

Sixth Grade Curriculum

Ss. Peter & Paul School

RELIGION

Sixth graders will learn through Scripture, prayer, discussion and reflection about their Catholic faith. The religion curriculum is integrated throughout the entire school day.
Christ our Life (Loyola Press)



Students will:

- Study the Old Testament from creation to the prophets
- Recognize the holiness of family life
- Plan and assist in liturgical forms of worship
- Participate in a Learning Mass
- Participate in Lenten Prayer services
- Review the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes
- Memorize the Prayer to the Holy Spirit
- Experience different types and methods of prayer (traditional, meditative, etc.)
- Take a faith experience field trip to a synagogue or have a speaker from the Eastern Rite
- Perform 15 service to the community

LANGUAGE ARTS

The goal of the sixth grade Language Arts curriculum is to improve students' writing, speaking, vocabulary, and grammar proficiency. Our hope is to insure that our students are knowledgeable and trained in the use of language so that they may be prepared not only for higher academic requirements, but in communicating with others in their personal lives.

Students will:

- Focus on narrative, descriptive, expository, and informative creative writing
- Introduce the research process that culminates in a biographical research paper and formal presentation. Students are exposed to the writing steps of brainstorming, pre-writing, drafting, peer-reviewing, revising, editing, and publishing a research paper. Furthermore, the students are taught the basic steps to creating note cards, outlines, title pages, and bibliographies abiding by the MLA guidelines
- Review rules of basic grammar and mechanics as used in the English language
- Apply the conventions of our language to written and oral activities
- Build upon their grammar knowledge by reviewing the eight parts of speech, while introducing complements
- To reinforce the above grammar skills through the tool of diagramming sentences
- Students will use the Sadlier Oxford vocabulary program in order to increase their speaking and writing vocabulary
- Writing portfolios are introduced in the English department and creative and formal writing aspects taught in Language Arts are intertwined cross-curricularly in reading class as well

Reading

The overall goal of sixth grade reading is to develop their proficiency and reading comprehension skills by utilizing various types of literature through the lens of genres and novels.

- The genres covered consist of short stories, drama, poetry, oral traditions, non-fiction, and fiction (especially autobiographical, biographical, and journal essays)
- Writing portfolios are introduced in the English department and creative and formal writing aspects taught in Language Arts are intertwined cross-curricularly in reading class as well
- Literary elements consisting of theme, setting, plot, and characterization are reviewed through reading selections from the anthology
- Sequencing of a story through the use of a plot diagram is taught
- Reading comprehension skills such as inferencing, cause and effect, compare and contrast, and identifying main and supporting details are exercised frequently
- Vocabulary is interweaved for each genre
- Formal outline and note-taking skills are introduced
- Presentation skills from Language Arts are incorporated in the reading curriculum
- Students read independently and in groups with designated roles
- Students are familiarized with the classics
- Class novel studies are introduced in the second semester

MATHEMATICS

Through the use of McGraw-Hill mathematics, our sixth grade math program is “grounded in the belief that all students should learn important mathematical concepts and processes with understanding.” The algebraic approach is a major thrust during the year.

The mathematical concepts covered in sixth grade are:

- Add and subtract decimals
- Multiply and divide decimals
- Data analysis
- Number theory and fraction concepts
- Add and subtract fractions
- Multiply and divide fractions
- Measurement conversions involving customary, metric, and between the systems
- Functions and equations
- Integers and rational numbers
- Geometry
- Perimeter, area, and volume
- Ratio and proportion
- Percents
- Probability

SCIENCE

Sixth grade science primarily covers a variety of topics in earth science, using the text *Exploring Earth Science* (Prentice Hall). Topics we cover include:

- The basics of science, who is a scientist, what is an experiment, the “scientific method,” science skills; models and how they are used in science

- Mapping the earth's surface; formation and types of rocks and minerals, and their uses; plate tectonics, earthquakes and volcanoes
- Weathering, erosion and glaciers as forces of change
- Interactions of sun, moon and earth; weather and weather factors such as wind, clouds and precipitation, storms, fronts, weather maps and climate
- The basics of chemistry and chemical reactions

Special activities include learning about mummification, using the engineering process to solve a problem, building parachutes, and violent weather safety. Students take turns reporting on an "Invention of the Week," finding news items about new inventions in science, technology and medicine.

PROJECT EXPLORE

Project Explore in sixth grade is an academically oriented science class for qualifying high-performance students. The course addresses State and Diocesan standards, but goes beyond them in both breadth and depth. Certain material in minerals, atomic physics, and physical chemistry are covered in a coordinated way. The class meets in the morning, before normal school hours, on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Sixth Graders will use the textbook *Journey Across Time* by Glencoe and will be introduced to:

- A survey of world history from early man to the Renaissance
- In depth study of the Egyptian, Greek and Roman civilizations
- Current events will be emphasized throughout the school year
- The use of map skills will take place with the completion of a map for each civilization studied

In addition the sixth graders will take a field trip to the Field Museum in Chicago which will enhance their study of the Ancient Egyptian civilization.

FINE ARTS

Art

All students will be taught the language of the arts through understanding the sensory elements and expressive qualities; understanding the similarities, distinctions and connections in and among the arts.

Through creating and performing all students will understand how works of art are produced. Students will learn about the processes, traditional tools and modern technologies used in the visual arts. Students will apply skills and knowledge necessary to create visual arts.

Students will understand the role of the arts in civilizations, past and present. Students will analyze how the arts function in history, society and everyday life. Students will understand how the arts shape and reflect history, society and everyday life.

Music

All students will be given the opportunity to perform on stage in the school musical.

In sixth grade students will have the opportunity to perform in band concerts and march in parades.

Sixth grade music students will:

- Learn about four composers
- Learn the seven elements of music
- To research and write a paper about a composer
- Listen and analyze classical music
- Play musical instruments in a group setting
- Read musical notes and symbols
- Learn more advanced music theory concepts
- Learn about the history and form of opera
- Perform an American opera
- Watch a Grand Opera

SPANISH

The sixth grade Spanish students will have class two to three times weekly, begin a Spanish I textbook and as a result be able to:

- Introduce themselves and others
- Follow simple instructions in Spanish
- Expand their written and oral vocabulary to include school, daily activities, food and sports
- Tell time in Spanish
- Read and write numbers to 100
- Use appropriate punctuation and capitalization when writing in the Spanish language
- Identify adjectives – form, position, agreement
- Talk about their likes and dislikes
- Conjugate regular –AR verbs and the irregular verb SER in present tense
- Compare word use, phrasing and simple sentence structure in English and Spanish
- Participate in pair and group activities and games conversing in the Spanish language
- Learn about the culture, currency, and geography of Spain and Mexico
- Compare with their own experiences the special celebrations, events and customs associated with several Mexican religious and secular holidays

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Students will:

- Demonstrate good sportsmanship in all activities
- Understand principles and components of health-related fitness
- Study efficient and inefficient (non-wasted) movement patterns
- Learn basic knowledge of the Fitness Center and physical fitness
- Review rules and strategies and continue skill development in whiffle ball, kickball, flag football, softball, volleyball, basketball and badminton

TECHNOLOGY

Technology is incorporated with class curriculum and infused as a tool throughout. Teachers and students will use the ELMO and SMARTBoard for demonstrations and interactive learning. During sixth grade the students will be introduced to and master the following skills:

- Attach peripherals to a computer
- Add music or sound effect CD audio to multimedia project
- Incorporate hyperlinks, format backgrounds, work with textboxes, custom animations,

- transitions, videos, and buttons into presentations
- Complete WebQuest activities using graphic organizers to organizer information and complete diverse learning activities.
 - Utilize Web 2.0 tools to work interactively to solve problems
 - Work cooperatively in groups to solve problems and create collaborative electronic projects
 - Develop desktop published newsletters in cooperative groups after researching information to reinforce Social Studies curriculum
 - Create and evaluate diagrams with auto-shape tools in a word processing program
 - Access and save documents to a specified folder across the local area network
 - Create charts from data in a spreadsheet
 - Use graphic organizers to plan projects
 - Use a draw program to combine, blend, and recolor photographic objects
 - Research using the Boolean method and compare search engine capabilities



HOMEWORK

Sixth graders will be assigned homework as needed for practice and reinforcement as well as completion of special projects. On an average sixth grade students can expect 105 minutes of homework daily.