WILLIAMSVILLE
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Est. 1893

GRADE 6

OFFICE OF INSTRUCTION

GRADE LEVEL EXPECTATIONS

New York State learning standards outline what students should know and be able to do by the end of sixth grade while preparing them for greater academic challenges and personal responsibility. As students progress through middle school, they are expected to think more independently, collaborate effectively, and apply critical thinking and problem-solving skills across all subject areas. The skills identified below represent a consolidated list of the most important grade-level learning priorities. They are not intended to represent a comprehensive list of all standards or content taught during sixth grade. Instruction encompasses the full range of New York State grade-level standards across all subject areas.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS (ELA)

- Cite specific text evidence to support analysis of what text explicitly states as well as inferences drawn.
- Engage in "close reading" such as identifying how an author develops a character's perspective through specific word choices.
- Use relevant evidence to support claims in argumentative essays and narrative writing.
- Write across varied genres with a focus on revision to improve sentence variety, clarity, and sentence boundaries.
- Assess the credibility and validity of sources, conducting research projects.
- Synthesize information from diverse/ media formats and evaluate author's argument and claims for sufficient evidence.

MATH

- Apply ratios, rates, and unit rates to solve real-world problems.
- Extend understanding of division to include fractions and decimals.
- Represent and evaluate numerical and algebraic expressions.
- Write and solve one-variable equations and inequalities.
- Interpret statistical data by describing center, spread, and variability.
- Calculate area, surface area, and volume to solve geometric problems.



SCIENCE

- Model atomic and molecular structures to explain how chemical reactions rearrange atoms to form new substances while conserving total mass.
- Investigate physical and chemical properties of matter, including how thermal energy drives phase changes and the creation of synthetic materials.
- Analyze how mass and applied forces affect object motion using Newton's laws, and explore non-contact fields like gravity, electricity, and magnetism.
- Track relationships between kinetic and potential energy within systems to demonstrate the conservation of energy.
- Examine thermal energy transfer and design engineering solutions to maximize or minimize heat flow.
- Demonstrate how mechanical and electromagnetic waves interact with matter (reflection, absorption, transmission) and how wave properties are used to encode and transmit digital information.

SOCIAL STUDIES

- Explore the development of early civilizations in Mesopotamia, Egypt, the Indus Valley, and along the Yellow River, examining how geography influenced their growth.
- Investigate the governments, cultures, and lasting contributions of Ancient Greece and Rome, including ideas that continue to influence the modern world.
- Examine the origins, beliefs, and cultural impact of Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism.
- Analyze how trade routes and cultural exchange connected Europe, Asia, and Africa, spreading goods, ideas, technologies, and religions.
- Study the rise and decline of major empires, including the Byzantine and Mongol Empires, and explore life in medieval societies, including feudalism and the impact of the Black Death.

SCREENING

- Grade-level assessments are designed to measure student progress, guide instruction, and ensure students receive the appropriate resources and support to meet grade-level expectations.
- Reading: The Aimsweb Universal Screener is utilized three times per year to assess each of the following: silent reading fluency, vocabulary, and reading comprehension.

STATE ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

- NYS ELA Assessment
- NYS Math Assessment
- WIDA Access for students identified as English language learners
- NYSAA for ELA
- NYSAA for Math
- NYSAA for Science



GRADE 6

ART

- Create original artwork by developing ideas, exploring materials, and applying artistic techniques and processes.
- Refine and present artwork by revising, completing, and sharing creative work with purpose and intention.
- Respond to artwork by analyzing, interpreting, and evaluating artistic choices using art vocabulary and criteria.
- Connect art to personal experiences, cultures, history, and other disciplines to deepen understanding.

MUSIC

- Create musical ideas through composing, improvising, and arranging using voice, instruments, and technology.
- Perform and present music with skill, expression, collaboration, and appropriate performance practices.
- Respond to music by analyzing, interpreting, and evaluating musical works using music vocabulary and criteria.
- Connect music to personal experiences, cultures, history, and other disciplines to deepen understanding.
- Curricular Band, Orchestra and Chorus also available to students in grades 4-12.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

- Demonstrate competency in a variety of motor skills and movement patterns.
- Apply knowledge of concepts, principles, strategies, and tactics related to movement and performance.
- Demonstrate the knowledge and skills to achieve and maintain a health enhancing level of physical activity and fitness.
- Recognize the value of physical activity for overall wellness, enjoyment, challenge, and/or self expression.

WORLD LANGUAGES

- Understand basic words and phrases in spoken and written messages about familiar topics such as school, clothing, weather, and daily activities, especially when supported by pictures, gestures, or context.
- Participate in simple conversations by asking and answering questions about everyday topics such as what they like, what they need, what they are wearing, where things are, and what they do during the day.
- Share information about themselves by speaking or writing short sentences about their life, including their classes, preferences, favorite activities, and basic opinions.
- Use common language structures to communicate, such as expressing likes and dislikes, telling time and the date, describing clothing and weather, and talking about what they have, need, or do.
- Ask and answer questions using common question words like who, what, where, when, and why to gather or give simple information.
- Explore cultural connections by identifying everyday products, traditions, and practices from French- or Spanish-speaking cultures and comparing them to their own experiences.

TIPS FOR PARENTS/ GUARDIANS

Daily Reading Routine: Establish a dedicated time each day for reading.

Foster Conversation: Read the same books as your child to enable deeper discussions about the text.

Math: When working with fractions, decimals, or ratios in everyday situations (recipes, shopping, sports), ask your child to explain how they know two quantities are equivalent or how they compared them.

Recording Observations: Help your child develop scientific skills by recording observations through writing, drawing, or taking photographs.

Civic and Global Engagement: Introduce your child to world cultures through books, food, music, and virtual museum tours to encourage curiosity, respect, and global understanding.

Scientific Thinking: Encourage your child to explore energy, forces, motion, and waves by investigating how everyday objects work. Have students explain their thoughts and ideas using evidence.

Home Language Use: Use your native language at home with your child. Strong native language skills help students to succeed in school.