# Grade Six

The sixth-grade student will be an active participant in classroom discussions. The student will present personal opinions, understand differing viewpoints, distinguish between fact and opinion, and analyze the effectiveness of group communication. The student will continue in the study of the elements of media literacy as introduced in earlier grades. The student will begin the study of word origins and continue vocabulary development. The student will read independently a variety of fiction and nonfiction texts, including a significant number of classic works, for appreciation and comprehension. The student will also plan, draft, revise, and edit narratives, descriptions, and explanations, with attention to composition and style as well as sentence formation, usage, and mechanics. The student will also demonstrate correct use of language, spelling, and mechanics by applying grammatical conventions in writing and speaking. In addition, technology will be used as a tool to research, organize, and communicate information. As in earlier grades, the meaning and consequences of plagiarism will be stressed.

## Communication: Speaking, Listening, Media Literacy

6.1 The student will participate in and contribute to small-group activities.
- a) Communicate as leader and contributor.
- b) Evaluate own contributions to discussions.
- c) Summarize and evaluate group activities.
- d) Analyze the effectiveness of participant interactions.

6.2 The student will present, listen critically, and express opinions in oral presentations.
- a) Distinguish between fact and opinion.
- b) Compare and contrast viewpoints.
- c) Present a convincing argument.
- d) Paraphrase and summarize what is heard.
- e) Use language and vocabulary appropriate to audience, topic, and purpose.

6.3 The student will understand the elements of media literacy.
- a) Compare and contrast auditory, visual, and written media messages.
- b) Identify the characteristics and effectiveness of a variety of media messages.
- c) Craft and publish audience-specific media messages.

## Reading

6.4 The student will read and learn the meanings of unfamiliar words and phrases within authentic texts.
- a) Identify word origins and derivations.
- b) Use roots, cognates, affixes, synonyms, and antonyms to expand vocabulary.
- c) Use context and sentence structure to determine meanings and differentiate among multiple meanings of words.
- d) Identify and analyze figurative language.
- e) Use word-reference materials.
- f) Extend general and specialized vocabulary through speaking, listening, reading, and writing.

6.5 The student will read and demonstrate comprehension of a variety of fictional texts, narrative nonfiction, and poetry.

a) Identify the elements of narrative structure, including setting, character, plot, conflict, and theme.
b) Make, confirm, and revise predictions.
c) Describe how word choice and imagery contribute to the meaning of a text.
d) Describe cause and effect relationships and their impact on plot.
e) Use prior and background knowledge as context for new learning.
f) Use information in the text to draw conclusions and make inferences.
g) Explain how character and plot development are used in a selection to support a central conflict or story line.
h) Identify the main idea.
i) Identify and summarize supporting details.
j) Identify and analyze the author's use of figurative language.
k) Identify transitional words and phrases that signal an author's organizational pattern.
l) Use reading strategies to monitor comprehension throughout the reading process.

6.6 The student will read and demonstrate comprehension of a variety of nonfiction texts.

a) Use text structures such as type, headings, and graphics to predict and categorize information in both print and digital texts.
b) Use prior knowledge and build additional background knowledge as context for new learning.
c) Identify questions to be answered.
d) Make, confirm, or revise predictions.
e) Draw conclusions and make inferences based on explicit and implied information.
f) Differentiate between fact and opinion.
g) Identify main idea.
h) Summarize supporting details.
i) Compare and contrast information about one topic, which may be contained in different selections.
j) Identify the author's organizational pattern.
k) Identify cause and effect relationships.
l) Use reading strategies to monitor comprehension throughout the reading process.

## Writing

6.7 The student will write narration, description, exposition, and persuasion.

a) Identify audience and purpose.
b) Use a variety of prewriting strategies including graphic organizers to generate and organize ideas.
c) Organize writing structure to fit mode or topic.
d) Establish a central idea and organization.
e) Compose a topic sentence or thesis statement if appropriate.
f) Write multiparagraph compositions with elaboration and unity.
g) Select vocabulary and information to enhance the central idea, tone, and voice.
h) Expand and embed ideas by using modifiers, standard coordination, and subordination in complete sentences.
i) Revise sentences for clarity of content including specific vocabulary and information.
j) Use computer technology to plan, draft, revise, edit, and publish writing.

6.8 The student will edit writing for correct grammar, capitalization, punctuation, spelling, sentence structure, and paragraphing.

a) Use a variety of graphic organizers, including sentence diagrams, to analyze and improve sentence formation and paragraph structure.
b) Use subject-verb agreement with intervening phrases and clauses.
c) Use pronoun-antecedent agreement to include indefinite pronouns.
d) Maintain consistent verb tense across paragraphs.
e) Eliminate double negatives.
f) Use quotation marks with dialogue.
g) Choose adverbs to describe verbs, adjectives, and other adverbs.
h) Use correct spelling for frequently used words.

## Research

6.9 The student will find, evaluate, and select appropriate resources for a research product.

a) Collect information from multiple sources including online, print, and media.
b) Evaluate the validity and authenticity of texts.
c) Use technology as a tool to research, organize, evaluate, and communicate information.
d) Cite primary and secondary sources.
e) Define the meaning and consequences of plagiarism and follow ethical and legal guidelines for gathering and using information.