English Language Arts

Reading Literature & Informational Text

- Read & comprehend a variety of grade level texts of appropriate complexity
- Determine key ideas/theme of text & give evidence by quoting accurately
- Understand text structures, features & elements, including how an author develops point of view of a speaker or narrator
- Describe how the plot of a particular story, poem, or drama unfolds in a series of episodes as well as how the characters respond or change as the plot moves toward a resolution.
- Determine meaning of unknown words & phrases in text
- Compare/contrast important points, elements & key details of two or more texts

Writing

- Produce clear & coherent writing in which the development, organization, & style are appropriate to task, purpose, & audience.
- Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support written analysis, interpretation, reflection, & research & cite it appropriately
- Write narratives using effective techniques, descriptive details & clear event sequences
- Write opinion pieces supporting a point of view with logically ordered reasons that are supported by facts
- Develop & strengthen writing using the writing process

Speaking & Listening

- Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions
- Communicate effectively in oral presentations
- Evaluate a speaker's argument & specific claims, distinguishing claims that are supported by reasons & evidence from claims that are not.

Language

- Acquire new vocabulary both from reading & from the Sadlier-Oxford Level A vocabulary program.
- Use grade-level appropriate conventions in daily writing

Math

Mathematical Practices

All eight standards of mathematical practices are embedded throughout the curriculum. In each term some practices are emphasized according to the content/context of the mathematics.

- Accurately solve problems utilizing order of operations, exponents, prime factorization, greatest common factor (GCF) & least common multiple (LCM)
- Demonstrate an understanding of fractions, decimals, & percentages in regard to function, value, & equivalence
- Accurately & efficiently add, subtract, multiply, & divide fractions, mixed numbers, & decimals.
- Correctly identify mathematical vocabulary to write expressions using variables to model situations
- Replace variables with given values & evaluate/simplify
- Simplify & solve one-step linear equations utilizing commutative, associative, & distributive properties
- Identify two-dimensional shapes based on their properties, calculate area & perimeter accurately
- Graph points & identify coordinates of points on the Cartesian coordinate plane
- Understand the relationship between ratios, rates, & percentages & how to solve them
- Accurately write & graph inequalities utilizing properties
- Calculate surface areas of prisms & pyramids given a net of the object
- Find the volume of rectangular prisms
- Describe & compare data sets using the concepts of median, mean, mode, & range
- Construct & interpret stem-&-leaf plots, histograms, box-&-whisker plots

Science

The Grade 6 curriculum focuses on the following major units of study: solar system, weather, & Earth's history.

- Model the Earth-Sun-Moon system to explain lunar phases, eclipses, & the cyclical pattern of seasons
- Understand the role gravity plays in the ocean tides & the orbital motions of planets & their moons
- Earth's place in the universe
- Analyze & interpret rock layers & index fossils to determine relative ages of rock formations
- Layers of the Earth including plate tectonics
- Provide evidence for & understand the science of plate tectonics
- Obtain & communicate information on how data from past geological events are analyzed for patterns & used to forecast the likelihood of future catastrophic events
- Interpret weather data to identify patterns in air mass interactions
- Examine & interpret data to describe the role that human activities have played in causing the rise in global temperatures over the past century

STEAM

- Utilize the Engineering Design Process to identify problems & solutions through reliable research sources, design & create prototypes, test, redesign & communicate results & findings.
- Demonstrate safe & proper use of personal protective equipment (PPE) while using various tools.
- Create & evaluate criteria & constraints for individual & group projects in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering, & Mathematics.

Social Studies

World Geography & Ancient Civilizations I: Students will use the History & Social Science Practices to explore such focus questions as, "What do the social sciences contribute to our understanding of the world?", "How does geography affect how societies develop & interact?" & "Why were traders & merchants important in ancient societies?" The History & Social Science Practices are taught throughout the year. In each term practices are emphasized according to the content/context of social studies.

- Demonstrate civic knowledge, skills, & dispositions.
- Develop focused questions or problem statements & conduct inquiries.
- Organize information & data from multiple primary & secondary sources.
- Analyze the purpose & point of view of each source; distinguish opinion from fact.
- Evaluate the credibility, accuracy, & relevance of each source.
- Argue or explain conclusions, using valid reasoning & evidence.
- Determine next steps & take informed action, as appropriate.

World Languages

- FLEX program - Students rotate through four languages - French, German, Latin, and Spanish, with each rotation lasting 8 weeks
- Students practice techniques that will help them become effective language learners
- Students acquire basic knowledge of vocabulary related to numbers, colors, foods, pastimes, weather, seasons, and the calendar
- Students will be able to engage in basic conversations by introducing themselves, giving some basic facts and asking memorized questions

- Students will be able to name a number of familiar objects from their immediate environment
- Students will be able to identify the countries where the target language is spoken
- Students in the 6th grade FLEX program will be communicating at the Novice Low proficiency level based on the ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines (American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages)
- In May, FLEX students select the language they will study in 7th and 8th grade

Integrated Arts

(*Offerings Vary by Middle School*)

Art

Through a variety of art making experiences students will demonstrate the ability to:

- Create three-dimensional space & form on a two-dimensional surface through the arrangement of abstract & geometric shapes.
- Explore three-dimensional techniques & processes.
- Use color to create mood or personal expression in a work of art
- Analyze & discuss a variety of art & artists using appropriate visual arts vocabulary.

Theater Arts

- Identify & demonstrate key elements of Storytelling
- Explore how to create compelling & complex characters.
- Demonstrate proper audience behavior & etiquette.

Music

- Identify & demonstrate the
- meaning of musical notation
- Identify the basic components of music as ways in which composers organize sounds into music
- Identify, compare & contrast folk music styles & formal music styles

Vocal Music

- Demonstrate vocal skills involving basic singing techniques & music from many genres in a non auditioned setting
- Demonstrate advanced vocal skills in an auditioned setting involving vocal festival competitions, multiple performing venues & recording studio experiences.

Health & Physical Education

The Health & Physical Education Program integrates various aspects of wellbeing throughout the K-12 curriculum, directly impacting a student's health & physical literacy. SHAPE America defines health & physical literacy as follows:

- Health Literacy: An individual's capacity to access information, resources & services necessary to maintaining & promoting health.
- Physical Literacy: An individual's ability, confidence & desire to be physically active for life.

Health

- Compare the changes from elementary school to middle school in terms of peers, classes, teachers, & environment.
- Demonstrate the ability to use goal setting to enhance health.
- List healthy decisions that contribute to personal wellness (mental, physical, social) & make them part of one's daily life.
- Explain healthy habits that affect the function of human body systems.
- Identify & describe the experience of different feelings & how feelings affect daily functioning.
- Identify those one can turn to for help when needed.
- List qualities that are important in choosing friends & maintaining healthy relationships, including empathy skills.
- Identify safe ways to be an "upstander" during negative peer interactions.
- Distinguish the differences between drama or rude interactions, & actual instances of bullying.
- Explain how alcohol, tobacco, inhalants, & vaping can negatively affect the body & the brain.
- Role play refusal skills towards negative peer pressure.
- Understand social, emotional, & physical changes that pre-teens might be concerned about regarding puberty.
- Identify sun safety precautions & consequences as it relates to UVA & UVB ray exposure, including the "ABCD & E" of skin checks.
- Recognize key stressors & positive techniques to manage stress.
- Apply communication skills including active listening techniques to classroom learning as well as to personal relationships.

Physical Education

- Identify & use proper warm-up techniques
- Identify methods to improve cardio-vascular fitness
- Demonstrate locomotor, throwing & dodging skills

WESTFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Curriculum Benchmarks

Grade 6

Lloyd G. Blanchard School
The Stony Brook School

"*Shaping the future one child at a time*"

Visit our website at: www.westfordk12.us