



Middle School - 6th Grade Overview

Language Arts: The goal of Language Arts is to prepare students to become (1) critical readers who can recognize cause and effect relationships in literature and (2) expressive writers who can write effectively about those relationships in literature and in life. In order to facilitate this learning, this course utilizes a variety of literature, both fiction and non-fiction, connected by the following themes: societal roles and responsibilities, oral traditions, cultural views and philosophies, survival, justice, adventure, and the strength and character of the human spirit. Students continue to develop their understanding of the meaning and the significance of narrative elements, literary devices, sentence structure, paragraph structure, essay structure, and reading strategies in both reading and writing assignments. An emphasis is placed on research skills to obtain information for factual writing, as well as a continued practice of presentation and public speaking skills. A variety of assessments are used to determine each student's level of proficiency and achievement in light of these concepts and skills.

Textbooks and supplements: Prentice Hall Literature (Copper) / Sadlier-Oxford Vocabulary Workshop, Levels A & B, Vocabulary From Classical Roots, Book A and Book B/ Shurley English Made Easy, Level 6 Workbook / Accelerated Reader Program / Literature –*The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, *The Miracle Worker*, *D'Aulaires' Book of Greek Myths*, *Devil's Arithmetic*, *The Cay*, *Black Ships Before Troy*, and *Esperanza Rising*.

Mathematics: The Middle School math curriculum reinforces and expands knowledge of the computational skills and problem-solving strategies. The program takes the learner from the concrete stages of arithmetic to those concepts that require more abstract reasoning skills. The program uses a variety of teaching techniques and learning experiences to meet the needs of varying levels of mathematical maturity.

Sixth Grade Advanced Mathematics lays the groundwork for students to take Pre-Algebra in 7th grade and high school math in 8th grade. Students expand and deepen their understanding of factors and multiples, operations with rational numbers, 2-D and 3-D geometry concepts, rates, conversions, percents, algebraic expressions, proportional relationships, equations, inequalities, graphs, financial literacy topics, and statistics. Course placement is based on academic records, test scores, and approval from the math faculty.

Sixth Grade Accelerated Advanced Mathematics dives deeper into Sixth Grade Advanced Mathematics topics. This course lays the groundwork for students to take Pre-Algebra in 7th grade and high school math in 8th grade. Students grow in their understanding of factors and multiples, operations with rational numbers, 2-D and 3-D geometry concepts, rates, conversions, percents, algebraic expressions, proportional relationships, equations, inequalities, graphs, financial literacy topics and statics.

Textbook: Carnegie Learning Accelerated Grade 6

History: In sixth grade, students study ancient civilization and cultures. The history department uses the standards set forth in the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Social Studies as well as the National Standards for Social Studies. Societies selected for study are different regions of the world: Mesopotamia, Fertile Crescent, Egypt, India, China, Greece, Rome, and Medieval Europe. In addition, the sixth graders experience a unit on immigration. This is a broad overview of the geography and culture of early civilizations. Students study the locations and geographic characteristics of selected societies. They identify different ways of organizing economic and governmental systems and learn how the level of technology for that period affected the development of the selected societies. In the history department, the following objectives are reinforced throughout the year: reading and evaluating

information, drawing conclusions, interpreting visual materials such as maps, charts, and graphs, distinguishing fact from opinion, sequencing historical data, understanding cause and effect relationships, using problem-solving skills, applying decision-making skills, and analyzing context clues. Writing skills are used with daily writings and scenarios set by the teacher.

Textbook: World History - Holt, Rinehart, & Winston

Science: The middle school science curriculum focuses on life, physical, and earth science. Students learn to use the scientific method through hands-on investigations conducted every week. Proper use and care of lab equipment is crucial during middle school. Additionally, students develop problem-solving skills, critical thinking skills, and scientific practices, including experimental design. They also integrate mathematical computation skills through formulas and metric and customary unit conversion.

Physical science topics cover the physical and chemical properties of matter, atomic structure, energy and energy transformations, electricity, and magnetism. Earth science topics include topography, interactions of Earth's biosphere, energy resources and conservation, and Earth in space. Life science topics encompass cell structure and function, classification of living things, genetics, adaptations, and plant processes.

Textbook: HMH Science Dimensions

Spanish: Sixth grade Spanish is designed to introduce verbal communication and writing skills specifically in the present and simple future tenses. Students are introduced to the influence of the Spanish culture/language locally, nationally and worldwide. They learn the history of the Spanish language and how it is a common language spoken around the world. Throughout the year, students focus on building vocabulary, as well as learning grammar structures and verbal conjugation based on specific scenarios. At the end of each lesson, the students work on a project in which they get to practice vocabulary and grammar in both written and spoken forms.

By making comparisons and connections to Spanish-speaking cultures with their own, students are encouraged to understand and accept the differences and more importantly celebrate those differences that make us unique. Life, customs, foods, and celebrations in various Spanish-speaking countries are introduced while also studying pronunciation and writing.

Textbook: Avancemos Level Ia textbook and Level I workbook.

Co-curricular classes: Students rotate once each quarter through Robotics, Art, Music, and Technology. Students attend Academic Mentoring and Advisory twice weekly, and Sacred Studies is once a week. Physical education is required three times a week. All students also attend Daily Chapel.