



Sixth Grade Curriculum

*The Academy is dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus
and the Immaculate Heart of Mary.*

*We are committed to excellence
in spiritual formation and academics.*

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Sixth Grade Curriculum

Academic Program



Religion /Scripture

The religion program focuses on spiritual formation. The primary text series is Faith and Life, published by Ignatius Press. It is a comprehensive Catholic program that combines beautiful classical and original art work with a solid doctrinal and scriptural presentation. These texts according to Bishop Thomas Muldoon are unsurpassed in lucidity of doctrine, in fidelity to God's revelations, and in stimulation of real interest and love for the Faith.

Following Christ, published by Ignatius Press

Aim

To help the sixth grade student learn to love the law as Christ did and to cherish and love the Mass as our best prayer to God, and especially to revere and adore Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

Theme

The blueprint for a life of love; the law of God, especially in the Ten Commandments, and the presence of Jesus in the Holy Mass. The interaction of the challenges of God's law and his gifts of grace that help us fulfill his law.

Sequence

Part 1: The Ten Commandments. Forming the conscience and increasing closeness to God.

Religion /Scripture continued...

Part 2: The Holy Mass. An emphasis on the Real Presence and Christ's sacrifice and explanation of the parts of the Mass.

Part 3: The Last Things. Death and God's judgment of us, with an emphasis on the great happiness of Heaven.

Reading/Literature

The Prentice Hall Literature Program is an integrated language arts program, offering high quality, appealing, traditional and contemporary literary selections, and writing activities that guide the students into, through and beyond the literature. Classroom instruction will focus on:

- † Reading actively
- † Analyzing literary selections
- † Critical thinking and reading

Themes covered in the sixth grade Copper text are:

- † Growing and Changing
- † Reaching Out
- † Proving Yourself
- † Seeing it Through
- † Mysterious Ways

Literary Genres covered are:

- † Short Stories
- † Nonfiction
- † Dramatic Literature
- † Poetry
- † Folk Literature

Supplemental texts:

- † Novels
- † Bennets Book of Virtues
- † The Bible, Matthews Gospel

Writing

Sixth graders are introduced to written and oral communication with a literature model, then they move through the following five stages of writing.

- † Brainstorming
- † Prewriting
- † Drafting
- † Revising / Editing
- † Publishing

In addition to continued practice in narrative, descriptive, and expository writing sixth graders will be introduced to persuasive writing. New writing techniques at this level are:

- † Writing with dialogue
- † Writing a Research Paper

Listening and Speaking

Students will be given many experiences that fosters the development of listening and speaking skills through the following:

- † Class participation
- † Oral reports
- † Class discussion
- † Small group participation

English

A firm grasp of the structure and use of language is critical to successfully harnessing the power of the written word. Mastery of proper grammar, usage, and mechanics is the goal of the comprehensive grammar program in Shurley English. The exercises in the English workbook provide the added reinforcement students need.

English continued...

Skills developed or reinforced in the sixth grade are:

- † Nouns - regular and irregular plurals; possessives
- † Pronouns - subject, object, and possessive
- † Pronoun-Antecedent Agreement
- † Verb tenses - regular and irregular
- † Verb principle parts, participles
- † Linking verbs
- † predicate nominatives and predicate adjectives
- † Subject/verb agreement
- † Compound parts, compound sentences, complex sentences

Spelling

Spelling skills are integrated into the phonics and reading program. These skills teach spelling rules and high frequency words in a structured spelling program called Spelling Workout, published by Modern Curriculum Press.

Vocabulary

Sixth grade students have a developmental sensitivity for new and interesting words. The Academy vocabulary program, including Amsco's Vocabulary Explorations, provides an engaging, systematic approach to new words. Students will:

- † Understand new word meanings
- † Use new words in everyday language
- † Incorporate new vocabulary in writing assignments

Analogies

The study of analogies groups analogous relationships into five categories: descriptive, comparative, categorical, serial, and causal, with three levels of difficulty within each category. As they solve and create analogies, students actively process information, make important connections, use information and skills to identify relationships, construct relationships, and generate new knowledge, and improve critical thinking and long-term memory. Text used: Ridgewood

Analogies Book 1.

Math

Glencoe's math seeks to develop both students' mathematical understanding and their procedural skills. Genuine learning is demonstrated not only through the understanding of a concept but also through the ability to apply that concept to new situations. Sixth grade students will cover and or develop:

- † Ratios and proportional relationships
- † The number system
- † Expressions and equations
- † Geometry
- † Statistics and probability

Think Through Math and ALEKS

Think Through Math (TTM) and ALEKS are web based programs that instruct, assess, support, and motivate students at their level. Students progress at their own rate while developing higher order thinking and problem solving skills.

Science

The Glencoe Red Series text, which aligns with the National Science Education Standards provides a blend of concepts, inquiry, and hands-on content. Students are exposed to the process skills needed to form and test hypothesis. The units taught are:

- † Nature of science
- † Measurement/metric
- † Vertebrate animals
- † Invertebrate animals
- † Forces shaping the earth
- † Weathering and erosion
- † Atmosphere/weather
- † Oceans
- † Exploring space
- † Solar system

Social Studies

Houghton-Mifflin prepares students for informed participation in tomorrow's America. This comprehensive social studies program presents a mixture of history, geography, economics, citizenship, and culture. The sixth grade text, Across the Centuries, explores themes that focus on:

- † Links to the Ancient World
- † Sub Saharan Africa
- † Asian Civilizations
- † Medieval Societies
- † Europe
- † The Americas
- † Europe 1600-1789

Geography

A comprehensive map skills program from National Geographic called, Map Essentials, covers map skills. Concepts covered in sixth grade are:

- † Cartograms
- † Contour maps
- † Land use maps
- † Solar system maps
- † Ocean floor maps
- † Ocean current/wind pattern maps

Health

Students will develop an understanding of personal health and safety issues such as:

- † Good eating habits
- † Proper rest and exercise
- † Good hygiene
- † Personal cleanliness
- † Seat belt use
- † Safe use of medication

Library/Computer Science

These skills are introduced in the library/media center and computer lab for integration into the curriculum. Children learn how to research and process information. Using Code.org, students become algorithmic thinkers and responsible digital citizens.

STEM

Students integrate Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math in a variety of problem solving situations. Students apply the Scientific Method and Engineering Process during experiential learning.

Specials

Physical Education

Sixth grade students will continue to develop muscle strength, cardio-respiratory endurance and flexibility as they learn to refine their motor skills. Learning to follow the rules of sports, teamwork, and good sportsmanship occur as they participate in team and individual sports.

Art

Students will explore many of the more sophisticated art media and techniques. They will:

- † Explore new artistic experiences
- † Experiment with form and style
- † Use elements of art to express their ideas
- † Prepare artists tools
- † Organize the spectrum

Music

Students will:

- † Understand that different cultures express themselves through their music
- † Be able to creatively express themselves through music
- † Interpret music in movement

Spanish

¡Viva el Español The curriculum, by McGraw-Hill, allows students to practice writing skills, reinforce vocabulary and language concepts, develop language-learning skills, and have fun with the language.

Using sounds, images, and text words the students are able to build sentences and turn sentences into conversation.

Latin

Latin is as vital to vocabulary development as phonics is to reading. Fifty percent of all English words have their roots in Latin. Exposure to this classical language teaches order in the English language and provides order for all facets of life. The text for this course is Latina Christiana - Book 1 published Memoria Press.

General Information

Report Cards/Progress Reports

Students will receive a report card at the end of each ten-week marking period. Students in need of academic assistance will receive a progress report at the end of the five-week point or half way through the marking period.

Parent Conferences

Parent conferences are scheduled for late October. However, parents may schedule a separate conference at anytime.

Homework

For children to achieve mastery reinforcement is absolutely necessary. Homework is assigned, as needed, for practice and special projects. Expect to give some assistance. Help your child succeed by:

- † Providing a quiet area for study
- † Discourage or prohibit TV on school nights
- † Provide nutritious meals and plenty of exercise
- † Schedule sufficient rest (8 hours for sixth graders)
- † Show an interest in school activities
- † Keep communication lines open with the school

SchoolSpeak

Kindergarten - 8th Grade

SchoolSpeak is an online communication tool which allows parents and students to view homework, newsletters, grades, and report cards. Parents and teachers can easily message each other when the need arises.

