

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 uses skills learned in Writers Workshop to plan, draft, revise, and edit essays, 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 persuasive 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 which reflects attention to drafting strategies, composition style, and matters of correctness.

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.

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.

AFL

Beginning: The main emphasis is on Modern Standard Arabic. A student who successfully completes the first year in AFL 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/Fitness (Semester Long Course)

Students in this class demonstrate competence in skillful movement in dynamic game situations and in a variety of sports specific skills and activities. They transition from modified versions of movement to more complex applications across all areas of physical activities. Students demonstrate the ability to assume responsibility for their own learning. They will apply their knowledge and skill-based 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.

Language (Semester Long Course)

Each grade 6 student will be studying either French or Spanish for one semester.

French

Salut! Introduction to French is a semester long class for beginners. This class is an introduction to the French language and the cultures that speak this wonderful language. By the end of this class, you will have a basic foundation of the language.

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 foundation of the language.

The Arts

Each grade 6 student will either study band for the whole year, or will study Choir for one semester and Introduction to Visual Arts for another semester.

6th Grade Band (Yearlong Course)

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 800 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.

Introduction to Visual Arts (Semester Long Course)

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 Choir (Semester Long Course)

6th Grade Choir is an introductory course 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 semester. After the completion of this course, students will be able to further their musical understanding in 7th Grade Choir.