

Welcome to 6th GRADE!

Twin Cities International Schools sets expectations, or standards, for what students need to know in all grade levels and content areas. This guide is designed to help you understand the 6th grade standards so you can support your student's learning during the school year. If you have questions about this information or your student needs help, please visit the teacher website links provided at the bottom of each content page or the student support teacher resources at the end of the newsletter.

When talking to your student about school, you can ask:

- ▶ Can you tell me about something you **read** today?
- ▶ How could you use the **math** you learned today?
- ▶ What **scientific ideas** did you talk about today?
- ▶ What did you learn about your **role in society** today?
- ▶ How did someone help you learn today?



If your student is also learning English, you can ask:

- ▶ How does your teacher help you understand and participate in class?
- ▶ What are some tools you can use to help you identify unknown words?



ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS AND LITERACY

In every grade at TCIS, your student will:

- ▶ Read various texts including books, poems, letters, and news articles.
- ▶ Speak and listen in formal and informal ways by participating in presentations and daily conversations.
- ▶ Communicate opinions, information, and experiences in writing for various readers.
- ▶ Use knowledge of English grammar and vocabulary in both speech and writing.



MATHEMATICS

In every grade at TCIS, your student will:

- ▶ Use math to represent and solve real-world problems.
- ▶ Engage in mathematical reasoning to determine if an answer is true or false.
- ▶ Utilize tools, like rulers and calculators, to show mathematical relationships.
- ▶ Identify patterns and number structures to solve problems.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY/ENGINEERING

In every grade at TCIS, your student will:

- ▶ Ask scientific questions about the natural world and technological advances.
- ▶ Learn through observations and hands-on experiments.
- ▶ Solve problems using the scientific method and incorporating various tools.
- ▶ Communicate findings to others to in both written and spoken form.

HISTORY AND SOCIAL STUDIES

In every grade at TCIS, your student will:

- ▶ Learn about their local community, state, country, and world.
- ▶ Discover how people and events from the past relate to the present.
- ▶ Work to understand how people view the world and events differently.
- ▶ Locate various sources of information when researching a topic.

The next four pages focus more specifically on the Minnesota learning standards for **6th GRADE**.



SIXTH GRADE COURSE DESCRIPTION:



Class is going to be very exciting this year! We are starting off with a new, highly innovative curriculum. During Module 1, we will be exploring literature and non-fiction texts from the time of the Great Depression. Our main goals in class are to be able to:

- ❖ Develop our writing skills through textual analysis.
- ❖ Learn how to make logical inferences using support from a text.
- ❖ Analyze the Figurative Language used in a novel.
- ❖ Use textual evidence to support a claim.

By the end of 6th grade, students can:



- Cite textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.
- Determine a theme or central idea of a text and how it is conveyed through particular details; provide a summary of the text distinct from personal opinions or judgments.
- Describe how a particular story's or drama's plot unfolds in a series of episodes as well as how the characters respond or change as the plot moves toward a resolution.
- Trace and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, distinguishing claims that are supported by reasons and evidence from claims that are not.
- Analyze how a particular sentence, chapter, scene, or stanza fits into the overall structure of a text and contributes to the development of the theme, setting, or plot.
- Compare and contrast texts in different forms or genres including those by and about Minnesota American Indians in terms of their approaches to similar themes and topics.
- Explain how an author develops the point of view of the narrator or speaker in a text, including those by or about Minnesota American Indians.
- Analyze in detail how a key individual, event, or idea is introduced, illustrated, and elaborated in a text.
- Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the impact of a specific word choice on meaning and tone.
- Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

QUESTIONS YOU CAN ASK YOUR STUDENT:

- Can you tell me about the last research project you did?
- When you are working in a group, how do you and your classmates decide how the work will get completed?

TOPICS YOU CAN DISCUSS WITH YOUR STUDENT'S TEACHER:

- What new types of writing your student is exploring.
- What topics your student is curious about and what types of things they read at home.

For more information or to connect with your student's ELA teacher, please visit:



Ms. Kaitlin's ELA Website

SIXTH GRADE COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This year in math, students will be learning about Order of Operations with Rational Numbers, Prime Factorization, Multiplying and Dividing Fractions, Multiplying and Dividing Decimals, Surface Area, Volume and Area of Quadrilaterals, Determining Probability of an event, and Angles of Polygons.



By the end of 6th grade, students can:



- Locate positive rational numbers on a number line and plot pairs of positive rational numbers on a coordinate grid.
- Compare positive rational numbers represented in various forms. Use the symbols $<$, $=$ and $>$.
- Understand that percent represents parts out of 100 and ratios to 100.
- Determine equivalences among fractions, decimals, and percents.
- Factor whole numbers and show them as a product of prime factors with exponents.
- Determine greatest common factors and least common multiples.
- Use common factors and common multiples to calculate and find equivalent fractions.
- Convert between equivalent representations of positive rational numbers.
- Apply the relationship between ratios, equivalent fractions and percents to solve problems in various contexts, including those involving mixtures and concentrations.
- Use reasoning about multiplication and division to solve ratio and rate problems.
- Multiply and divide decimals and fractions using standard algorithms.
- Estimate weights, capacities, and geometric measurements using measurement systems with appropriate units.
- Develop and use formulas for the sums of the interior angles of polygons by decomposing them into triangles.
- Solve problems in various contexts involving conversion of weights, capacities, geometric measurements, and times within measurement systems using appropriate units.

QUESTIONS YOU CAN ASK YOUR STUDENT:

- How long will it take to drive home if we go 30 miles per hour?
- How much does a school bus weigh?

TOPICS YOU CAN DISCUSS WITH YOUR STUDENT'S TEACHER:

- Ways to practice using ratios and rates at home.
- Your student's fluency with basic operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division).

For more information or to connect with your student's Math teacher, please visit:



Ms. Diane's Math Website

SIXTH GRADE COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Welcome to 6th grade science! In this class we will be focusing on Earth Science. We will be learning about the Earth and the processes that shape and change it. Buckle up for a year of fun and discovery!



By the end of 6th grade, students can:



- Ask questions that arise from observations of patterns in the movement of night sky objects to test the limitations of a solar system model.
- Ask questions to examine an interpretation about the relative ages of different rock layers within a sequence of several rock layers.
- Analyze and interpret data to determine similarities and differences among features and processes occurring on solar system objects.
- Develop and use scale models of solar system objects to describe the sizes of objects, the location of objects, and the motion of the objects; and include the role that gravity and inertia play in controlling that motion.
- Construct a scientific explanation based on evidence from rock strata for how the geologic time scale is used to organize Earth's 4.6-billion-year-old history.
- Communicate how a series of models, including those used by Minnesota American Indian Tribes and communities and other cultures, are used to explain how motion in the Earth-Sun-Moon system causes the cyclic patterns of lunar phases, eclipses, and seasons.
- Collect data and use digital data analysis tools to identify patterns to provide evidence for how the motions and complex interactions of air masses result in changes in weather conditions.
- Analyze and interpret data on the distribution of fossils, rocks, continental shapes, and seafloor structures to provide evidence of past plate motions.
- Develop a model, based on observational and experimental evidence, to describe the cycling of water through Earth's systems driven by energy from the sun and the force of gravity.

QUESTIONS YOU CAN ASK YOUR STUDENT:

- What are some factors that help you determine the age of a rock layer?
- How have plate movements helped shape how Earth looks today?

TOPICS YOU CAN DISCUSS WITH YOUR STUDENT'S TEACHER:

- Ways of applying what your student learns in science to everyday situations.
- Places in the community that can help your student learn about the scientific concepts covered in class.

For more information or to connect with your student's Science teacher, please visit:



Ms. Brittany's Science Website

SIXTH GRADE COURSE DESCRIPTION:

6th Grade Social Studies will focus on Minnesota History. Throughout the year we will learn about Minnesota's geography, political systems, and history from before it was a state all the way to 2020. Some of the biggest units this year will be a novel study of the Civil War, a living history fair, and a research paper.



By the end of 6th grade, students can:



- Compare and contrast the Dakota and Anishinaabe nations prior to 1800.
- Describe European exploration, competition and trade in the upper Mississippi River region.
- Analyze how and why the United States and the Dakota and Anishinaabe negotiated treaties and the consequences of them.
- Describe the process of how Minnesota became a territory and state.
- Explain the causes of the Civil War; describe how the debate over slavery and abolition played out in Minnesota.
- Analyze how the rise of big business, industry growth, utilization of natural resources, and technological innovation influenced Minnesota's economy from 1860 to 1920.
- Analyze the causes and impact of migration and immigration on Minnesota society during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.
- Describe the political and social culture of Minnesota during World War I and how it affected Minnesotans.
- Describe the political and social impact of the Great Depression and New Deal in Minnesota.
- Create a timeline of key events leading up to World War II and identify contributions made by Minnesota and its people.
- Give examples of economic changes in Minnesota during the Cold War era.
- Describe civil rights and conservation movements in Post-World War II Minnesota, including the role of Minnesota leaders.
- Identify the push-pull factors that bring the Hmong, East African, Hispanic, Asian Indian and other immigrants and refugees to Minnesota.
- Identify the major Minnesota political figures, ideas and industries that have shaped or continue to shape Minnesota and the United States today.

QUESTIONS YOU CAN ASK YOUR STUDENT:



- Why do researchers use multiple sources of information when writing about history?
- How have the rights of different groups of people been affected by laws in this country's history?

TOPICS YOU CAN DISCUSS WITH YOUR STUDENT'S TEACHER:



- People and places in the community related to important historical events.
- Books about Minnesota history that they can find at the library.

For more information or to connect with your student's Social Studies teacher, please visit:



Ms. Allison's Social Studies Website

Electives at TCIS!



TCIS believes in the importance of offering electives for its students. All students in grades 5-8 will have the opportunity to participate in Arabic, Media/Technology, Art, and Physical Education during the school year. Please read over a sample of the coursework covered below and contact your student's teacher if you have any questions.

ARABIC

In every grade at TCIS, your student will:



- Enrich their cultural heritage by learning how to read, write and speak Arabic both at school and at home.
- Learn "Anasheed" and participate in conversations in Arabic to learn vocabulary for different contexts that can be used in daily life situations.
- Participate in Arabic classes that are taught twice a week.

For more information or to connect with your student's Arabic teacher, please visit:



Ms. Suhair's Arabic Website

MEDIA/TECHNOLOGY

Students will build on their technology skills each year by being able to:



- Understand the importance of internet safety and the significance of creating a positive digital footprint.
- Define what coding is and create their own codes.
- Understand that there are steps and sequences in coding and relate that to their everyday life.
- Create their own robots and design them to move around, pull objects, and much more!

For more information or to connect with your student's Media/Technology teacher, please visit:



Ms. Korrie's Media/Technology Website

ART

In every grade at TCIS, your student will:



- Integrate knowledge and personal experiences while responding to, creating, and presenting artistic work.
- Understand that artistic works influence and are influenced by personal, societal, cultural, and historical contexts, including the contributions of Minnesota American Indian tribes and communities.
- Create, develop, present, and evaluate original artistic ideas and artwork.

For more information or to connect with your student's Art teacher, please visit:



Ms. Sarah's Art Website

PHYSICAL EDUCATION / HEALTH

In every grade at TCIS, your student will:



- Demonstrate competency in a variety of motor skills and movement patterns (e.g. sit and reach, sit-ups, push-ups, shuttle run, mile run, and pacer test).
- Apply knowledge of concepts, principles, strategies, and tactics related to movement performance.
- Demonstrate the knowledge and skills to achieve and maintain a health-enhancing level of physical activity and fitness.

For more information or to connect with your student's P.E. and Health teacher, please visit:



Mr. Chris and Coach Jen's P.E. Website

Student Support Resources

TCIS has a variety of resources available to all learners to ensure that every student is able to reach their full academic potential. If your student is in need of support, please contact their content classroom teacher or one of the support teachers listed below.



Response to Intervention (RTI)

Response to Intervention (RTI) teachers are available in each grade level to support students in all content areas (English Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies, and Media Literacy). Please contact your student's grade level RTI teacher for more information or to set up a help session.

❖ 5th Grade RTI Teacher



Ms. Ali's RTI Website

❖ 6th Grade RTI Teacher



Ms. Nancy's RTI Website

❖ 7th Grade RTI Teacher



Ms. Katie's RTI Website

❖ 8th Grade RTI Teacher



Mr. Abdiquani's RTI Website

English Language Instruction

English Language (EL) teachers are also available in each grade level to support eligible students in achieving the English language proficiency needed to succeed academically and to realize personal, social, and career goals. EL teachers work in collaboration with both general education and specialist teachers to design a comprehensive instructional program for each student. To learn more, please contact the EL teacher assigned to your student's grade level.

❖ 5th and 6th Grade EL Teacher



Ms. Ifrah's EL Website

❖ 7th and 8th Grade EL Teacher



Mr. Jonathan's EL Website



Educational Assistants

Educational Assistants (EAs) are available in all grade levels to assist students with coursework, answer questions, and connect with families. Please contact the 5th grade EAs listed below via email.

❖ Ms. Fartun



❖ Email: fartunw@iecmail.net



❖ Mr. Younis



❖ Email: younisy@iecmail.net