



**Sixth Grade** is a year of great change physically, socially, and academically for children. Sixth graders begin to search for who they are as individuals, and they are eager to assert their independence. It is a year filled with great privileges and great responsibilities as the students begin to take on their roles as the leaders of the school, as well as begin their final preparations for secondary school.

Critical and analytical thinking and writing are emphasized in the classroom, and teamwork is stressed through a variety of outdoor education initiatives. Sixth grade curricular benchmarks include:

## Literature

Listen, retain, and follow age-appropriate directions and oral passages ♦ Recognize grade-appropriate sight words ♦ Define words using the correct part of speech ♦ Determine the meaning, pronunciations, and derivations of words using a glossary, dictionary, and/or thesaurus ♦ Sequence events ♦ Identify the main idea and specific details ♦ Determine cause-effect ♦ Distinguish fact and opinion ♦ Answer questions about story characters, setting, and significant details ♦ Locate literal details ♦ Recognize inferential details ♦ Summarize materials read ♦ Distinguish between first, second and third person ♦ Recognize point of view ♦ Relate isolated incidents to the central idea of a story ♦ Independently read age- and level-appropriate materials on a consistent basis ♦ *Reading Units of Study* by Lucy Calkins are used

## Language Arts

Practice narrative, opinion and informational writing ♦ Develop and refine strategies for writing across curriculum ♦ Learn and identify parts of speech such as prepositional phrases and direct objects ♦ Form complex sentence structures by adding prepositional phrases and clauses ♦ Employ enriched vocabulary and add purposeful, descriptive language ♦ Practice brainstorming techniques and organized thinking using graphic organizers ♦ Practice writing strategies and observe model texts ♦ Form strong topic and concluding sentences ♦ Write an organized introduction

that provides background on a topic, followed by three informative body paragraphs and a conclusion ♦ Create stories that reflect personal life lessons and story elements ♦ Practice how to support ideas with researched material ♦ Locate resources and actively read and research material before beginning to write ♦ Cite sources within essays ♦ Diagram sentences for a stronger understanding of structure ♦ Practice word relationships through analogies ♦ Programs used include *Wordly Wise*, *G.U.M.* (Grammar, Usage, Mechanics), and *Writing Units of Study* by Lucy Calkins

## Mathematics

Advanced (7th grade) math available for students who test into it ♦ Apply concept of prime factorization ♦ Apply standard algorithms for multiplication and division of fractions, decimals and whole numbers ♦ Understand rational numbers ♦ Find square or cube of a number ♦ Find the greatest common factor or least common multiple of two or more whole numbers ♦ Use negative numbers to locate points of the coordinate plane ♦ Find the area of geometry shapes ♦ Use tables to compare ratios ♦ Identify parts of an algebraic expression using mathematical terms ♦ Use technology and calculator to solve problems ♦ Use bar modeling and geometric tools to solve problems ♦ Develop and apply formulas to solve problems ♦ Practice various problem-solving strategies ♦ Programs used include *Math in Focus*, Khan Academy

## Science

Create, test and analyze series and parallel circuits ♦ Plan, wire, and build a milk carton car with working circuitry ♦ Define motion, speed, velocity and acceleration and apply to building marble roller coaster ♦ Analyze Newton's laws of motion ♦ Explore static electricity through research and experimentation ♦ Observe how electrons move from one object to another ♦ Analyze current electricity, simple circuits, conductors and insulators ♦ Apply engineering design process using LEGO NXT robots ♦ Calculate radius, diameter and circumference of LEGO robotics wheel ♦ Measure/compare variables in LEGO robot experiment ♦ Units studied: LEGO robotics, chemistry, cells/microscopes, body systems, engineering, electricity

## Social Studies

Determine significant characteristics of a place ♦ Describe a region in terms of culture, physical features, and industry ♦ Discuss reasons why migrations are key events ♦ Explain significant human-environment interactions ♦ Examine relationships between people and their environment ♦ Examine movement between people, products, information, and ideas ♦ Locate and describe various places, locations, and resources ♦ Use various strategies to collect and organize information ♦ Practice constructing an outline from research notes ♦ Examine the causes of the Civil War ♦ Explore and analyze primary source documents ♦

Identify the five geographic regions of Africa ♦ Define, evaluate, and discuss stereotypes and how they pertain to Africa ♦ Practice note-taking and test-taking skills ♦ Area of study: Africa

## French

Utilize French to take care of classroom needs ♦ Follow classroom commands and general directions ♦ Actively employ the vocabulary and language structures presented in prior terms ♦ Acquire the vocabulary and language structures needed to describe people (adjectives) ♦ Acquire the vocabulary and language structures needed to describe where one is going and why ♦ Recognize and employ adjective agreement ♦ Describe what people do on the weekend ♦ Acquire the vocabulary and language structures to discuss daily routines and chores ♦ Conjugate the verbs *faire*, *devoir*, and *vouloir* ♦ Acquire the vocabulary and language structures needed to read *Pauvre Anne* ♦ Recognize and use interrogatives in oral and written comprehension questions ♦ Discuss and retell events of the story

## Physical Education

Demonstrate knowledge to effectively plan an activity thoroughly ♦ Show the ability to effectively communicate during a group challenge ♦ Demonstrate leadership qualities ♦ Understand the basic rules of soccer, football, field hockey, basketball, volleyball ♦ Complete a one-mile cross country run ♦ Demonstrate knowledge of passing and receiving the baton, using the non-visual technique ♦ Exert maximum effort during various runs and exercises ♦ Show an understanding of various tumbling levels ♦ Demonstrate strength, agility, and technique during combative activities ♦ Work in small groups to accomplish tasks ♦ Collaborate in a small group for Global Games presentation ♦ Demonstrate organizational and leadership skills during Global Games Day ♦ Participate fully in each game ♦ Demonstrate awareness of the cultural origin of each game

## Visual Arts

**STUDIO ART:** Work on independent projects by setting a realistic and achievable goal ♦ Gather relevant information for work ♦ Illustrate concepts and apply skills from other subject areas in a work of art ♦ Successfully apply various elements of art

**WOODSHOP:** Understand and demonstrate safety guidelines in the woodshop ♦ Develop plans for individual projects ♦ Demonstrate proper use of marking tools to lay out lines ♦ Demonstrate correct use of hand and power tools including files, sandpaper, claw hammer, mallet and gouge, block plane, handscrapers, electric hand drill, drill press, scroll saw, sander grinder, belt and disc sanders, band saw, coping, crosscut and back saws ♦ Prepare a work station with needed tools and materials ♦ Analyze quality of each project and set goals for improvement ♦ Share project with class and teachers

## Performing Arts

**MUSIC:** Identify and notate melodic sequences within an eight measure phrase ♦ Connect to various styles and genres of guitar pieces ♦ Play correct strum patterns and chords ♦ Use new guitar fingerings accurately ♦ Collaborate in small ensemble settings ♦ Sing with accurate pitch and intonation ♦ Use clear vocal enunciation and diction ♦ Maintain melody/harmony in ensemble setting ♦ Use correct breathing and phrasing ♦ Pronounce foreign languages accurately ♦ Connect with the genre and style of music ♦ Use correct musical form in original composition ♦ Incorporate accurate notes and notation ♦ Include correct rhythms, rests and time signatures ♦ Utilize melodic sequence structure as a base for composition

**DRAMA:** Master fluency, enunciation, projection, cheating out, posture, expression, eye contact and visualization during public speaking and performances ♦ Synthesize the tools of an actor to become a character and maintain a character onstage using

motivation and objectives to get what the character wants ♦ Develop skills on stage to react to other characters and give and take focus ♦ Work in teams as designers of the set, costumes, makeup, props, choreography and publicity for the musical ♦ Lead assemblies modelling public speaking tools (posture, hook, enunciation, expression, eye contact, projection and pacing) ♦ Perform weekly assemblies (year round) and culminating musical

**BAND:** Play with an acceptable, mature, and characteristic sound ♦ Play the chromatic scale ♦ Perform in 2/2, 6/8, and 9/8 time ♦ Perform more complex syncopated rhythms ♦ Perform pieces in the jazz style ♦ Study the history of music

**CHORUS:** Understand and demonstrate vocal production skills ♦ Understand and demonstrate ensemble singing skills ♦ Perform music written in two- and three-part harmony ♦ Perform a varied repertoire from various time periods, cultures, and styles ♦ Define and demonstrate the concepts of pitch, rhythm and meter, using standard notation

