**6th grade Standards Overview**

6th graders embark on a new journey in their schooling, and with that come new challenges and changes. In many ways, 6th grade is a year of significant transition for students as they use the skills they have previously learned and apply them to more complex and independent learning in deeper and more rigorous ways. Often, the structure of a school day for 6th graders varies greatly from that of elementary school. Rather than being taught by one (or mainly one) teacher, teachers in middle school usually vary by subject, and the students switch classrooms. With this new structure, students must be more aware of their own schedules and belongings than they ever were in elementary school. While collaboration and group work may still be an important part of the curriculum, students are often required to produce more extensive independent work. This calls for greater independence and organizational skills, and it may certainly require some adjustment and practice in the beginning of the school year. Some may need the whole year to adjust, and that's alright — even this one change can be a major one for middle-schoolers.

During your child's 6th grade year, they will be working to master the following concepts:

**Religion**

**\*\*\***For a comprehensive listing of Diocesan Standards, please visit:

[www.dioceseoflansi](http://www.dioceseoflansi)[ng.org/education/catholic-school-curriculum](http://www.dioceseoflansing.org/education/catholic-school-curriculum)

**Profession of Faith**

* Revelation: God makes himself known and invites us into a relationship with Him
* Man's response to God: I believe.... We believe...
* God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, and Mary Mother of God
* I believe in the Holy Catholic Church; the community of believers
* Saints

**Celebration of Christian Mystery**

* The Paschal Mystery: Passion, Life, death, resurrection and ascension of the Jesus
* Understand sacraments, liturgy, and prayer
* Understand sacramentals as sacred signs which include blessings, the rosary, holy water, and other blessed objects.

**Life in Christ**

* Made in the image of God - Participate in Christian service activities appropriate to student’s age.
* Freedom of Choice -  morality, ethics, values, and a correct conscience
* Virtues - theological and moral (cardinal)
* Sin - venial, mortal, and social sin; temptation and reconciliation
* The human community -  Identify as norms for Christian behavior:  Ten Commandments
* Social Life and Social Justice

**Christian Prayer**

* Prayer in Scripture, Prayer Forms, and Inspiration for Prayer
* Psalms
* Blessing and Adoration
* Petition and Intercession
* Contrition - Express sorrow for sin and express determination to sin no more.
* The Tradition of Prayer and the role of the Holy Spirit in Prayer
* Liturgical -  liturgical and prayer services, cycles and seasons of the liturgical year, and  major feasts of the Lord and major Marian feasts
* Places Favorable for Prayer and  Personal Prayer

**ELA**

**Subject area overview for Literature**

The overlaying goal of the 6th grade reading curriculum is for students to read more complex texts over the course of the year, preparing them for high school, college, and careers beyond. Students read a variety of texts and different genres, including fiction, poetry, scholarly articles and magazines, and nonfiction. There is a greater emphasis on and increase in the reading of non-fiction texts in order to prepare students to read, write, and research across subjects. As students read more complex texts, analyzing and understanding them in deeper ways, they strengthen their knowledge of all subjects, including science and history.  Students begin to understand the importance of good reading skills throughout life.

**\*\*\***For a comprehensive listing of Diocesan Standards, please visit: [www.dioceseoflansing.org/education/catholic-school-curriculum](http://www.dioceseoflansing.org/education/catholic-school-curriculum)

**Reading: Literature/Informational Text**

* Uses evidence from the text in order to summarize the plot, make inferences about and analyze the text, and determine the central theme or themes in a text.
* Understands and explains the point of view in a text; understands the significance of certain words and passages in a text.
* Understands and relays the main thesis or claims of a non-fiction text and its supporting evidence.
* Reads and compares different texts and genres that address the same topics.
* Uses a variety of media and formats, including video and audio, to further enhance understanding of a topic or text.
* Participates in class-wide and group discussions expressing the ideas and skills learned.
* Practices a variety of vocabulary skills, including using the context in which a word is found to determine the meaning of words, recognizing roots of words, and using digital and physical reference materials (dictionaries, thesauruses, and glossaries).
* Gains an understanding of and the ability to explain figurative language in a text.
* Identify Christian philosophy and values in literature.
* Develop an understanding on how to choose appropriate literature for reading independently.
* Develop a personal preference for a specific genre by reading different genres through independent reading and whole group reading.

**Subject area overview for Writing**

In middle school, 6th graders are encouraged to push themselves further in their writing and write with increased complexity in terms of  length, subject matter, vocabulary, and general writing techniques. At the same time, 6th graders practice and refine many of the skills previously taught to them while enhancing them with the new skills and techniques they learn.

**Writing**

* Writes using more complex vocabulary and about more complex content.
* Writes over extended periods of time, such as when writing long-term research or expressive pieces that may take a week.
* Writes for short amounts of times, such as in one sitting.
* Writes a variety of genres for a variety of audiences.
* Writes structured and well-organized opinion, research, and informative pieces that:
  + Use supporting claims and evidence based on credible texts and resources.
  + Include an introduction, a conclusion, and transitions.
* Writes well-structured narratives that include:
  + Descriptive detail of characters, settings, and experiences.
  + Dialogue.
  + A clear structure, with a logical order and flow, thought-out word choice, and a conclusion.
* Plans, revises, and edits writing, with guidance from teachers and peers.
* Writes pieces that display the reading skills achieved, including analysis of text, making comparisons and claims, and developing arguments using specific evidence.
* Uses technology and the Internet to produce and publish writing, and work collaboratively with others.

**Subject area overview for Language**

In middle school language instruction is used to help enhance the complexity of student writing. Grammar, usage and mechanics are taught in order to help the students create increasingly complex text within different genres of writing.  6th graders continue to practice and refine grammatical skills previously taught to them while incorporating new skills and techniques that they learn and apply to their writing.

**Language**

* Understands simple, compound and complex sentence structures in order to vary sentence style and structure and to remedy fragments and run-on sentences within a piece of writing.
* Uses punctuation correctly in a sentence including the various uses of commas and end punctuation.
* Uses the parts of speech correctly and with increasing complexity: nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, prepositions, pronouns, conjunctions and interjections.
* Uses adjectives, adverbs and prepositional phrases to elaborate sentences.

**Math**

**Subject Overview for Math**

Throughout the 6th grade, students practice skills they have been taught throughout their elementary years like fractions, decimals, and the number system.  6th graders start to expand on those same skills by using mixed numbers, non-terminating decimals, and negative numbers. The introduction of basic algebra skills are presented with one step equations.  Students in 6th grade are asked to continue to deepen their understanding of mathematical concepts and explain how they solve.

**\*\*\***For a comprehensive listing of Diocesan Standards, please visit: [www.dioceseoflansing.org/education/catholic-school-curriculum](http://www.dioceseoflansing.org/education/catholic-school-curriculum)

**Numbers and Operations**

* Name equivalent decimal, fraction and percent for benchmark numbers
* Find and position integers on a coordinate plane
* Perform operations with rational numbers (decimals/fractions)
* Find greatest common factor and least common multiple
* Understand integer subtraction as inverse of integer addition and integer division as inverse of integer multiplication
* Understand and use exponents

**Measurement**

* Convert between basic units of measurement
* Measure using appropriate tools and round
* Determine what unit makes sense in given situation

**Geometry**

* Understand properties of triangles
* Understand relationships of angles (vertical, complementary, corresponding)
* Understand the concepts of basic transformation (translation, reflection, rotation)
* Apply knowledge of geometric formulas (parallelogram, triangle, circle)

**Algebraic Reasoning**

* Distinguish between algebraic expression and equation by identifying the parts
* Represent information in words to write algebraic expressions and equations
* Simplify expressions by combining like terms and distributive property
* Solve equations by using inverse relationships and balancing the equation
* Understand and represent relationships using tables, equations, and graphs

**Data, Probability, and Statistics**

* Analyze data using mean, median, mode, and range
* Understand and find probability of simple events

**Mathematical Practices**

**PROBLEM SOLVING**

* Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them while understanding the meaning of quantities involved

**REASONING AND PROOF**

* Attend to precision and accuracy of calculations and proved answers using various types of reasoning.

**COMMUNICATION**

* Clearly communicate mathematical thinking using math vocabulary orally in writing.

**CONNECTIONS**

* Understand how mathematical ideas interconnect, build on one another, and relate to real-world and faith contexts.

**REPRESENTATION**

* Use representations to model mathematical ideas

**Science**

**Subject area overview for Science**

Students in middle school continue to develop understanding of core ideas in the physical and Earth sciences. The middle school performance expectations in the Physical Sciences build on the K – 5 ideas and capabilities to allow learners to explain phenomena central to the physical sciences but also to the life sciences and earth and space science. The performance expectations in physical science blend the core ideas with scientific and engineering practices and crosscutting concepts to support students in developing usable knowledge to explain real world phenomena in the physical, biological, and earth and space sciences. In the physical sciences, performance expectations at the middle school level focus on students developing understanding of several scientific practices. These include developing and using models, planning and conducting investigations, analyzing and interpreting data, using mathematical and computational thinking, and constructing explanations; and to use these practices to demonstrate understanding of the core ideas. Students are also expected to demonstrate understanding of several of engineering practices including design and evaluation.  6th graders also focus on applying scientific methods as described below in order to deepen their understanding and work like actual scientists.

**\*\*\***For a comprehensive listing of Diocesan Standards, please visit: [www.dioceseoflansing.org/education/catholic-school-curriculum](http://www.dioceseoflansing.org/education/catholic-school-curriculum)

**In order to build science skills, your 6th- grader**:

* Applies the scientific method or engineering design process in order to practice like a scientist
  + Questions, observes, and researches.
  + Develops a hypothesis (based on observations and research).
  + Make predictions.
  + Develop and use models.
  + Plans investigations and experiments.
  + Conducts experiments and follows multi-step processes and instructions in order to conduct experiments.
  + Uses measurement and mathematical computations while working with data.
  + Analyzes and interprets data.
  + Develops a conclusion.
  + Compares the results of an experiment to what is written about the topic in a text.
* Develops and presents explanations and designs solutions for processes and practices used and results obtained.
* Engage in argument from evidence.
* Obtain, evaluate and communicate information.
* Determines the main ideas of a scientific text and cites specific evidence to support ideas and claims about scientific texts.
* Learns topic-specific science vocabulary.
* Analyzes relevant charts, diagrams, and graphs about a scientific topic.
* Earth’s Place in the Universe
* Matter and Its Interactions
* Motion and Stability: Forces and Interactions
* Energy

**Follow NGSS disciplinary core ideas**<https://www.nextgenscience.org/sites/default/files/AllDCI.pdf>

**Social Studies**

**Subject Area Overview for Social Studies**

6th Grade Social Studies consists of the study of ancient and global civilizations to gain a deeper understanding of history and the present global community.  Students will learn about historical events within the context and as related to topics such as geographic, environmental, and cultural factors. This will include the rise of the earliest human communities, sustainable agricultural, cultures that reflected the geography and resources, and the development of empires. Students will be expected to practice the needed skills to analyze, describe, explain, and identify the knowledge and understanding of the expected grade level content.

**\*\*\***For a comprehensive listing of Diocesan Standards, please visit: [www.dioceseoflansing.org/education/catholic-school-curriculum](http://www.dioceseoflansing.org/education/catholic-school-curriculum)