

Sixth Grade Curriculum

Religion

Sixth graders will learn about and grow in their faith through reading Scripture and studying the Lutheran understanding of Christianity. The religion curriculum is integrated throughout the school day.

Students Will:

- Study Luther's Small Catechism with pastoral instruction
- Study Old Testament history from Samuel to the Exile and some major prophets
- Memorize passages in Scripture relating to Catechism instruction
- Recognize and apply the way Christians respond to their faith in daily living
- Perform and reflect on service projects

English

Sixth graders will continue to improve their command of the English language in grammar, writing, and speaking.

Students will:

- Review and expand knowledge & use of writing mechanics
- Expand on use of organization in writing
- Assignments in narrative, expository, informative/descriptive writing
- Reinforce the writing process from brainstorming topics to proofreading a final draft
- Introduce research techniques culminating in writing an MLA style research paper with proper source citations
- Refine speaking skills through formal presentations
- Spelling comprehension and mastery continues to be developed through spelling and proofreading activities. Spelling is also emphasized as a separate grade on all 6th grade formal writing assignments.
- Review and expand knowledge of basic grammar

Literature

Sixth graders will strengthen their reading skills through the study of various fiction genres, non-fiction texts, and novels.

Students will:

- Study short story fiction, poetry, folk literature, drama, and non-fiction essays
- Study two novels using all reading and analysis skills
- Reading comprehension skills such as predicting, making inferences, comparing & contrasting pieces of literature, establishing cause-and-effect, and identifying main idea and supporting details are reviewed and practiced
- Study vocabulary for each genre and novel
- Study of elements of fiction such as theme, setting, plot, characterization, and conflict
- Study of elements of non-fiction such as understanding author's purpose, evaluating fact and opinion, the importance of providing evidence, and organization
- Students read independently and in groups with assigned roles
- Students are encouraged to read their own books through established DEAR time, and reading skills are assessed for their individual reading

Mathematics

Sixth graders will add to their foundation of mathematical skills and expand into more advanced concepts throughout the year.

Students will:

- Review of number theory and place value concepts
- Order of operations
- Exploring algebraic functions
- Evaluate expressions with decimals
- Evaluate expressions with fractions & ratios
- Measurement systems
- Data analysis including reading/creating graphs
- Probability
- Percentages
- Geometry concepts
- Perimeter, area, & volume of polygons and circles
- Integers
- Coordinate planes

Science

Sixth grade science covers a variety of science disciplines. We use *Grade 6 Science*, Illinois Edition published by Scott Foresman.

Topic of Study will include:

- The scientific method and how to use controlled and manipulated variables.
- The use of models and how they are used in science
- Astronomy and how Earth, Moon, and stars help us measure various type of time (seasons, days, months, and years)
- The location of objects in the solar system and how models of the solar system and universe have changed over time
- The life cycle of stars and how and why they give off energy
- Robots, robotics, and nanotechnology and their impact on society
- Different forms of energy and how energy can change from one form to another
- How magnetism and electricity are related
- The electromagnetic spectrum and how they can be used as well as their dangers
- Types of waves and how they carry energy from one place to another
- The different types of vascular plants and their parts, as well as their usefulness
- Photosynthesis and cellular respiration and how they are necessary for the carbon-dioxide – oxygen cycle
- The different types of biomes on earth and their characteristics
- The different levels of living things in an ecosystem, the biotic and abiotic factors, and their impact on the ecosystem
- How energy and matter moves through an ecosystem
- That various natural factors change the surface of the earth through weathering and erosion
- The defenses between renewable and non-renewable resources and how they can be conserved
- The difference between climate and weather and the types of weather.

The sixth grade does a unit on rockets and the students design and construct a water rocket that we launch at school. We also do a unit on optical illusions and animation where we create a flipbook. The sixth grade also does a Science Fair Project for the curriculum Fair.

History

Sixth graders are introduced to a survey of world history from the first civilizations to European exploration of the Americas.

Students will:

- Study common experiences in human history
- Study the development of civilization
- In depth focus on Egyptian, Greek, Roman, and Middle Ages European history
- Introduction to themes in geography
- Use of map skills
- Christian perspective on history emphasized

Fine Arts

Art:

Sixth graders take a visual art class two days a week.

Students will:

- Improve fine motor skills through detailed drawing, painting, sculpture, ceramics and printmaking
- Introduction into new techniques with advanced art materials
- Create artwork based on an artistic style from particular time period and be able to reflect how that style affected their artwork.
- Reinforce proper care of art mediums, equipment and personal art supplies
- Learn to work both collaboratively and independently on artwork
- Introduction to pottery wheel Students will learn how to center and create low flat dish on the wheel

Music:

Liturgy & Sacred Music (6th Grade Required General Music Once per Week):

A required course for all 6th grade students, Liturgy and Music is designed to instill a deeper understanding and appreciation for our heritage as a liturgical church. Students examine the history, development, and interaction of liturgy and sacred music from the beginnings of Christianity through the Middle Ages.

Chorale (Optional)

The Bethany Lutheran School (BLS) Chorale is a choral ensemble for 6-8th grade students, which gives students the opportunity to further develop their musical and vocal abilities through an exciting range of repertoire from both sacred and secular genres. Students rehearse twice per week and will regularly participate in performances at Bethany and in the community.

Concert Band (Optional):

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Students in Concert Band (6th-8th Grade) dive deep into an appreciation for their instrument through more challenging repertoire and performance opportunities. Ensemble rehearsals are twice per week during the school day. Additionally, band students receive weekly technique classes where they receive more individualized attention to their developmental needs.

Spanish

Students participate in Language Stars Spanish Program one day a week.

Second Step

In the Second Step program we cover social skills students will need to be able to interact in a positive way with their peers as well as adults.

Students will:

- Practice developing empathy
- Practice how to be an ally to someone in need
- Develop strategies for dealing with conflict and disagreement in a positive way by looking at situations objectively and using constructive language that is not de-valuing to others.
- Develop skill to be inclusive and the building up of others
- Talk about how to deal with the topics of substance abuse.

The Second Step Program gives us a common language for dealing with issues that come up in the daily life of the classroom to help us deal with situations in a positive manner.

Technology

A vital part of the education of children is the modeling and teaching of essential technological skills. It is our responsibility to equip our students to live, learn, and work productively in an increasingly complex and information-rich society. In the sixth grade we seek to teach our students to utilize the gift of technology to glorify God and enhance their understanding of the world in which they live. Computers and related technologies will be used to assist student development in curricular areas as well as used to teach technological skills to better prepare students for the future.

Topics of Study will include:

- Responsibility and etiquette for the use of online resources and communication tools
- Logging into Google for Education and navigating their Google drive
- Use Google Classroom to submit work online for evaluation
- Use technology to do peer editing and collaborative work on projects
- Use of online tools (Google Docs, Sheets, and Slides) to create a variety of documents for class work
- Use spreadsheets to do calculations and create graphs.
- Use slide to create presentations that include text, images, audio, and video
- Use of online resources to gather information for projects and supplement classroom texts
- Evaluate the reliability of various online resources.
- Use a variety of tools to enhance and expand the core curricular areas.

Physical Education

Physical Education is provided twice each week. In addition to class, students will participate in recess daily.

Students will:

- Develop personal fitness and skill-related abilities.
- Reinforce understanding and application of fitness concepts and motor skills through a variety of movement forms.
- Learn concepts and skills of individual and team activities.
- Develop personal and social responsibility, self-management skills, and ability to make informed choices.
- Enhance disposition toward leading a physically active lifestyle.

Extra-Curricular Activities

There are a variety of extra-curricular activities for students to participate in, such as:

- Boys and Girls Volleyball
- Boys and Girls Cross Country
- Boys and Girls Basketball
- Girls Cheerleading
- Boys and Girls Track
- The Jr. High theater production
- Student Council

Field Trips and Service Projects

In sixth grade, the students will participate in multiple field trips as an enriching way to reinforce classroom learning.

- In the fall and spring students will participate in a Clean-up Modaff Service Project. We partner with the City of Naperville and walk Modaff Road from 75th Street to Countryside and pick up trash to give back to the community.
- In the fall the class will travel to the Field Museum to learn more about the ancient Egyptian and Chinese cultures and examine their artifacts.
- In late February, our class will take a walking trip to the fire station that we sponsor for the entire month. We will present the men and women with a small token of our appreciation for their service to our community.
- During Lutheran Schools Week the class will go to Feed My Starving Children to pack food for the starving children around the globe.
- In February, we have our annual Careers and Manners Luncheon. At this event we have a formal luncheon where the children all dress up and we have people from various careers come and talk to the students about their careers and education.
- In the spring, the class will go to the Morton Arboretum to study the forest ecosystem and participate in a nature lab.

Homework

Students will have homework in sixth grade. Each student should complete his/her assignment notebook, daily, to keep track of work and tests assigned. While they may have some time to work in class there will be work they will need to do outside of school. As a general rule an average student may have about 50-60 minutes per day. Homework may entail daily work, preparing for tests and quizzes, completing projects, reading, etc.

Parents Can Help By:

Children will need good study habits and a quiet place to do their homework. Parents should encourage independence and responsibility. Parents can find the weekly newsletter posted on our classroom blog each week.