

# Middle School - 6th Grade

## Curriculum

### English

The English curriculum in 6th grade focuses on literature, writing, grammar, and vocabulary. The course emphasizes a unified study of literature genres, authors, and styles. Students make connections with their experiences as well as explore new avenues of thought by responding to, interpreting, evaluating, and appreciating literature. Through a variety of activities, students integrate the language arts skills of reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Students apply vocabulary skills to enhance comprehension of written passages and make connections between literature and composition.

### Writing & Grammar (One Semester)

During the middle grades, Lakeview aims to provide students with intentional support in their development as strong and confident writers. The Writing and Grammar course allows students to practice and develop their writing skills in a safe space where they can learn and grow from their mistakes.

Writing and Grammar does not replace any content from the student's English course but rather supplements and enhances all areas of the writing process.

### Math - Sixth Grade Math

The objective of 6th grade math is for students to develop an understanding of different number representations, relationships among numbers, operations, and how to compute fluently, and make responsible estimates. Students will learn how to use equations when solving for a variable and how to use this knowledge in real life experiences. Students will build their mathematical knowledge through problem solving and will make connections among these ideas.

### Math – Accelerated Sixth Grade Math

The objective of accelerated 6th grade math is to provide students an opportunity to engage with the curriculum at a faster pace and at a more intricate level. Students will develop an understanding of different number representations, relationships among numbers, operations, how to compute fluently, and make responsible estimates. Students will learn how to use

equations when solving for a variable and be expected to apply this knowledge in real life situations. Students will build their mathematical proficiencies and connect their previous knowledge to new ideas.

Compared to traditional 6th grade math, the accelerated course introduces ideas at a more rigorous pace and requires students to solve more challenging content on assignments and assessments. Dictated by the pace of the course, students in the 6th grade accelerated math program can expect a more demanding commitment outside of the regular school day.

Recommendations for Accelerated 6th-Grade Math are based on a student maintaining an A average in 5th-Grade Math and scoring at least in the 88th percentile on either the Math or Quantitative Reasoning sections of the ERB.

### Science

The study of science in 6th grade is focused on earth science topics. Students explore the natural process of the universe through a study of astronomy with a focus on Earth's position in the solar system and its place in the universe. Earth's interior and crust are studied through explorations of Earth's structure, rocks and minerals, plate tectonics, weathering, erosion, and soil formation. A focus on Earth's atmosphere includes a study of weather systems, forecasting, and climate. Student projects and laboratory investigations are utilized throughout the year. Lab safety, measurement, data collection, analysis, and presentation are integrated into all units of study.

### Social Studies - History

Social studies in 6th grade focuses on history and the study of the development of ancient world civilizations. The course helps students gain an understanding of the development of the world community within the context of history. The five themes of geography (location, movement, region, place and human-environmental interaction) are woven into all the units. An emphasis on how geography affected the development of ancient civilizations laid the foundation for modern societies. Ancient Egypt, Greece, Rome, India, China, as well as the Middle Ages, and the Renaissance and Reformation are covered during the course of the school year.

## Foreign Language - Sixth Grade Spanish (One Semester)

The study of Spanish in 6th grade develops communication skills in listening, speaking, writing, reading, and non-verbal communication. It also develops cultural awareness by developing an understanding and appreciation of Spanish-speaking people, their cultures, and civilizations. Students learn through a variety of methods including (but not limited to) listening activities, projects, cooperative group learning, lecture, technology, oral presentations, and individual discovery.

## Foreign Language - Accelerated Sixth Grade Spanish (Two Semesters)

Accelerated 6th grade Spanish, presents all content traditionally covered in both 6th and 7th grade Spanish. This course emphasizes the development and practice of communication skills in listening, speaking, writing, reading, and non-verbal communication. Students also develop cultural awareness by developing an understanding and appreciation of Spanish-speaking people, their cultures, and civilizations.

Recommendations for Accelerated 6th Grade Spanish are based on teacher recommendation and scoring in the 88th percentile on either the Vocabulary or Reading Comprehension sections of the ERB.

## Physical Education/Health

During 6th grade **physical education**, students will participate in a variety of team, individual, and conditioning activities. This development is encouraged in a positive atmosphere emphasizing sportsmanship, team cooperation, and sports psychology. The program is designed for participation at all levels of athletic ability by placing emphasis on total participation rather than on the development of the gifted athlete. Included among the team sports activities in the curriculum are soccer, speedball, flag football, volleyball, handball, basketball, hockey, ultimate Frisbee, and various team games. Individual sport activities encompass badminton, conditioning, tennis, and bowling. Fitness assessments are conducted twice yearly with resulting discussion on the components and strategies for improvement.

The **health course** is designed to give students an understanding of and encouragement to use healthy behaviors. The course covers disease prevention, stress management, the benefits of exercise, the importance of food and nutrition, and an understanding of emotions. Students will work both individually and in small groups.

## Technology - Problem Solving & Web Design (Nine Weeks)

The 6th Grade technology enrichment course, Problem Solving & Web Design, introduces students to a problem-solving process in which they learn how computers input, output, store, and process information. Students are also introduced to basic web development as they learn valuable skills such as debugging, commenting, and structure. At the conclusion of the course, students compile their work to create a personal website they can publish and share.

## Fine Arts – Music (Nine Weeks)

The study of music in this 6th grade enrichment course is designed to build the skills that are associated with the elements of music, including the appreciation, performance, and creation of music. Content includes instrument families, reading and writing music, vocal and instrumental performance, musical styles and genres, music vocabulary and symbols, the historical eras in music, as well as how to critique a performance.

## Fine Arts – Art (Nine Weeks)

Sixth grade art is a survey of art fundamentals designed as a general introductory studio course to familiarize students with the major studio areas and art concepts including an emphasis on the basic elements and principles of composition and design. This study will include drawing and painting, ceramics, printmaking, graphic arts, and art history. The art elements and principles of design reinforce the processes of “learning to see.” Students are encouraged to find the creative potential of several media as it applies to the individual problem solving process.

## Life Skills (Nine Weeks)

The Life Skills enrichment course is designed to give students the ability to develop habits of self-discipline, time management, and help them identify their unique strengths and passions for a healthy self-image. Students will be exposed to lessons on appreciating diversity, empathy, self-motivation, problem-solving, responsibility, and teamwork. Through class discussions, reflective journal writings, whole class activities, goal setting, and presentations, students will learn how to appreciate their own strengths and the strengths of others.