

GRADE SIX CURRICULUM GUIDE



This booklet contains an outline of the instructional goals in each curricular area for sixth grade students at St. Joseph School. The topics are covered in a sequence that is responsive to the individual class of students. Overall, the philosophy of St. Joseph School emphasizes that learning is integrated, experiential, value-based and a foundation for continued and lifelong learning. Learning is designed to promote the spiritual, intellectual, social, physical and emotional growth of each unique child.

RELIGION

The religion program in sixth grade integrates with the social studies program in the investigation of the ancient lands and people of Mesopotamia, Egypt, and Rome. The religion program also includes attendance and active participation at Mass and other liturgical celebrations, such as Stations of the Cross and Advent Wreath prayer services. Traditional prayers are reviewed for understanding and reinforcement of the message they teach.

The following concepts and objectives are general outcomes of the sixth grade Religion program:

- Understand the Old Testament and our roots found in the stories of God's first chosen people—the Hebrews
- Understand the geography of the middle east—the area of Jerusalem, Israel, Canaan and Egypt
- Understand the stories of creation, the Exodus, the Ten Commandments and entrance to the promised land
- Discuss various Old Testament prophets and their foretelling of the Kingdom
- Understand the role of the prophets of old and today
- Research current day prophets
- Understand the Sacraments and our mission as people of grace
- Understand the importance of ministry—to go and teach all peoples and to serve them as commanded by Jesus
- Participate in a ministry/service component which incorporates service to the school, home and community

Text: This Is Our Faith, Silver Burdett Ginn, 1998

LANGUAGE ARTS/LITERATURE

One focus of the sixth grade language arts curriculum is the continuing development of comprehension at an increasingly independent level, so that students can more effectively interpret, analyze and evaluate what they read and hear. A second focus is the continuing development of communication, so students can effectively use written language and speaking at increasing levels of independence and complexity.

The following concepts and objectives are general outcomes of the sixth grade Language Arts/Literature program. Students will be able to:

Reading

- Read a variety of literary forms and genres
- Read independently for pleasure and for information
- Read classics and high-quality young adults books
- Read American and multi-cultural literature
- Recognize various types of poetry and identify poetry elements
- Identify main ideas and details of a reading selection
- Analyze the meaning of words and phrases using context
- Apply knowledge of word derivations to comprehend words used in specific content areas
- Predict outcomes and draw conclusions
- Make inferences
- Identify plot structure, conflict, character traits
- Understand motives of characters

- Identify themes in literary selections
- Interpret and analyze entire narrative text using story elements, point of view, and theme
- Make judgements concerning morals and values as presented in literature
- Set purpose for reading
- Reflect and ask critical questions
- Evaluate effectiveness of plot, use of setting
- Identify use of simile, metaphor, personification and imagery in literature
- Compare, contrast, and evaluate ideas and information from various sources and genres
- Summarize and make generalizations from content and relate to the purpose
- Identify text structure and create a visual representation during reading
- Compare how authors and illustrators use their crafts to express their ideas
- Interpret tables that display textual information and data in visual formats
- Identify characteristics and authors of various literary forms
- Identify ways that an author uses language structure, word choice and style to convey viewpoint
- Compare and contrast literary themes from different societies and eras
- Relate literary elements to current and historical events, people, and perspectives
- Respond creatively to literature through drama, art, oral reading, and creative writing
- Read age-appropriate material aloud with fluency and accuracy

Writing

- Use the 5-step writing process - prewrite, draft, revise, edit and publish/share
- Write in persuasive, narrative, expository and descriptive forms
- Write multi-paragraph compositions that contain complete sentences using English conventions
- Produce writing which displays a clarity of understanding and interpretation of ideas and information which also display focus, organization, collaboration, and coherence
- Write poetry and other creative forms
- Gather and organize information
- Revise as appropriate to audience and purpose
- Edit and revise for word choice, organization, consistent point of view and transitions between paragraphs using technology and formats suitable for publication
- Use available technology and produce compositions and multimedia works for specified audiences
- Apply capitalization skills correctly
- Utilize punctuation skills correctly - periods, commas, question marks, exclamation points, apostrophes, hyphens, quotation marks, colons and semicolons
- Apply knowledge of nouns, verbs, pronouns, adjectives, adverbs, prepositions, conjunctions, predicates and prepositional phrases
- Apply correct person and number agreement to sentences
- Understand root words, prefixes and suffixes
- Form irregular plurals correctly
- Form singular and plural possessives correctly

- Edit a document of at least eight pages in length to produce a paper without error, including correct citing of at least four sources

Listening and Speaking

- Identify purposes for speaking and listening
- Prepare for speaking by gathering and organizing information, and practicing
- Focus and limit a topic
- Present information orally in an informed and organized manner
- Participate in a variety of formal and informal speaking situations
- Comprehend pertinent information from oral presentations
- Listen critically and analytically
- Demonstrate ways that listening attentively can improve comprehension
- Compare a speaker's verbal and nonverbal messages
- Restate and carry out multistep oral instructions
- Identify and manage barriers to listening
- Design and present reports and multi-media compositions representing group projects
- Develop strategies to overcome communication anxiety

General Reference Skills

- Improve skills in using dictionaries, indexes, atlases, and encyclopedias
- Identify appropriate resources to solve problems or answer questions through research

- Choose and analyze information sources for various uses: individual, academic, and functional
- Identify, evaluate, and correctly cite primary sources
- Plan, compose, edit and revise documents that synthesize new meaning gleaned from multiple sources
- Prepare and orally present original work supported by research
- Produce a written research report which will include at least four subtopics

Text: Literature, Prentice Hall, 2000
All Write, Houghton-Mifflin, 1995
Voyages in English, Loyola Press, 2001
Vocabulary Workshop, Level A, Sadlier-Oxford,
1996

MATHEMATICS

The sixth grade math curriculum is a sequential and continuous development of previous grades. Sixth grade students will review concepts and skills acquired and expand those foundations into pre-algebra and algebra topics. The middle school program is designed for students to use what they already know and who have a good start in higher level mathematics.

The following concepts and objectives are general outcomes of the sixth grade Math program. Students will be able to:

- Calculate addition, subtraction, multiplication and division of decimals
- Use mental math using powers of ten
- Calculate addition, subtraction, multiplication and division of fractions and mixed numbers
- Demonstrate knowledge of order of operations
- Recognize prime numbers
- Find prime factors
- Recognize exponents and calculate powers of numbers
- Convert percents to decimals and decimals to percents
- Calculate percent of a number
- Calculate percent increase and decrease
- Calculate interest
- Understand rate, ratio and proportion
- Apply ratio and proportions to solve practical problems

Measurement

- Calculate measurements of objects, quantities and relationships
- Use common instruments to draw and measure figures and models
- Utilize estimation to determine acceptable levels of accuracy
- Construct scale drawings using proportion and common measuring instruments
- Solve problem using symbols and formulas to find proportion
- Use formulas and English and metric units of measure to find linear measure, perimeter, surface area, circumference, volume, density, time, temperature and mass

Algebra

- Recognize patterns, solve problems, identify relationships and predict results
- Write equations to solve problems involving equalities and inequalities
- Utilize graphs and graphing technology to predict and analyze relationships and recognize number patterns
- Recognize and use basic properties of numbers to solve problems
- Use the commutative, associative, distributive and zero properties to solve problems
- Know and apply the order of operations correctly

Geometry

- Use geometric methods to analyze, draw conclusions and solve problems
- Construct two and three dimensional figures, including quadrilaterals, triangles, circles, cylinders and cones
- Construct acute, obtuse, straight and perpendicular angles
- Recognize congruent and similar geometric figures
- Solve problems to determine elements of a circle - circumference, radius, diameter, pi and area
- Calculate the measure of angles

Data, Statistics and Probability

- Read and organize data using tables and graphs and make predictions
- Recognize mean, median and mode, and utilize statistics to draw conclusions
- Interpret tables, histograms, surveys
- Graph data on the X and Y coordinate plane
- Use graphs to communicate results with and without the use of technology
- Solve problems using data and be able to communicate their results on tables and charts

Text: Glencoe Mathematics: Applications and Connections, Course1, Glencoe/McGraw Hill, 1999

SOCIAL STUDIES

Throughout the Social Studies curriculum, students will prepare to become active and competent participants in the social and political world.

The following concepts and objectives are general outcomes of the sixth grade Social Studies program. Students will be able to:

Historic and Geographic Foundations

- Develop understanding of other cultures inclusive of similarities and differences thereby encouraging appreciation of humankind's diversity
- Develop a firm understand of our culture and the relationship of past to present that has created that culture
- Develop skills related to the five themes of geography— location, place, human/environmental interaction, movement and regions
- Understand how to use maps and geographic representations to provide spatial information
- Understand geographic markers and boundaries such as hemispheres, meridians, continents and bodies of water to analyze and navigate the earth
- Gain a sense of belonging and connectedness to family, heritage, school, community, nation and world
- Develop an understanding of different political and economic realities including major economic trends such as long distance trade, specialization of labor, commercialization, urbanization and technological progress

- Explain the relationship between productivity and wages
- Describe the relationship between consumer purchases and businesses paying for resources
- Describe the causes of unemployment
- Increase understanding of the relationship between technology and society—past, present and future

Ancient Peoples

- Understand how early people met basic needs through interaction with their specific environments and began to develop societies
- Identify sources which help us uncover clues to the past

Early Middle Eastern and North African Civilizations

- Mesopotamia and Egypt — understand relationships between the land and how life developed in Mesopotamia and Egypt
- Identify significant achievements of the Mesopotamian area and people
- Identify significant achievements of the ancient Egyptian kingdoms

Early Asian Civilizations

- Understand how geography helped shape ancient cultures
- Develop an understanding of the religions of India
- Develop an understanding of the government, societies and religions of ancient China

The Foundation of Western Ideas

- Understand religious developments in Biblical history
- Understand the political evolution of city-states and development of governments in Greece
- Understand how geographical factors in Israel, Greece and Rome impacted the activities and histories of the people living there
- Understand the contributions of ancient Greek and Roman governments, inventions and philosophers to the development of western civilization
- Understand the intimate connection between daily life in Greece and Rome and the religious beliefs, gods and goddesses

The Roman Empire

- Develop an understanding of the birth and early expansion of Rome, Roman society, economy and daily life
- Understand the growth of Christianity during the Roman Empire
- Understand the reasons for and the impact of the fall of the Roman Empire

Text: A Message of Ancient Days, Houghton Mifflin, 2000

SCIENCE

The sixth grade science program concentrates on expanded topics in the area of earth science and begins a three-year cycle of earth science, life science and physical science completed in 6th, 7th, and 8th grades, respectively. Topics in 6th grade will build upon and complement foundational knowledge and skills acquired in grades, kindergarten through fifth.

The following concepts and objectives are general outcomes of the sixth grade Science program:

Scientific Method

- Understand the scientific method and its application in problem solving
- Formulate hypotheses that address specific questions and can be tested in a controlled experiment
- Conduct an experiment that controls all but one variable
- Collect and record data accurately using measuring devices found in the science lab and classroom
- Explain why results may vary in controlled experiments
- Utilize quantitative measures and explain the relevance of data found using statistical calculations – mean, median, and mode
- Conduct research using varied sources including primary sources and the Internet
- Communicate results graphically using Microsoft Excel or other graph/spreadsheet software programs
- Form a conclusion and communicate findings to others through a properly documented research paper, chart and an oral presentation

- Participate in a science fair at the local level
- Identify design of a weather instrument and create a simple prototype
- Report to others how prototype works and if design is successful
- Understand how environmental pollutants created by fossil fuels affect living things (plants and animals)

Family Life

- Understand and reinforce importance of healthy habits such as exercise, proper diet, safe habits, and sufficient rest
- Be aware of normal social, emotional, and physical changes that occur in puberty
- Be aware of the parts of the male and female reproductive systems and how they function
- Understand how human reproduction occurs
- Participate in field trip to Robert Crown Center for family life presentation

Earth/Space Science

- Study theories of origin of the earth's universe
- Identify layers of the earth's surface and their composition and characteristics
- Understand the theory of Continental Drift and Plate tectonics
- Understand the formation of rocks and minerals
- Identify various rocks and minerals indigenous to the Midwestern United States
- Use instruments to measure mass and volume of unknown rocks to find density

- Understand how the surface of the earth is changing through gradual and sudden phenomena (earthquakes and volcanoes)
- Understand how natural resources are formed in the earth's surface
- Explain the differences between renewable and non-renewable natural resources
- Understand how fossil fuels are formed
- Understand the environmental impact of fossil fuels and depleting fossil fuel reserves
- Identify causes and presence of acid rain
- Understand the pH scale and impact of increased acid or base on the environment
- Test for presence of acidity in common substances and local rainfall
- Realize the importance of conservation and protection of natural resources
- Identify ways to conserve energy and how gas and electric meters measure consumption
- Identify the layers of the atmosphere
- Understand how changes in pressure and temperature in the atmosphere and the movement of the earth create weather
- Identify instruments that measure weather and understand how they work
- Recognize symbols on weather maps and be able to interpret them
- Understand how erosion changes the earth's surface
- Realize how the movements of the earth and moon create tides
- Understand how seasons are caused by the tilt of the earth on its axis

- Understand the apparent movement of the earth, solar system, sun and stars

Safety, Technology, and Historical Contributions

- Demonstrate correct important safety procedures when conducting science activities
- Understand that results may vary in scientific investigations
- Understand the importance of accurate and detailed record keeping and how biased scientific practices have impacted history
- Explain how technology has impacted scientific knowledge and society
- Recognize contributions to science and technology from different individuals and various cultures
- Understand occupations that use scientific technology and skills
- Recognize and understand the struggle between conservation of natural resources and growth of communities

Outdoor Environmental Experience

- Participate in an overnight project that will include field studies, prayer, team building, climbing, physical activity, archery, preparation for meals, wetland exploration, hot air balloon exploration, predator/prey activities and cooperative play experiences

Text: Earth Science, Prentice Hall, 2001

FOREIGN LANGUAGE - SPANISH

The sixth grade program expands on the listening, speaking, writing and reading skills learned at previous levels. The program is adjusted to meet the different levels of competency among the students. Catholic prayers and traditions are incorporated in keeping with the religious nature of the school.

The program goals developed in the sixth grade Spanish program are to:

- Develop and increase listening abilities
- Expand word recognition and speaking vocabulary
- Develop basic sentence formation skills

The following concepts and objectives are general outcomes of the sixth grade Foreign Language program. Students will be able to:

- State his or her name to another person
- Use greetings and farewells
- Start verb conjugations
- Recognize cognates
- Identify 10 classroom objects
- Identify 10 colors
- Start sentence build ups with learned vocabulary
- Know numbers 0 to 1000
- Identify fruits and every day edibles
- State likes and dislikes (me gusta) with learned vocabulary
- Recognize domestic animals and zoo animals
- Create short sentences with verb combinations

- Recognize parts of the body and incorporate into “tener expressions”, e.g. “Tengo dolor de cabeza”
- Recognize immediate family members
- Construct simple questions
- Write weather expressions
- Recognize months of the year and days of the week
- Recite the Spanish alphabet
- Make the Sign of the Cross
- Recite the Hail Mary
- Recite the Pledge of Allegiance in Spanish
- Tell time in Spanish
- Recognize basic language patterns, i.e. forms of address, questions and case
- Respond appropriately to simple commands
- Comprehend illustrated stories, audiovisual programs or websites
- Follow instructions given one step at a time
- Respond to and ask simple questions with prompts
- Imitate pronunciation, intonation, and inflection
- Produce language using proper pronunciation, intonation and inflection
- Comprehend gestures and body language often used in everyday interaction
- Recognize the written form of familiar spoken language and predict meaning of key words in a simple story, poem or song
- Infer meaning of cognates from context
- Comprehend written classroom directions, read simple passages and infer meaning of cognates
- Decode new vocabulary using contextual clues and drawing on words and phrases from prior lessons

- Use common forms of courtesy, greetings and leave; use appropriate language for the time of day and relationship (adult, peer, parent)
- Understand various elements of Hispanic culture - music, dance, folk art, visual art, drama and architecture
- Identify one or more art forms representative of Hispanic areas

Text: Spanish is Fun, 3rd Edition Softbound, 2000

FINE ARTS - MUSIC

The sixth grade music class students begin a more in depth study of the origin of music - from the basic need to communicate, to a desire for self-expression. The basic elements of music are extended to a higher level. Units on how instruments are made, composers, careers in music, songs of America's heritage and folk music are included.

The sixth grade students are involved in two music programs that are presented to school families and the community. Students are involved in these programs on many levels. The goal of these programs is to encourage students to share their talents in a unified group endeavor that displays pride in our school, personal pride and magnifies the values of our Christian community.

The following concepts and objectives are general outcomes of the sixth grade Music program:

- Ancient music
- Development of instruments
- The notation system
- Music for liturgical celebrations
- Music as ritual
- Rhythm
- Expressive qualities of music
- The orchestra
- Form
- ABA
- AABA
- Composition
- Music with lyrics

- Musical ensembles (vocal, instrumental)
- Scales

Text: The Music Connection, Silver Burdett Ginn, 1998

An Illustrated History of Music for Young Musicians,
Summy Birchard, 2000

FINE ARTS - ART

The following concepts and objectives are general outcomes of the sixth grade Art program. Students will be able to:

- Identify and describe the elements of opaque and transparent colors
- Understand complementary colors - red/green, orange/blue, yellow/purple
- Understand real texture – tactile, three dimensional, implied texture, visual and two dimensional
- Identify and describe the principles of movement - the path that the viewer’s eyes follow through the work
- Understand emphasis – the center of interest in the work
- Describe how the elements and principles of art are used to convey meaning (mood or emotion) in a visual work of art
- Describe how a sequence works to convey an expressive idea

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

An effective physical education curriculum incorporates many aspects of physical, emotional, social and personal growth. The program includes the following components:

- 1) Emphasize the child as a whole person and exercise the mind as well as the body
- 2) Utilize a variety of learning strategies
- 3) Emphasize core skills, such as locomotion, throwing and catching
- 4) Emphasize the development of lifelong physical fitness
- 5) Demonstrate that good sportsmanship and cooperation are fundamental core values
- 6) Emphasize participation in all sports – individual as well as team

The following concepts and objectives are general outcomes of the sixth grade Physical Education program. Students will be able to:

- Chase, flee and dodge particularly in regard to stationary objects and moving people
- Volley and serve a volleyball
 - Return a served ball using a bump, set, and dig
 - Set or bump a ball to a teammate
 - Serve a ball over the net using an underhand serve
- Throw and catch
 - Throw a softball properly
 - Throw and catch during game situations
 - Catch while moving and stationary
- Dribble and kick a ball

- Dribble around moving and stationary defenders or objects
- Dribble or kick during game situations
- Strike or hit a ball
 - Hit a slow pitched ball
 - Serve, lob, and drive the ball with a pickle ball racket
- Understand the fundamental rules of various sports – basketball, softball, pickle ball, badminton, and scooter hockey
- Execute various track and field events – run relays, long jump, and distance throw
- Establish good sportsmanship habits
 - Put forth full effort
 - Encourage teammates without negativity
 - Be courteous and respectful of each other
- Develop individual physical fitness level
 - Cardiovascular endurance
 - Muscular strength
 - Flexibility
 - Demonstrate outcomes of regular and daily exercise
 - Increase exercise duration and stamina

COMPUTER

The Computer curriculum, in a sequential and stepwise fashion from kindergarten through eighth grade, incorporates classroom strategies and student activities that promote the following core foundational skills – keyboarding and word processing. Students are encouraged to enhance individual skill levels and to continue to improve independently. Students are also encouraged to develop cooperative classroom skills of patience and mutual respect. The computer curriculum emphasizes lifetime skills of research, writing, and document development.

The following concepts and objectives are general outcomes of the sixth grade Computer program. Students will be able to:

- Understand current changes in technology and the effect on society and the workplace
- Understand proper use of information and technology and the consequences of misuse
- Use content-specific tools to support research
- Use peripherals for collaboration with other students and to further personal productivity
- Save documents
- Design and develop electronic presentations such as spreadsheets and graphs
- Use input and output devices correctly
- Discuss common uses of technology in daily life and identify the advantages and disadvantages
- Develop and master correct keyboarding techniques
- Write a newspaper utilizing group effort and word processing skills, clipart, search engines and graphing

LIBRARY

By sixth grade, students should be proficient in information location, retrieval, and interpretation skills. Library projects will be developed as a result of the classroom teacher.

The following concepts and objectives are general outcomes of the sixth grade Library program:

Indexes	Outlining
Readers' Guide	Dewey Decimal System
Guides to Quotations	Paraphrasing
Reference Sources	Bibliography
Book Reports	Elements of Fiction
Card Catalog	Biography
Taking Notes	
Library of Congress Classification	

HOMEWORK

Students in sixth grade should continue to read 30 minutes or more per night. In addition, written homework assignments will generally require about 1 hour to complete; however, this may vary somewhat when long term projects are assigned. Student's first and last name and the date should be included on all homework. Blue and black inks only are acceptable (no markers or gel rollers). Math assignments must be done in pencil. All work must be neat and clearly legible and no doodling or extra artwork should be present.

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