

Sixth Grade Curriculum

Religion: Students continue to explore their Catholic identity with the help of our consumable, "The Spirit of Truth." In 6th grade, students will work on building their understanding of the Bible, both Old and New Testament. Each class period begins with prayer and several new prayers are learned in 6th grade, including The Angelus and the Magnificat.

Reading: Students work to improve their reading skills using an array of both fiction and nonfiction texts. As a whole, the goal is to create independent readers, which means challenging students to be critical thinkers. In order to build critical thinking skills, students are encouraged to practice "close reading," which means annotating passages, analyzing text structure, interpreting vocabulary, and discovering connections. In addition, each student participates in the Accelerated Reader (AR) program, allowing teachers to monitor growth, to determine a path for reading success, and to keep parents informed of their child's progress.

Grammar/Writing: Within our ELA program, our vision has been to build a bridge between reading and writing. Students learn ways to enhance their writing skills by using complex sentence formation and richer vocabulary with a close attention to the basic conventions of grammar. Students create different types of writing--expository, narrative, descriptive, and informative. Writing assignments are meant to be cross-curricular. At the end of the school year, each sixth grade student is presented with his/her Student Writing Portfolio, which contains various writings from each grade level.

Science: Students in the 6th grade learn scientific concepts through a hands-on and inquiry approach. The Scientific Method is an intricate component to the curriculum. Students research, design and conduct experiments, collect data, analyze, and create presentations. Students will also collect data and conceptual models to help in understanding of many disciplines of science. 6th grade

student will apply these skill to their own Science Fair Project in the winter.

Math: The 6th grade math curriculum, Eureka Math, ensures the exposure and mastery of mathematical practices. A strong problem solving strand is present throughout the curriculum. This offers students the opportunity to make sense of problems and persevere in solving them. It also allows for abstract reasoning to create equations or expressions that represent math in real world examples. The curriculum requires students to construct viable arguments in which the answers are justified mathematically, and students explain their reasoning by modeling or explaining the strategies in which they use. Zearn is implemented to reinforce the math skills that the students have learned and are currently learning. It is also a way to challenge excelling students in math. This is a great goal-orientated program to encourage and motivate students.

Social Studies: The 6th grade curriculum involves the study of Ancient Civilizations, including the major river valleys of Mesopotamia, Egypt, China, and India. Timelines and key people are reviewed for each civilization, as well as, geographical locations. Students will also study ancient Greece and Rome and the rise of the first democracy. A close look at major world religions is also included in the sixth grade curriculum.

