



# A Parents' Guide to STUDENT SUCCESS

## Grade 6

Working together as a team, parents and teachers are establishing a foundation for a child's continual academic and social success. This guide provides an overview of critical grade level focus areas in English Language Arts and Mathematics. Homework strategies and parent involvement opportunities are also included. The staff at Quashnet School looks forward to a successful year of collaboration within the Quashnet community and strive for academic success for all students.

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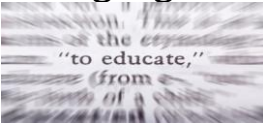
# English Language Arts and Literacy

## ELA Overview

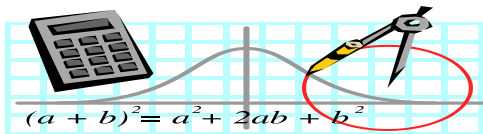
In sixth grade, students apply and extend their knowledge as they explore a variety of rich literature, poetry, and non-fiction texts. They dive deeper into themes, analysis of their reading, and comparing and contrasting to form opinions that are supported by evidence. Sixth graders write on a regular basis and in a variety of genres to include responses to their reading, reflective essays, and stories. They participate in class discussions, practice reading expressively, and deliver presentations. Vocabulary building and usage will be a focus in all 6<sup>th</sup> grade content areas. By the end of the year, students are ready to study literature with complex and challenging themes.



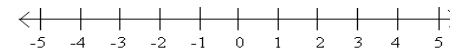
### **Focus Content Areas**

<p><b>Reading</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Use evidence from the text to support analysis and to draw inferences.</li> <li>*Determine the theme or central idea of the text; provide a summary from opinion.</li> <li>*Analyze the word choice and its impact on meaning and tone.</li> <li>*Identify the conventions of legends and epics in historical and modern literary works.</li> <li>*Compare and contrast texts in different genres with the same topic or theme.</li> </ul>
 <p><b>Writing</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Write arguments to support claims with clear reasons and evidence.</li> <li>*Develop a topic with relevant facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information.</li> <li>*Write narratives using precise words and phrases, relevant descriptive details, and sensory language. *Research project.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Speaking and Listening</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Engage effectively in discussions.</li> <li>*Be prepared with evidence on a topic, text, or issue.</li> <li>*Demonstrate understanding of multiple perspectives.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Language</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Demonstrate a command of conventions in grammar, punctuation including commas and parentheses, and spelling.</li> <li>*Determine the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on 6<sup>th</sup> grade reading and content.</li> <li>*Demonstrate understanding and usage of grade specific vocabulary.</li> </ul>

**Daily independent reading in school and at home is an essential component to being a strong reader.**



# Mathematics



## Four Critical Areas of Study

1. Connecting rate and ratio to whole number multiplication and division to solve problems.
2. Understand division of fractions and extending understanding of negative numbers.
3. Writing, interpreting, and using expressions and equations.
4. Describe and summarize data sets to find mean, median, gaps, clusters, peaks, etc.

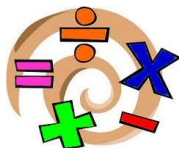
## Strategies for Success

- Communicate with your child's teacher; ask questions, share concerns and successes.
- Learn and practice math facts.
- Read and refer to Everyday Math Family Newsletter for vocabulary, skills, and homework help.
- Visit educational math websites for extra practice and support.

[www.everydaymathonline.com](http://www.everydaymathonline.com)

[www.ixl.com](http://www.ixl.com)

[www.xtramath.org](http://www.xtramath.org)

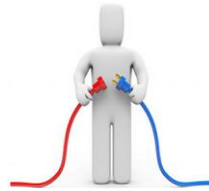


TOPIC	SKILL
<b>Ratios and Proportional Relationships</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand the concept of a ratio and describe the relationship between two quantities.</li> <li>• Use ratio and rate reasoning to solve real world problems.</li> </ul>
<b>The Number System</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apply and extend understanding of multiplication and division to divide fractions by fractions.</li> <li>• Find common multiples and factors.</li> <li>• Extensive use of positive and negative numbers.</li> </ul>
<b>Expressions and Equations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Write and solve problems using exponents (<math>3^2 = 3 \times 3 = 9</math>)</li> <li>• Write expressions from words: "subtract 5 from y" as <math>(y - 5)</math></li> <li>• Apply properties of operations: distributive, associative, and commutative property.</li> </ul>
<b>Geometry</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Solve real world problems involving area, surface area, and volume.</li> <li>• Solve problems with measurements of circles: radius, diameter, circumference, and area.</li> </ul>
<b>Statistics and Probability</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop and understanding of statistics.</li> <li>• Display and describe data sets including circle graphs.</li> </ul>

Students **entering** 6<sup>th</sup> grade should be fluent in math facts up to 12x12.

# Suggested Activities to Support Learning at Home

**MAKING CONNECTIONS**



Learning is enhanced when connections are made between home and school. Real world application brings meaning to school experiences and provides opportunity for practice. Read the weekly Quashnet Newsletter to stay informed of school activities.

- ✓ Create a quiet space for your child to study.
- ✓ Set a time every day when your child can concentrate on reading, writing, and math.
- ✓ Make reading a fun part of your child's daily routine. Read together as a family.
- ✓ Keep a diary and/or write stories about interesting pictures or events.
- ✓ Look for word problems in real life...
  - ◆ Share when using math facts (times table, division, or fractions)
  - ◆ Telling time and calculating elapsed time
  - ◆ Using measurements in cooking
  - ◆ Solve problems with money and making change

## **GET INVOLVED!**

- Talk to your child's teacher about volunteering for special activities and field trips.
- Quashnet School Council – 1 opening for 2012-2013
- Quashnet PTO – see link to Quashnet PTO site on [www.mashpee.k12.ma.us](http://www.mashpee.k12.ma.us) - Quashnet School
- Volunteer opportunities – register with Beth Wunder at 508-539-1550 X 4175
- Have lunch with your child during their lunch time or join them for some recess fun. Please sign in at the office.
- Ask questions – share ideas – call or email with concerns.
- Attend Quashnet School events.

Ask questions, stay in contact with your child's teacher, and check his/her daily planner.

Email connections are quick and easy...teacher's first initial, last name [@mashpee.k12.ma.us](mailto:@mashpee.k12.ma.us) (example: mo'brien@mashpee.k12.ma.us)