

## **SIXTH Grade: Curriculum Summary**

**BIBLE** - Old Testament Survey - Provides an overview of the first seventeen books of the Old Testament (Genesis-Esther). Focuses on biblical stories that emphasize the nature of God and mankind's appropriate response to him. Attempts to provide a coherent view of God, instill a biblical sense of what is right and wrong, inculcate Christian values in students, and enable them to make difficult moral choices with confidence.

**ENGLISH** - Includes the language arts of spelling, grammar, handwriting, and composition. This class applies spelling patterns, basic grammar, usage, and punctuation skills in writing processes such as proofreading and editing. Students use listening, speaking, and writing skills to produce poetry, reports, short stories, and essays.

Text currently in use: Spelling 6th grade, *Purposeful Design*; *6+1 Writing Traits*, Evan Moor. Students develop writing, language and reading comprehension skills through practice and independent work.

**HISTORY** - Examines physical environment, culture, government, religion, technology, and economics in historical developments from Creation to the Reformation. Students apply skills in reading, reference use, geography, and study strategies in interdisciplinary activities. The class combines Texas history and cultural study in a project including research activities at the Institute of Texan Cultures in San Antonio. The use of audiovisual and other resources enrich these studies.

Text currently in use: *Holt McDougal Ancient Civilizations through the Renaissance*, Houghton-Mifflin Harcourt. Students explore concepts about the history of the world.

**MATH** - Requires mastery of the four basic operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division) using whole numbers, decimals, fractions, and mixed numbers. This class explores concepts of number relationships, measurement, geometry, percent, ratios, and proportions and introduces algebraic reasoning. Math 6 applies concepts and skills in problem-solving activities and offers the opportunity to study integers, probability, and Statistics.

Text currently in use: *Math Course 1*, McGraw Hill. Students practice concepts taught in the classroom.

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION** - Provides instruction in game rules and health and safety practices and develops Christian character and motor skills basic to participation in physical recreation and leisure-time activities. This class also includes a variety of individual, dual and team sports that develop fitness and skills basic to activity being taught, plus rhythm, fitness, and conditioning activities.

**READING** - Applies vocabulary, comprehension, and reading study skills in all content areas. This study integrates literature themes and content with history, Bible studies, and other content areas. Students read from anthologies as well as complete novels and are encouraged to complete daily independent reading at home. Requires some summer reading.

Text currently in use: Spelling 6, *Purposeful Design; Promises to Keep*, Open Court; selected trade books. Students develop writing, language and reading comprehension skills through practice and independent reading.

**SCIENCE** - Explores the wonders of God's creation in topics from earth including geology, earth history, weathering and erosion, astronomy and rocketry, climate, and air and water cycles. Students develop critical thinking skills through questioning, projects, labs, and modeling. This study integrates science studies with other academic disciplines and provides guidance in research and scientific method to prepare them for their future scientific endeavors. Science 6 uses field trips to enrich studies, including a trip to the Houston area where students visit NASA's Johnson Space Center and conduct a simulated mission at the Challenger Center. This class also includes worldview lessons that integrate Bible teachings and science topics to guide students to an understanding of God's power, viewing the Earth as God's creation for those he loves.

Text currently in use: *Earth Science*, Holt Science and Technology. Students explore scientific concepts through experimentation and direct instruction.

### **ELECTIVE OPTIONS**

- **ART** - Exploratory experiences using a variety of media which may include drawing, painting, printmaking, and sculpture. Focuses on foundational skills and disciplines. Presents artistic expression as a gift of God and a reflection of His creativity, introduces general art history, and examines values and beliefs expressed by artists. An art fee is required for materials.
- **BAND** - Focuses on the development of fundamental wind/percussion techniques, the execution of rhythmically and melodically independent lines, the appreciation of music as one of God's gifts to his creatures, and the public performance of selected band literature. Some instruments are provided by the school for a modest rental fee. Most students rent or purchase their own instruments. Attendance at performances and rehearsals outside school hours is required.
- **BOOK CLUB** - Provides students an opportunity to read a wide variety of books. Focuses on responding to books in different ways, including oral response, written response, and artistic expression. Book Club class is a place for students to develop the life-long skill of reading for pleasure. A Book Club class fee covers the purchase of books.

- **CHOIR** - Introduces basic singing techniques, emphasizing proper vocal production and development of the changing male and female voices. Presented as a gift of God which can be used to mold human hearts and minds. Attention given to individual and group performance and music reading skills. Attendance at performances and rehearsals outside school hours is required.
- **COMPETITIVE MATH** - The Competitive Math class is designed for students who would like to strengthen their mathematics skills and expand their knowledge of mathematics beyond what is included in the normal curriculum. The focus will be on problem-solving, calculator applications, and number sense skills. Students will prepare for and possibly participate in virtual meets as well as on-site meets through PSIA and TCSA. The preparation and the competitions are designed to help students discover and develop their God-given talents in the area of Mathematics.
- **COMPUTER I** - By the time students enter middle school they will have already been given a school email account, and had some experience with Google Apps for Education's productivity tools. Students are then expected to work towards mastery of those tools, including Gmail, drive, docs, slides, and spreadsheets, but now with a global audience in mind. Time is dedicated to helping students understand how to be safe and make responsible and ethical choices online, and to recognize online threats to their privacy and actions that could harm their digital footprint. In addition, students will design, develop, and publish media to share with others, including online content such as webpages, websites, blogs, and fully utilize Google Classroom, which prepares students to transition to receiving and submitting assignments online with ease. Students are expected to create, share, and utilize collaborative workspaces, documents or other digital tools for asynchronous and synchronous collaboration. Students also begin creating digital content, using more complex applications such as Adobe CS6 (Photoshop, InDesign, and Illustrator). In addition, computer programming becomes more intricate using Hour of Code, followed by Scratch. Students will program their own interactive stories, games, and animations to share their creations with others in an online community, using either block-based visual programming or a text-based language. Differentiation is key, as students dive deeper into Computer Science related fields. Students will submit projects/assignments online, participate in online discussions, post/reply to comments, and view content for class.

Texts currently in use: EasyTech [www.learning.com](http://www.learning.com); SCRATCH <https://scratch.mit.edu/>  
Code.org at <https://code.org>

- **DRAMA** - Introduces dramatic arts as one of many forms of expression with which humans have been endowed by the divine Creator. Covers basic acting techniques, improvisation, and mime. Teaches oral interpretation of literature, including prose,

poetry, and Scripture. All students will participate in a readers' theatre production. Outside performances and limited after-school rehearsals are required.

- **JOURNALISM** - Introduces students to the journalistic process through a broad, hands-on experience. Enables students to become critical observers of their environment as a means of seeking to understand, discuss, and determine truth within the context of Christian perspective and experience. Defines what constitutes news, introduces the concept of journalistic responsibility, and begins development of writing skills used in production of newspaper, yearbook, and other journalistic writing tasks.
- **DRILL TEAM** - Required for students who successfully tried out for the Lady Bellas. Students will rehearse routines for pep rallies, games, and other performances. Outside rehearsals and performances are required.
- **SPANISH** - Introduces 6th and 7th grade students to the process of acquiring a second language, with a focus on listening, comprehension, and reading. Basic vocabulary is developed through songs, stories, and games to form a solid foundation for Spanish 1. This class meets on alternate days.
- **STUDY HALL** - Required for all middle school students (four days per week during Bridge period). Provides opportunity for homework preparation, study, and reading in a supervised setting. Offers training in study skills. Grade will be given for maintenance of notebook system and proper use of time.
- **MASTERING THE STANDARDS** - Provides differentiated instruction in a smaller class. Designed to increase student capability and confidence by reinforcing fundamental math facts, improving equation manipulation, building problem-solving skills, and increasing understanding of key concepts and ideas through differentiated and multi-sensory instruction.