

SIXTH GRADE CLASS OVERVIEW

We have invested in what we consider to be the best, most effective curriculum available that is consistent with our philosophy of education that is also either biblically-based or does not conflict with our biblical values. We continue to utilize curriculum that is multi-sensory and engaging wherever possible.

Bible:

Summit Ministries Middle School series, Walking in the Truth, is used from 6th-8th grades. It presents a framework of biblical truth and values, encourages students to reflect upon it, and provides opportunities for students to apply what they have learned. The sixth-grade curriculum focuses primarily in two areas-The Christian Worldview, and the Acts of the Apostles. The Christian Worldview portion prepares students to answer the big worldview questions about God, the universe, people, truth, and right and wrong. The Acts of the Apostles portion is a Bible survey covering the early church, spread of the gospel, and Paul's arrest, trial, and journey to Rome.



Literature:

The Modos Press Literature series through ACSI (Association of Christian Schools Int'l) presents world-class literature, both classic and contemporary works, that are broad in their scope, intellectually challenging, and morally focused. The program is rigorous and engaging, and it thoughtfully explores family values and ethics. The sixth-grade book demonstrates the beauty of language and the imagery and complexity of fine stories contained within it. It presents world-class literature appropriate for a sixth grader that fosters thinking and talking about values, ideals, and behavior in a thoughtful and rigorous curriculum. Some historical fiction novels are also utilized throughout the year.



Writing & Grammar:

The Institute for Excellence in Writing curriculum entitled, Teaching Writing: Structure and Style, is a highly structured and powerful methodology of teaching writing, and has students writing daily.



Structure refers to organizational models for writing, which are explored and reinforced each year at ever-increasing levels of sophistication firmly internalized by students. The sequence of structural units teaches students a consistent method for composing clear and cohesive paragraphs as well as a reliable system for organizing narrative and expository writing. Style is a collection of tools that students use to achieve variety and competence in expression. It is through the employing of the stylistic techniques that students become competent in using interesting vocabulary, employ a variety of sentence structures, and gain an understanding of



grammar. It is through this methodology that the writing process is broken down into clear, easy to understand steps, and students of any ability are able to gain confidence and competence in writing in an organized manner, using strong imagery and examples with cohesive paragraphs. Grammar is taught within the context of good writing and embedded in the writing curriculum.

Spelling & Vocabulary:

Sixth grade spelling and vocabulary focuses on learning to spell and define a variety of key words found within the context of other subject matter, rather than a specific curriculum for spelling and vocabulary. This will be teacher directed and communicated to both students and parents throughout the course of the year.



Math:

In 6th grade, we transition to Big Ideas Math: Modeling Real Life, which begins a three-year sequence through 8th grade. Big Ideas Math is utilized in an effort to prepare students for the common core math terminology, concepts, and processes they will most likely face if they move into a public high school math program. Emphasis is on providing a narrower and deeper curriculum, ensuring students spend their time on the critical topics of 6th grade. In their daily lessons, students develop conceptual understanding in every *Exploration*, continue that development in the *Lessons* while gaining procedural fluency during the *Concepts and Skills Examples*, then tie it all together with *Modeling Real Life Examples*. Through this practice and problem-solving, students become more comfortable with the problem-solving process and are set up to become successful mathematical thinkers. It incorporates a STEAM approach to teaching and learning that combines Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts, and Math through the use of videos and other activities to make further connections to the mathematical content.

The topics taught in 6th grade include the study of numerical expressions & factors, fractions & decimals, ratios & rates, percents, algebraic expressions & properties, equations, area, surface area, & volume, integers, number lines, & the coordinate plane, statistical measures, and data displays.



Science:

Mosa Mack Science is utilized from grades 6-8 and is aligned with the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). It contains units covering Life, Earth, Space, and Physical science as well engineering, technology, and the application of science. Lessons utilize video and begin with a mystery to investigate and solve, “labs” comprised of a variety of hands-on experiences related to the lesson objectives, and engineering activities where students are challenged to design and build something related to the lesson objectives.



Social Studies:

Bob Jones University Press' Heritage Studies textbooks use a chronological narrative approach to acquaint students with historical people, places, and events. Activities, discussion questions, timelines, maps, and online searches are also employed to aid students' comprehension and retention of the materials. The sixth-grade curriculum engages students to think like Christian historians with the awareness that the field of historians is an open pathway. The course covers ancient civilizations in Africa, Asia, Europe, and the Americas in addition to building skills in reading and interpreting maps and charts. Students will focus on the theme of the Creation, Fall, Redemption, and they will learn to recognize it in ancient civilizations. Some historical fiction novels may also be used.

