

2020-2021

Sixth Grade Curriculum Guide

Sixth Grade

Core	Trimester each	Arts Elective
Language Arts 6	Technology or Spanish	Art/Drama/Enrichment
Social Studies 6		
Math 6 or Accelerated Math 6	P.E.	*Band *Beginning Instruments *Choir *Orchestra
Science 6	Health	

Sixth Grade Required Curriculum

Language Arts 6

In sixth grade Language Arts students use SpringBoard curriculum. SpringBoard's integrated model of instruction provides thematic units that incorporate close reading, writing, speaking and listening, and language skills. Instructional units combine both content and process by teaching and modeling the reading and writing strategies that lead to proficiency. These units emphasize the strong connection between reading and writing, while providing grammar and vocabulary instruction in context.

SpringBoard helps accelerate the full implementation of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) so all students can achieve the outcomes defined in the new standards including higher-order thinking skills, precision in reading and writing, accurate analysis and evaluation, problem-solving skills, deeper conceptual understanding, expanded academic vocabulary, and media literacy. SpringBoard asks teachers to slow down, clear away the clutter, and focus on work worth doing. With SpringBoard, students read deeply, write using evidence, and develop the critical thinking skills needed to be successful in high school, college, and beyond.

Social Studies 6

The sixth grade social studies curriculum focuses on ancient civilizations. Civilizations that are typically covered during the year include: Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greek, Rome, and China. Our basic text, *World History: Great Civilizations*, examines these cultures through the various aspects that define a civilization, (e.g., trade and food supply, social classes, specialization of labor, formation of government, and culture). Students study, compare, and contrast characteristics of these ancient civilizations, as well as studying the contributions people from the past have made to our world today.

Math 6

A major goal of sixth grade mathematics is to provide students with a solid foundation for exploring and understanding Algebra and Geometry concepts as they move from elementary to middle school. Central topics include ratio concepts and use ratio reasoning to solve problems; rational numbers and their operations; number theory; and expressions, one-step equations and inequalities. Students will explore the area of non-rectangular figures, area models, and the coordinate system. Other areas covered are problem solving, data analysis, measurement, and number sense. Communicating about mathematics, both verbally and in writing, is emphasized during instruction. Students will be encouraged to reason and communicate with each other about skills and ideas in mathematics that lead to conceptual and computational development. Much effort is made to link learning to real life applications of mathematics. This class is the typical progression for students in 5th grade math.

Accelerated Math 6

Students in Accelerated Math 6 study the second half of sixth as well as seventh grade learning targets with an emphasis on problem solving, communicating mathematically, application of concepts, and building a foundation for Algebraic thinking. The concepts of ratio, proportion, percent, and geometric figures are applied in algebraic contexts. Measurement formulas are extended to include spheres, pyramids, and cones. Plane geometry extensions include the classification of polygons, identification of special angles and angle relationships in polygons, as well as indirect measurement and similar triangles. Other areas covered are data analysis and statistics, graphing including an introduction to slope, and probability. This class is the typical progression for students in 5th grade accelerated and 5th grade HiCap math.

Science 6

Sixth grade science students conduct scientific investigations to expand their understanding of the natural and physical world. Instruction includes hands-on activities, reading, writing and research. Students begin to develop science process skills such as predicting and testing hypotheses, collecting and interpreting data, and evaluating their results to show conclusions. Life science incorporates the study of ecosystems, ecology, and environmental education. Physical science incorporates the study of magnetism and electricity, force and motion, Robolab technology, and waves, including light and sound.

PE 6

PE is a required course for all sixth grade students and is a trimester in duration. Along with various team and individual activities, students in sixth grade PE will learn the following: the 5 Components of Health-Related Fitness; the fundamentals of the F.I.T.T. Principle; and where to locate eleven major muscle groups, including exercises that target each group. This course follows the Washington State Expectations for Health and Fitness. Students will be required to change into an IMS PE uniform. This uniform has not changed for many years. We encourage students to reuse previous uniforms from siblings or family members. Students are also required to wear supportive athletic shoes to decrease a chance of injury.

Health 6

Health is a required course for all sixth grade students and is a trimester in duration. Among the topics that will be included in this course are how to resolve conflicts, friendship issues, having fun and staying safe, drug and alcohol education, environmental factors that effect health, nutrition, exercise and stress management. Also included in the course will be changes during puberty and the Washington State mandated teaching of HIV and AIDS education.

Technology 6

Students will learn basic keyboarding and computer skills as well as how to appropriately navigate through today's information-rich society. Some of topics covered include PowerPoint, PicCollage, Digital Citizenship and basic programming. Sixth grade students can take a trimester of this introductory course in order to learn valuable skills that will support their future technological experiences at IMS. Students will either choose Technology 6 or Spanish 6 as an option in sixth grade.

Spanish 6

Spanish 6 is a trimester course for students who wish to continue their Spanish program from elementary school. Whether or not students take Spanish 6, they can still enroll in either Spanish, Chinese, or French in 7th grade. Students will either choose Spanish 6 or Technology 6 as an option in sixth grade.

Fine Arts Experience

To support a broad-based fine arts experience in the 6th grade, students have a choice between the Fine Arts Experience or a Music Course. Students who choose to take the Fine Arts Experience will take one trimester of Art, one trimester of Drama and one trimester of Enrichment.

Art

Sixth grade Art offers exploration in a variety of media and art styles. Students will have a chance to develop their artistic flare in drawing, design, animation, and painting. This class is part of a rotation with Drama and Enrichment. Suggested donation of \$10.00

Drama

This class serves as an introduction to Theatre. The emphasis is placed on building ensemble skills, creating character, developing basic group scenes, and feeling comfortable about performing in front of others. This class is part of a rotation with Art and Enrichment

Enrichment

Enrichment is a creative writing class which provides students with opportunities to develop their literary talents. This elective includes a study of varied forms of prose and poetry and gives students the experience to write creatively in different genres, including fairy tales, mythology, and poetry. This class is part of a rotation with Art and Drama.

Music Courses

To support a broad-based fine arts experience in the sixth grade, students have a choice between a Music Course or the Fine Arts Experience.

Band 6

The sixth grade band is offered for students who have participated in fifth grade band. The sixth grade band offers a skill based curriculum that focuses on developing fundamentals of successful performance. These include developing proper posture, embouchure, hand technique, articulation skills and reading music. The skills of performing with a steady pulse and using accurate counting are emphasized. Development of characteristic tone and playing with dynamic variation in appropriate musical style is emphasized as well. Students learn to play in the ensemble and to watch the conductor.

Students who have not taken fifth grade band may join the Beginning Instruments class.

Beginning Band Instruments 6

Students who did not start an instrument in the program as a fifth grader have an opportunity to start an instrument in the Beginning Instrument class. Students must be willing to complete the 5th and 6th grade books during the year. Students will join sixth grade band in the third trimester. Please note that percussion opportunities are not available in this Beginning Instruments class.

Choir 6

The sixth grade choir is offered for students who have an interest in singing. The sixth grade choir offers a skill based curriculum that focuses on developing fundamentals of successful vocal performance. These include developing proper posture, breathing and reading music. Development of characteristic tone and singing with dynamic variation in appropriate musical style is emphasized as well. Students learn to sing in the ensemble and to watch the conductor.

Orchestra 6

The sixth grade orchestra is offered for students who have participated in fifth grade orchestra; or who have the permission of the instructor. The sixth grade orchestra offers a skills based curriculum that focuses on developing fundamentals of successful performance. These include developing proper tuning, playing in a variety of keys and reading music. The skills of performing dynamic variation in appropriate musical style are emphasized as well. Students learn to play in the ensemble and to watch the conductor. Performance as a full orchestra (i.e. members of the band) is a highlight of the sixth grade orchestra.