

Sixth Grade - Overview of Curriculum

Mrs. Margi Ness

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ENGLISH

LITERATURE - Prentice Hall Anthology, Timeless Voices, Timeless Themes

This textbook is a collection of classic and contemporary literature. It encompasses a wide variety of literary forms including short stories, journals, letters, essays, personal histories, speeches, media accounts, drama, poetry, and folk literature.

Two novels make up the other parts of the literature curriculum at the sixth grade level.

The Bronze Bow by Speare

The Light in the Forest by Richter

The Accelerated Reader program will encourage additional reading. Each month students are required to read a book from this collection or complete a written report of an alternate selection. Sixth grade students are encouraged to reach a 20 point goal for each trimester and 60 points for the entire school year.

SPELLING AND VOCABULARY - Wordly Wise 3000

This text/workbook is made up a twenty lessons each consisting of fifteen words. Both spelling and word meaning will be mastered by students. Exercises will give students practice in finding meanings; using the correct form of the words; applying meanings; identifying word relationships; and interpreting a narrative that utilizes all fifteen words. A clarification section provides additional instruction in word roots, frequently confused words, and comparisons of word meanings.

GRAMMAR - Houghton Mifflin English

The grammar, usage, and mechanics sections of this textbook will be utilized for sixth grade study. Instruction and practice sections will examine the following elements of grammar: the sentence, nouns, verbs, modifiers, capitalization and punctuation, pronouns, and prepositional phrases.

Check out www.eduplace.com for additional activities for students.

WRITING - Houghton Mifflin English

This textbook also provides unites on writing, listening, speaking, and viewing. Students will focus on developing their writing skills as they learn to write to express and opinion; write to persuade; write to compare and contrast; write a research paper; write a personal narrative; and write a story.

Write Source 2000

This handbook and its accompanying lessons focus on the acquisition of writing and language skills. Special attention will be given to training students to use the "Six-Traits Plus" writing model. Additional handouts explain this model.

- September -**
 Grammar: Sentences
 Literature: Literature Anthology selections with a focus on the genres of literature
Wordly Wise: Lessons 1 and 2
 Writing: "Sweet Goals" - "Autobiopoeems" - "If I Were in Charge of the World"
 AR Reader
- October -**
 Grammar: Nouns
 Literature: Anthology selections including poetry
Wordly Wise: Lessons 3 and 4
 Writing: Opinions
 AR Reader
- November -**
 Grammar: Nouns continued
 Literature: Anthology selections, genres of literature
Wordly Wise: Lessons 5 and 6
 Writing: "I Know" poems and other poetry writing
 AR Reader
- December -**
 Grammar: Verbs
 Literature: The Light in the Forest
Wordly Wise: Lessons 7 and 8
 Writing: Multiple Prompts
 AR Reader
- January -**
 Grammar: Verbs continued
 Literature: The Light in the Forest
Wordly Wise: Lessons 9 and 10
 Writing: Expository writing, "How To"
 AR Reader
- February -**
 Grammar: Capitalization and Punctuation
 Literature: Finish The Light in the Forest and Literature selections
Wordly Wise: Lessons 11 and 12
 Writing: Compare and Contrast essay
 AR Reader
- March -**
 Grammar: Modifiers (Adjectives and Adverbs)
 Literature: Literature Anthology and additional practice in reading comprehension techniques
Wordly Wise: Lessons 11 and 12
 Writing: Personal Narrative
 AR Reader
- April -**
 Grammar: Modifiers continued
 Literature: The Bronze Bow
Wordly Wise: Lessons 15 and 16
 Writing: Research Report
- May -**
 Grammar: Pronouns
 Literature: The Bronze Bow continued
Wordly Wise: Lessons 17 and 18
 Writing: Research Report continued
 AR Reader
- June -**
 Grammar: Prepositional Phrases
 Literature: The Bronze Bow continued
Wordly Wise: Lessons 19 and 20
 Writing: Story
 AR Reader

HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY - 6th GRADE

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Textbook - New World History and Geography, A Beka

Sixth grade curriculum focuses on the history and geography of both North and South America and the West Indies. The United States history portion will touch on colonization and then focus on the Revolutionary War, the creation and meaning of our constitutional government system, and westward expansion. Students will be introduced to the Civil War. Inventors that helped build our nation's industry will also be researched. The implications that colonization and expansion have on the Native Americans will be examined throughout. Geography studies will include geographic terms, cardinal and intermediate directions, degrees on a compass, projections, reading scale, using a map grid, parallels of latitude, meridians of longitude, time zones, political and physical maps, road maps, elevation/population/economic maps, historical maps, climate zones, prevailing winds, natural resources, and industry (to name just a few). Students will develop skills in the use of atlases, almanacs, encyclopedias, and web resources. Current events will be discussed on a regular basis with sensitivity to parental guidance on controversial topics.

The textbook will be supplemented with a wide variety of teacher resources.

- September -** Setting the stage - geography terms, map skills
Textbook, chapters 1 and 2: The First Americans; Cold Lands to the North
Activities - map-making; projection globe; contour lines; latitude/longitude city search
- October -** Textbook, chapters 4 and 5: The Eastern U.S.; the North American Plains
Activities and Projects: Create a Country; State locations and capitals
- November -** Textbook, chapters 6 and 3: The American West; Canada
Activities and Projects: Pick a Province Group Presentation; Inuit carvings; Canadian Quiz Show; There's Gold in Them Thar' Hills!
- December -** Textbook, chapter 7: The Colonial Heritage
Activities and Projects: Thirteen Colonies Travel Brochure; Quilt making
- January -** Textbook, chapter 8: George Washington and the New World's First Republic; Lewis and Clark
Activities and Projects: Famous Person of the Revolution/Republic; Forming a Government; History Detective Simulation; Ben Franklin - the Scientist
- February -** Textbook, chapters 9 and 10: Expansion and Evangelism; Division and Reunion
Activities and Projects: Debate on Secession; Trail of Tears Play; Native American games
- March -** Textbook, chapter 11: The Nation Grows and Prospers (inventions)
Activities and Projects: Rube Goldberg Projects; Inventions

- April -** Textbook, chapters 15: Mexico and Central America
Activities and Projects: Research Paper (tie in with Writing)
- May -** Textbook, chapters 16 and 17: West Indies; South America (natural resources)
Activities and Projects: A Taste of Central and South America; Travel Posters
- June -** Textbook, chapter 18: Nations of South America
Activities and Projects: Sharing Research Projects

Additional activities will be added or modified as time allows. Parents are welcome to share their expertise or lend a hand with special activities.

MATHEMATICS

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Textbook - Houghton Mifflin Mathematics

This program uses a highly systematic, step-by-step approach to developing mathematics concepts and skills. Its content is standards-based. Multiple assessment opportunities ensure that there is a clear understanding of what students know and what steps would improve teaching and learning. Built-in interventions will meet all needs - from additional instruction to challenge work for advanced learners. This textbook is "user-friendly" for students, teacher, and parents.

Check out www.eduplace.com for informational and supplemental activities for students, including review and practice for chapter tests.

Additional teacher resources will be utilized to give the students hands-on, activity based, or real-world applications in mathematics.

Sample projects: scale/ratio project; apple pie math

- September - Operations with whole numbers and decimals**
Place value; compare and order numbers; round numbers; add, subtract, multiply, and divide whole numbers and decimals, powers of 10, decimals and the metric system; problem solving skills (estimating or exact answers, working backwards, using a bar graph)
- October - Data analysis and statistics**
Double bar graphs; frequency tables and histograms; double line graphs; central tendencies; clusters, gaps, and outliers; stem-and-leaf plots; box-and-whisker plots
problem solving skills (use a graph, make a list, use a diagram)
Fractions and number theory
Factors and prime numbers; exponents; prime factorization; divisibility rules; greatest common factor; least common multiple; problem solving skill (use logical thinking); equivalent fractions
- November - Fractions and number theory continued**
Simplest form; compare and order fractions; fractions, mixed numbers, and decimals; terminating and repeating decimals; Problem solving skills (interpret remainders, using fractions in a bar graph)
Operations with fractions
Add, subtract, multiply, and divide fractions and mixed numbers; customary units of length, capacity, and weight; Problem solving (multi-step problems, solve a simpler problem; use measurement)
- December - Integers and rational numbers**
Add, subtract, multiply, and divide integers; rational numbers and their properties
problem solving (draw a diagram, choose the operation, using integers).

- January - Expressions and Equations**
Addition and Multiplication properties; order of operations; distributive property; evaluating expressions; writing addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division expressions and expressions with fractions; equations with addition, subtraction, multiplication and division and fractions; problem solving (choose the expression, write an expression, use and equation)
Ratio, proportion, and percent
Ratios; rates; equivalent ratios; solving proportions; distance, speed, and time; scale drawings; fractions, decimals, and percents; problem solving (write and equation, reasonable answers, using proportions)
Scale drawing project
- February - Ratio, proportion, and percent continued**
Lessons continued from above
Ratio project
- Applications of percent**
Percent applications; estimating with percent; simple interest; sales tax and discounts; problem solving (choose a computation method, find a pattern; use percent)
- March - Geometry of plane figures**
Plane figures; angles; circles and central angles; triangles, quadrilaterals and sums; drawing triangles and quadrilaterals; congruence and constructions; similar figures; polygons; transformations; problem solving (use a circle graph, draw a diagram, use geometry)
Geometry and measurements
Perimeter and area; area of parallelogram, triangle, and circle; circumference; solid figures; surface area; volume of rectangular prisms and other solids; problem solving (too much or too little information, choose a strategy, use a formula)
Review for SAT test
- April - Begin coordinate graphing, equations, and integers**
Graph points in the coordinate plane; geometric figures and the coordinate plane; graphs and measurement; functions, graph linear equations; order of operations with integers; evaluate and simplify expressions with integers; equations with integers; problem solving (find a pattern, reasonable answers, use a graph)
- May - Continue coordinate graphing, equations, and integers**
Continue from above
- June - Statistics and probability**
Possible outcomes; Theoretical and Experimental Probability; disjoint events; independent events; dependent events; samples; misleading statistics; interpret data displays; problem solving (guess and check, use data to predict future events, multi-step problems)

SCIENCE AND HEALTH

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SCIENCE - Earth Science, Christian Schools International

Topics for study include (but are not limited to) the following: minerals, rocks, the structure of the Earth, weathering and erosion, soil, the moving crust, earthquakes, volcanoes; water, oceans, the atmosphere, weather, climate, natural resources, pollution, and our solar system.

Students will frequently participate in Science Lab activities. Sessions will challenge students to be critical thinkers as they observe, monitor, and document all experiments.

The textbook will be supplemented with a wide variety of additional teacher resources.

HEALTH - Total Health, River's Edge Publishing

Unit One - Physical Health - will be used at the sixth grade level. Seventh and eighth grade will use the remaining units for their health studies. Topics for study include (but are not limited to) the following: The Power of Choice; Human Biology; and Diseases.

Modifications to this overview will be made as needed.

- September - Health - The Power of Choice
Advertising Techniques
Project: Video, print, or dramatic commercial ad presentation
- October - Science - Geology
- November - Science - Geology continued
- December - Science - The Dynamic Earth
- January - Science - The Dynamic Earth continued
- February - Science - Water and Water Systems
- March - Science - Water and Water Systems continued
Meteorology
- April - Science - The Environment
- May - Health - Human Biology
Labs: Heart dissection (lamb)
Trachea, Lung, and kidney dissection
Brain dissection
- June - Health - Diseases
Project - Group presentations of diseases
Science project: Design and construct egg drop container