

Grade 6 Course Descriptions

English

The sixth grade English student is an active participant in classroom discussions. S/he presents personal opinions, understands differing viewpoints, delivers a formal speech, participates in dramatic presentations, distinguishes between fact and opinion, and analyzes the effectiveness of group communication. The student builds on the study of word origins and continues vocabulary development from grade five. S/he reads independently for at least thirty minutes a night a variety of fiction and nonfiction for appreciation and comprehension, and will record reading progress. The student also plans, drafts, revises, and edits narratives, descriptions, and explanations, with attention to composition and style as well as sentence and paragraph formation, grammar usage, and mechanics. S/he also demonstrates correct use of language, spelling, and mechanics by applying grammatical conventions in writing and speaking. A sixth grade student becomes familiar with and begins to utilize the 6 + 1 writing framework. Particular emphasis in writing is on composing effective and correct paragraphs. Students should be able to confidently write narrative, expository (informational), and descriptive texts of between 400 to 700 words or more by the end of sixth grade. Sixth grade students begin to establish a formal writing portfolio that contains samples of polished writing and which reflects attention to drafting strategies, composition style, and matters of correctness.

Extended Studies – English

Extended Studies – English is a course designed to serve students who require additional support in academic literacy. Candidates for the course are identified through teacher referral, MAP and/or WIDA results, writing assessments, and/or report card grades. The semester long course takes the place of an elective and students enroll in Extended Studies in addition to the regular English course. Extended Studies aims to provide students with opportunities to learn and practice skills and strategies necessary for successful reading and writing experiences across the content areas. Extended Studies is

also designed to supplement the English Language Arts Standards of Reading, Writing, and Oral Language.

Math

Sixth Grade Mathematics places continued emphasis on the study of whole numbers, decimals, and rational numbers (fractions). By the end of sixth grade, a student masters the four arithmetic operations with whole numbers, positive fractions, and positive decimal integers; a grade six student accurately computes and solves problems. Students understand the concepts of mean, median, and the mode of data sets and how to calculate the range. Students will also use ratios to compare data sets; make conversions within a given measurement system; classify two-dimensional figures; collect, analyze, display, and interpret data using a variety of graphical and statistical methods. Sixth grade students begin using integers and percentages and investigate numerical and geometric patterns.

Extended Studies – Mathematics

Extended Studies – Mathematics is a course designed to serve students who require additional support in mathematics. Candidates for the course are identified through teacher referral, MAP scores, and/or report card grades. The semester long course takes the place of an elective and students enroll in Extended Studies in addition to the regular Mathematics course. The goal of Extended Studies is to provide students with opportunities to learn and practice skills and strategies necessary to succeed in their regular math classes and apply mathematical skills in areas across the curriculum, particularly science. Extended Studies is also designed to supplement the Mathematics Standards of Number Sense, Solving Expressions & Equations, Geometry, Statistics and Probability.

Earth Science

Students will be able to connect the study of Earth's composition, structure, processes, and history; its atmosphere, fresh water, and oceans; and its environment in space. Students emphasize historical contributions in the development of scientific thought about the earth and space. Students are able to interpret maps, charts, tables, and profiles; they use technology to collect, analyze and report data; and they utilize science skills in systematic investigation. Problem solving and decision-making are an integral part of

earth science, especially as they relate to the costs and benefits of utilizing the Earth's resources. Students study fundamental concepts of ecology, geology, hydrology, meteorology, and astronomy. Major topics of study include plate tectonics, the rock cycle, Earth history, the oceans, the atmosphere, weather and climate, and the solar system and universe. Students are also introduced to the career opportunities that exist in the earth, environmental, and space related sciences. Field and laboratory experiences are an integral part of science investigation.

Social Studies

Grade 6 Social Studies will revolve around an exploration of world cultures. In grade 6, students will be exploring the Western Hemisphere (Canada, USA, Mexico, Caribbean, Central America, and South America) as well as Europe. This larger region will be then further broken down into smaller sections and students will look in depth at the physical geography, cultures, climate, and the economic and political situations of these locations. Some of the units studied will involve ancient and modern history to prepare students for history in the future. Students will work on travel projects where they have to plan an itinerary and all of the details of their trips and then they will create presentations so they can share their virtual adventures with their classmates.

Arabic

Grade 6 Arabic represents a progression from Elementary Arabic to Middle School Arabic. Students read and write compositions in Modern Standard Arabic, with a focus on the preliminary study of syntax. Ministry exams are administered in Arabic, religion and social studies and are externally corrected.

AFL

Beginning: The main emphasis is on Modern Standard Arabic. A student who successfully completes the first year of MSA can expect to possess a working competence in reading and in writing Modern Standard Arabic.

Advanced: This course includes advanced reading and writing as well as lessons in special topics. At the end of the advanced course, students should be able to communicate with ease and clarity with native speakers.

Physical Education and Health

Students in this class demonstrate competence in skillful movement in dynamic game situations and in a variety of recreational activities. They transition from modified versions of movement to more complex applications across all types of physical activities. Students demonstrate the ability to assume responsibility for guiding their own learning as they apply their knowledge and abilities to create a practice plan to improve performance in a selected game, sport, or recreational pursuit. They will also demonstrate mature responsibility as they show respect for others and their safety, make reasoned and appropriate choices, resist negative peer pressure and exhibit fair play. Students are able to set goals, track progress and participate in physical activities to improve fitness. They will develop a repertoire of physical abilities and begin to develop competence in specialized versions of lifetime activities.

Students will explore several Health topics relevant to their age and social maturity. As the student reaches Middle School age, personal care and hygiene needs to be discussed. Students will gain an appreciation for the care of their bodies as it affects their physical, social and emotional health. Each student will also develop their knowledge in the principles of Nutrition and the role of each nutrient on their personal health. They will develop skills in how to read a nutrition label on containers to make informed decisions on their diet.

Elective Classes

French

Welcome to Introduction to French! This is a semester long class for beginners. Don't be intimidated by learning another language; we are going to have a lot of fun over the next semester. By the end of the class, you will have a good, basic foundation of the language. It will help you if you choose to take the yearlong French I class in 7th grade.

Spanish

Hola! Introduction to Spanish is a semester long class for beginners. This class is an introduction to the Spanish language and the cultures that speak this wonderful language. By the end of this class you will have a basic understanding of Spanish words and phrases and know if you want to take the yearlong Spanish I class in 7th grade.

Introduction to Visual Arts - In Introduction to Visual Arts, students use the elements of art and the principles of design as a framework, and explore a variety of experiences and concepts. Using expressive and technical approaches, students investigate and create various two-dimensional and three-dimensional works of art. Students learn to critique artists' meaning, focusing on their use of forms, media, and symbols. Students develop an increased awareness of the nature of art and of their relationship to it as they explore the meaning and value of works of art as a means of personal and cultural expression.

6th Grade Band

6th Grade is a yearlong introduction to band. All students will play an instrument in band. An emphasis will also be put on music theory to aid students in their instrumental development. This course requires a fee of 600 LE for the rental of a school instrument with 200 LE to be refunded upon return of the instrument in good condition. Performances will occur periodically throughout the school year. Students are expected to practice regularly outside of class. After the completion of this course, students will be able to further their musical understanding in 7th Grade Band.

6th Grade Choir

6th Grade Choir is a yearlong introduction to choir. All students will sing in the choir. An emphasis will also be put on music theory to aid students in their choral development. Performances will occur periodically throughout the school year. After the completion of this course, students will be able to further their musical understanding in 7th Grade Choir.