



St. Patrick's Episcopal Day School Sixth Grade Curriculum Overview

Social Studies

The sixth grade social studies program includes world geography and map skills, the history of ancient cultures, and a basic introduction to economics, political systems, the development of tools and technology and the beginning of world religions. These concepts are covered through a chronological approach to history, beginning with prehistoric peoples to the Ancient Greek civilization.

Mathematics

This is a pre-algebra course that begins with a review of basic skills, fractions and decimals. Students are taught problem-solving strategies through algebraic concepts and methods. Topics include ratio and proportion, percents, statistics, basic geometry, integers, exponents and square roots, coordinate graphing and measurement in metric and standard systems.

Science

The sixth grade science program focuses on the earth science topics of environmental science, traditional and alternative energy sources, soil and landforms, plate tectonics, volcanoes, and earthquakes. The methodology used in this program is based on hands-on activities and discovery-based lessons that utilize the scientific method. Each fall the sixth grade students attend an outdoor education trip which parallels the earth science curriculum and in the spring, the present their research on a particular topic at St. Patrick's Science Night.

Literature and Language Arts

The language arts curriculum includes basic reading skills taught through the reading of short stories as well as literary analysis through the reading of class novels. In addition, there is a strong grammar component to the course that reinforces the parts of speech, proper usage and grammar rules. Sixth graders have weekly spelling and vocabulary lists through which they learn spelling rules, Greek and Latin roots, recognizing meaning through context, and how to incorporate these words into their writing.

Expository Writing

The sixth graders work on developing their skills in the writing of different types of essays such as the narrative, the descriptive, and the persuasive essay, and how to answer an essay question on a test. In addition, they continue to develop their understanding of the structure of language, tools of expression, and forms of written communication in all subject areas.

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Thousand Oaks, California 91362

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Study Skills

Integrated into all areas of the sixth graders' experience is learning and using a variety of study skills such as note-taking, time management, organizational techniques, test taking skills, reading context clues, analogies, outlining and using the computer as a learning and study tool, etc.

Leadership

An important part of the sixth grade program is the development of leadership as a personal quality. The sixth graders are given various duties, positions and projects at the school which allow them to learn and practice the attributes necessary to lead effectively through action and words.

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