PARENT CURRICULUM GUIDE TO GRADE

6

CANON-McMILLAN SCHOOL DISTRICT

EST. 1954

EVERY DAY COUNTS

WELCOME TO SIXTH GRADE

6

The Canon-McMillan School District believes in providing a well-rounded education that is strong in core academics: English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies. In addition, students are provided with engaging experiences in the areas of Art, Music, Stem Innovations, Physical Education/Health, and Character Education.

The Sixth Grade Curriculum Guide provides a snapshot of the learning experiences students will engage in during the school year. To view each content area's curriculum, please visit the Curriculum and Instruction page on the District website.

In the core content areas, instruction is teacher-led and includes modeling, guided practice, and frequent opportunities for students to demonstrate their understanding. High-quality print materials; including student workbooks, readers, and journals are an essential component of daily instruction. Research shows that students learn best when they engage with printed materials. Using print materials leads to greater focus, deeper understanding, and stronger retention. In return, students are able to apply what they have learned with confidence and independence.

The mission of the Canon-McMillan School District, in partnership with the community, is to teach, to challenge, to motivate and to support all students to maximize their full individual potential.

CANON-McMILLAN
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BIG MACS
BIG
POSSIBILITIES

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 6

In sixth grade, students continue to grow as thoughtful readers, writers, and communicators through Amplify ELA, a comprehensive English language arts program. Using informational texts, poetry, multimedia resources, and engaging novels, students strengthen their ability to analyze complex texts, think critically, and communicate their ideas with confidence. Each unit encourages students to analyze complex texts, collaborate with classmates, and support their ideas with evidence. Throughout the year, students participate in meaningful discussions, build academic vocabulary, and write for a variety of purposes, including narrative, informational, and argumentative writing. Throughout all six units, students continue to strengthen their grammar, vocabulary, discussion, and writing skills while learning to think critically, communicate effectively, and support their ideas with evidence.

AMPLIFY GRADE 6

Dahl & Narrative - *Taught by English teacher*
Students develop narrative writing skills while reading excerpts from Boy: Tales of Childhood by Roald Dahl. They learn how authors develop characters, settings, and events.

Mysteries & Investigations - *Taught by Reading teacher*
Students examine scientific investigations and classic mystery stories, including works by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. They learn to analyze evidence, draw conclusions, and evaluate how authors build suspense and develop ideas.

The Chocolate Collection - *Taught by English teacher*
Using the fascinating history of chocolate, students explore informational texts, primary sources, and research. They build information literacy skills, participate in discussions, and write evidence-based arguments about real-world topics.

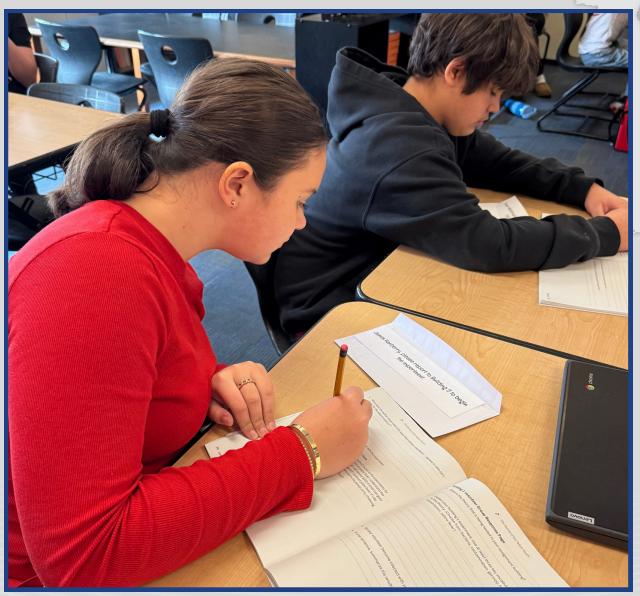
The Greeks - *Taught by Reading teacher*
Students read and analyze classic Greek myths, including the stories of Prometheus, Odysseus, and Arachne. As they explore themes of courage, responsibility, and perseverance, students examine how myths continue to influence literature and modern culture.

Summer of the Mariposas - *Taught by Reading teacher*
Through novel Summer of the Mariposas, students examine themes of family, identity, courage, and resilience. They analyze character development, symbolism, and the author's use of cultural traditions.

The Titanic Collection - *Taught by English teacher*
Students investigate the story of the Titanic through firsthand accounts, historical documents, and informational texts.

GRADE 6 ELA QUICK FACTS

- 50-54 minutes of instruction daily in reading
- 50-54 minutes of intruction daily in English
- Teacher- led explicit, systematic instruction in reading and writing
- Apply knowledge to write multi-paragraph narrative, informative, and argumentative pieces



Students apply their research skills as they investigate the causes of the Yellow Fever outbreak in Cuba during the Mysteries & Investigations unit.

MATHEMATICS 6

In sixth grade, enVision+ Mathematics helps students transition from arithmetic to more advanced mathematical reasoning as they build the skills needed for middle school and beyond. Throughout the year, students work with positive and negative rational numbers, write and solve expressions and equations, and develop a strong understanding of ratios, rates, percentages, and proportional reasoning. Students also investigate statistics, analyze data, and explore geometry concepts including area, surface area, and volume. Using visual models and hands-on learning experiences, students deepen their conceptual understanding and prepare for more advanced mathematics in middle school.



INSTRUCTIONAL APPROACH

Using the **"I Do**, **We Do**, **You Do**" approach, teachers provide clear, direct instruction by modeling and explaining new concepts ("I Do"), guide students through supported practice ("We Do"), and then give students opportunities to apply their learning independently ("You Do").

This research-based approach ensures students receive the instruction, practice, and feedback needed to build mastery and become confident, independent learners.

ENVISION GRADE 6 TOPICS

TOPICS 1–2: Students develop fluency with rational numbers by performing operations with positive and negative numbers and representing integer relationships on the coordinate plane.

TOPICS 3–4: Students write, evaluate, and simplify expressions, solve equations and inequalities, and analyze mathematical relationships using tables, graphs, and multiple representations.

TOPICS 5–6: Students apply fractions, ratios, rates, and percentages to solve real-world problems while developing a deeper understanding of proportional reasoning through models, equations, and graphs.

TOPIC 7: Students collect, analyze, and interpret data by exploring measures of center and variability.

TOPIC 8: Students solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume while using exponents, coordinate geometry, and nets to investigate two- and three-dimensional figures.

GRADE 6 MATH FACTS

- ☑ 50-54 minutes of instruction daily
- ☑ Visuals used to make abstract ideas easy to understand
- ☑ Topics are sequenced to support mathematics progressions that connect new content to prior knowledge.

Learn more about each topic by visiting the Sixth Grade enVision+ Resource Page for families.

SCIENCE

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In 6th grade, students use OpenSciEd, a phenomenon-based science program that engages students in thinking and working like scientists and engineers. Throughout the year, students investigate real-world questions, conduct hands-on investigations, analyze evidence, develop models, and communicate their thinking to explain how and why natural phenomena occur. The curriculum integrates physical science, Earth and space science, and life science while building critical thinking, collaboration, and problem-solving skills aligned with the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS).

OpenSciEd Grade 6

Light & Matter: Students investigate why people sometimes see the same object differently while exploring how light interacts with matter, reflection, absorption, and vision.

Thermal Energy: Students discover how different materials keep objects warm or cool by investigating heat transfer through conduction, convection, and radiation.

Weather, Climate & Water Cycling and, Computer Science: Students explore how energy from the Sun drives weather patterns, the water cycle, and climate, using evidence to explain rain, snow, hail, and other weather events.

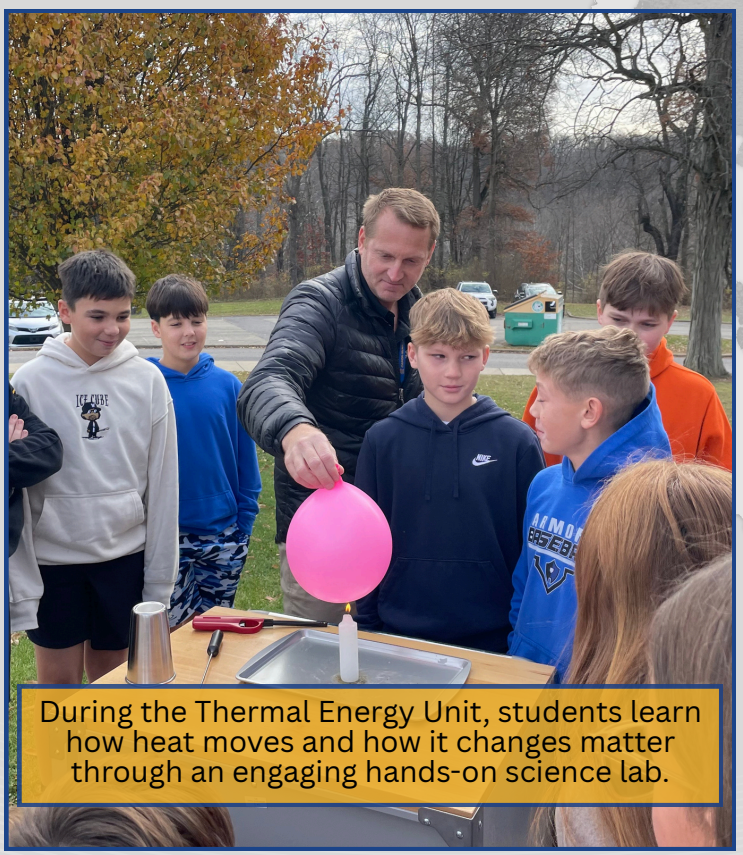
Plate Tectonics & Rock Cycling: Students examine how Earth's surface changes over time by investigating earthquakes, volcanoes, mountain formation, weathering, and the rock cycle.

Natural Hazards: Students investigate where natural hazards occur, why they happen, and how science and engineering can help communities prepare for and reduce their impacts.

Earth's Resources and Human Impact: Students investigate why floods and droughts are becoming more common by exploring how Earth's climate, water, and carbon systems are connected.

INSTRUCTIONAL APPROACH

OpenSciEd engages students in learning science through a continuous cycle of asking questions, investigating real-world phenomena, analyzing evidence, developing explanations, communicating ideas, making connections, and applying their learning to new situations.



During the Thermal Energy Unit, students learn how heat moves and how it changes matter through an engaging hands-on science lab.

GRADE 6 SCIENCE FACTS

- 50-54 minutes of instruction daily
- Examine real-world scientific phenomena through hands-on investigations and simulations
- Students build models to explain physical, Earth, and life science concepts.

Learn more about each unit by viewing the Sixth Grade Science Curriculum.

SOCIAL STUDIES 6

Sixth grade Social Studies takes students on a journey around the world through the study of geography and global regions. Using Teacher's Curriculum Institute (TCI) Geography Alive! Regions and People, students investigate how geography influences the way people live, work, and interact with their environments. Throughout the year, students explore the physical and human characteristics of North America, Latin America, Europe, Africa, Asia, and Oceania. They examine how culture, history, economics, government, and the environment are connected, and analyze real-world issues such as urban growth, resource use, globalization, and environmental sustainability.

REGIONS AND PEOPLE

Unit One- The Geographer's World: Students begin the year exploring maps, latitude and longitude, geographic regions, and how geography influences culture, history, economics, politics, and the environment.

Unit Two- Canada and the United States: Students investigate the physical and human geography of Canada and the United States.

Unit Three- Latin America: Students study the Amazon Rainforest, life in the Andes Mountains, and how people adapt to different environments while balancing economic development with environmental conservation.

Unit Four- Europe and Russia: Students examine the geography of Europe and Russia and learn how geography has influenced governments, economies, and cultures.

Unit Five- Africa: Students investigate Africa's diverse physical and human geography, from the Sahara Desert to rapidly growing communities.

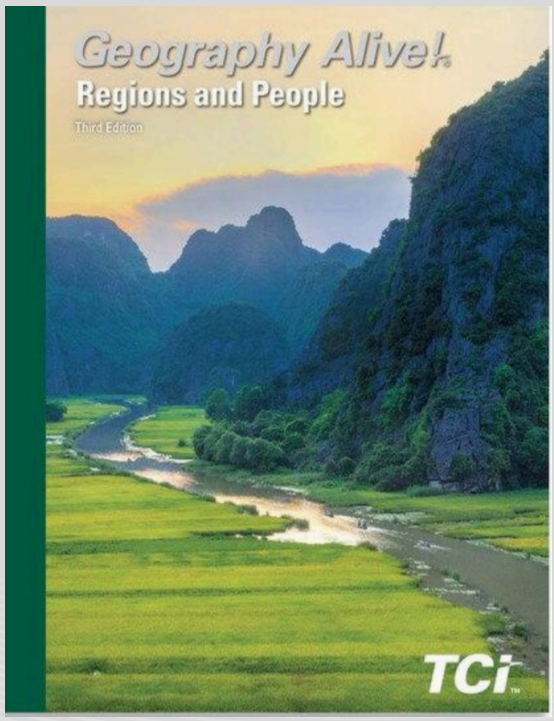
Unit Six: Southwest and Central Asia: Students study the geography of Southwest and Central Asia and explore how natural resources, especially oil, have shaped the region's economy, politics, and relationships with the rest of the world.

Unit Seven- Monsoon Asia: Students learn about the physical and human geography of Monsoon Asia while examining global issues such as technology, population changes, economic development, and international trade.

Unit Eight- Oceania and Antarctica: Students conclude the year by exploring the unique geography of Oceania and Antarctica. They study the region's landforms, climates, ecosystems, and the ways people interact with these distinctive environments.

GRADE 6 SOCIAL STUDIES FACTS

- 40 minutes of instruction daily
- Hands-on collaborative learning activities
- Visual learning with timelines, charts, and photographs
- Map investigations, collaborative discussions, and geographic inquiry



Learn more about each unit by viewing the Sixth Grade Social Studies Curriculum.

RELATED ARTS

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Related arts classes are an important part of every student's intermediate school experience. Throughout the school year, students participate in Art, Music, Physical Education/Health, and STEM Innovations, where they develop skills and interests that complement their core classroom learning. Students also participate in Character Education lessons taught by the school counselor. These classes encourage creativity, curiosity, collaboration, healthy decision-making, and personal responsibility while giving students opportunities to discover new talents, build confidence, and develop lifelong interests. The intermediate related arts program continues to support the growth of the whole child by helping students become well-rounded learners.



ART

Students build upon skills and concepts practiced in fifth grade, but will incorporate more personal expression based on their own values and beliefs in their artmaking. Students learn about and explore the principles of art to enhance their artmaking and visual communication. Art history components for sixth grade students will include critical analysis and comparison of various artforms within cultures and art periods. Featured art analysis will include classic Greek art, modern art from the mid-to-late 1900s, and contemporary art from the 2000s. Lastly, some projects at this level will include printmaking, clay handbuilding, and drawing techniques.

MUSIC

- Review and expand upon previous learning
- Apply music reading skills to ukuleles, keyboards and barred instruments
- Study the history of music
- Engage in individual and group projects
- Explore diverse genres
- Composition alone and in groups
- Option to participate in chorus and band

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

- Students refine and apply movement skills at a higher level of complexity across multiple sport and activity units
- Demonstrate competency in manipulative skills including throwing, catching, striking and volleying in competitive play
- Students apply the FITT Principle to understand how physical activity can be intentionally designed to improve physical fitness
- Take on leadership roles within group activities, practicing communication, decision-making, and conflict resolution
- Students demonstrate respect for peers, officials, and opponents by consistently applying the principles of fair play and sportsmanship
- Explore the relationship between physical activity, mental health, and overall personal wellness
- Students transition toward greater independence and self-responsibility in managing their effort, behavior, and learning in physical education

CANON-MCMILLAN SCHOOL DISTRICT 6



STEM INNOVATIONS

- **Advanced Digital Creation:** Students use Google Sheets, Drawings, and Slides to design personalized logos, create digital pixel art, and format data to build games.
- **Engineering and Design:** Students construct robotic structures using Hummingbird Robotics Kits and write block-based code to bring their creations to life.
- **Coding and Math in Action:** Using Sphero BOLT+ robots, students write code to navigate specific paths, applying math concepts like calculating precise angles and distances to control the robot's physical movement.
- **Testing and Troubleshooting:** Students learn how to test their code, find errors, and adjust their designs until their robots perform exactly as intended.
- **Interactive Artificial Intelligence (AI):** Students build UKIT AI Intermediate robots and program them using Automatic Speech Recognition and Natural Language Processing, allowing the robots to interact via voice control.
- **Machine Learning:** Students explore how AI learns from data through hands-on activities that focus on object recognition, pose recognition, and programming motor mechanisms.

CHARACTER EDUCATION

- Students develop social and emotional skills needed for a successful transition to middle school.
- Students continue to develop self-awareness, self-management, and responsible decision-making skills.
- Through role playing and simulation activities, students strengthen teamwork, communication, and healthy relationship skills.
- Students learn about about resilience and perseverance to understand how to manage everyday challenges.
- Students learn how to communicate respectfully, resolve conflicts, and contribute positively to their classroom and school community.

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BIG MACS BIG POSSIBILITIES