

Sixth Grade

- **Language Arts –**

English 6: Sixth grade English has a strong emphasis on composition and the process of writing. Grammar, mechanics, sentence and paragraph structure, spelling and composition are practiced through the use of journal writing, essay writing and research writing. Daily activities reinforce grammar, mechanics, and creative expression. Integrated projects with science and computer encourage a holistic point-of-view.

Literature/Reading 6:

Grade 6 Literature/Reading consists of three main components:

- A – Assigned readings from Literature Works reading series or assigned readings from trade books. Trade books may include:

Bridge to Teribithia

The Mixed-up files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler

House of Dies Drear

The Westing Game

Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry

Tuck Everlasting

- B – Reader’s Workshop - Silent sustained reading each week

Teacher-student conferencing is part of the assessment process along with book logs and book talks. Book logs and book talks are used for assessment of comprehension, reading strategies and speaking skills. Response journals and reading contracts may be used quarterly.

- C – Reading and Language Arts Skills Assessment

An integrated program that test the following areas:

- Vocabulary
- Comprehension
- Literature
- Language Convention

- **Math** - Math 6 builds on basic math learned in the elementary grades and prepares students for the future Pre-Algebra and Algebra classes. Topics and areas covered are:
 - Addition and subtraction of whole numbers and decimals
 - Multiplication of whole numbers and decimals
 - Division of whole numbers
 - Division of decimals
 - Graphing and statistics
 - Measurement (metric and customary)
 - Addition and subtraction of fractions
 - Multiplication and division of fractions
 - Ratio, proportions and probability
 - Percents
 - Problem solving
 - Geometry
 - Area and volume
 - Positive and negative numbers
- **Religion** - The Old Testament is the main focus of sixth grade religion classes. Students explore the bible, our covenant with God, the scripture heroes and prophets and how we live by faith. The final unit is devoted to the connection between the Old Testament and Jesus. Students are given opportunities to try various prayer forms, service projects and proclaiming the Word.

Steps to Respect education continues to help children solve the problem of bullying. The program teaches students what to do about bullying and how to ask adults for help. This program teaches prosocial skills – empathy, problem solving and emotion management – that help children succeed both socially and academically.

- **Science** – Sixth grade science follows a curriculum of Physical Science. Major units during the year are: measurement, matter/chemistry, motion and force, work/simple machines, and the different forms of energy (light, sound static electricity and magnetism).

**Each middle school grade level begins the year working on the Scientific Method. At each level, hands on labs are conducted to increase student understanding of the concepts covered in each unit. Quarterly projects are designed for each grade level to enhance student creativity and thinking skills.

- **Social Studies** – This class takes an extensive look at world history, moving students through ancient, medieval, Renaissance to modern history chronologically. Some specific areas of study include: Ancient Greece, Egypt, Rome, China, and India; the Middle Ages, reformation, age of enlightenment, age of exploration in Europe and Asia; and the industrial revolution. Students learn study skills, along with doing projects and research throughout the year. Current events are stressed through weekly discussion.

- **Art** - Students will review and build on the foundations of art theory, the elements of art (line, shape, color, texture, form, value, space) and applying that knowledge to projects and activities. Color production will expand to include the intermediate colors and other combinations. Sixth graders will continue to also build on the principles of design (balance, pattern, contrast, rhythm, unity, movement and emphasis). The projects will be more complex and reflect cultures some of which are Hawaiian, Japanese, Chinese, Polish, Tibetan and American.
- **Physical Education** - The Middle School level teaches specific skills for individual and team sports (soccer, football, volleyball, bowling, basketball, floor hockey, tumbling, dance, jump rope, fitness, track & field, tennis and softball). Offense and defense strategies are learned along with developing and maintaining cardio respiratory endurance, muscular strength, flexibility and body composition.
- **Music** - The middle school students have the opportunity to select the type of music class in which they would like to participate. The music class choices are:
 - Music Theory
 - Chorus
 - Instrumental
- **Music Theory** - Students will review all notes, rests, musical signs, and musical symbols previously learned and expand upon them. They will study how to and practice making scales and chords. They will review musical instruments and what family they belong to. They will write reviews of different music they hear and write their own melodies. They will learn and write about different composers and the musical era the composers belonged to. They will listen to and compare music of different cultures and times. They learn the layout and formation of the standard orchestra and discuss the role of the conductor. They will study jazz music and improvisation. They will study the musical history of the Church and plan music for their school masses.
- **Chorus** - Students will sing a variety of songs. The class is primarily participation based. They will sing for every school Mass, so a lot of hymns and psalms will be learned. They will sing at both concerts, Christmas and Spring. They will work on singing rounds and two-part harmonies, eventually leading to three-part harmonies. Music reading will also be stressed. Students will review notes, rests, musical symbols, and the letters for both the treble and bass staves. They will learn about dynamics, articulation, and tempo.

- **Concert Band** - The Band Program is open to students in Grades 4-8. Students may join band for the first time at any of the above grade levels; it is not necessary for students to start in 4th Grade in order to participate.

The Concert Band is open to all students in Grades 5-8 and those 4th Grade students who have achieved adequate preparation through lessons and Fourth Grade Band. Students have the choice of learning one of the following instruments: flute, clarinet, alto saxophone, trumpet, French horn, trombone, baritone, or percussion. Band students will learn to read music in the clef necessary for their chosen instrument. They will learn to play that instrument individually and as part of a group. Students are continually challenged to learn new rhythms, notes, and to reach new levels of expressiveness. Emphasis is placed on teamwork. Students are expected to play as a band, rather than as a random grouping of instruments that are all playing the same music at the same time. The Concert Band plays two concerts, Christmas and Spring, and when the opportunity is available, at the Band Festival held annually at Notre Dame Academy. Students are also given opportunities to participate in Honors Bands and Solo and Ensemble.

- **Spanish** - Spanish for 6th grade is where we really get into making sense of our new language. We'll start by reviewing what we've learned the past few years and add some new vocabulary to the long list we already have. We have all these vocabulary words and can name all kinds of foods, animals, family members, things around the house, school supplies, weather words, days of the week, months of the year, colors, and numbers, and so much more! Well, now what? What can we do with all of these words? It's time to start making sentences! This year we'll slowly move into sentence structure and start writing describing sentences. Sixth grade will be exciting and challenging at the same time because we have so many words and so many things to do with them!
- **Technology** – Technology for the kids at Lourdes is part of the daily curriculum in the classrooms and computer lab with a variety of activities, lessons and software programs. All classrooms have personal computers for use in small group and individual activities. The computer lab is used for large group instruction, research and independent study. The lab is reserved by classroom teachers as required by their lesson plans.

Keyboarding occurs during the 1st semester with emphasis on technique, accuracy and building speed. Testing of student keyboarding skills and word processing knowledge is performed with guidelines provided by the area high schools to determine which classes (key boarding or word processing) to enroll in high school. Upon completion of the student testing, the results are provided to the families to assist in class registration at high school. A review of Microsoft Word, Powerpoint and Excel is performed. Internet terminology, history, safety, net etiquette, and search techniques are discussed and exercised. The students have access to the computers in the classroom or the computer lab during study halls or during class periods with teacher direction.