

6th Grade Curriculum Overview

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Listening

- Listen respectfully to peers and adults
- Listen to various forms of literature
- Listen to different sources of the spoken word
- Infer meaning of words from context
- Listen for story development
- Listen during discussions, reports, recitations, dramatics, and debates
- Understand principles of active listening

Speaking

- Expand spoken vocabulary and pronounce words correctly
- Speak in a respectful manner
- Use appropriate gestures and body language
- Use supporting media (visuals, props, etc.)
- Read own writing aloud and respond to audience feedback
- Express appreciation for others' ideas
- Give tactful, constructive criticism
- Ask questions and seek information

Writing

Writing process:

- Brainstorm, pre-write, organize, write, confer, revise, rewrite, share

Writing Genres:

- Historical fiction, character sketch, book review, narrative, report, response to literature, persuasive writing, poetry, letter writing, personal essay

Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics:

- Use correct punctuation in dialogue
- Use commas correctly
- Begin use of colons and semi-colons
- Diagram basic sentences
- Master the parts of speech
- Understand synonyms, antonyms and homonyms

Word Study and Spelling:

- Learn vocabulary with Greek, Latin and Anglo-Saxon roots
- Learn weekly, rule-based spelling words
- Learn words misspelled in compositions

Handwriting and Typing:

- Write weekly vocabulary quizzes in cursive
- Read cursive writing
- Practice typing and basic word processing skills

Reading

Reading Skills:

- Review phonological awareness
- Consolidate knowledge of advanced prefixes and suffixes, and syllable rules
- Learn research skills - guide words, key words, cross references, online resources, dictionary/encyclopedia, bibliography,

Reading Comprehension:

- Read and distinguish between various genres of literature
- Compare and contrast books
- Read and follow directions independently
- Identify plot elements and main ideas
- Recall details, find topic sentences, locate supporting details and information
- Draw conclusions, show cause and effect, distinguish fact from opinion, state author's purpose
- Identify literal and figurative language

Core Literature Studies

Teacher Read-Aloud Books:

King of Shadows; Bud, Not Buddy; The Ear, The Eye and the Arm; The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle; Gathering Blue; Maniac Magee; The Dark Thirty

Genre Studies:

Biography, contemporary fiction, fantasy, historical fiction, poetry

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MATHEMATICS

Numbers and Number Relationships

- Demonstrate the inverse relationship of addition and subtraction, multiplication and division
- Read, write, and compare whole numbers, fractions, decimals, integers and percents, ratios and proportions
- Know place value to a million, decimals to thousandths
- Round whole numbers to 1,000,000, decimals to hundred thousandths
- Use the commutative, associative and distributive properties, and the identity properties of zero and one
- Recognize odd, even, prime, composite, and square numbers
- Understand prime factors, greatest common factors, and least common multiples

Computation and Estimation

- Add and subtract 5-digit whole numbers and decimals
- Multiply whole numbers and decimals with regrouping, with up to a 3-digit multiplier
- Divide 5-digit whole or decimal numbers by 2-digit whole or decimal numbers
- Add and subtract any three proper or mixed fractions
- Multiply any combination of fractions, mixed or whole numbers
- Divide fractions, mixed or whole numbers
- Introduce percent problems
- Solve one, two and three-step word problems
- Find equivalents of decimals, fractions, ratios and percents

Measurement

- Measure length, perimeter, area, volume, circumference, surface area, and time
- Convert units within a system of measurement
- Estimate and measure angle degrees

Geometry

- Classify angles
- Identify and classify polygons
- Identify the center, radius, diameter, and circumference of a circle
- Identify pyramids, spheres, cubes, cylinders, and rectangular prisms
- Use protractor and compass

Data Analysis, Statistics and Probability

- Collect, organize, represent, and interpret data using lists, tables, graphs (bar, line and circle)
- Interpret data using the mean, median, mode and range
- Predict, perform, record and analyze simple probability experiments
- Use calculators and/or computers to process data

Problem Solving

- Approach problem solving systematically and creatively
- Develop flexibility, confidence, perseverance, and persistence both independently and in groups
- Use concrete, informal and formal strategies to solve mathematical problems in real-world situations

Patterns, Functions and Algebra

- Identify, describe and extend patterns
- Use order of operations to solve equations involving parentheses and exponents
- Use tables, graphs and verbal or symbolic rules
- Understand the use of variables in equations
- Solve simple algebraic equations
- Graph, describe and compare equations on a Cartesian grid

6th Grade Curriculum Overview

SOCIAL STUDIES

Research

- Using sources of information
- Evaluating historical evidence
- Summarizing information
- Organizing information
- Writing vividly

World History & Culture

- Age of Encounter
 - Prelude to exploration
 - Expansion of worldview
 - Cultural and ecological encounters and exchanges (Explorer Newspaper Research Project)

U.S. History & Culture

- “From Colonies to Country”
 - *Comparative study of North American settlements (First-person “A Day in the Life” oral presentations in regional groups)
 - *Salem Witchcraft trials (includes historical fiction component)
 - *Causes of the War for Independence (colonist diary responses to the ‘news of the day’)
 - *War of Independence (Newscast presentations on specific significant battles)
 - *American Systems of government
- The Civil War
 - *History and implications of slavery (focus on African influence on Southern culture: architecture, music, cuisine and folktales)
 - *North & South: A cultural/economic comparison
 - *Our country at war (5 paragraph research essay)

SCIENCE

Inquiry and process skills

- Reinforce K-5 skills plus:
- Analyzing data, verifying information, experimenting, planning experiments, using equipment to collect data, recording data in a variety of ways, discussing and analyzing data, controlling and manipulating variables, validating reliability of results, inventing, making inferences, using knowledge to solve problems, generalizing, expanding knowledge to analogous situations

Content

Physical Science

Simple Machines:

- Six simple machines and how they work
- Scientific method
- Recording information

Electricity:

- Simple, series and parallel circuits
- Materials and conductivity
- Bulbs
- Resistance

Light:

- Reflection and refraction
- Colored light (mixing, shadows, filtered)

Gases and “Airs”:

- Properties of air (composition, pressure, oxidation)
- Properties of vacuums (expansion, contraction)

Pendulums:

- Galileo’s pendulums
- Principles of pendulums
- Construction of pendulums

Life Science

Oceanography:

- Adaptations of life cycles
- Ocean waves and currents
- Composition of sea water and sand
- Ocean floors
- Man’s effect on the oceans

Health

- Brain and the Nervous System
- Reproductive System and Reproduction
- Drug Education/Substance Abuse
- HIV

6th Grade Curriculum Overview

FRENCH

Rationale: To continue the development of communication skills in French and to enhance students' understanding and appreciation of the cultures of the Francophone world

Goal: To build oral/aural proficiency and to continue to develop the ability to read and write in French

Listening/Speaking:

- Engage in conversations about familiar topics
- Obtain information using simple questions
- Express likes and dislikes in complete sentences
- Make requests, follow directions
- Memorize dialogues, songs, poems and chants
- Express ideas and needs using familiar language

Reading/Writing:

- Read familiar vocabulary with correct pronunciation and intonation
- Write adaptations of basic dialogues
- Write short pieces about oneself, family and friends

Content areas: Expansion of topics begun in 4th and 5th grades, for example: expressions, weather, place names, telling time and age, occupations, colors, sports, clothing, transportation, directions, animals, rooms of a house, interrogative expressions, addresses, fruits and vegetables, phone numbers, days, months, seasons, school subjects, food and drink, cardinal & ordinal numbers,

Language Understanding: grammar, pronunciation, and spelling patterns, possessive adjectives, prepositions, descriptive adjectives, common adverbs, verbs with infinitives, negation, conjugation of regular and irregular verbs definite and indefinite articles, questions using inversion, expressions with “avoir” and “faire”

French Culture: European Union, use of Euro, location of Francophone countries, French names of European countries, French cuisine, French system of education

6th Grade Curriculum Overview

SOCIAL SKILLS

Civic and Social Responsibility

- Stay current with work assignments
- Be of service to community

Communication

- Advocate for self

Personal Development

- Solve problems
- Negotiate and compromise

LIBRARY SKILLS

Use of the Dewey Decimal System

- Understand the 10 main classes of the Dewey Decimal System and that they can be divided and subdivided into more specific categories

Use of the Reference Collection

- Use cross references in an encyclopedia to locate information
- Use an almanac to find statistics and other facts
- Use biographical and geographical dictionaries

Use of Indexes

- Be aware of indexes in various places (books, encyclopedias, periodicals)
- Use cross-references in indexes

Research and Reporting Techniques

- Take notes from reference and other resource materials
- Organize information into a usable format
- Present information in an in-depth written report and/or visual/oral presentation

Parts of a Book

- Identify the appendix

Selection and Evaluation

- Discuss reactions to and evaluations of independent reading
- Read and discuss Newbury Medal winners

Literature Appreciation

- Be familiar with important authors and their works
- Describe impact of the historical period on the plot and characters of an historical novel
- Understand the relationship of African American folk tales to the condition of the American slave

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Operations and Productivity

- Use basic IT vocabulary
- Develop keyboarding skills to 20 wpm
- Use productivity software to write reports and design databases and spreadsheets
- Use basic file and network management operations to create a portfolio of “best work”

Research and Problem Solving

- Collect and exchange information via the internet
- Use multimedia content from various sources to produce reports
- Collect, place, manipulate, and report on spreadsheet data

Communication

- Use a variety of applications to produce and publish writing and presentations in a variety of styles
- Use technology to pursue independent learning and personal interests
- Produce and publish writing in a variety of styles

Ethics, Human Issues and Social Responsibility

- Respect the privacy and work of others
- Be aware of safe and comfortable use of equipment
- Understand and respect copyright laws
- Discuss issues related to the use of technology
- Follow the Acceptable Use Policy and conventions for using technology at Marion Cross School
- Evaluate the accuracy and relevancy of electronic information

6th Grade Curriculum Overview

ART

In their last year at the Marion Cross School, the sixth graders continue the tradition of adding their piece to the all-school art creation. The projects for the rest of the year involve longer, multi-tasked, intricate art forms. Students are encouraged to take time during the design phase of their projects as well as to work carefully creating their final products. These include: ceramic mirror frames, various types of sculpture, scenery for 6th grade plays, dyed paper and reed mobiles, design problems, Impressionist water colors, Inkle loom weaving, Shibori fabric dying, LEEEP habitat artbooks (oceans), open studio art, as well as the traditional 6th grade "What's in Your Head?" silhouette drawings (displayed with their first grade self-portraits) and the most anticipated and remembered Gingerbread houses.

MUSIC

The music program at the Marion Cross School is designed to help students develop the skills needed to realize a rewarding and joyful lifetime musical experience and to realize their own and other's innate ability and need to create.

In sixth grade the students continue work learning the language and notation of music and have a concentrated exposure to composition using music technology. Through the use of technology, they also write and perform their own songs. In January we begin a study of American Opera and then create our own, culminating in a performance in April. Sixth grade students have the opportunity to take instrumental lessons, participate in band, orchestra and/or chorus and other small ensembles. Throughout the year they take leadership roles in "rep", the holiday concert and the May Festival.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The goal of the fifth and sixth grade physical education program is to help students enhance their physical skills and awareness, refine skills learned in grades 3, 4 and 5, and practice good sportsmanship and team play. Students learn about and begin to take personal charge of the following: personal fitness and wellness (fitness tests, fitness activities and warm-ups), sportsmanship and social interaction (New Games, cooperative learning situations, problem solving skills, recognizing own strengths and strengths of others, accepting differences), locomotor skills (dance, gymnastics), non-locomotor skills (high and long jumping, balance activities), striking skills (volleyball, pickleball, paddle tennis, badminton, whiffleball), movement concepts (general and personal space, speed, force and flow of movement, offense and defense), and manipulatives of circus arts activities (juggling scarves, balls and clubs; spinning diabolos and plates). In addition they are introduced to and play modified games of lacrosse, whiffleball, volleyball, basketball, ultimate frisbee, and soccer. Track and field events are taught and practiced, and we continue to occasionally play some large group games.

GUIDANCE

The guidance program is designed to help students learn about themselves and others as well as to help them learn about getting along with others. The guidance counselor uses the Life Skills health/guidance curriculum to teach sixth graders about self-esteem, decision-making, stress management, active/passive listening, review of conflict resolution, assertiveness (passive/aggressive/assertive responses), tobacco/drug/alcohol use, and HIV, and reproduction. They use class discussions, role-playing, and writing to express themselves.