



Grade 6 Curriculum 2023-2024

6 English Language Arts

The Language Arts program focuses on the study of reading, writing, speaking, and listening. The components of the program emphasize the development of skills that allow students to read with fluency, comprehend and interpret written materials, communicate well, and listen and speak effectively. The skills acquired and understood are applied and reinforced in all content areas.

Reading

Students will explore different genres using the textbook series entitled *Houghton Mifflin Harcourt (HMH) Into Reading*.

Students experience authentic literature and informational text in the form of short stories, poems, and novels that are a mix of both fiction and nonfiction. Reading fluency will develop and improve as students are presented with the following skills:

- citing textual evidence to support inferences
- determining theme of texts
- creating unbiased summaries of texts
- analyzing the development of plot & characters
- applying word analysis & vocabulary skills
- describing text structure & author's point of view
- comparing texts of different mediums or genres

Writing

The textbook used for writing and grammar is *Voyages in English* from *Loyola Press*.

Students will work through the steps of the writing process to develop and publish several pieces including: personal narratives, informational, argumentative, descriptions, creative writing, and research reports in MLA format. The development of each piece sets in motion the goal of producing creative and articulate communicators. Students will apply grammar skills taught into their writing in all content areas.



6 Mathematics

The University of Chicago *Everyday Mathematics-Common Core Edition* builds on understanding mathematics with a focus on problem solving in everyday situations.



Emphasis is on:

- collection, display & interpretation of data
- fraction operations
- number systems
- operations with whole numbers, integers & decimals
- variables, formulas & graphs
- rational number uses & operations
- algebraic expressions and equations
- probability & discrete mathematics
- rates & ratios
- geometry topics of area and volume

6 Science

Students use concrete and hands-on experiences to understand science in the physical and natural world around them. Students will identify problems, ask questions, gather information to provide evidence, analyze and interpret data, develop models, formulate and test hypotheses, and evaluate experimental results.

The primary textbook series used is *HMH Science Dimensions* which aligns with the *Next Generation Science Standards*. This series incorporates science & engineering (STEM) concepts.

Students will explore the following topics:

- Geological Processes and History
 - plate tectonics
 - weathering/erosion
 - natural disasters-earthquakes
- Forces, Motion, and Fields
 - forces and motion
 - magnetic and electric forces
- Ecology & The Environment
 - matter and energy in living systems
 - relationships in ecosystems



6 Social Studies

Students prepare for their role as informed citizens by practicing social science skills that include developing questions, planning inquiries, evaluating primary and secondary sources, using evidence, communicating conclusions, and taking informed action. Students will apply these skills by studying civics, history, economics, and geography of Ancient Civilizations. The textbook series used is *Prentice Hall: The Ancient World*.

Students will explore the following topics:

- The Beginning of Human Society
- The Fertile Crescent
- Ancient Egypt
- Ancient China
- Ancient Greece
- Ancient Rome
- Middle Ages/Renaissance



6 Religion

Catholic values are discussed and integrated not only in Religion class, but in all learning. Students will learn about the Catholic faith through stories, activities, scripture, prayer, discussion, and reflection. The text used for instruction is *Finding God* from *Loyola Press*.



Emphasis is on:

- Sacred Scripture and Tradition
- Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy
- Liturgical Year & Church History
- Participation in worship ministry
- Prayer in a variety of forms & the Beatitudes
- Sacraments
- Service to others
- Morality
- Vocation
- Religious diversity

Service Theme: *Ability Awareness*

Throughout the year, students will gain an appreciation of individuals with varying abilities. On Service Day, students go bowling with Seaspar friends.

*Family Life & the importance of family is also studied using *RCL Benziger's Family Life* program.



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6-8 Art

Students will have the opportunity to express themselves in various art forms.



Emphasis is on:

- identifying the elements of value, perspective, and color schemes, as well as the principles of contrast, emphasis, and unity
- expressing ideas and conveying meaning through a variety of media
- analyzing the tools and processes used to create specific art effects
- creating two and three dimensional artworks that are realistic, abstract, functional, and decorative
- identifying careers among the arts as well as how the arts function in ceremony, technology, communication, and entertainment
- comparing pieces of artwork that share similar themes
- using art vocabulary appropriately
- describing how artists and their works shape culture and increase understanding of societies past and present

6 Music

Emphasis is on:

Students will have the opportunity to participate in music activities and to develop an appreciation for music.



- singing in groups & during performances (Christmas Performance)
- involvement in music ministry
- reviewing rhythm, pitch, chords & form, & melody
- introducing busking & establish the goals of the Busking Project
- investigating sound waves, reverberation, and digital effects to host a Science of Sound exhibition
- investigating the key elements of opera, culminating in a short "pop opera" featuring five songs with original melody or lyrics
- exploring the percussion rhythms of Africa, including the language, history, traditional dances, and more
- learning the basic elements of composing music for video animations and applying to their own underscore music compositions
- reviewing & learning the ukulele
- studying the composer of the month

6-8 Physical Education

Students learn and explore factors that affect a healthy lifestyle.



Emphasis is on:

- muscle strength, cardio-respiratory endurance & flexibility
- rules & offensive and defensive strategies in cooperative sports and activities
- sportsmanship & participation in exercise activities
- leadership skills in various games and activities

6-8 Spanish

Students will continue to explore basic concepts of the Spanish language by listening, reading, writing, and speaking.

Emphasis is on:

- learning everyday Spanish words
- repeating words though simple yes and no questions
- responding appropriately to simple commands and questions
- engaging in simple conversations on familiar topics
- imitating pronunciation, intonation, and inflection
- recognizing basic language patterns
- inferring the meaning of cognates from context and implementing them
- recognizing important figures from the Spanish-speaking world
- identifying the geography and culture of Spanish-speaking countries
- reciting prayers in Spanish



4-8 Technology

Each student in grades 4-8 has the privilege of having a school-owned Chromebook assigned to them for their daily use. Technology skills are taught through content areas, and the use of the devices complements the content area learning standards and lesson objectives.

Additionally, students follow a curriculum which develops appropriate digital citizenship skills. As a Google Workspace School, our students become proficient in the use of Google Drive which includes the use of Docs, Slides, & Forms as well as Google Classroom. Students practice typing skills using **typing.com** and take typing tests each trimester to assess their progress.

