

Sixth Grade Course of Study

****This is a list of all textbooks on the 6th grade grid for all areas****

Language Arts

Journeys by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

Literacy and Language Guide (Teacher's Guide)

Student Anthology

Reader's Notebook

Reader's Notebook Teacher's Edition

Performance Assessment Workbook

Writer's Handbook

Online resources available at <https://www.k6.thinkcentral.com>

Mathematics

Big Ideas Course 1 by Big Ideas Learning

Worked Out Solutions Manual

Performance Task Packet

Science

Sixth Grade Science Studies Weekly Endeavor Consumable Periodical Handouts

Online Access

Teacher Resource Book and or Grade Level Studies Weekly Science Worksheets and Assessments

Social Studies

California Studies Weekly- Sixth Grade Consumable Periodical Handouts

Online Access

Teacher Resource Book

Maps, Charts, Graphs

Introduction

The sixth grade academic year is a milestone for students as they approach Jr. High. This year becomes more highly complex as the student continues to build on the knowledge from previous years while needing to take greater responsibility for consistent study skills. As these skills are developed, students will feel empowered to become increasingly confident and successful. This yearlong plan encompasses the California Common Core Standards for sixth grade. Educators who follow the grid will have planning flexibility while maintaining content consistency.

Curriculum

READING

The reading is centered around the Journeys anthology by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. In sixth grade there is one student anthology, one Reader's Notebook, a Performance Assessment and a Writer's Handbook. Please refer to the Journeys Language Arts Instruction 5 Day Lesson Plan in the grid.

Reading is designed to cover approximately two stories per week with an additional read aloud story. These stories are designed to foster growth in your student's reading abilities and are meant to be challenging.

In sixth grade your student is going beyond simply reading a story once and then answering basic comprehension questions. This program is designed to open the door to text analysis and higher levels of thinking. Therefore, it is essential that the educator plans ahead and keeps in mind that each story should be read two or three times. Know the skills you want to focus on and be prepared to model, guide, and instruct rather than just assign. Your student is sure to gain confidence and security in his or her reading ability as this program is implemented with a combination of all components.

Reader's Notebook: Within your Reader's Notebook are sections devoting 12 pages each week to reading, vocabulary, spelling, grammar, and writing.

Spelling: For each lesson within the Reader's Notebook, there are three spelling pages meant as practice for specific spelling skills. Spelling words are introduced for each story in the student textbook as vocabulary and by the end of the week a

final test may be administered. Daily plans for teaching spelling are found in the Word Study section of the Literacy and Language Guide (teacher's edition).

Grammar: The grammar pages in your Reader's Notebook give support to the grammar skill that is being taught in the lesson, as well as teaching language conventions for sixth grade proficiency. Grammar lessons are found at the end of the lesson's stories in the student book.

Vocabulary: Vocabulary is a necessary skill for improving reading accuracy, comprehension, and fluency. Within each lesson, there is a page dedicated to practicing a specific vocabulary strategy. Daily plans for teaching vocabulary are found in the Word Study section of the Literacy and Language Guide.

ADDITIONAL READING

In addition to the textbook, we suggest including 30 minutes of daily reading of a chapter book. We have a selection of titles that may correspond with Social Studies concepts your student is studying, but students are free to choose their own books of interest. This is a great opportunity to incorporate Accelerated Reader into your day. Students choose books to read and then take comprehension tests online. Valley Oaks has purchased Accelerated Reader and encourages students to take advantage of this high-interest, fun opportunity to build fluency and comprehension. Exciting titles to choose from may be found at <https://www.k6.thinkcentral.com> in the Student Resource section. See your resource teacher to find out more about how to access our Accelerated Reader program.

WRITING

Short writing assignments are included for almost every week. These are from the Student Textbook, Literacy and Language Guide and Writer's Handbook. There are also four larger writing activities assigned throughout school the year from the Performance Assessment Book. Students will be expected to read and compare different types of texts, then write the assigned essay. Students and parents should initially work together on these assignments to help students gain confidence in their writing.

Student Textbook: For each lesson in the student textbook, there are two pages at the end that give an introduction to the writing lesson that corresponds to their writing assignment that is given from the Literacy and Language Guide. This is an excellent time to review with your student before embarking on completing the writing minilesson.

Literacy and Language Guide: This teacher's guide is designed to focus on a specific type of writing, such as narrative and argument writing. Included in the book are two minilessons that contain instruction for guiding students through the writing process. This is meant to be used in conjunction with the Writer's Handbook.

Writer's Handbook: This resource contains the student pages that correspond to the Writing Handbook Minilessons in the Literacy and Language Guide. Please note that the process includes some explanation Teach/Model – I Do, a Guided Practice - We Do section that is meant to be done together with the educator, and the Practice/Apply - You Do sections for the student to practice independently. Writing takes a tremendous amount of modeling. It is reasonable to expect that your student may need lots of guidance at first. Practice is essential to success!

Performance Assessments: Four times throughout the year, students will take a two week break from the reading textbook and focus on the writing process using the Performance Assessment. The units covered will be the Argumentative Essay, the Informative Essay, Literary Analysis, and a Mixed Practice. The performance assessment experience is vital to create capable writers! Students will begin by analyzing a model, practice a task, and then perform the task by writing an essay that includes drafting, revising, editing, and evaluation.

KEYBOARDING

Keyboarding is becoming an important skill for all students to master as our society is becoming increasingly centered on technology. We have included speed and accuracy goals for students. Ideally, sixth grade students should feel comfortable enough on the computer to complete many of their assignments by the time they reach Jr. High.

MATHEMATICS

Our school-wide recommended curriculum for math is Big Ideas Course 1, a curriculum that is closely correlated to the State Standards. This standards-based course will continue to build on your student's math foundation to prepare your student for Course 2, Course 3 and then Algebra 1 in high school. Online resources are available at www.bigideasmath.com for students and parents. Access codes may be obtained from your resource teacher. Educators should spend ample time on instruction and check for understanding prior to students' independent practice.

Mathematical Practices

1. Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.
2. Reason abstractly and quantitatively.
3. Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others.
4. Model with mathematics.
5. Use appropriate tools strategically.
6. Attend to precision.
7. Look for and make use of structure.
8. Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning.

Course Domains and Objectives

Ratio and Proportional Relationships

- Understand ratio concepts and use ratio reasoning to solve problems.

The Number System

- Apply and extend previous understandings of multiplication and division to divide fractions by fractions.
- Compute fluently with multi-digit numbers and find common factors and multipliers.
- Apply and extend previous understandings of numbers to the system of rational numbers.

Expressions and Equations

- Apply and extend previous understandings of arithmetic to algebraic expressions.
- Reason about and solve one-variable equations and inequalities.
- Represent and analyze quantitative relationships between dependent and independent variables.

Geometry

- Solve real-world and mathematical problems involving area, surface area, and volume.

Statistics and Probability

- Develop understanding of statistical variability.
- Summarize and describe distributions.

SCIENCE

Studies Weekly- Each unit centers on a guiding question, which helps students answer the “why” and wonder of science. The science curriculum utilizes the five Es and your students will Engage, Explore, Explain, Elaborate and Evaluate all aspects of science. Student-centered learning activities, experiments, and demonstrations challenge your student to test predications, find solutions, draw conclusions, and display their knowledge and skills.

Studies Weekly is standards-based consumable textbook that takes your students deeper through primary sources paired with a robust online platform.

Science Text- Each grade level comes with weekly printed periodicals and an optional grade level Science Worksheet and Assessment Packet.

Online Support: Online support includes the student text, Teacher Resources, interactive activities, assessments, and printable worksheets.

www.studiesweekly.com

SOCIAL STUDIES

California Studies Weekly- **Studies Weekly** is a standards based consumable curriculum for teaching K-6 Social Studies in printed periodicals and online so your students can learn anywhere, anytime.

*Plan ahead in using the activities you want to emphasize with your child, as well as the pace. Also, remember that our community is full of real-life examples of Social Studies, and it would be excellent if you could bring some of those resources and experiences into your child's learning of the concepts (e.g., go to the Veteran's Day Parade downtown when you are teaching your child about that holiday, or when you are learning about money, arrange a tour of a bank). Remember that there is a lot more to teaching Social Studies (and all subjects) than just completing a worksheet. The quality of the lessons is up to you!

Social Studies Text- Each grade level comes with weekly printed periodicals. It is a hands-on curriculum where they can highlight, take notes and complete learning strategies right on the publication. They also can cut up and incorporate their publications into multiple assignments and activities

Online Support: Online support includes the student text, Teacher Resources, interactive activities, assessments, and printable worksheets. Every student has access to their robust online platform, where they delve deeper into history through 100K+ primary source images and videos. Students can also access their audio reader, highlighting tools and rewards system.

Maps, Charts, Graphs This is a great review of geography, map skills, and reading graphs.

ART

While Art is an enrichment subject, it is always a favorite of students. Art ideas are scattered throughout the reading and history anthologies and give both art appreciation lessons as well as creative projects. We do have a collection of seasonal projects if you would like additional activities and numerous books on artists and art appreciation in our library and MESH drawers.

ENRICHMENT

You will want to take advantage of the many field trips that are offered throughout the school year. Trips are planned regularly so watch your newsletter for any excursion that you feel will be appropriate for your child or that peaks your interest.

MULTIMEDIA

Be sure to ask your resource teacher about videos, tapes, CD's and software that may be applicable to your course of study. There is online support for both the Language Arts and Math curriculums; be sure to ask your resource teacher for access codes. In addition, there are numerous websites that offer educational challenges for your child.

Language Arts

Houghton Mifflin Journeys

www.k6.thinkcentral.com

Math

McGraw-Hill My Math

www.connected.mcgraw-hill.com

Science

Studies Weekly

<https://www.studiesweekly.com/>

History

Studies Weekly

<https://www.studiesweekly.com/>

