



# Sixth Grade Instructional Plan: First Semester

## Course Overview

Sixth Grade Mathematics is designed to develop proficient problem-solvers through a structured, standards-based approach aligned with the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) and the rigor of the STAAR assessment. Students will strengthen their skills in ratios and proportional relationships, rational numbers, expressions and equations, geometry, measurement, data analysis, and personal financial literacy while applying mathematical reasoning to real-world situations. Instruction will be explicit, systematic, and scaffolded to ensure all learners can master grade-level expectations and demonstrate readiness for STAAR and future math courses.

### Throughout the year, students will:

- Apply number sense with positive and negative integers and rational numbers in real-world contexts
- Perform operations with integers, fractions, and decimals fluently
- Represent and analyze proportional relationships, ratios, and rates using multiple representations
- Write, interpret, and solve one-variable equations and inequalities
- Represent and analyze data using dot plots, stem-and-leaf plots, histograms, and box plots
- Solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume of two- and three-dimensional figures
- Explain and justify mathematical reasoning using precise vocabulary, models, and symbolic notation

Sixth grade science in Texas is an integrated science course designed to build a strong foundation in the skills and concepts that students will use throughout middle and high school science. The first semester will focus on core scientific practices, the study of matter, forces, energy, and space systems. Instruction is based on the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS), with an emphasis on hands-on lab investigations, STEM experiences, and real-world applications. Students will engage in scientific practices, use evidence to construct explanations, and explore how science connects to everyday life.

### During the first semester, students will study:

- **Unit 1 – Scientific Method (5 days):** Designing and conducting investigations, making observations, collecting and analyzing data, and drawing conclusions.
- **Unit 2 – Properties of Matter (13 days):** Physical properties, states of matter, density, and methods for classifying substances.
- **Unit 3 – Elements & Chemical Change (14 days):** Structure of atoms, the periodic table, elements, compounds, and recognizing evidence of chemical changes.
- **Unit 4 – Force and Motion (14 days):** Types of forces, Newton's Laws of Motion, speed, velocity, acceleration, and interpreting motion graphs.
- **Unit 5 – Energy (14 days):** Forms of energy, energy transformations, the law of conservation of energy, and energy in everyday systems.
- **Unit 6 – The Solar System (10 days):** Components of the solar system, gravity, planetary motion, lunar phases, eclipses, and seasons.



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Sixth grade social studies in Texas is designed to introduce students to geography, world cultures, and the history and systems of North and South America, as well as Europe. The first semester focuses on building foundational geographic skills, understanding regional cultures, and exploring the political, economic, and social structures of countries around the world. Instruction is based on the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS), with an emphasis on critical thinking, analysis of primary and secondary sources, and connections to real-world events. Students will develop research, map-reading, and discussion skills while learning how history and geography influence modern society.

### During the first semester, students will study:

- **Unit 1 – Introduction to Geography (16 days):** Map skills, geographic tools, types of regions, physical and human geography concepts.
- **Unit 2 – U.S. & Canada (28 days):** Geography, history, government, culture, and economics of the United States and Canada. Includes **Freedom Week (Sept 15-19)** and **Hispanic Heritage Month (Sept 15 – Oct 15)**.
- **Unit 3 – Latin America (29 days):** Geography, cultures, economies, and historical events across Latin American countries.
- **Unit 4 – Europe (29 days):** European geography, governments, historical events, and cultural contributions.

This sequence is designed to build knowledge progressively while emphasizing geographic literacy, historical thinking, and global awareness.

### Classroom Expectations

Our classroom is a safe learning place, which encourages teamwork, positive feedback, and academic achievement. All students will be respectful to others. We will be good listeners to the teacher and to other's ideas. All students will be hard working contributors in the process of getting their education in order to be successful and reach their full potential.

#### Expectation 1: Be respectful

- Use appropriate voice level
- Raise your hand, and wait your turn to speak
- Listen to all instructions and directions
- Stay in your seat and wait for teacher permission

#### Expectation 2: Be responsible

- Complete all assigned tasks
- Be prepared: Have all necessary materials

#### Expectation 3: Be safe

- Always keep your hands and feet to self
- Walk at all times
- Report problems to an adult

#### Expectation 4: Be ready to learn and try your best every day

- Come to class on time
- Prioritize daily attendance

Positive reinforcement and clear routines will help students learn and meet these expectations. If expectations are not met, the teacher will first reteach and remind the student(s) of expectations. If a student continues to fail to meet expectations, they will be redirected, then parents will be contacted. If a student is unable to meet expectations after these preventative measures, an office referral will be made.



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## Attendance Policy & Its Importance

Regular attendance is vital to your child's academic development. Third grade is a pivotal year in mathematics—students move from basic number concepts to applying math for problem solving and real-world reasoning. When students attend daily, they stay current with new skills aligned to the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) and the rigor of the STAAR assessment, deepen their understanding of mathematical concepts, strengthen problem-solving strategies, and build the perseverance needed for success in higher-level math.

**Please notify the school if your child will be absent.** Frequent or extended absences may make it more difficult for your child to learn necessary foundational skills that ensure student success this year and in future school years.

## Learning Objectives

By the end of the first semester, students will be able to:

Using **Accelerate Learning STEMscopes (Texas)**, students will develop math skills such as:

- Solving problems involving integers, fractions, and decimals using the four operations
- Representing and analyzing ratios, rates, and proportional relationships in real-world contexts
- Writing, interpreting, and solving one-variable equations and inequalities
- Representing and analyzing data using dot plots, histograms, and box plots
- Applying geometric concepts to find area, surface area, and volume of two- and three-dimensional figures
- Explaining and justifying mathematical solutions using precise vocabulary, models, and symbolic notation
- Explaining and justifying mathematical solutions using models and precise vocabulary

Using **SAVVAS**, students will develop science skills such as:

- Use scientific tools and safety procedures to conduct investigations.
- Apply the scientific method to ask questions, collect data, and form conclusions.
- Describe properties of matter and explain how matter changes states.
- Differentiate between physical and chemical changes.
- Explain the structure of atoms and identify elements using the periodic table.
- Recognize and explain evidence of chemical changes.
- Describe the relationship between force, motion, and energy.
- Apply Newton's Laws of Motion to real-world examples.
- Identify different forms of energy and describe how energy transforms from one form to another.
- Explain the law of conservation of energy.
- Model the structure and components of the solar system.
- Describe how gravity affects planetary motion.
- Explain patterns of seasons, lunar phases, and eclipses.

Using the Social Studies curriculum, students will be able to:

- Identify and use geographic tools and map skills.
- Explain physical and human characteristics of regions.
- Describe key features of the United States, Canada, Latin America, and Europe.
- Analyze historical and cultural influences on modern societies.
- Compare governments, economies, and social structures across regions.
- Examine primary and secondary sources to support analysis and conclusions.
- Connect historical events to contemporary issues and perspectives.



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Participate respectfully in discussions, debates, and collaborative projects.

## Course Resources

- Chromebook (provided by Midland ISD)
- Journals and writing utensils (part of the school supply list)
- i-Ready
- STEMScopes
- SAVVAS
- McGraw-Hill, Pearson, HMH, Ramsay

## Grading Policy

*According to Midland ISD Grading Policy:*

Teachers are expected to use a variety of types of student work performance to assess student achievement. The teacher should choose those which are most appropriate to the class, the students, and the TEKS under study.

Students will receive minor assignment feedback within three to five school days. Major assignments such as research projects, group projects, and research papers or other long-term projects shall receive a final cumulative grade within ten school days.

Major assignments - 40% which includes tests and quizzes. Minor assignments - 60% includes daily work and concept checks.

## Class DoJo (School-wide System of Communication)

Our campus uses ClassDoJo to communicate with families. Please ensure you join our class for important updates.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns. We are excited to work together to make this a successful year of learning!

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**Please fill out the portion below and return this portion to your teacher.**

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We acknowledge that we have read and that we understand the expectations in Sixth Grade. We agree to contact the teacher should we have any questions or concerns regarding this instructional plan.

Parent Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature : \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



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Date: \_\_\_\_\_