

6th Grade Course Synopsis

Mathematics

The sixth grade mathematics program includes the study of data analysis, probability and statistics, a review of numeration and measurement, and computation of the four basic operations with whole numbers, decimals and fractions. Plane and solid geometry are also explored with a special unit on coordinate graphing. An enriched program is offered in order to challenge the most capable students, in addition to providing a more in-depth and rigorous study of the above concepts. Pre-algebra with integers and graphing are also studied.

Goals:

- 1) To use a problem-solving approach which emphasizes the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) Standards
- 2) To develop the confidence, knowledge and techniques for using math to reason and solve problems in everyday life and be able to communicate mathematically
- 3) To help students value mathematics and its connection to all subjects A mathematics resource program is offered to classified students. The program parallels the regular curriculum with modifications based on the implementation of the student's Individual Educational Plan.

English

The English 6 program includes a focus on the concepts of grammar and the process of writing. Students develop well written paragraphs and are introduced to whole composition utilizing a variety of writing techniques. Emphasis is placed on identifying and utilizing the elements of grammar. Higher order thinking skills, originality, inventiveness and self-expression are key components of the program.

Goals:

- 1) To recognize the role of language in reading, writing, speaking, listening and thinking
- 2) To expand and utilize vocabulary in oral and written expression

An English resource program is offered to classified students. This program parallels the regular English curriculum with modifications based on the implementation of the student's Individual Educational Plan.

Reading

Reading class at the sixth grade level reviews and builds upon previously acquired skills. The program is designed to help each student progress in skill development as well as acquire a lifelong interest in reading. Students will also gain insights into the world around them through reading. An emphasis is placed on developing the active reading strategies during oral and silent reading. Students will be exposed to a variety of literature, including short stories, poetry and novels.

Goals:

- 1) To construct meaning from written text
- 2) To employ comprehension strategies and skills
- 3) To discover the sense of pleasure, satisfaction, and curiosity through reading
- 4) To expand comprehension skills
- 5) To identify and expand knowledge of the literary elements
- 6) To encourage independent reading
- 7) To increase vocabulary through reading

A reading resource program is offered to classified students. This program parallels the regular reading curriculum with modifications based on the implementation of the student's Individual Educational Plan. In addition to the literature-based method of instruction, a supplementary skills based approach is employed.

Science

The sixth grade science curriculum covers a variety of topics using the Prentice Hall Module series. The school year begins with an introduction to the scientific method, measurement and the tools used in a science laboratory. Students then move into a matter unit introducing the atom and periodic table. Introduction to the cell and its parts are explored and the microscope is used to reinforce concepts. The next area of study is the universe with emphasis placed on the tides, phases of the moon, and reasons for seasons. An extensive ecology unit focuses on biomes, food

chains and environmental concerns. The year concludes with a motion unit introducing Newton's Laws.

Goals:

- 1) To introduce the scientific method and scientific measurement
- 2) To reinforce scientific method through various lab activities
- 3) To reinforce cooperative learning in a science laboratory setting
- 4) To strengthen student learning through various hands-on experiences
- 5) To introduce students to areas of science including matter, the cell, the universe, ecology, motion, forces, energy and measurement

Social Studies

The grade 6 social studies curriculum includes a study of the ancient civilizations and the common threads that all civilizations share. The program begins with an in depth study of the 5 Themes of geography and culture. After, students will explore Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greece, and finally Rome. Throughout all of their studies, students will learn how geography impacts culture and what evidence is found in our modern day society that can be traced backed to early civilizations. We conclude the school year with a brief unit on medieval England and make connections between all of the ancient civilizations based upon the idea that they were the stepping stones to the development of the following threads: economy, religion, military, and government.

Goals:

- 1) to identify the 5 themes of geography and relate each theme to real word examples
- 2) to recognize what culture encompasses
- 3) to trace the development of the first people and explain how one stage of development led to another
- 4) to introduce students to the common threads that every civilization share
- 5) to explore the geography, culture, and the impact those early civilizations had on the modern day world through hands on exploration
- 6) to reinforce note taking skills and study skills
- 7) to gain an appreciation and understanding of the past and how it connects to our world today

Physical Education

Students will develop overall physical fitness, and game skills and strategies in various activities. Emphasis is placed on lifelong skills.

Goals:

- 1) To improve the strength, speed endurance, agility and flexibility of the student
- 2) To understand the value of physical exercise and its role in developing body composition
- 3) To improve the social and emotional development of the student
- 4) To improve the student's knowledge of rules, techniques, and strategies as it pertains to specific sports
- 5) To expose students to a variety of activities which will ultimately add in their search for lifetime leisure activities
- 6) To expose the student to a variety of activities that will improve the cardiovascular system
- 7) Through the use of cooperative games, the student will understand the importance of teamwork
- 8) To have fun

Health

For one marking period, students review a variety of topics pertaining to self-esteem, nutrition, AIDS awareness and substance abuse prevention

Goals:

- 1) To increase a student's understanding of one's self
- 2) To establish an understanding of the importance of good eating habits, exercise and training
- 3) To enhance student awareness of AIDS prevention and the dangers associated with drug use.

Band

In this course students will have the opportunity to continue to grow in the area of instrumental music. Technical facility, musical enjoyment and quality performances are the primary objectives of this course. Students will be exposed to a variety of music styles such as jazz, rock, classical, Broadway and movie scores.

Goals:

- 1) To offer students the opportunity to study and perform a variety of band literature

- 2) To reinforce and introduce various rhythmic studies
- 3) To prepare students for scheduled performances

Choir

Students will have the opportunity to grow in their enjoyment and understanding of music by singing selected vocal scores that fit the technical level and voice range of the student. The repertoire will include a variety of styles such as folk, popular and classical music.

Goals:

- 1) To increase the ability of students to perform two-part singing and introduce three-part harmony
- 2) To offer students the opportunity to study and perform a variety of choral literature
- 3) To increase the vocal range of students
- 4) To reinforce through performance sight-singing, vocal techniques and diction
- 5) To prepare students for scheduled performances

World Languages

The sixth grade Spanish and French courses are the first installments in a three-year language program. The program's philosophy is to provide an emphasis in all four linguistic areas: listening, speaking, reading, and writing, as well as an overview of the culture and customs of the particular countries. Students will take French and Spanish on daily basis for two marking periods.

Goals:

- 1) To communicate at a beginning level in Spanish and French
- 2) To demonstrate an understanding of the interrelationship between language and culture

CYCLE PROGRAM

Art

Creative expression is a necessity for the healthy growth of all children. Emphasis is given on art values, sensitivity to design and the continuous process of attaining skills and striving toward individual improvement and production.

This course meets every other day for one marking period. It is scheduled during the same period as the music courses.

Goals:

- 1) To increase aesthetic awareness
- 2) To gain knowledge of the expressive media
- 3) To develop personal choice and confidence
- 4) To value art as an important realm of human experience
- 5) To utilize art elements and principles
- 6) To utilize art media to produce artistic products
- 7) To demonstrate knowledge of the process of critique

Keyboarding

Students will have the opportunity to learn proper fingering techniques that result in basic proficiency in touch keyboarding. Emphasis is placed on the alphabetic keyboard, including punctuation. Students work at their own pace and complete timings at the conclusion of each lesson, assessing both their speed and accuracy. Students follow self-paced tutorials and self assess their progress by setting individual goals for each lesson. *This course meets every other day for one marking period. It is scheduled during the same period as the music courses.*

Goals:

- 1) To understand the concept of touch keyboarding
- 2) To use correct finger reaches for alphabetic and punctuation keys
- 3) To master the use of Microsoft Word advanced features
- 4) To demonstrate the proper use of computer etiquette and vocabulary

Technology

All 6th graders will experience an Introduction to Technology Education at this level. The curriculum is a combination of both basic technology theories and problem-solving activities. Students will work in pairs on one of

the fourteen modules available through the technology lab. The modules are grouped into five clusters of knowledge: communications, transportation, construction, manufacturing and biotechnology. Each module is self-directed and includes hands-on activities, computer-driven lessons, quizzes and a career awareness component.

Goals:

- 1) To sharpen the ability to succeed in a small group environment
- 2) To develop an understanding of the technology vital to everyday activities
- 3) To foster a broad awareness of potential career paths involving technology
- 4) To provide a self-paced, student-centered, hands-on learning environment

Resolving Conflict Creatively Program (RCCP)

This class focuses on teaching students how to create a caring school community that emphasizes six themes: cooperation, communication, appreciation for diversity, the healthy expression of feelings, responsible decision making and conflict resolution. Students will master these themes through traditional lessons, role-playing scenarios, and hands-on activities that help them learn to utilize the skills they are learning. This course is presented at the sixth grade level in order to build common experiences at the beginning of the middle school experience. *This course meets every other day for one marking period. It is scheduled during the same period as the music courses.*

Goals:

- 1) To identify the emotions and actions that lead to conflict
- 2) To identify a variety of peaceful methods effective in dealing with conflict
- 3) To create a whole school environment based upon mutual respect and cooperation

Assessment

Using these various evaluation tools, teachers assess student progress per unit and marking period. The emphasis on assessing a student’s progress is to discover which concepts, skills, and habits need to be reinforced. Assessment is both formative and summative. Students will receive grades based upon their cumulative progress in each subject area per marking period. Student Progress is assessed using multiple indicators. Assessment tools may include:
 Cumulative Exams Quizzes Running Records Self Assessments Portfolio Records Performance
 Based Assessments Projects Class Participation Homework Journals/Logs Daily Assignments.

Grading System

Students receive a report card four times a year. The following scale of grades is used to indicate the quality of work of each student:

A+ 98-100	B+ 88-89	C+ 78-79	D+ 68-69	F 0-59
A 93-97	B 83-87	C 73-77	D 63-67	X Excused
A- 90-92	B- 80-82	C- 70-72	D- 60-62	I Incomplete

Cycle Classes

O-Outstanding 90-100 S-Satisfactory 70-89 U-Unsatisfactory Below 70