

Sixth Grade Curriculum

Subject	Themes
Religion	Sixth grade focuses on the Old Testament. Each unit helps students to connect the Old Testament stories with Catholic morality, what Catholics believe, and how Catholics worship and pray. To help students be “active persons of faith who live out gospel values of stewardship” (SLE 1a) each 6 th grader is expected to participate in at least 5 hours of service each trimester. Throughout the year students will be memorizing prayers and psalms and participating in daily class prayers.
Language Arts / Reading	6 th Graders use an integrative approach to hone their Language Arts and Reading skills using the science and social studies texts. Vocabulary words stem from core classes and the vocabulary textbook <i>Vocabulary for Achievement</i> . Students use <i>Language Essentials</i> to help them learn and practice the rules of grammar. Literary texts include an anthology, <i>Beginnings in Literature</i> , and novels, including <i>The Westing Game</i> , <i>Crash</i> , <i>Paper Wishes</i> and <i>A Long Walk to Water</i> .
Writing	Writing for 6 th grade will be based on short assignments, journaling, and a few longer projects. Our goals are to improve basic writing skills and to learn research writing techniques. Our big project is the research paper for the Wax Museum. We also work on persuasive and narrative writing skills.
Math	Math Curriculum is based on Common Core national standards. We will have frequent quizzes on current topics and to check for retention of knowledge of earlier topics. Grades are weighted as follows: 20% homework, 30% checkpoint quizzes, and 50% unit tests. Students experience a wide variety of learning modes: note taking, defining and illustrating vocabulary, drawing diagrams and models, playing math games, doing speed drills, using flashcards, watching mini-video tutorials, analyzing word problems, practicing computation, and exploring a wide variety of online math activities. We cover basic algebra, operations with decimals and fractions, ratios and percent, coordinate grid and mean. Median and mode.
Social Studies	HMH Ancient Civilizations We will study ancient and medieval history, including government, distribution of wealth, class and rank, wars, sustainability of natural resources, religion, technology, architecture, literature, music, food, and art. Students will do a variety of in-class activities, projects, and tests. There will be some larger projects, the first of which will be the “Wax Museum” presentation of an ancient persona.
Science	HMH Dimensions We will study earth science, including plate tectonics, earthquakes, volcanoes, rocks and minerals, weathering and soil formation, erosion and deposition, geologic history, planets, moons, stars, galaxies, space exploration, the atmosphere, weather factors, weather patterns, and climate change. Grades are based on good note taking, homework, tests and labs.