Parent Guide to Your Child's Sixth Grade Program

Christian Learner/Social Emotional Learner

Christian Learners/Social and Emotional Learners possess skills and attitudes that are the foundation of learning. Our thinking, approach and actions should show everyone we are Christians. Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) assists students to gain and apply knowledge, attitudes and skills to understand and manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships and make responsible decisions. The tenets of Christian living and SEL competencies support the individual throughout life. Acting as Jesus would want us to act is the goal of everyone in our Catholic school community- teachers, parents, students, staff, principals and pastors. The skills learned through understanding, adopting and practicing social and emotional competencies and the values of our Christian faith will help ensure your children have a fulfilling life. So, welcome to our Catholic school. We are pleased to partner with you in the education of your children. We promise our prayer and support, and we ask for yours. We trust Jesus to bless the education we offer in His name.

Religion

For your sixth-grade child, awareness of God is still rather vague. It is easier for him or her to appreciate Jesus, the man of courage and caring, the prophets who spoke out against evil, and the leaders of today. In religion class he or she will continue to learn more about the 4 pillars of the faith: Creed, Sacraments, Christian life, and prayer.

A Sample of What Your Child Will Be Working on in 6th Grade

- The authors and the structure of the Bible
- God's call and covenant with His people
- People of God: call to mission, service, and to bless one another
- Call to holiness: gift of faith, covenant people, made in the image and likeness of God, respecting ourselves and others
- Types of prayer including meditation, reflection, and contemplative prayer

English Language Arts & Literacy

In sixth grade, students apply skills they learned in earlier grades to make sense of longer, more challenging books and articles. This includes learning about how authors try to influence readers and find reasons to support their ideas. Focusing on how authors make their points and support their arguments with evidence and reasoning helps sixth grade students sharpen their ability to write and speak with more clarity and coherence. Students also will expand their vocabularies and use new words in their stories, reports, and essays. To meet these literacy goals, students must devote significant attention to precise details in their reading and writing.

A Sample of What Your Child Will Be Working on in 6th Grade

- Analyzing how chapters of a book, scenes of a play, or stanzas of a poem fit into the overall structure of the piece and contribute to the development of ideas or themes
- Gaining knowledge from materials that make extensive use of elaborate diagrams and data to convey information and illustrate concepts

- Evaluating the argument and specific claims in written materials or a speech, and distinguishing claims that are supported by reasons and evidence from claims that are not
- Presenting claims and findings to others orally, sequencing ideas logically, and accentuating main ideas or themes
- Writing arguments that provide clear reasons and relevant evidence, using credible sources
- Writing brief reports that examine a topic, have a clear focus, and include relevant facts, details, and quotations
- Conducting short research projects to answer a question, drawing on several sources and sharpening the focus based on the research findings
- Reviewing and paraphrasing key ideas and multiple perspectives of a speaker
- Recognizing variations from standard English in his or her own and other's writing and speaking, and using this knowledge to improve language use
- Determining the correct meaning of a word based on the context in which it is used (e.g., the rest of the sentence or paragraph; a word's position or function in a sentence)

Mathematics

The skills and understanding that your child will gain during sixth grade are among the most important foundations for college and career readiness. These include working with ratios and rates and working with variables and variable expressions, the building blocks of algebra. Many of this year's topics will remain a major emphasis throughout the middle school years and into high school.

A Sample of What Your Child Will Be Working on in 6th Grade

- Understanding ratios and rates, and solving problems involving proportional relationships (e.g., if it took 7 hours to mow 4 lawns, then at that rate, how many lawns could be mowed in 35 hours? At what rate were lawns being mowed?)
- Dividing fractions and solving related word problems (e.g., how wide is a rectangular strip of land with length $3/4$ mile and area $1/2$ square mile?)
- Using positive and negative numbers together to describe quantities; understanding the ordering and absolute values of positive and negative numbers
- Working with variables and expressions by generalizing the way numbers work (e.g., when adding numbers, the order doesn't matter, so $x + y = y + x$; likewise, properties of addition and multiplication can be used to rewrite $24x + 18y$ as $6(4x + 3y)$, or $y + y + y$ as $3y$)
- Understanding the process of solving simple equations
- Writing equations to solve word problems and describe relationships between quantities (e.g., the distance D traveled by a train in time T might be expressed by an equation $D = 85T$, where D is in miles and T is in hours)
- Reasoning about relationships between shapes to determine area, surface area, and volume

Science

In sixth grade, New York State Next Generation Science Standards groups your child with the Middle School Standards. If your school ends in grade six, you will find a sample of typical

work in grade six. However, in a grade 6-8 configuration, the topics studied may vary from grade to grade as the State simply lists a series of content topics and skill processes that must be completed by the end of Middle School.

A Sample of What Your Child Will Be Working on in 6th Grade

- Identify the difference between potential and kinetic energy and be able to give examples of each
- Construct and interpret data to describe the relationship of kinetic energy to the mass and speed of an object
- Describe types of energy transfer and the type of matter, the mass of it and the change in temperature in the energy transfer
- Using models and scientific equipment, identify that living things engage in photosynthesis in the cycling of matter and flow of energy
- Investigate the food webs in an ecosystem and define the cycles of energy transfer among producers, consumers, and decomposers in the system
- Apply energy in chemical processes to everyday life
- Relate availability of energy transfer to natural selection and adaptation
- Identify the role of water in the energy flow of earth's resources
- Relate the role of natural resources and the effect of their depletion energy flow

Social Studies

In sixth grade, your child will be engaged in the Eastern Hemisphere, a very complex, expansive and diverse view of our world. It includes Europe, Asia, Australia and Africa. As such generalized areas of each continent will be selected for focus while maintaining the integrity of the diversity of each of the continents through the lens of the sub-disciplines of social studies, geography, economics, politics, culture and civics. Since your child is entering middle school, they will experience an organized focus on the integrity of research, the authenticity of content and the ability to articulate in written and spoken forms the content of their study and the practice of the skills of the discipline.

A Sample of What Your Child Will Be Working on in 6th Grade

- Identify evidence and explain content about a particular region or continent while incorporating point of view, authorship and purpose of information sources. This would include the role of bias in a particular audience
- Identify ways that events are related chronologically to one another in a particular geographic area and across geographic areas, countries and continents
- Utilizing particular regions within the Eastern Hemisphere, identify its basic way of life including the economics, governance, culture, etc. and compare to other regions of the Eastern Hemisphere
- Examine the role of various types of resources, human capital, physical capital, and natural resources
- Describe the roles of people of power in the Eastern Hemisphere, both historically and now, and how they relate to people's rights and freedoms

- Engage in the study of each of the areas of the Eastern Hemisphere from the early cradles of civilization through its development to current day. Assess how this development was crafted and carved by geography, culture and emerging political systems.

Physical Education

Your sixth-grade child enjoys challenging tasks and is capable of reaching beyond his or her personal concerns to carry out a goal. This is a time for realignment of friendships due to differing rates of development (physical and emotional). In physical education your child will continue to develop motor skills, refine their movements in space, and will make the connection between physical activity and good health. He or she will realize the importance of participating in a way that shows respect of himself or herself and others.

A Sample of What Your Child Will Be Working on in 6th Grade

- Performs the following offensive skills without defensive pressure: pivot, give and go, and fakes
- Performs a legal underhand serve with control for net and wall games such as badminton, volleyball or pickleball
- Executes at least 1 of the following offensive tactics to create open space: moves to open space without the ball uses a variety of passes, pivots and fakes; give and go
- Transitions from offense to defense or defense to offense by recovering quickly
- Participates in a variety of aerobic fitness activities such as cardio-kick, step aerobics and aerobic dance
- Exhibits personal responsibility by using appropriate etiquette, demonstrating respect for facilities, and exhibiting safe behaviors

Music

During sixth grade your child will be demonstrating his/her ability to listen to selected music and explain the connections to specific interests for a specific purpose. They will perform music alone or in a group with accuracy and expression to convey the creator's intent.

A Sample of What Your Child Will Be Working on in 6th Grade

Performing music with technical accuracy to convey the creator's intent demonstrating performance decorum such as stage presence, attire and audience. Etiquette identifying music context from a variety of genres, cultures, and historical periods.

Art

In sixth grade Art your child will refine his/her skills to evaluate artworks and connect them to the changing times, traditions and culture. His or her will work with peers to create innovative works of art; they will learn more about art presentation in formal and informal settings.

A Sample of What Your Child Will Be Working on in 6th Grade

- Designing or redesigning objects, places or systems that meet identified needs of diverse users
- Developing and applying relevant criteria to evaluate artwork
- Analyzing how art reflects changing times, traditions, resources and cultural uses
- Combining concepts collaboratively to generate innovative art making ideas