

# SIXTH GRADE CURRICULUM

The capstone year of Rossman School, sixth grade is a special and memorable experience. Whether it is a service-learning opportunity, an interdisciplinary trip to the Civil Rights Museum and Space Camp in the spring, or stepping into the role of Big Brother and Sisters of their Rossman Families, sixth grade students shine brightly as leaders in the school.

In sixth grade, math projects meet students at a variety of levels and challenge them to apply their knowledge of math to real world scenarios, developing critical thinking and executive functioning skills. Such end of unit projects include creating business models, designing probability carnivals for the whole school, and exploring the intersection of art and math.

In writing, the capstone Hero Project allows students to identify and research a challenge, problem or opportunity in the world and study a hero who is helping the cause. We are excited to help students discover how their many academic abilities can support their passions in order to see how, at all ages, students can be helpers to make a positive impact in the world!

Sixth Grade students also have the unique opportunity to meet in small advisory groups once a week to explore character and foster social-emotional and academic competencies in a way that is responsive to the journey of the class.

While keeping focus on enjoying the sixth grade year, we also take great care to walk with families and students through the secondary school application process, a transition for which our students are well prepared to thrive. The graduation ceremony at Rossman is an anticipated evening filled with pride, tears, and laughter as we hear speeches from each member of the graduating class and send them off with love.

## Reading

Complete independent reading project across multiple genres of literature | Develop original claims with supporting textual evidence in both discussion and by writing literary analysis | Apply understanding of literature elements, including plot arc, characterization, theme, symbolism, figurative language, and the influence of setting factors such as cultural and historical context | Strengthen inferencing, predicting, and make intertextual and personal connections | Facilitate student-led spiderweb discussions in the spirit of a socratic seminar | Analyze nonfiction texts to further comprehension skills, including consideration of author's purpose and writing style

Class literature includes: Holes | The Giver | The Miracle Worker | Lions of Little Rock | To Kill A Mockingbird

## Writing

Craft formal and informal pieces of writing across all genres guided by the 6 + 1 Writing Traits | Write weekly journals to explore ideas and practice writing techniques | Practice public speaking by regularly sharing work with the class | Engage in writing workshops with teachers and peers to revise and strengthen writing | Anticipate reader questions to develop ideas | Engage readers with rhetorical strategies for introductions and conclusions | Organize writing for effectiveness, utilizing paragraphs, topic sentences, and transitions | Explore interdisciplinary projects with Art combining research, writing, and art to tell stories through written word, speeches, and images | Shift between showing and telling to develop theme | Develop character, setting, and plot in narrative | Write with literary devices studied in class literature, including figurative language, rhyming, consonance, alliteration, and line breaks and stanzas | Complete capstone research project, the 6th Grade Hero Project to identify a need or opportunity and someone who is making or has made a difference | Compose and deliver a graduation speech

## Mathematics

Continue Everyday Math curriculum | Complete math projects after each unit to reinforce concepts, make real world connections, and develop problem-solving and executive function skills | Utilize math stations and offer extensions to supplement curriculum for challenge | Develop strategies for solving word problems, checking work and error analysis | Collect, analyze, and interpret data | Find and express rate of change in table and graphs | Review operations with whole numbers and decimals | Explore variables, algebraic expressions, and formulas | Combine like terms and distributive property | Create algebraic rules to model rate of change and calculate future values | Solidify fraction operations, decimals, and percents | Explore properties of polygons, angles, and parallel lines/transversals | Solve one, two, and multi-step equations and discover linear functions | Create probability, rates, and ratios

## Grammar

Determine simple and complete subject and predicate | Identify antecedents and determine correct subject, object, and possessive pronoun use | Generate and correct sentences with various comma uses | Build on previous units to practice subject/verb agreement with compound subjects and indefinite pronouns | Review phrases and clauses | Explore types of sentences (simple, compound, complex, and compound-complex) and incorporate them to create increasingly sophisticated sentences and support sentence fluency | Analyze sentences to identify comprising parts of speech

## Social Studies

Explore ancient civilizations along with their cultures and technologies | Compare aspects of Ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia | Practice cartography, creating maps of ancient times that capture important landmarks and natural features | Study Ancient Greece, its Gods and Goddesses and the formation of empires | Study the Civil Rights Movement and the Cold War | Examine key events, organizations, and leaders to identify and analyze the movement's progression and identify cultural impacts | Visit the Civil Rights Museum in Memphis, Tennessee, studying multimedia and both primary and secondary sources | Consider how events like the Berlin Blockade, the Cuban Missile Crisis, and proxy wars had geopolitical effects | Complete weekly current events articles to foster critical thinking and global awareness

## Science

Investigate the discoveries and inventions that led to the development of the modern cell theory | Learn about the structures and functions of plant and animal cells and develop analogous systems by creating an original cell project | Use compound microscopes to investigate cells and organisms | Explore basic genetics and heredity concepts after learning more about organelles and cell processes | Investigate atoms, elements, molecules, properties, and chemical interactions | Learn the history of the American space program as an interdisciplinary collaboration with Social Studies | Investigate concepts in space exploration, specifically rocketry, culminating in a trip to Space Camp

Units of study include: Life Science (Cells & Heredity), Physical Science (Chemistry, Properties and Interactions of Matter), Earth Science (Space Science, Exploration & Rocketry)

## Art

Investigate how artists raise awareness and create change through art | Create a collaborative piece of class art composed of individual grids | Weekly exposure and discussions about contemporary artists pushing the boundaries of art | Collaborate with writing to research and create a project to raise awareness about endangered species | Explore value using graphite | Investigate pop art through the lens of Claes Oldenbury and create large scale candy bar sculptures | Create art to conceptually represent ideas in an interdisciplinary capstone project, The Hero Project

## Music

Develop a working understanding of the bass clef | Compose original bassline arrangements for Korean piece "Arirang" | Use online composition software to understand the songwriting process | Use recording software and virtual instruments to capture student compositions | Foster active listening skills through solfege pitch matching exercises | Select a composer between the medieval period and 20th century and develop a presentation to teach the class about the figure's history and contributions to music | Create a music video combining original audio and video using recording and editing software | Rehearse and perform solos and grade specific songs in school wide performances | Build confidence performing in front of classmates | Learn and perform in whole school concerts and performances

## Spanish

Finalize personal Spanish language dictionaries | Complete independent Spanish reading of chapter books and non-fiction science-content magazines | Study grammatical concepts through contextual readings | Explore the history, traditions, and culture of Spain | Complete a service-learning project based on cultural exchange

Resources include: Storyteller's Corner Comprehensible Readers | Fluency Matters Comprehensible Chapter Books | Duolingo | Señor Wooly | Comprehensible Classroom materials

## Library

Understand how libraries are organized | Demonstrate proficiency in information location, retrieval, and interpretation skills | Present books to peers using various methods | Design a literature-based game | Explore Digital Citizenship concepts including authentic and credible sources and embodying character in digital spaces | Collaborate with core subjects on research methods and works cited practices for increasingly complex research projects

## Physical Education

Our upper school curriculum is a sports based curriculum where students will move from skill development towards skill application. From our third to sixth grade, our curriculum will foster teamwork, character, and sportsmanship while also building individual skills and fitness for our students.

Units include: Soccer, Flag Football, Lacrosse, Field Hockey, Volleyball, Tumbling, Floor Hockey, Basketball, Dance, Racquet Sports, Track & Field, Softball, Cross Country, Fishing, Climbing, and Fitness

## Specialty Subject Schedule

Science — 45 minutes, 4 times a week  
Social Studies -- 45 minutes, 4 times a week  
Art — 45 minutes, 2 times a week  
Music — 45 minutes, 2 times a week  
Spanish — 45 minutes, 2 times a week  
Library — 45 minutes, once weekly  
Physical Education — 45 minutes daily