



Sixth Grade Curriculum Guide

PRIORITY STANDARDS: District 92 guarantees that each student will know and be able to demonstrate proficiency by the end of the school year. Students who have not mastered the priority standards will be supported to progress toward mastery. Students who have mastered the priority standards will receive enrichment activities/tasks to grow further.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

District 92 utilized a structured literacy approach to literacy instruction based on the science of reading. The science of reading is an evidence-based approach to teaching reading that draws on research from various fields, including psychology, linguistics, cognitive science, and education. It responds to the need for effective reading instruction and is informed by a growing body of scientific research on how the brain learns to read.

The science of reading advocates for systematic, explicit, and sequential instruction based on understanding how language and reading develop in the brain. It highlights the importance of early and effective intervention for struggling readers and promotes evidence-based practices in literacy instruction. Teachers who follow the science of reading approach aim to provide students with a solid foundation in the essential skills needed for proficient reading and comprehension.

The science of reading in sixth grade builds upon the foundational literacy skills developed in earlier grades. It continues to focus on key aspects of reading, including decoding, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. The science of reading in sixth grade aims to deepen students' literacy skills, fostering a love for reading, critical thinking, and the ability to navigate and understand a wide range of texts.

MATH

In sixth grade, the focus of mathematics education typically covers a wide range of topics, building on the foundational concepts learned in earlier grades. The curriculum is designed to deepen students' understanding of mathematical concepts, enhance problem-solving skills, and introduce more advanced topics. The sixth-grade mathematics curriculum aims to prepare students for more advanced mathematical concepts in later grades while ensuring a solid foundation in fundamental skills.

Here are some key focus areas in sixth-grade mathematics:

- **Number and Operations:** Understanding and working with whole numbers, decimals, and fractions. Performing operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division) with decimals and fractions.



- **Algebraic Thinking:** Introducing and solving one-step and two-step algebraic equations. Understanding and using variables to represent unknown quantities. Exploring patterns, sequences, and relationships.
- **Measurement:** Converting units of measurement within the metric and customary systems. Solving problems involving the measurement of length, weight, volume, and time.
- **Geometry:** Identifying and classifying two-dimensional and three-dimensional shapes. Understanding and calculating area and perimeter of geometric figures. Introducing concepts of volume and surface area.
- **Ratio and Proportional Relationships:** Solving problems involving ratios and rates. Understanding proportional relationships and using them to solve real-world problems. Applying concepts of percentages in various contexts.
- **Critical Thinking and Problem Solving:** Developing critical thinking skills through challenging problem-solving tasks. Applying mathematical concepts to analyze and solve complex problems.
- **Statistics and Probability:** Collecting, organizing, and interpreting data. Constructing and interpreting different types of graphs and charts. Introducing basic concepts of probability.
- **Expressions and Equations:** Evaluating and simplifying algebraic expressions. Understanding and using the properties of operations to generate equivalent expressions.
- **Mathematical Practices:** Emphasizing the development of mathematical practices, including problem-solving, reasoning, and modeling. Engaging in collaborative and communicative mathematical activities. Connecting mathematical concepts to real-world situations.

Aligned with the Illinois Learning Standards, Sixth Grade students will explore the following units of study:

- Unit 1: Numerical Expressions and Factors
- Unit 2: Fractions and Decimals
- Unit 3: Ratios and Rates
- Unit 4: Percents
- Unit 5: Algebraic expressions and Properties
- Unit 6: Equations
- Unit 7: Area, Surface Area, and Volume
- Unit 8: Integers, Number Lines, and the Coordinate Plane
- Unit 9: Statistical Measures
- Unit 10: Data Displays



SCIENCE

Students at Oak Prairie Jr. High School utilize a program called Lab-Aides. This program allows students to participate in screen-free labs and investigations. Instructional design and unique equipment help bring out student ideas and encourage learning through personal, concrete experiences. This program is aligned with the NGSS and Common Core State Standards, including Disciplinary Core Ideas, Science and Engineering Practices, and Cross-Cutting Concepts. Sixth graders will investigate:

- Erosion and Deposition
- Plate Tectonics
- Rocks and Minerals
- Soil

SOCIAL STUDIES

The Illinois Social Studies Standards for sixth grade are aligned with the College and Career Readiness (CCR) standards and encompass a variety of topics to promote students' understanding of social studies concepts and skills. The standards are organized into four main strands: Civics, Economic and Financial Literacy, Geography, and History. Teachers often use various instructional materials and resources to address these standards, fostering a comprehensive understanding of social studies concepts for sixth-grade students.

SPECIALS

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The Physical Education (PE) curriculum for grades K-8 promotes physical activity, motor skill development, and overall health and well-being. The curriculum evolves as students progress through the grades, incorporating age-appropriate activities and focusing on developing fundamental movement skills.

MUSIC

In sixth-grade music class, students continue to build upon the foundational musical concepts introduced in previous grades. The focus often includes a combination of theoretical knowledge, practice skills, and exposure to different musical styles. The goal is to provide students with a well-rounded musical education that includes both theoretical knowledge and hands-on experience.



ART

The junior high art curriculum in District 92 is designed to build on foundational artistic skills while introducing more advanced concepts. The focus is on fostering creativity, self-expression, and a deeper understanding of various art forms. The goal is to provide an educational and enjoyable class, providing students with the tools and inspiration to express themselves through various art forms while building a strong foundation for future artistic endeavors.

HEALTH

The Middle School Health curriculum is aligned to the Illinois Learning Standards. The course introduces students to the basic concepts of health and wellness. Students will explore topics and factors that influence their health and wellness. Students will be encouraged to work towards living a healthier life.