Dr. Kimberly Jackson, Principal

Mrs. Julie Gall, Assistant Principal / Data Processor
Mr. Paul Zulkosky, Assistant Principal / Athletic Director
Mrs. Kim Langford, Dean of Students

Mrs. Michele Rivera
Instructional Facilitator / Summer School Principal

2020-2021 Counseling Department
Mrs. Kari Mettenbrink, School Counselor
Mrs. Liz Preston, School Counselor
Mr. Kael Busing, School Counselor

J Sterling Morton Magnet Middle School
4606 Terrace Drive
Omaha, NE 68134
531-299-2480

www.ops.org/middle/morton

The mission of Morton Magnet Middle School is to provide educational opportunities which enable all students to achieve their highest potential.

Omaha Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex (including pregnancy), marital status, sexual orientation, disability, age, genetic information, gender identity, gender expression, citizenship status, veteran status, political affiliation or economic status in its programs, activities and employment and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following individual has been designated to accept allegations regarding non-discrimination policies: Superintendent of Schools, 3215 Cuming Street, Omaha, NE 68131 (531-299-9822). The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Director of Equity and Diversity, 3215 Cuming St, Omaha, NE 68131 (531-299-0307).
6\textsuperscript{th} Grade Required Courses

- **6\textsuperscript{th} Grade English Language Arts** supports student mastery of sixth grade language arts standards and focuses on development and application of skills in grade level reading, writing, speaking, listening, and multiple literacies. Students will read a variety of literary and informational texts and write in a variety of modes using numerous tools and organizational frameworks. Students will also learn appropriate and safe use of digital tools related to research.

- **6\textsuperscript{th} Grade Social Studies** examines the ancient world by studying Western Europe, Egypt, Sub-Saharan Africa, and Latin America. Special attention is given to geography, history, economics, culture and the government in these regions.

- **6\textsuperscript{th} Grade Science** engages students in the three dimensions (science practices, disciplinary core ideas, and crosscutting concepts) of learning as identified by the Nebraska College and Career Ready Standards for Science. The topics include Earth’s systems, weather and climate, energy, structure and function and information processing, growth, development, and reproduction of organisms.

- **6\textsuperscript{th} Grade Physical Education** is designed to include a wide variety of sporting activities and teach the qualities of sportsmanship, competition and fitness. It includes learning the rules and regulations for the major sports of volleyball, basketball, and soccer. Students also participate in a variety of leisure and lifetime activities including badminton, aerobics, aquatics and more. Students must wear appropriate attire for physical education courses (tennis shoes, T-shirts, sweats or shorts, etc.).

- **6\textsuperscript{th} Grade Math OR 6\textsuperscript{th} Grade Advanced Math**
  
  - **Sixth grade math** covers the 6th grade mathematics content standards. Students will work with integers, fractions, decimals and percents, study metric and standard systems of measurement, apply properties of geometry, use data analysis, and solve problems involving multiple-step equations.
  
  - **Sixth grade advanced math** will extend the learning opportunities for students who are prepared for the rigorous and challenging curriculum extension through the development of the number system carried on in the earlier elementary grades. Content includes work on the fundamental operations and using these operations with the various subsets of the real number system such as whole numbers, fractions, and decimals. This course also addresses unit conversions within a system of measurement, geometry, data analysis, two-set equations and problem solving.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>6\textsuperscript{th} Grade Math Placement Guidelines</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The on-grade level placement for 6\textsuperscript{th} grade students is Mathematics 6</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Advanced Math 6</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>One-Block 045041, 045042</td>
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<td>Double-block 041621, 041622</td>
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<tr>
<th>5\textsuperscript{th} Grade Winter MAP Math Percentile</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>( \geq 84 )</td>
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<td>( \geq 74 \text{ AND } &lt; 84 )</td>
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<tr>
<th>5\textsuperscript{th} Grade Math Report Card Grades</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<th>GATE Identification</th>
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<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<th>Teacher Recommendation</th>
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<td>Yes</td>
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6th Grade Elective Courses

STUDENTS CHOOSE TO FILL FOUR QUARTERS

- **6th Grade Art** examines artists' world views. Enduring understandings and ideas include: Art reveals aesthetic theories; Artists create art from multiple perspectives of time, place and culture; Artistic forms follow function throughout time; and Art reflects the values and beliefs of a civilization/society. Students will play the role of artist, philosopher, historian, and archaeologist to explore world art throughout time.

- **6th Grade Intro to Careers & Tech** will prepare students for life-long success by exploring the career development process and technology applications. This process includes, but is not limited to: awareness, exploration, preparation, technology applications and application in a life-long plan for career management.

- **6th Grade Computer Apps** is designed to emphasize digital citizenship, basic computer operations, and word processing applications. Students’ keyboarding skills will be reinforced, and they will focus on Microsoft Word. The students will learn proofreading marks and they will practice creating, editing, and formatting word processing documents. Students will also learn about safe Internet practices and explore ways they can keep themselves safe online.

- **6th Grade Intro to Tech & Living** is a unique exploratory course for students. Students are provided an opportunity to investigate several activities based on learning units in a state-of-the-art laboratory and it prepares students to live an independent life by teaching valuable life skills one needs to use on a daily basis. Students complete assignments over the following units: kitchen safety, food safety procedures, MyPlate nutrition, preparing food, and a beginner’s guide to sewing.

- **Panther Success (Spanish / French Exploration)** provides a brief experience in the language e.g. greetings, classroom expressions, feelings, names, number, days, months, alphabet, colors, weather and country research. Students will learn to appreciate and value the learning of another language and culture.

- **Reading Skills** - *Students are identified by the school for this class based on data and teacher recommendation.* The purpose of the middle school reading program is to offer differentiated reading instruction at a student’s ability level to optimize growth in comprehension, vocabulary, and fluency using fiction and nonfiction texts. The class consists of whole group instruction and three rotations--small group learning, online student application, and independent reading. Students’ reading progress is measured thorough-out the year using Lexile tests, phonics tests, and formative assessments at all rotations.
6th Grade Required Music Courses

- **6th Grade Strings** is offered to sixth grade students who are continuing instruction on violin, viola, cello or string bass. Basic music concepts will be advanced as the student learns to read music and develop skill in playing their instrument of choice. A method book is used as the lesson guide. Performances will be required. Prerequisite: two years previous instruction and/or successful completion of 4th grade/5th grade strings class.

- **6th Grade Band** is offered to sixth grade students who are continuing instruction on a brass, woodwind, or percussion instrument. Basic music concepts will be advanced as the student learns to read music and develop skill in playing their instrument of choice. A method book is used as the lesson guide. Performances will be required. Prerequisite: one year previous instruction and/or successfully completed 5th grade band class.

- **6th Grade General / Vocal Music** will allow students to explore music as part of everyday life, including studying various styles, understanding musical elements and experimenting with aspects of performance.

- **6th Grade Chorus** will allow students to continue to develop their skill for reading and singing two and three-part octavo music. This emphasis is on vocal ensemble performance. There will be required performances.

**Course Placement Appeals**

All Secondary Omaha Public Schools offer procedures for appealing course placement (i.e. AP, Honors, IB, etc.). Each building may have specific forms and deadlines, however, the following general procedures shall apply:

Level One: Counselor, Curriculum Specialist, Assistant Principal/Data, or Principal
A student or parent with a course placement appeal may first discuss the matter with the counselor, or building administrator involved, with the object of resolving the matter informally.

Level Two: Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment
If the course placement appeal is not resolved at Level One and the individual still wishes to pursue the appeal, he/she may formalize the appeal in writing addressed to the Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment at 3215 Cuming Street, Omaha, NE 68131.

Level Three: Superintendent
If the appeal is not resolved at Level Two and the individual still wishes to pursue the appeal, he/she may formalize the appeal to the superintendent of schools after receiving a written response from the Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment.

These steps shall be taken in a timely manner so as to accommodate the registration of courses for the school year in question.