

Sixth Grade

English Language Arts

The goal of the sixth grade English Language Arts program is to emphasize the connection between reading, writing, listening, and speaking. In an environment rich with literature, we provide students with ongoing opportunities to be effective communicators and expose them to the pleasures of reading.

Reading

- Use word attack strategies to decode words: letter sounds, context clues, word structure (familiar prefixes and suffixes)
- Increase word recognition
- Develop vocabulary to understand multiple meanings
- Use context to understand definition
- Use study and research skills to interpret information from charts, graphs, time lines and maps
- Use reading strategies in all content areas
- Organize ideas, notes and materials
- Use a variety of reference materials (Internet, encyclopedia, thesaurus, dictionary)
- Read for pleasure (independent reading)
- Expose students to different genres through Read Alouds (fiction, non-fiction, poetry, drama, fantasy, etc.)
- Share literature in the Spotlight series and follow-up activities (i.e., discussions, projects, etc.)
- Have students write book reports and create literature-based projects
- Further develop comprehension skills to:
 - Recall events in sequence
 - Locate evidence in text for support
 - Restate questions
 - Identify story elements (plot, problem, solution, characters, setting, tone)
 - Identify point of view and form own opinions
 - Draw conclusions and make inferences and predictions
 - Distinguish fact from opinion
 - Recognize beginning, middle and end
 - Identify main idea and supporting details
 - Relate reading to real world experiences
 - Understand cause and effect

Writing

- Write for different purposes
- Write for self expression and enjoyment (narratives, journals, poetry)
- Write to communicate information (persuasive and expository essays and letters)
- Write to learn (note-taking, outlining, paraphrasing, summarizing)
- Engage in the stages of writing as a process
- Engage in prewriting activities (brainstorming, organizing ideas, mapping, webbing, etc.)
- Write draft using descriptive language and literary devices (i.e., simile, metaphor, personification) to enhance writing.
- Revise/edit (includes reinforcing correct grammar, sentence structure, spelling and punctuation)
- Publish
- Use a dictionary and thesaurus to expand writing vocabulary
- Develop multiple paragraphs using the following styles: narrative, persuasive, expository, descriptive
- Describe experiences that are accurate and vivid (i.e., personal narratives)

Listening

- Follow oral directions and instructions
- Listen attentively, thoroughly and critically
- Listen for meaning, enjoyment and discussions

Speaking

- Provide clear oral directions and instructions
- Speak with proper syntax and pronunciation
- Describe an experience orally
- Assume various roles for effective group activity and reporting
- Synthesize information and data for oral presentations
- Dramatize roles

Mathematics

Algebra and Algebraic Thinking

- Develop an understanding of variables, expressions, and equations
- Graph and compare integers
- Explore probability

Numbers/Operations/Computation

- Develop number and operation sense
- Create mathematical rules and procedures
- Use estimation both in solving problems and in checking the reasonableness of results
- Explore relationships between whole numbers, fractions, decimals, and integers
- Develop an understanding of ratio, proportion, and percent

Geometry and Measurement

- Develop an understanding of geometric objects and relationships
- Use geometry in solving problems
- Estimate and use measurement to solve problems

Patterns and Functions

- Identify and use functional relationships
- Develop and use tables, graphs, and rules to describe situations
- Interpret different mathematical representations

Probability and Statistics

- Create experimental and theoretical models of situations involving probability
- Use statistical methods to describe, analyze, evaluate, and make decisions

Problem Solving

- Pursue open-ended problems and extended problem-solving projects

- Investigate and formulate questions from problem situations
- Represent situations verbally, numerically, graphically, geometrically, or symbolically

Reasoning

- Reason in spatial contexts
- Reason with proportions
- Reason from graphs
- Reason inductively and deductively

Communication

- Discuss, write, read, and listen to mathematical ideas
- Connect mathematics to other subjects and to the world outside the classroom
- Connect topics within mathematics
- Apply mathematics

Technology

- Use a calculator for fractions and graphing functions
- Use a computer for creating a spreadsheet, graphing data, and drawing and measuring geometric figures

Science

The goal of the science program is for students to develop a knowledge of scientific concepts while gaining an appreciation and understanding of our world. The sixth grade curriculum will encourage students to advance basic and higher order thinking skills so that they will be able to collect, understand, interpret and evaluate scientific data.

- Understand cells and heredity
- Understand animal adaptations
- Identify animal behavior (instinctive and adaptive)
- Understand plant growth and plant response
- Identify climate, plant and animal life
- Identify how a living community interacts with its physical environment
- Develop an environmental awareness
- Investigate gravity and motion

- Understand how energy exists within matter
- Study the motion of objects
- Rock cycle
- Types of rocks (sedimentary, igneous, metamorphic)
- Properties of rocks and minerals
- Resources and Conservation
- Weather
- Design experiments
- Read tables, graphs and diagrams
- Observe events, changes, procedures, etc.
- Describe outcomes, identifying materials, transactions, events, etc.
- Compare and contrast
- Predict
- Classify
- Discover cause and effect

Social Studies

The instructional program in social studies emphasizes the interdependence of all people, focusing on the ancient civilizations of the Eastern Hemisphere, the Middle Ages, the Renaissance, the Middle East and Modern Europe. It also examines the interaction of geography and economics, as well as the cultural, political, and historic aspects of life in other regions of the world.

World History

- Investigate the history of past civilizations, focusing on how their legacies and accomplishments contribute to today's world
- Compare different religions throughout world history

Geography

- Investigate how people of ancient civilizations adapted their physical environments to meet their basic needs
- Explore the locations of civilizations of the Eastern Hemisphere and identifying the major physical features of these regions

Economics

- Investigate how the people of past civilizations used natural and human resources to meet their economic needs

- Compare and contrast the economic systems of past civilizations

Civics, Citizenship, and Government

- Investigate the purpose of rules and laws in past civilizations
- Recognize how citizens of past civilizations participated in and influenced their government
- Compare and contrast the rights and responsibilities of citizens in past civilizations to those in modern society

Current Events

- Develop global understanding
- Recall and organize facts by paraphrasing; understand how to use reference sources; research to produce reports to be presented in a variety of fashions