

# Grade 6 Course Descriptions

## English

The sixth grade English student is an active participant in classroom discussions. S/he presents personal opinions, understands differing viewpoints, delivers a formal speech, participates in dramatic presentations, distinguishes between fact and opinion, and analyzes the effectiveness of group communication. The student builds on understanding words from context and continues vocabulary development from grade five. S/he reads independently, for at least thirty minutes a night, a variety of fiction and nonfiction for appreciation and comprehension. Students also read in class every day. The student uses skills learned in Writers Workshop to plan, draft, revise, and edit essays, with attention to composition and style, as well as sentence and paragraph formation, grammar usage, and mechanics. S/he also demonstrates correct use of language, spelling, and mechanics by applying grammatical conventions in writing and speaking. A sixth grade student becomes familiar with, and begins to utilize, the 6+1 writing framework. Particular emphasis in writing is on composing effective and correct paragraphs. Students should be able to confidently write narrative, expository (informational), and persuasive texts of between 400 to 700 words or more by the end of sixth grade. Sixth grade students begin to establish a formal writing portfolio that contains samples of polished writing which reflects attention to drafting strategies, composition style, and matters of correctness.

## Math

Sixth Grade Mathematics places continued emphasis on the study of whole numbers, decimals, and rational numbers (fractions). By the end of sixth grade, a student masters the four arithmetic operations with whole numbers, positive fractions, and positive decimal integers; a grade six student accurately computes and solves problems. Students understand the concepts of mean, median, and the mode of data sets and how to calculate the range. Students will also use ratios to compare data sets; make conversions within a given measurement system; classify two-dimensional figures; collect, analyze, display, and interpret data using a variety of graphical and statistical methods. Sixth grade students begin using integers and percentages and investigate numerical and geometric patterns.

## **Science**

With a strong foundation of the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), Grade 6 Science addresses the sciences from an integrated approach. Students will explore Earth, Life, and Physical science throughout the year-long course. Earth Science units of study include Earth's Systems, Processes that Shape the Earth, Geologic Time, and Natural Hazards. Life Science focuses on Cells and Genetics, with units covering Traits, Bodies, Cells, and Genetics. Physical Science allows students to explore topics related to the Composition of Matter, States of Matter, and Chemical Changes. Grade 6 is a very important year in the development of scientific skills. Students will be introduced to the science and engineering practices, which include asking and designing questions, developing and using models, planning and carrying out investigations, analyzing and interpreting data, using mathematics and computational thinking, constructing explanations and designing solutions, and engaging in argument from evidence. Students are also introduced to the career opportunities that exist in the earth, life, and physical sciences.

## **Social Studies**

Grade 6 Social Studies will revolve around an exploration of world cultures. In grade 6, students will be exploring the Western Hemisphere (Canada, USA, Mexico, Caribbean, Central America, and South America) as well as Europe. This larger region will be then further broken down into smaller sections and students will look in depth at the physical geography, cultures, climate, and the economic and political situations of these locations. Some of the units studied will involve ancient and modern history to prepare students for history in the future. Students will work on travel projects where they have to plan an itinerary and all of the details of their trips and then they will create presentations so they can share their virtual adventures with their classmates.

## **Arabic**

Grade 6 Arabic represents a progression from Elementary Arabic to Middle School Arabic. Students read and write compositions in Modern Standard Arabic, with a focus on the preliminary study of syntax. Students follow the grade 6 Ministry curriculum for Arabic, religion and social studies.

## **AFL**

**Beginning:** The main emphasis is on Modern Standard Arabic. A student who successfully completes the first year in AFL can expect to possess a working competence in reading and in writing Modern Standard Arabic.

**Advanced:** This course includes advanced reading and writing as well as lessons in special topics. At the end of the advanced course, students should be able to communicate with ease and clarity with native speakers.

## **Physical Education and Health/Fitness**

Students in this class demonstrate competence in skillful movement in dynamic game situations and in a variety of sports specific skills and activities. They transition from modified versions of movement to more complex applications across all areas of physical activities. Students demonstrate the ability to assume responsibility for their own learning. They will apply their knowledge and skill-based abilities to create a practice plan to improve performance in a selected game, sport, or recreational pursuit. They will also demonstrate mature responsibility as they show respect for others and their safety, make reasoned and appropriate choices, resist negative peer pressure and exhibit fair play. Students are able to set goals, track progress and participate in physical activities to improve fitness. They will develop a repertoire of physical abilities and begin to develop competence in specialized versions of lifetime activities.

## **Elective Classes**

### **Computer (Semester Long Course)**

Grade 6 Computer is a class designed to get students familiar with some of the most used programs and software in the middle school. Students will learn to navigate the ins and outs of the Google Suite, mastering the use of applications such as Google Forms and Slides. Students will also be exposed to media development software such as iMovie and Garageband. Lastly, students will be introduced to the basics of computer networking as well as programming.

### **French (Semester Long Course)**

Salut! Introduction to French is a semester long class for beginners. This class is an introduction to the French language and the cultures that speak this wonderful language. By the end of this class, you will have a basic foundation of the language.

### **Spanish (Semester Long Course)**

Hola! Introduction to Spanish is a semester long class for beginners. This class is an introduction to the Spanish language and the cultures that speak this wonderful language. By the end of this class, you will have a basic foundation of the language.

### **6<sup>th</sup> Grade Band (Yearlong Course)**

6<sup>th</sup> Grade is a yearlong introduction to band. All students will play an instrument in band. An emphasis will also be put on music theory to aid students in their instrumental development. This course requires a fee of 1000 LE for the rental of a school instrument with 300 LE to be refunded upon return of the instrument in good condition. Performances will occur periodically throughout the school year. Students are expected to practice regularly outside of class. After the completion of this course, students will be able to further their musical understanding in 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Band.

### **Introduction to Visual Arts (Semester Long Course)**

In Introduction to Visual Arts, students use the elements of art and the principles of design as a framework, and explore a variety of experiences and concepts. Using expressive and technical approaches, students investigate and create various two-dimensional and three-dimensional works of art. Students learn to critique artists' meaning, focusing on their use of forms, media, and symbols. Students develop an increased awareness of the nature of art and of their relationship to it as they explore the meaning and value of works of art as a means of personal and cultural expression.

### **6<sup>th</sup> Grade Choir (Semester Long Course)**

6<sup>th</sup> Grade Choir is an introductory course to choir. All students will sing in the choir. An emphasis will also be put on music theory to aid students in their choral development. Performances will occur periodically throughout the semester.