

Grant K-8 School – Core Curriculum

6th Grade Course Information

Sixth grade is a transitional year for students as they move from the elementary school into a middle school setting. Social and emotional growth develops as students focus more attention on peer groups. Throughout the year, students will learn organizational and study skills that will enable them to balance the demands of the middle school curriculum to further gain their independence. All sixth graders will be enrolled in mathematics, social studies, science, physical education, and language arts. Students choose from a variety of electives such as digital media production as well as band or orchestra. Electives alternate with PE on an A day/B day rotation.

Language Arts

Sixth grade language arts continues to develop students' literacy skills. This course provides students an opportunity to read and write in a variety of genres and use technology to enhance their learning. Using a rich variety of approaches and strategies, our literacy program is designed to provide rigorous, standards-driven instruction. Word study, which includes spelling, grammar, and vocabulary, is an important component of our balanced literacy program. All students are required to read 25 books or the equivalent.

Mathematics

All sixth grade students are required to take a full-year mathematics course. Students will utilize the Prentice Hall California Math 6 text and additional resources and activities as they develop critical thinking, problem solving, and basic computation skills. The following math strands are emphasized: number sense and operations, functions and algebra, measurement and geometry, data analysis, statistics and probability, problem solving, mathematical reasoning, and communication.

Advanced Pre-Algebra

This course will prepare students for algebra by developing problem-solving strategies and critical thinking skills. Students will develop an understanding of estimation and mental computation, percent, statistics and probability, measurement, geometry, algebra and functions, as well as strengthen computational skills. Enrollment in this course will be determined by placement tests and standardized test scores.

Social Studies

The sixth-grade curriculum covers the study of ancient civilizations such as Greece, Rome, India, Egypt and Mesopotamia as well as geography. Students will be involved in reading and interpreting primary sources, maps, and diagrams. Students will participate in activities such as simulations, problem solving group work, and lectures. Placement in the GATE Cluster Social Studies 6 class is done on the basis of previous GATE identification, and remaining spaces will be filled based on standardized and/or GATE test scores. Placement in Seminar Social Studies 6 requires seminar designation.

Science

The sixth grade science curriculum focuses on Earth Science. Students explore the fundamental concepts in science disciplines to then apply that knowledge to an understanding of the Earth's processes. Students will study a variety of questions such as, "What makes Earth an ever-changing planet?" Demonstrations, investigations, use of models and charts, and experimentation are used in this hands-on science course.

Physical Education

The physical education program includes physical, cognitive, and social skill development. While each grade level varies in focus and activities, the general goal is for students to meet fitness levels and demonstrate content knowledge, skills, and personal growth for their age group. We provide a program of developmentally appropriate activities, team sports, non-traditional games, and rhythms that are suited to the capacities and limitations of all students. The program's emphasis is on the enjoyment of movement and the development of physical activity as a lifetime pursuit.