



MIDDLE SCHOOL

SIXTH GRADE STUDIES

Overview

The focus in the sixth grade is on creating a cross-curricular experience for students. Students take part in projects that span several of the disciplines at many times throughout the year. These projects have two goals. The first is to illustrate for the students the interrelationships between subject areas. The second goal is to give students a step-by-step experience in organizing themselves and their work over a period of time. How to study for an exam and test taking skills are emphasized in 6th grade. Students take exams at the end of the second trimester to demonstrate their mastery of Math and English. In addition to the curriculum that follows, sixth graders may participate in these special activities:

School Council	Class Representatives	CTP4 Testing - Spring	Games Club	Medieval Festival
Dress Down Days	Advisory	Community Service	Field Day	Body Bios
Field Trips	After School Program	Study Lab Workshop		

English

The sixth grade English program is designed to further develop the students' abilities as readers, writers, speakers, and critical thinkers. Students are exposed to many literary genres including short stories, drama, essays, fables, and novels. Books read during the sixth grade include *Freak the Mighty*, *Julius Caesar*, and *Tales of King Arthur*. Daily lessons stress vocabulary, grammar and usage. Independent reading, reading together as a class, and group sharing of ideas are incorporated throughout the yearlong course of study.

Pre-Algebra

This course reinforces and builds upon mathematical skills taught in previous classes with additional advanced computation, including an emphasis on algebraic concepts such as integer, ratio, proportion and the development of problem solving skills. These applied problem solving along with decision-making strategies are used and experimented with, especially in cooperative learning groups.

Please note: Placement decisions in the area of Mathematics are carefully made in order to ensure that students are given the appropriate academic environment in which to thrive. Accommodations may be made for students who would benefit from either a more accelerated or a more moderate paced approach.

History

An Overview of the Middle Ages

Students study the geographical, economic, historical, and cultural themes of various world regions during the Middle Ages. Societies examined include China, Japan, the Middle East, Europe, Scandinavia, and India. Content is organized with an emphasis on the social and political structures that created important historical turning points during this critical period of history. Organizational, reading, writing, critical thinking, and self-evaluation skills are also emphasized within the curriculum. Students are encouraged to view history as "our story", linking their own tendencies and lifestyles to those of the peoples and regions studied.

Science

Designed to stimulate interest in science, concepts are taught through “hands-on” experimentation and discussion. While note taking and writing skills are stressed, interdisciplinary activities emphasize the importance of all academic skills in science. Topics and activities include: basic and advanced electricity, magnets and electromagnetism, watersheds and wetlands, the inheritance of traits, body biography genetic self-study, and populations and ecosystems.

Foreign Language

Spanish is part of the core curriculum in the sixth grade. All students take Spanish as well as Latin, which is a cycle subject. The modern language course is designed to continue the study of the language begun in the Lower School. Students will be exposed to Latin for a third of the school year. Aspects of culture and civilization are presented in both modern and classical languages.

Physical Education

Class meets daily. The students work on skill and physical development, individual and team game strategies, and teamwork. Units include: touch football, soccer, basketball, volleyball, softball, ultimate frisbee, speedball, climbing wall, and non-traditional games. In the spring, fifth and sixth graders participate in an Introduction to Life Sports which includes tennis, horseshoes, bocce ball, croquet, and golf.

Music

Choir

Choir is designed to give students an experience performing within a musical ensemble in which the musical instrument is the human voice. Students learn solfeggio, sight reading, vocal technique and musical analysis through choral repertoire which includes: music of the masters, sacred and secular works. Choral students participate in two annual concerts.

Instrumental Music (Band or Orchestra)

Students learn to play ensemble music that entails phrasing, balance, intonation, different musical styles, and articulation. They learn major key signatures, scales, and more advanced rhythms. Both band and orchestra meet daily. Beginners are welcome in band. Students need at least two years of lessons to be in orchestra. All Instrumental Music students participate in two annual concerts throughout the year. Private lessons are available after school with adjunct faculty.

Cycle Subjects

Latin

This course introduces students to reading Latin, understanding grammatical concepts, and exploring how an ancient language works. Vocabulary, etymology, and Roman culture are emphasized, and Greco-Roman mythology is introduced. Students also write and present dialogues of their own invention.

Art

Mythology and Storytelling are themes that guide students continuing to develop skills involving two and three-dimensional art. Students are introduced to visual narratives produced by different cultures as they learn to develop their own characters and imagery. Storytelling serves as a catalyst to inspire mythological figure paintings and sculptures. In clay, students create gargoyles and explore ways in which emotion and character can be depicted three-dimensionally. The concept of creating visual movement and achieving rhythm in composition is explored.

Multimedia and Information Literacy 6

Sixth grade library/computer curriculum focuses on the appropriate use of computers, media advertising and staying safe while using the internet. A number of software programs and devices are introduced, including: Inspiration, Taco for HTML, Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, Excel, iMovie and iDVD, Garage Band, iPads, Flip Digital Cameras, Screencasting, and Podcasting. Academic honesty is also a focus, with time spent on issues such as defining and understanding intellectual property, citing sources used in a project or paper, and paraphrasing and using direct quotes.

Creative Writing

This course will serve to help students develop their creative writing skills by guiding them on how to effectively and creatively express their ideas and thoughts. Students will be exposed to poetry, fiction, and creative non-fiction; however students will predominantly be writing fiction. This cycle will also introduce students to working with digital media as a means to showcase their writing. The primary objective of this course is for students to complete at least one piece of writing for their digital portfolio.

Middle School Offerings

Fifth Grade

Daily: English 5
Mathematics 5
Ancient History
Science 5
Spanish
Physical Education
Band, Choir or Orchestra

- Cycle:
- Computer
 - Art
 - Latin
 - Creative Expressions

Sixth Grade

Daily: English 6
Mathematics:
 Pre Algebra 6 Explorations
 Pre Algebra 6
History of the Middle Ages
Science 6
Spanish
Physical Education
Band, Choir or Orchestra

- Cycle:
- Art
 - Latin
 - Multimedia and Information Literacy 6
 - Creative Writing

Seventh Grade

Daily: English 7
Mathematics:
 Pre Algebra 7 Explorations
 Pre Algebra 7
 Algebra I
American History
Science 7
Foreign Language:
 Spanish
 Latin
Physical Education
Band, Choir or Orchestra

- Cycle:
- Values and Choices
 - Art
 - Drama
 - Multimedia and Information Literacy 7

Eighth Grade

Daily: English 8
Mathematics:
 Algebra Explorations
 Algebra I
 Honors Geometry
World Geography
Science 8
Foreign Language:
 Spanish
 Latin
Physical Education
Band, Choir or Orchestra

- Cycle:
- Art
 - Drama
 - Tomorrow's Leaders
 - Multimedia and Information Literacy 8

IN ADDITION:

School Council, Class Representatives, Drama, Dress Down Days, Partnerships with other grades, After School Program, Maroon & White Teams, Advisory, Field Day, Middle School Buddies partnered with students new to Middle School, Lockers, Dining Commons, Summer Reading List, Middle School Fun Nights.

7TH & 8TH INTERSCHOLASTIC SPORTS PROGRAM:

Fall: Boys & Girls Soccer, Girls Tennis, Coed Cross Country

Winter: Boys Wrestling, Boys & Girls Basketball, Girls Volleyball

Spring: Boys & Girls Lacrosse, Baseball, Boys Tennis, Girls Softball

CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES:

Class Trips, Advisory Challenge

SUMMERS @ RPS:

“SummerBlast” Camp, Bridge Back to School and our Academic Summer School round out the year. For information about these and other summer opportunities visit www.rutgersprep.org and click on “Summer Programs.”