa Birkmeier  
Trustee: Brian Powers  
Trustee: Jamie Sonneberger

# **CENTRAL OFFICE ADMINISTRATION**

Superintendent: Phil Jankowski  
Asst. Superintendent: Todd Rathbun  
Director of Secondary Curriculum: Joe McDonald  
Director of Special Education: Frank Cusimano  
Director of Student Services: Sherry Kenward  
Director of Human Resources: Lora Gonzales  
Director of Business Services: Robyn Randazzo

## MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAM OF STUDIES

This program of studies has been prepared to help middle school students and parents plan the student's program according to his or her particular educational needs and interests. Continuing the strong emphasis on improving basic skills began in the elementary schools, the middle school program of studies is organized developmentally from grade 5 to grade 6. The intent of the program is to provide a gradual transition into the high school program of studies and the high school enrollment process. A hallmark of the middle school experience is program flexibility. In order to accommodate the unique needs of students, differentiation of instruction is emphasized.

## NWEA & M-STEP TESTING

Three times a year, all students will take tests called Measures of Academic Progress™ (MAP). We give students MAP tests to determine each student's instructional level and to measure academic growth throughout the school year and from year to year in the areas of Math, Language Arts, and Science.

Each student will take the tests on a computer. MAP tests are unique in that they adapt to be appropriate for your child's level of learning. As a result, each student has the same opportunity to succeed and maintain a positive attitude toward testing. And with MAP tests, we can administer shorter tests and use less class time while still receiving detailed, accurate information about your child's growth. These results, along with other student achievement data, are used by staff members to make instructional, programming, and scheduling decisions.

Each school year, students in grades 5 & 6, take the tests in September, January, and May. Following each testing period, you will receive a report showing your child's growth.

For more information on resources for parents, download the Parent Toolkit at [www.nwea.org](http://www.nwea.org)

Students will complete their state M-STEP testing in the spring.

**This booklet contains brief course descriptions for the Anchor Bay Middle Schools core and elective programs. Carefully review all electives BEFORE making choices. However, due to limitations in class size, not all students will receive every requested course. Every effort will be made to honor choices.**

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## **5th GRADE CORE COURSES**

### Anchor Bay School District 5th Grade Core Course Descriptions

#### **5th GRADE ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS (ELA)**

##### ***Full Year***

The Fifth grade English Language Arts courses provide students with a rigorous and comprehensive look at the ELA standards, focusing on reading foundational skills, reading comprehension strategies through informative and literature texts, writing, grammar, and speaking and listening skills. Students will be exposed to the five essential components of reading (phonemic awareness, phonics, comprehension, vocabulary, and fluency) through engaging text and interactive learning. Fifth grade will focus on reading to learn with the incorporation of more complex text and extensive exploration and use of vocabulary in reading and writing. Students will be taught grammar skills which will be implemented into the rigorous writing lessons and complement various topics. Students will participate in informative, narrative, and opinion writing compositions throughout the course. Throughout the English Language Arts courses, students will explore a myriad of topics through integration across content areas. Each grade level of the ELA suite will surround student learning with an adventure filled theme, showing students that learning really is the great adventure.

#### **5<sup>th</sup> GRADE MATH**

##### ***Full Year***

The Anchor Bay Elementary math courses inspire students to become critical thinkers and problem solvers. The learners use math as a tool to make sense of and understand the world around them. The courses include media that uses sight and sound to engage students. For example, rhymes, chants, songs, and videos help teach and practice foundational math skills. The focuses of the fifth-grade math courses are multiplication and division within 100, fractions, decimals, shapes, area, and volume. Students explore content prior to being explicitly taught and hands-on activities help strengthen the learners' algebraic and critical thinking skills. Digital and concrete manipulatives help support mathematical proficiency in all grades. The learners are provided with many practice opportunities that involve both on-screen and off-screen activities.

#### **5th GRADE SCIENCE**

##### ***Full Year***

The Anchor Bay Elementary Science fifth grade course will spark curiosity in students and build a solid foundation in concepts across many types of sciences including Earth Science, Life Science, and Physical Science. Students will engage in science and engineering practices by asking questions, defining problems, developing and using models, planning and conducting investigations, analyzing and interpreting data, using mathematics and informational technology, constructing explanations, designing solutions, engaging in scientific arguments using evidence, and communicating results. A framework of active student learning supports and allows students to engage, explore, explain, elaborate, and evaluate throughout all courses. This dynamic format will help students build their own understanding from experiences and new ideas to facilitate a better understanding of the world around them.

## **5<sup>th</sup> GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES**

### ***Full Year***

The Social Studies suite utilizes a personal approach to introduce students to community and citizenship. By providing scaffolded instruction, students develop a firm understanding of important concepts and skills related to history, geography, and economics. The integration of recurring characters and challenges to overcome keeps students engaged and progressing. Finally, students will analyze grade-appropriate passages to reinforce reading comprehension and writing skills. In Fifth grade, students focus on American history through 1850 from Native Americans through exploration, colonization, and early American history.

## **5<sup>th</sup> GRADE ELECTIVE COURSES**

### **Anchor Bay School District 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Elective Course Descriptions**

## **5<sup>th</sup> GRADE ART**

### ***1 Trimester***

The Visual Art suite will provide students the foundational skills to be successful in a studio environment. Using the Elements of Art and Principles of Design as the framework, students will feel confident in creating their own style of art. Students will explore and use a variety of materials safely during the creative process. The courses explicitly teach art techniques through modeling and connecting them to master artists. During the creative process, students will apply art vocabulary, procedures, as well as time-management and collaborative skills. They will develop their observational skills, prior knowledge, and art critique skills to reflect on and interpret works of art. Throughout each multifaceted lesson the students will make connections to art and various cultures around the world. The course offers rich text to support art history instruction, including information on artists and art movements over time. The Visual Art suite integrates standards from all the core subject areas including Math, Social Studies, Science, Health and Language Arts. Connections are made to Music, Dance, and Physical Education as well. The Visual Art suite will develop students fine motor skills, critical thinking skills, creativity, and their appreciation for global communities.

## **5<sup>th</sup> GRADE PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

### ***1 Trimester***

The Elementary PE course integrates healthy lifestyle habits and activities to help students be their best. The learning scaffolds on the previous lessons to provide developmentally appropriate activities and builds on skills learned in each grade level. Skill progressions help students learn how to throw, catch, kick, strike, dance, swim, and do some basic gymnastics. Students learn how to eat a healthy diet, develop teamwork and sportsmanship, and strive for 60 minutes of daily activity. They learn to set goals and work to meet those physical goals to keep improving their skills.

## **5th GRADE STEM TECHNOLOGY**

### ***1 Trimester***

The Anchor Bay Elementary Technology courses will enable students to develop basic skills in computer science through engaging and age-appropriate content. The courses will expose students, within developmentally appropriate stages, to concepts such as problem solving and algorithms, security/privacy/copyright, computer programming basics and keyboarding skills. In addition to the computer skills, the Technology suite integrates standards from Social Studies, Health and Language Arts with topics in each grade about safety and health (online and offline), bullying/cyberbullying and being a responsible citizen/digital citizen. Fifth grade will complete research projects focused on adaptive technology, social media and/or robotics. The research projects require students to evaluate reliable and relevant websites, organize research, receive, and implement feedback and produce a final product. Collaboration and communication are also focused on as integrated language arts standards and the math practice standards can be found throughout the courses

## **5th GRADE SCIENCE SPECIAL**

### ***1 Trimester***

Students will have opportunities to explore the world and learn how things work, while developing critical thinking and communication skills that will help them throughout their life. Students will have hands-on learning experiences every week where they develop a deep understanding of and appreciation for how scientists come up with evidence and develop conclusions, and how engineers go through trial and error to determine what works best. We use the 5<sup>th</sup> grade Michigan Science Standards, based on the Next Generation Science Standards, as the guide. Students will have opportunities to use many science and tinkering tools to test ideas and solve problems. Instruction will also incorporate the important skills of teamwork and problem solving

## **5<sup>th</sup> GRADE COMPUTER EDUCATION**

### ***1 Trimester***

This course familiarizes students with the keyboard and develops an understanding of the location and use of the keys, to use proper finger placement, correct posture, wrists off of the keyboard, foot placement and eyes on the printed copy. Students learn about and practice page setup, spacing, spell check and line spacing. Students type paragraphs and format them correctly, practice their editing skills by using spell check and proofread their paragraphs to ensure accuracy. The “21 Things 4 students” program will be utilized in this course.

## **5<sup>th</sup> GRADE SWIMMING**

### ***6 Weeks***

Students will receive instruction in the basic strokes of swimming and aquatic skills necessary in and around the water. The goal is to increase each student’s ability to swim with confidence. Basic water safety skills will be introduced. 5<sup>th</sup> graders will be placed into a specific class consisting of only 5<sup>th</sup> graders. Lack of participation in daily water activities will result in a lower grade.

## **5th GRADE MUSIC**

### ***1 Trimester***

Music Class in fifth grade will continue with their elementary general music curriculum. The students will learn/review how to read and write notation. They will learn/review how to read and write rhythms. They will sing songs from different cultures around the world and learn about different musical genres. The students will also learn about and listen to music of different composers. The students will be able to perform all of this music through playing xylophones, hand percussion, tone chimes, Boom Whackers, rhythm sticks, and bucket drums.

## **5th GRADE BAND:**

### ***Full Year***

In 5th Grade beginning band, students will learn the basics of playing and performing classical and popular music on instruments. A Students wishing to begin playing an instrument in middle school will need to attend the Anchor Bay Instrument Fitting Meeting, where they will choose an instrument to play in the 5th grade band. Students wishing to begin playing an instrument in 5<sup>th</sup> grade are encouraged to contact the teacher for guidance in selecting and acquiring an instrument prior to the school year. Attending the Summer Band program at Anchor Bay Middle School North is recommended for all incoming 5<sup>th</sup> grade band students, especially beginners.



## **6th GRADE CORE COURSES**

### Anchor Bay School District 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Core Course Descriptions

#### **LANGUAGE ARTS 6:**

##### ***Full Year***

In this course, students will experience a variety of genres, including folk tale, fantasy, realistic fiction and narrative nonfiction. Writing mechanics and grammar are integrated throughout the course and applied in a personal narrative and expository essay.

#### **MATH 6**

##### ***Full Year***

Sixth grade math emphasizes the number system, ratios and proportions, an introduction to algebra, and geometry. Students will apply and extend previous understandings of numbers to the system of rational number, computing with decimals and fractions. Students will develop ratio concepts and use ratio reasoning to solve problems. Within the algebra strands, student will use variables, write simple expressions and solve on-variable equations and inequalities. In Geometry, students will solve real world and mathematical problems involving area, surface area and volume.

#### **SCIENCE 6**

##### ***Full Year***

The 6<sup>th</sup> grade science curriculum is based on the Michigan grade level content expectations (GLCEs) for sixth grade science. Students focus on refining their inquiry skills and proper use of laboratory equipment and lab safety. Students investigate the properties of matter and energy, ecology, Earth's materials and processes, the changing surface of the Earth, and waves.

#### **SOCIAL STUDIES 6**

##### ***Full Year***

The 6th grade course will provide understanding about the Western World so that students can analyze relationships between Canada, Middle America (Mexico and Central America), the Caribbean Basin, South America, and Europe. Units expand the students' knowledge of the Western World geographically by examining regions, place, location, movement, and human/environment interactions. Students will examine important historical civilizations and past culture and experience key understandings of how historical events leave a legacy influencing present and future situations. Students will discover the role of the United States in a global society and understand the significant stages in the development of money and international commerce. Students will apply American democratic values and examine them in relation to work issues and western political systems.

## **6th GRADE ELECTIVE COURSES**

### **Anchor Bay School District 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Elective Course Descriptions**

#### **LIFE SKILLS 6**

##### ***1 Trimester***

Students will gain necessary skills for successful self-care in the kitchen. Units to be explored will include kitchen safety, kitchen equipment, kitchen equivalents and measuring, table setting and manners, kitchen terminology and nutrition. Approximately four cooking labs will be included in the course.

#### **PHYSICAL EDUCATION 6**

##### ***1 Trimester***

This class is designed to increase the student's fitness level and make them active in life-long activities. The class will encourage the student to learn rules and skills necessary to participate in those activities: Archery, Bowling, Golf, Tennis, Fitness Training, Cardio Training, Volleyball, Badminton and Softball.

#### **ART 6**

##### ***1 Trimester***

Students in this course will create art from observation, personal experience and imagination. Art in the sixth grade continues the study of the basic elements and principles of design. Areas of study include work in drawing, painting, printmaking and sculpture. Improved craftsmanship and presentation are stressed along with art history, criticism, and aesthetics.

#### **WRITING 6**

##### ***1 Trimester***

Writing 6 is designed to strengthen students' foundational skills in writing, grammar, and language, aligned with 6th grade Common Core standards. The course emphasizes sentence structure, proper grammar and usage, punctuation, and vocabulary development. Students will engage in structured practice, guided activities, and applied writing tasks. By the end of the course, students will be able to apply grammar rules and writing strategies effectively to produce clear, well-organized writing across multiple genres.

#### **SWIMMING 6**

##### ***6 Weeks***

Students will receive instruction in the basic strokes of swimming and aquatic skills necessary in and around the water. The goal is to increase each student's ability to swim with confidence. Basic water safety skills will be introduced. 6<sup>th</sup> graders will be placed into a specific class consisting of only 6<sup>th</sup> graders. Lack of participation in daily water activities will result in a lower grade.

## **MAKER SPACE 6 (STEM)**

### ***1 Trimester***

Love to invent, tinker, and create? In 6th Grade Makerspace, students will use a variety of tools and technologies to bring their ideas to life. Projects blend science, technology, engineering, art, and math (STEAM) concepts, including 3D printing, coding, cardboard construction, and creative crafting. Through hands-on prototyping and reflection, students will strengthen their collaboration, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills. Each project offers a chance to explore, innovate, and have fun while building confidence as a maker.

## **CAREER EXPLORATION 6**

### ***1 Trimester***

The Career Exploration class is designed for students to explore current and future job markets while considering how careers may be clustered based on skills and interests. Students will be introduced to high school career pathways and begin to uncover those interests and skills that students will be able to make class selection at the high school. Students will participate in field trips, guest speakers, and hands-on work-based learning. At the end of the course, students will develop their 4-year Educational Development Plan.

## **CADET BAND 6:**

### ***Full Year***

The 6<sup>th</sup> grade band is a continuation of the 5<sup>th</sup> grade beginning band program. In 6th grade band, students will learn the basics of playing and performing classical and popular music on instruments. As a co-curricular course, the 6th grade band performs 3-4 evening concerts per year, which are after school and required of all band members. Students wishing to begin playing an instrument in middle school will need to attend the Anchor Bay Instrument Fitting Meeting, where they will choose an instrument to play in the 6th grade band.

Students wishing to begin playing an instrument in 6<sup>th</sup> grade are encouraged to contact the teacher for guidance in selecting and acquiring an instrument prior to the school year. Attending the Summer Band program at Anchor Bay Middle School North is recommended for all incoming 6<sup>th</sup> grade band students, especially beginners.

## **6<sup>th</sup> GRADE CHOIR:**

### ***1 Trimester***

This class is designed to develop vocal skills needed for group choral singing and performance. Students study proper vocal tone production, rhythmic accuracy and melodic and rhythmic precision.

The Kodaly ear training method will be stressed as a way to improve overall performance. A variety of choral literature is studied and performed. As a co-curricular course, students participate in a variety of concerts, most of which are after school and are required of all choir members. (Course availability subject to change on enrollment.)