



Grade Level 6 Overview

Core Curriculum Subject Areas

Reading/Language Arts:

Sixth grade language arts curriculum builds on the work and strands of fifth grade while introducing more challenging material. As in the fifth grade, an instructional priority in the sixth grade is an increased focus on advanced forms of evaluation in expository critique and literary criticism and more developed writing skills. The 6+1 Traits of Writing program is a guiding focus in the writing curriculum. Students will expand their writing abilities with both creative and structured writing activities that help to develop skills such as reasoning with evidence, organizing persuasive and well-structured arguments, further developing a personal style with a distinctive voice, and communicating their ideas in clear and effective prose. Students are pushed to expand their knowledge and usage of new vocabulary and practice increasingly complex grammar skills on a weekly basis through a variety of individual and group activities. Assigned reading tackles varied genres and integrates a study of the human community through fiction and non-fiction texts. Literature circles continue to create student centered discussion groups, focusing on a deeper analysis of texts. Above all, students are encouraged to develop a greater appreciation for literature through extensive reading opportunities on both an individual and group basis.

Mathematics:

In Course 2, a transition from arithmetic to an algebraic approach to mathematics is set in motion. The class fosters an environment that is developmentally appropriate for the student. Each student works towards fine-tuning their skills in basic operations with whole numbers, integers, rational numbers, decimals, fractions, and percents. Focus is placed on problem solving, critical thinking, and confidence building in preparation for the challenges of abstract problem solving.

Social Studies:

Students experience the history and geography of the United States, from the earliest signs of human inhabitants to life in the young republic following the Revolutionary War. Native Americans, European explorers, and the first colonists are studied during the first half of the year. The second half focuses on the rapid growth of the colonies, the Revolutionary War, Westward Expansion, and the War of 1812. Students will learn to understand historical texts, analyze primary sources to extrapolate important details, and to focus on big ideas.

Science:

In sixth grade, students take an Earth Science course. Units of focus include Earth's waters, the dynamic planet, and space science. The class is inquiry based, and is interactive with a hands-on approach to learning. Students continue to review and use the scientific method when conducting experiments and also review science process skills throughout the year.

Co-Curricular Subject Areas

Spanish:

Middle School students dive into Spanish language by taking part in a lively series of activities that give them opportunities to develop speaking, listening, reading and writing skills in Spanish. Middle school students have a greater emphasis on reading and writing by including real world reading materials, graphic novel style stories, activity pages and unit projects. Middle school students also develop Spanish grammar reference sheets they can refer to throughout their language acquisition journey. The program reinforces previous topics and themes and introduces new ones at the same time. The topics include but are not limited to school and schedules, numbers, around the house and home activities, daily routine and holiday customs, past experiences, sport and recreation and basic technology.

Study Skills Class:

In 6th grade the students have Study Skills once a week. The students will continue to focus on strategies to help them:

- Stay organized
- Manage their time
- Communicate with parents and teachers
- Plan for homework and projects
- Improve reading comprehension
- Take notes
- Write papers
- Research effectively
- Learn how to study by using the “Study Cycle” method

The students will implement these strategies in their own school work so that the skills are not taught and practiced in isolation.

Art:

Students in Middle School will learn fundamental art techniques and skills while experimenting with multiple mediums. They will build confidence in creating meaningful and complete art works through a systematic approach. They will explore different cultures and learn significant art history movements. Students will create a group project to auction at the Christ Episcopal School Gala, they will be participating in different art contests nationwide such as the 9th Space Foundation International Art Contest, the Christmas card internal art contest, the 2019 Crayola Art Expo, 2019 AATSP Poster Contest, and they will participate in the Arts at the MAESA Academic fair.

Music:

Students in Middle School music are learning to become proficient performers, increasing their skills, and seeking outlets to share their talents. Students will learn musical concepts and terms, directly applying this knowledge to choral, solo, and ensemble performances. Other topics covered will include music history and listening to varying musical genres, as to further understand music's role in society and culture throughout history. Students will participate in seasonal concerts such as the Grandparents/Special Guest Day, the Christmas Concert, and the Spring Musical.

Physical Education:

Sixth Grade PE is highlighted by the following units as well as twice weekly trips to Rockville Municipal Swim Center, Rockville Fencing Academy, Freestate Gymnastics, Title Boxing and various outdoor parks throughout the year:

Sportsmanship/Fair Play/Rules
Kickball
Volleyball/Newcombe
Soccer Skills
Basketball Skills
Flag Football
Jump Rope
Fitness/Strength Exercises
Cooperation Activities

Floor Hockey
Dodge Games
Ball Skills
Softball
Lacrosse
Frisbee
Agility Activities
Long Walks
Indoor Soccer

Field Trips and Curricular Highlights

- Mount Vernon - History
- Calleva Outdoor Education field trip - team-building
- Hershey Park
- White Tail Ski Trip (every two years)
- *The Grinch* Reader's Theater Performance
- Spring Musical