

Sixth Grade Curriculum

RELIGION

Students will:

- Develop an appreciation of the Old Testament and of our ties to the ancient Jewish people
- Study basic information about the Bible in the stories of creation, the Fall, the promise of the redeemer, and the spread of sin
- Understand salvation history as the story of God's love for his people
- Develop an attitude of trust and an awareness of God's providential plan in their lives and in the world around them
- See God's plan of salvation in the events of the lives of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph and apply this message to their own lives
- Become more aware of God's powerful presence among his people, through the study of the Exodus -- the call of Moses, the deliverance from the Egyptians, the journey in the wilderness, the covenant at Sinai, the infidelities and reconciliation, the uniting of a people, and entrance into the Promised Land
- Understand their own connection and responsibilities in living out the commandments today
- See in the stories of the ancient judges and kings how God's providential use of persons and events further his plan of salvation
- Examine the role of the prophets as God's expressed concern for the poor and disenfranchised in society
- Apply these messages to current social justice issues and seek authentic growth in and witness to our Christian faith
- Develop a personal relationship with Jesus through journal writing, private prayer, Eucharistic celebrations, participation in the sacraments, seasonal retreats, and social justice activities

LANGUAGE ARTS

Sixth grade reading curriculum consists of the study of short stories, dramas, and novel studies. The students will learn a variety of strategies to comprehend, interpret, analyze, and evaluate what they read. Sixth grade grammar curriculum consists of the study of usage, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling. Sixth grade writing consists of responding to reading assignments with poetry, letters, book reviews, reports and creative compositions.

Reading

Students will:

- Study vocabulary with an emphasis on correct pronunciation, finding meaning from context clues, and proper usage in writing

- Pursue factual understanding, inference and interpretation, analysis and summary in each literature genre assigned
- Use grammar skills to improve reading and writing skills
- Keep records of all independent reading

Writing

Students will:

- Prepare in-class writing assignments
- Keep journals for creative expression
- Begin the research process through investigative topics
- Receive frequent feedback on their writing and experience opportunities to edit their writing

MATH

Students will:

- Learn about number patterns and algebra – including prime factors, order of operations, exponents, divisibility patterns, and associative, commutative, and distributive properties
- Explore statistics and graphs
- Practice mean, median and mode
- Analyze and interpret graphs
- Add, subtract, multiply and divide decimals
- Compare decimals
- Learn problem solving strategies
- Simplify, compare and order fractions
- Write decimals as fractions
- Add and subtract fractions with uncommon denominators
- Multiply and divide fractions
- Use symbolic algebra to solve problems, using commutative, associative, and distributive properties
- Solve equations
- Learn the interrelationship of ratio, percent and proportion
- Find area and perimeter of quadrilaterals, circles and triangles
- Learn to measure and classify angles
- Learn to use metric system in measurement

SCIENCE

Students will:

- Use systems and organization to understand scientific ideas
- Apply skills of observation, making models, and interpreting data
- Understand and apply the scientific process
- Examine properties of matter and changes that can occur
- Define specific laws of motion and forces
- Understand how machines transfer energy

- Examine the structure and function in plant and animal systems
- Understand the interaction between populations and ecosystems
- Explain the diversity and adaptations of organisms
- Explore the structure of the earth, its geologic history and its place in the solar system
- Understand science as a human endeavor to make sense of the natural world
- Explore the development of science through world history

WORLD HISTORY

Students will:

- Examine the effects of geography on the development of world civilizations
- Use maps, charts, and graphs proficiently to study World History
- Recognize the causes for the rise and eventual fall of empires
- Discuss the development of Greco-Roman ideas and their effects on Western culture
- Understand the development of social classes and occupations in ancient societies to modern day
- Discuss the achievements, developments, and problems of societies and civilizations during time periods:
 - Ancient Egypt, Greece, Rome
 - Middle Ages
 - Renaissance, Reformation, Age of Exploration
 - Empires in Africa, Asia, the Americas
 - The Enlightenment
 - The Industrial Revolution
 - The Age of Imperialism
 - Major Wars of the 20th Century
 - The Great Depression
 - The Cold War
- Understand how the behavior of people is influenced by a society' s heritage
- Understand the concepts that distinguish the basic types of government
- Understand how events in the past have a bearing on current situations in specific regions and countries

ART

Students will:

- Develop skills necessary for understanding and applying media, techniques, and processes of art
- Develop knowledge of the elements of art and principles of design
- Understand the visual arts in relation to history and cultures
- Appreciate the expression, subject matter, symbols, and ideas used in art
- Reflect upon and assess the merits of their work and the work of others
- Perceive the connection between art and other disciplines

BEGINNING BAND – 6th Grade

A student chooses the band because of a desire to learn a musical instrument other than the piano. No piano or previous note reading experience is necessary for this class. 6th grade band class meets five days a week for 40 minutes a day in addition to individual practice at home. A student who completes the Beginning year of band will be able to do the following:

- Sing (Read) on note names or Play a simple 3-5 note melody of short (2-4 measures)
- Perform on a woodwind, brass, or percussion instrument melodies and rhythms from the Beginning Band book with a level of difficulty of I-II on a scale of I-VI in large group or as a solo
- Perform as a member of band with proper tone quality and posture and respond to simple visual cues from conductor
- Perform independent instrumental parts while others play contrasting parts
- Notate rhythmic dictations of 2 measures
- Describe and analyze a piece of music using appropriate terminology
- Perform music from different historical periods and cultures. *Understanding music in relation to history and culture

CHORUS/DRAMA

Students will:

- Sing in an ensemble in unison, two and three parts, blending vocal timbres, and matching dynamic levels with the appropriate style in response to cues from a conductor with most songs sung from memory
- Study solo singing with proper vocal technique and technical accuracy
- Implement Solfege for beginners with appropriate hand signs
- Identify symbols and traditional terms referring to dynamics, tempo and articulation and interpret them correctly when performing
- Write a song using standard notation, perform song
- Identify how the arts interrelate
- Create theatrical improvisations, develop basic acting skills to portray characters, research and organize improvisations and scripted scenes, resulting in the performance of a short play, musical or set of scenes
- Dramatize a now extended portion of instrumental music with appropriate body movements, identifying emotional responses to prominent musical characteristics and portraying these physically, verbally
- Apply specific and appropriate criteria when judging quality of performances, their own and those of others, accepting and using constructive suggestions for improvement

COMPUTER KEYBOARDING

Students will:

- Demonstrate proper finger positioning for each character typed
- Practice typing skills to improve accuracy and speed

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Students will:

- Learn and understand the benefits of exercising and flexibility
- Learn to provide opportunities for increased responsibility in planning, organizing, and leadership
- Learn to master locomotion skills to use during different sports
- Learn team play and partner work
- Learn different techniques with footwork
- Learn the difference between speed and agility
- Learn ball control and ball skills
- Learn position awareness during activities
- Learn jumping sequences to music
- Learn the difference between offense and defense strategies during team play
- Learn to work with others with different skill abilities
- Learn to handle conflict with others in a positive way