

Palos Community Consolidated School District 118

Palos Park, IL

GRADE SIX

READING/LANGUAGE ARTS

The reading/language arts program is designed to balance instruction in reading skills and strategies using a blend of digital and print resources. Using McGraw Hill’s StudySync Program as a main resource, students will learn to think critically while reading and responding to text. Through the use of a wide variety of literature and non-fiction materials of steadily increasing complexity, students will become active, capable, and confident readers, writers, and communicators.

READING

Sixth grade students will read literature from a broad range of genres, cultures, and periods.

Strategies and skills incorporated in the sixth grade reading program include:

- Acquire and accurately use grade-appropriate academic and content specific vocabulary
- Reflect, respond, make inferences, and draw conclusions, citing evidence from literature and informational text
- Summarize a piece of literature or informational text
- Make connections, compare, and contrast between and across text or different forms of media
- Identify universal themes, central message, moral or lesson in a story, drama, or poem and provide a summary of text
- Identify word origins
- Find and locate information using print and digital resources
- Identify structural features of various types of media (including digital) and use the features to obtain information
- Interpret information from graphic aids

ENGLISH

Writing is taught using exemplary mentor text focusing on the 6-Traits of Writing, including: ideas, organization, word choice, voice, sentence fluency and conventions (grammar, spelling, punctuation, capitalization, etc.). Students will write for many purposes and audiences and will develop writing mechanics through grammar instruction.

WRITING AND GRAMMAR

- Reflect and respond to text citing text evidence
- Locate, use and explain information from more than one text
- Use correct prewriting strategies to generate and plan ideas
- Use correct grammar, spelling, punctuation, capitalization, and sentence structure
- Communicate ideas in writing to accomplish a variety of purposes; including opinion pieces, poetry, informative/explanatory pieces

- Produce final documents that have been revised and edited
- Write routinely over short or extended time frames for a range of tasks, purposes, and audiences.

SPEAKING AND LISTENING

Students will develop a range of broadly useful oral communication and interpersonal skills. Students will learn to work together, express and listen carefully to ideas, integrate information from oral, visual and media sources to assist with communicating their ideas.

MATHEMATICS

Mathematics skills, strategies and concepts are taught through a variety of resources including textbooks, manipulatives, and digital tools for an interactive experience. Using Houghton Mifflin Harcourt’s Go Math Program as a main resource, the students will focus on four critical areas: connecting ratio and rate to whole number multiplication and division and using concepts of ratio and rate to solve problems; complete understanding of division of fractions and extending the notion of number to the system of rational numbers, which include negative numbers; writing, interpreting, and using expressions and equations; and developing understanding of statistical thinking.

Sixth grade students will be taught the following:

Fractions and Decimals

- Apply and extend previous understandings of multiplication and division to divide fractions by fractions
- Compare fluently with multi-digit numbers and find common factors and multiples
- Solve real-world and mathematical problems involving area, surface area, and volume

Ratios, Rates, and Proportions

- Understand ratio concepts and use ratio reasoning to solve problems
- Represent and analyze quantitative relationships between dependent and independent variables

Rational Numbers

- Apply and extend previous understandings of numbers to the system of rational numbers
- Solve real-world and mathematical problems involving area, surface area, and volume

Expressions

- Apply previous understandings of arithmetic to algebraic expressions
- Compare fluently with multi-digit numbers and find common factors and multiples

Equations and Inequalities

- Reason about and solve one-variable equations and inequalities

Geometry

- Solve real-world and mathematical problems involving area, surface area, and volume

Statistics

- Develop understanding of statistical variability
- Summarize and describe distributions
- Understand ratio concepts and use ratio reasoning to solve problems

Formulas and Graphs

- Represent and analyze quantitative relationships between dependent and independent variables
- Apply and extend previous understandings of numbers to the system of rational numbers
- Summarize and describe distributions
- Solve real-world and mathematical problems involving area, surface area, and volume

SCIENCE

Science is a content area consisting of a variety of topics. Inquiry into topics is pursued using textbooks, nonfiction literature, “hands on” experimentation and the scientific inquiry method. Using STEMscopes and other resources to fully support the Next Generation Science Standards, students will develop an understanding of concepts through the following topics:

Earth and Space Sciences

- Earth’s Place in the Universe
 - The Solar System
 - Geologic History of Earth
- Earth’s Systems
 - The Water Cycle
 - Weather and Climate
- Earth and Human Activity
 - Natural Resources
 - Human Impact and Global Climate Change

SOCIAL STUDIES

The Illinois Social Science Standards are designed to build conceptual understanding through the study of historical events while developing student inquiry, civic awareness, geography, and economic and financial literacy skills.

The primary purpose of social studies is to help young people develop the ability to make informed and reasoned decisions for the public good. Sixth grade students will develop conceptual understanding through the following guiding questions:

- How did physical geography affect the growth of ancient civilization?
- For what historical accomplishments is each civilization known?
- What legacies have been left by cultures of the past?
- How did ancient civilizations develop governments?
- How did ancient civilizations develop economic systems?

These guiding questions will be applied to the study of the ancient world, including the civilizations of Mesopotamia, Egypt, India, China, Greece, Rome, and Medieval Europe.

APPLIED STEAM

The Applied Technology program is designed to provide authentic STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) experiences to extend concepts learned in these and other subjects. Students will use a variety of technologies, specialized equipment, computer simulations, programs, and a variety of other hands on activities to apply and integrate STEAM activities to help prepare students in solving real world problems.

Students will:

- Explore a variety of computer modules used to enhance the math and science curriculum
- Engage in hands on learning applying STEAM subject matter to real world situations.
- Use the engineering design process to analyze questions and create authentic solutions to real world problems.
- Explore interest and careers that relate to multiple STEAM integration fields.

DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP

Teaching Digital Citizenship is critical to a child’s development and improves student achievement. The curriculum utilized in sixth grade will provide teachers an opportunity to engage students to think critically and make responsible choices. The curriculum includes lessons on Internet safety, communication, cyberbullying, importance of a digital footprint, information literacy and copyright.

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Developing the whole child is essential in creating a foundation for each student to be able to reach his/her full potential. All sixth grade students will be participating in the Second Step Program as we strive to create an environment where students feel safe and are free to learn. The social emotional curriculum includes grade appropriate activities for the following core elements:

- Identify and manage one’s emotions and behavior
- Recognize personal qualities and external supports
- Demonstrate skills related to achieving personal and academic goals
- Recognize feelings and perspective of others
- Recognize individual/group similarities and differences with conflicts
- Consider ethical, safety, and societal factors in making decisions
- Apply decision-making skills to deal with academic and social situations
- Contribute to the well-being of one’s school and community
- Demonstrate an ability to prevent, manage, and resolve interpersonal

The Fine Arts teachers in District 118 have constructed a comprehensive, integrated, sequential curriculum to develop the whole child. Through “hands on” interaction students will develop criticism skills, an aesthetic appreciation of the Arts, and study the historical perspectives that help shape our society.

ART

In sixth grade students will:

- Explore a variety of sophisticated materials and techniques
- Explore art’s development throughout history and in various cultures
- Explore a variety of artistic styles
- Explore how artistic elements influence given pieces of art

EXECUTIVE FUNCTION

In sixth grade students will:

- Learn how executive functioning impacts everyday life
- Increase strategies for effective life tasks and responsibilities
- Learn to set and monitor goals
- Develop skills for organizing and prioritizing

BAND

In sixth grade students who have successfully completed the beginning band program are encouraged to participate at this level. These students will:

- Increase proficiency on their individual instrument
- Increase proficiency with symbolic notation
- Perform a varied repertoire; music of various cultures and styles
- Develop a sense of teamwork

PHYSICAL EDUCATION/HEALTH

The physical education program is planned around the growth and development of the student. It provides a wide range of activities consistent with the requirements of our state goals. In sixth grade students will:

- Achieve and maintain health-enhancing levels of physical fitness
- Develop team building skills
- Acquire movement skills through practice and repetition
- Develop an appreciation for recreational and competitive sports
- Develop offensive and defensive strategies in competitive situations
- Be educated on the importance of life-long fitness through various physical education and fitness center activities
- Explore basic principles of health promotion in the areas of nutrition, physical fitness, and smoking prevention

SPANISH

Spanish is a skill-based study focused on reading, writing, listening, and speaking the target language. The primary goal of the Spanish class is to help the students become more comfortable with the uses and context of the language. Students will use the Prentice-Hall Realidades.

In sixth grade the Spanish students will develop skills in the following areas:

- Vocabulary
- Grammar
- Cultural Information
- Conversation

PALOS DISTRICT 118
Grade Six

Dear Parent/Guardian:

August, 2024

To support your involvement in your child’s education, we have compiled this comprehensive outline of what your child will be taught at this grade level. You can positively impact your child’s academic success by becoming familiar with this curriculum and by monitoring your child’s progress throughout the year. Ultimately, our joint goal is to produce self-directed students who also establish personal learning goals and regularly monitor their own progress.

District 118 teachers and administrators have developed grade level skills and expectations based on the Illinois Learning Standards, national standards, and updated research. Our community’s standards and grade level expectations are often higher than those suggested by our Illinois State Board of Education. Such expectations are incorporated within and continue to produce excellence in our students as indicated on state testing. We are, of course, always seeking to continually improve.

If you have specific questions regarding curriculum or school programs, please call your child’s teacher or principal. Additionally, a wealth of information can be found regarding District 118 academics and programs at www.palos118.org.

We are confident that your child will have a successful school year!

Kind Regards,

Dr. Anthony Scarsella
Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Ron Cozza
Assistant Superintendent
for Curriculum

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