

Literacy

OVERVIEW

Middle school ELA curriculum focuses on building strong reading, writing, and communication skills. Students will read a variety of texts, such as novels, short stories, and informational articles, and will learn to analyze and interpret these texts to develop a deeper understanding of the author's purpose and message. They will also develop their writing skills, including learning how to write for a variety of purposes and audiences. In addition, sixth-grade students will work on their speaking and listening skills through class discussions and presentations.

Benchmarks Learned:

- Reading: Students will learn to comprehend and analyze literature and informational texts by making inferences, citing textual evidence, and identifying literary elements such as plot, character, and theme.
- Writing: Students will learn to introduce and support claims with evidence, incorporate relevant information, maintain a formal style, and logically sequence their writing.
- Speaking & Listening: Students will learn to demonstrate an understanding of multiple perspectives and distinguish if claims are supported by evidence.
- Grammar & Vocabulary: Students will learn how to use punctuation to set off nonessential information as well as how to appropriately include pronouns in their writing.

SIXTH GRADE

Literacy

Helpful Home Tips:

- Encourage your child to read books that interest them, whether it's fiction or nonfiction. Provide a variety of print and digital reading materials, such as books, magazines, and newspapers.
- Encourage your child to write regularly, whether it's in a journal, blog, or creative writing project.
- Encourage your child to express their ideas and opinions, and practice listening actively to others.
- Play word games and puzzles, such as crossword puzzles and Scrabble, to make learning new words fun.

SIXTH GRADE

Math

OVERVIEW

Sixth-grade math introduces students to complex mathematical concepts and focuses on building a solid foundation in arithmetic, geometry, and data analysis. Students learn about ratios and proportions, integers and their operations, two-dimensional shapes and their properties, and data analysis.

Benchmarks Learned:

- Relationships between quantities and the use of fractions, decimals, and percentages to solve everyday problems.
- Operations with fractions and decimals, the connection between integers and the coordinate plane, and algebraic relationships and solutions of equations and inequalities.
- Displaying relationships between variables, finding areas of polygons, describing the size of 3D figures, and analyzing data.

SIXTH GRADE

Math

Helpful Home Tips:

- Bring your child grocery shopping and ask them to calculate discounts, tax percentages, or unit prices to make math part of their real-life experiences.
- Incorporate fractions and decimals into everyday activities, such as cooking and baking. Use money and currency as a practical way to work with decimals. Discuss practical situations where inequalities are applicable, such as budgeting or test scores. Help your child see the relevance of this concept in everyday life.
- Encourage your child to identify real-life situations where variables are related, such as time spent on homework and the effect on grades. Build 3D models with your child of simple geometric shapes and discuss their properties. Collect data as a family. Have your child organize and analyze it by creating graphs.

SIXTH GRADE

Social Emotional Learning

OVERVIEW

In 6th Grade, students are introduced to concepts such as growth mindset and goal setting. They will begin to learn ways to recognize and manage strong emotions and unhelpful thoughts. In addition, they learn about developing and maintaining healthy relationships.

Skills:

- Identify causes of emotions
- Identify appropriate strategies for dealing with various emotions.
- Create personal goals and monitor progress
- Recognize how words and actions impact others.
- Identify multiple perspectives in a given situation.
- Identify areas of school and life that are within their control.
- Practice reflective thinking.

SIXTH GRADE

Social Emotional Learning

HELPFUL HOME TIPS:

- Encourage participation in afterschool activities.
- Engage in regular conversations about emotions, being careful not to tell them how to feel.
- Talk through problems, logical consequences and resolution.
- Set clear expectations and stick to them
- Encourage when good decisions have been made.

Skills:

- Ancient Civilizations

SIXTH GRADE

Social Studies

OVERVIEW

Social Studies in 6th grade encompasses several units each connected to an ancient civilization. Each unit is designed around an inquiry approach to teaching and learning. This approach connects the practices and concepts used by social scientists to the ancient civilization being focused on in the unit.

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SIXTH GRADE

Social Studies

Helpful Home Tips:

- Watch or read news stories about current events. Ask your child about their opinions and thoughts about the topic.
- Encourage your child to read historical fiction or nonfiction books.
- Take virtual or in-person trips to museums.
- Encourage your child to get involved with local philanthropic organizations.

SIXTH GRADE

Science

OVERVIEW

In 6th grade students will be introduced to various phenomena within Earth & Space Science. Students will learn how to construct scientific explanations using a claim, evidence and reasoning format. Also, integrated within each unit, students will engage in science and engineering practices that include: asking questions, collecting data, developing models, and analyzing/interpreting data.

Benchmarks Learned:

- Create models demonstrating Earth-Moon-Sun relationships and the cause and effect relationships of Earth's tilt and the seasons.
- Develop models to describe the cycling of Earth's materials and the flow of energy that drives this process.
- Analyze and interpret data to provide evidence on how geologic processes have changed Earth's surface over time.
- Collect data to provide evidence on how interactions of air masses cause changes in weather.
- Investigate and create a model to describe how uneven heating of the Earth causes patterns of atmospheric and oceanic circulation that determine regional climate.
- Construct an argument supported by evidence for how increases in human population and per capita consumption of natural resources impact Earth's systems