



GRADE 6

Hopes and dreams for this year..

A series of horizontal dotted lines for writing.



Social Studies in 6th Grade

The grade 6 social studies program emphasizes the interdependence of all people, keying on the Eastern Hemisphere. Students begin a four year academic journey on answering the following questions of inquiry: **What is the relationship between geography, prosperity, and power?** Many of the lessons and activities for this grade level draw on specific examples of nations and regions in the Eastern Hemisphere chosen by the district. It is highly recommended that lessons also compare and contrast this specific information with similar data from the United States, Canada, and Latin America. The grade 6 program focuses on a social science perspective emphasizing the interaction of geography and economics. The core disciplines of geography and economics are used to develop and draw relationships and understandings about social/cultural, political, and historic aspects of life in the Eastern Hemisphere. A *District-Wide Digital Portfolio Assessment* is given at the end of this course.

In order to build social studies skills, your 6th grade student:

- Reads primary and secondary sources in order to:
 - Analyze the texts using evidence.
 - Understand the main ideas of the text.
 - Relate the texts to important historical events or concepts.
- Distinguishes between fact and opinion in a text.
- Uses technology and media to better understand concepts taught.
- Compares primary and secondary sources about the same topic.
- Learns about historical events within a context and as related to things such as geography, economy, and social and political factors.
- Learns about topics like ancient and global civilizations to gain a deeper understanding of history and the present global community.

Resources

Apps

HISTORY Here

History here is Apple Watch compatible and let students teachers and anyone who wishes to explore a new place and learn about the history of a specific location. Although this app is designed for iPhone and Apple Watch, it can be added to an iPad and used with wi-Fi enabled location services.



News-O-Matic

Another iPad, iPhone and Apple Watch compatible app is News-O-Matic. Current events are so important in the classroom and this app provides students with access to lots of relevant and high-interest news stories.

NBC Nightly News

Lots of news organizations have corresponding iPad apps that let you share select content with students easily. With the NBC Nightly News iPad app, you can preview and share news stories from the previous night's television program. It's a great option for making connections with content being taught in the classroom.

NPR News

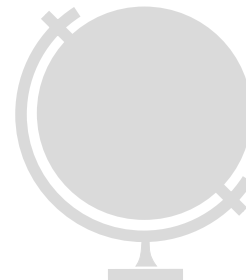
In addition to accessing print content similar to what you might find in other newspapers, NPR has audio recordings students can listen to on their iPad. Not only is this a great option for students who may struggle to follow along with the vocabulary in a news story but it also helps students grow as listeners.

TED Talks

This app is full of relevant information on a range of topics that may align with your social studies goals. These talks can be shown to one child or played for the whole family who are studying a particular topic.

HISTORY TV

If you're looking for videos to share with students, you might want to check out this app from the television station the History Channel. It includes short clips and extras for viewers of any age to explore.



Practice at Home!

Help your child learn outside of school using these activities.

Shared Reading Experiences

Share and talk about the main ideas of articles with your child that are about current events occurring **outside of the United States across the world**, or topics she finds relevant or interesting that are problems for humans across the world such as climate change, poverty and human rights to name a few. Share items in articles having to do with these issues as studied in social studies. Ask questions about the articles you both read and watch news coverage to compare what other news sources say. Hold a debate that uses evidence from the articles.

Try it

What are some topics you'd like to talk about with your child?

What are some questions you can discuss about these topics?

Write for Enjoyment

Encourage your child to keep a journal; try keeping one yourself based on current event articles he or she is reading that deal with **World Issues**. When you or your child finds a passion topic, write about it in a relevant way. For example, write letters to the editor of a local, state or national paper for publication discussing your views on the topic based on the evidence you use from the articles you have read.

Try it

What are some topics you'd like your child to write about?

Use Technology to Enhance Learning

Since most middle-schoolers are technology fans (and experts), encourage your children to use technology to "show what they know" or further their learning. Of course, as with any use of technology, be sure to monitor your child's technology use, access, and communication with others.

Try it

Some ideas to get you started are below. Brainstorm what topics or apps you could use!

- Make short editorial videos on particular current events.

- Make quick videos (or use one of many various apps) for presenting short narrated lessons about topics being learned so that your child can teach you.

- Create photo collages or scrapbooks of work completed and or articles read.

- Create a continuous conversation via email or another technological format in which your child sends you quick snippets (pictures and or texts) of something interesting they learned. Follow up with questions or comments on what your child sends.



ELA in 6th Grade

Students in grades 6-8 should experience a balance of literature (fiction) and informational (non-fiction) texts and have discussions about texts that support language development as well as the building of background knowledge about important topics. Students should be frequently engaged in text-based reading, speaking, and writing tasks. While specific standards vary a bit as students move through grades 6-8, the major concepts remain the same; the biggest difference is that the skills are applied in increasingly more challenging text in each grade.

Assessments

STAR Assessment: STAR Assessments are short tests taken in the Fall, Winter and Spring that provide teachers with information on your child's skills in relation to grade level standards and other students in the same grade.

- Teachers analyze the results to learn what students already know and what they are ready to learn next, to monitor student growth, and to determine which students may need additional help. STAR Assessments are heavily researched and scientifically proven to help teachers guide each student on his or her unique path to mastery.

ANet Assessment: ANet assessments, taken 3 times a year, measure what your child has or hasn't learned through classroom instruction and what they might need additional exposure to or practice with.

Tips to prepare for any assessment:

- Get a good night's rest (The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends 9-12 hours of sleep every night for 6-12 year olds)
- Have a healthy breakfast

Major Concepts

Reading

- Cite evidence from text to support analysis
- Determine a theme and explain how it is developed throughout a text
- Identify point of view, how it is developed and how it impacts meaning
- Trace and evaluate the effectiveness of an argument

Writing

- Write an argument and use reasons and evidence to support it; introduce and refute a counterclaim
- Write informative texts using organized and relevant evidence; conduct research to answer questions
- Write narratives using techniques such as dialogue and description

Speaking and Listening

- Engage in discussions with diverse audiences, expressing ideas clearly and persuasively, building on the ideas of others
- Interpret information presented in a variety of texts and formats (speeches, data/graphs, etc.)
- Break down a speaker's argument and claims to determine what is supported by credible evidence and what is not
- Present claims and findings, adapting speech to a variety of contexts and tasks

Language

- Use knowledge of language and conventions of spoken and written English (pauses, punctuation, etc.) when writing, speaking, reading, or listening
- Determine the meaning of unknown words and phrases by using a variety of strategies

STAR Assessments

	Fall	Winter	Spring
Test Date			
Score			

ANet Assessments

Test Date			
Score			

Practice at Home!

Help your child learn outside of school using these activities.

Reading

Provide time and space for your child to read independently. This time should be free from distractions such as television, electronics and cell phones.

Try it

Make it a routine! When and where will your child read?

Day (s): _____

Time (s): _____

Where: _____

Ask your child what topics, events, or activities he or she likes. Then look for books, magazines, or other materials about those topics that would motivate your child to read.

Try it

What topics, events or activities interest your child?

Write down a few book or magazine ideas.

It is also helpful when your child sees other people reading at home. You could share what you have read.

Try it

What are some books you'd like to read this year?

Use technology to help build your child's interest in reading. There are several websites where students can read books or articles online. The computer will help with words the student cannot read independently. Libraries also have computers students can use to access those sites. Feel free to ask a librarian or teacher for suggestions.

Try it

List any suggestions you may receive throughout the year.

Conversation

Make time for conversation at home. Discuss current events, shared interests, and future aspirations for education and career.

Try it

What can you discuss?

Vocabulary

Visit museums, zoos, theaters, historical sites, aquariums, and other educational places to help increase your child's exposure to new knowledge and vocabulary.

Try it

Where will you go together? What are some new words you learned?



Major Concepts

Ratios and Unit Rates

- How to compare two quantities.
- A ratio is an ordered pair comparing two or more quantities. The Order of the numbers is important.
- For example, the ratio of boys to girls in a class could be 8:13, and the ratio of girls to boys in the same class would be 13:8.

Expressions and equations

- An expression is a combination of numbers, variables, and symbols to be calculated. An equation contains expressions that are separated by an equals sign.

Area, Surface Area and Volume

- Area is the size of a surface or the amount of space inside the boundary of a two dimensional object like a triangle, rectangle or circle.
- Surface Area is the total area of the surface of a three-dimensional object. Example: the surface area of a cube is the area of all 6 faces added together.
- Volume is the amount of 3 dimensional space an object (like a right rectangular prism) occupies. Another way to think about volume is – how much liquid can I pour into the object to fill it up.

Rational numbers

- A rational number can be expressed as a fraction like $\frac{7}{12}$ or $\frac{20}{6}$. The denominator (number on the bottom) cannot be 0.
- Also, if you look at the decimal form of a rational number, the decimal either stops or the numbers start repeating themselves in a pattern, like 5.145145145, where the pattern 145 is repeating after the decimal.
- For an Irrational number, the decimal neither stops nor do the numbers repeat in a pattern. Examples are $\frac{22}{7}$, or square root of 2.

Resources

Apps

Bedtime Math App

Thinking Blocks

Ask your child's teacher if they have any additional app suggestions.



Web

www.asdk12.org/staff/hoppas_mary/pages/Everyday_Math_Parent_Support/Vocabulary_Cards.html

www.teachertube.com/

learnzillion.com/math

Assessments

STAR Assessment: The STAR Assessment is taken in the Fall, Winter and Spring.

- **STAR Assessments** are given district-wide three times per year. Some students' progress is being monitored more often.

Unit assessments are given at the end of each module/topic of study.

Tips to prepare for any assessment:

- Get a good night's rest (The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends 9-12 hours of sleep every night for 6-12 year olds)
- Have a healthy breakfast

STAR Assessments

	Fall	Winter	Spring
Test Date			
Score			

Practice at Home!

Help your child learn outside of school using these activities.

Mathematics and Nutrition

Find the ratio of sugar to ounces of drink of your child's favorite drinks. Which drink has the most sugar per fluid ounce?

Try it.



Practice finding a ratio! What is the ratio (grams of sugar ÷ fluid ounce) of sugar to ounces for the drink above?

Sugar= _____ grams

Fluid Ounce= _____ fl oz

Ratio= _____ grams/ fl ounce

Write down the ratio of sugar to ounces for some of your favorite drinks. Which has the most sugar per fluid ounce?

Drink: _____

Ratio= _____ grams/ fl ounce

Drink: _____

Ratio= _____ grams/ fl ounce

Drink: _____

Ratio= _____ grams/ fl ounce

Drink: _____

Ratio= _____ grams/ fl ounce

Try it.

When in the grocery store, find three different sizes of food that you normally buy with the cost. Have your child figure out which size is the best deal per unit rate. Practice using the example below.

Peanut butter costs:

16oz for \$2.79

40 oz for \$5.79

Special: Two 40 oz jars for \$7.09

Unit rate for 16 oz= _____

Unit rate for 40 oz= _____

Unit rate for special= _____

Which is the best deal per unit rate? _____

Expressions

Practice solving for x using these equations:

$3x = 24$

$32 = x + 4$

$89 + x = 104$

$\frac{1}{2}x = 7$

$32 / x = 3.2$

$9(2x + 5) = 55$



Science in 6th Grade

Our 6th grade students focus upon Earth and Space science. Students will learn about Astronomy including topics such as:

- Stars and Sun
- Planets
- Atmosphere
- Weather
- Climate
- Crustal Movement

Our 6th grade scientists will also continue to conduct investigations and experiments. They will apply the scientific method in order to practice like a scientist. Using the scientific method, 6th graders will:

- Question, observe, and research.
- Develops a hypothesis (based on observations and research).
- Make predictions.
- Experiment as well as follow instructions in order to conduct experiments.
- Develops a conclusion.
- Compare the results of an experiment to what is written about the topic throughout their research.

Assessments

NYS Science Assessment: The NYS Science intermediate assessment is given in 8th grade. It is a 5th-8th grade assessment, which means materials taught at each grade level 5-8 can be included on the exam. This test consists of 30 multiple choice questions, 15 short answer questions, and a performance test which contains three stations. Material students learn during 6th grade will be seen when your student is in 8th grade.

Resources

Books

Comets, Meteors, and Asteroid

by Seymour Simon

The Universe

by Seymour Simon

The Sun

by Seymour Simon



Apps

National Geographic World Atlas

Interactive maps

PheT Simulations

Interactive science concept models

Go Sky Watch Planetarium

Guide to the night sky

Cozmic Zoom App

Explore the universe



Explore Science Locally

Baltimore Woods
(315) 673-1350

Beaver Lake Nature Center
(315) 638-2519

Bricks 4 Kidz
(315) 632-8592

Clark's Reservation
(315) 492-1590

The Museum of Science and Technology (MOST)
(315) 425-9068

Rosamond Gifford Zoo
(315) 435-8511

Wonderworks
(315) 466-7700

Practice at Home!

Help your child learn outside of school using these activities.

Observe the Sky

You do not need a telescope to observe the sky! Take a look at the moon and stars with your child. Write down what you might observe. Use the table below to record your data. Have a discussion with your child about what you see in your data chart. You should be able to see the phases of the moon, and a variety of stars!

Try it

Date	What does the moon look like? (draw it's shape)	Do you see a lot of stars tonight? Can you see any constellations? If you do not see stars, why not?

Use Technology

Most of our middle-schoolers are technology experts! Encourage your child to show you what they know and have learned using technology.

Try it

Make a short-video to describe an idea they are learning about in their science classroom or create photo collages of work that they have already completed in class around certain science topics.

Topics: _____

Have your student create a weather tracking journal. Have them keep track of the weather for about 2 weeks. Decide together what you want to keep track of.

What to track: _____

Ask them the following questions: What did you notice? What weather patterns are occurring often during this time? How do you think meteorologists determine the weather? What do you notice about the stars and sky during these weather patterns?

6

Fine Arts



Arts in 6th Grade

The arts are an important part of a complete education, allowing students to develop artistic skills in the four artistic processes of creating, presenting/performing, responding, and connecting. In Sixth Grade, students will continue to use their knowledge and skills as artists and musicians.

Students may also begin/continue instrumental music (Orchestra and Band) instruction in Sixth Grade.

Major Concepts

Art

- Constant practicing and refining of skills and knowledge previously learned
- Responding to art, artistic literacy

Music

- Continued growth in music literacy (pitch and rhythm)
- Musical styles and historical periods

Resources



Art Apps

Sketchbook
PixPop Art
DoInk
ArtSet Pro
Making Emoji
Art Project

Music Apps

GarageBand
MonkeyDrum
Note Perfect
Ear Trainer
Note for Little Drummers

Dance Apps

QDancer
Kids Dance
Pirate Sessa
GoNoodle

Theater Apps

The Complete Fairytale
Play Theater
Kids' Theatre Works

Keep up with
SCSD Arts events
with the Fine Arts
calendar!



Art Exhibit

Date	Location

Music Concerts

Date	Location

Arts in the Syracuse Community

Everson Museum of Art
ArtRage Gallery
Community Folk Art Center
Open Hand Theater/
International Puppet Museum

Stone Quarry Hill Art Park
Corning Museum of Glass
Syracuse Stage
The Redhouse Arts Center

Gifford Family Theater
Famous Artists Broadway
Series
Symphoria

Syracuse Children's Chorus
Syracuse Children's Theatre
CNY Jazz

Practice at Home!

Help your child learn outside of school using these activities.

Virtual Museum Tour

Google "Virtual Museum Tour" and pick an art museum to explore. Choose a piece of artwork that you see and complete the questions below together.

Try it

Title of piece:

Artist:

List what you see in the artwork (people, buildings, etc.):

What materials were used to create the piece?:

Is there repetition? Are lines, patterns or colors repeated?:

Interpret the artwork. What is your response to this piece?:

Discuss Music

Check out any music that you own, turn on the radio, or check out YouTube. Choose a song and complete the questions below together.

Try it

Title of song:

Musician:

List what you hear in the music (instruments, voices, volume, fast/slow, etc.):

What style of music is this? What makes you think that?:

Is there repetition? Are notes or rhythms repeated?:

Interpret the song. What is your response to this song?:



Physical Education in 6th Grade

By 6th grade children have begun to establish many of the personal habits that will help determine their future health and well-being. Gross motor skills, which involve whole-body movement, are just about fully developed by this age, although your child will continue to refine their skills as they grow and gain more strength. Keep in mind that the information here is intended only as a general guide.

What Your Child Might Be Learning

- Understands that you need to move 60 minutes every day
- Understands that physical activity helps you learn
- Performs a variety of stretches and exercises while demonstrating correct technique
- Participates in a variety of activities that improve cardiovascular endurance, muscular strength, muscular endurance, and flexibility
- Develop, refine, and demonstrate routines to music.
- Strike a ball continuously to a wall or a partner with a paddle using forehand and backhand movement patterns.
- Combine motor skills to play a lead-up or modified game.
- Able to use a pedometer and heart rate monitor to measure their current fitness level
- Create a personalized fitness program
- Develop a one-day personal physical fitness plan specifying the intensity, time, and types of physical activities for each component of physical fitness.
- Sixth grade students need 10 hours of sleep every evening
- Understands that healthy food provides you with energy
- Understands that physical activity is important for good health

What Does My Child Need for Physical Education Class?

Students are expected to come to the gym prepared for a class full of learning and **DOING**

- Safe and secure gym shoes with a non-marking sole.
- Comfortable clothing so kids are free to run, roll, and scoot.
- A positive attitude and lots of energy.

Proper nutrition, adequate sleep, and physical activity can all impact academic performance and overall mental and physical wellness. Support healthy behaviors at any age.

What days does my child have PE class?

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Grades by Quarter

2 nd Quarter	4 th Quarter
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Resources

Web

SHAPE: Society of Health and Physical Educator
www.shapeamerica.org

Fuel Up To Play 60
www.futp60.com

Onondaga Health Department
healthyliving.ongov.net

Cornell Cooperative Extension
cceonondaga.org/nutrition-health

American Heart Association
healthyforgood.heart.org

Movement and Mindfulness
www.gonoodle.com

The Alliance for a Healthier Generation
www.healthiergeneration.org/live_healthier/get_moving/increase_physical_activity

Practice at Home!

Help your child learn outside of school using these activities.

Middle School Sports offered

Fall	Winter	Spring
Football	Boys Basketball	Baseball
Boys Soccer	Girls Basketball	Boys Lacrosse
Girls Soccer	Boys Volleyball	Girls Lacrosse
Girls Swim	Girls Volleyball	Softball
Boys Cross Country	Boys Swim	Boys Outdoor Track
Girls Cross Country	Wrestling	Girls Outdoor Track

Staying Active

Make time to encourage your child to participate in at least 60 minutes of physical activity per day. Walking, jogging, biking, swimming or playground play is appropriate activities for you to engage your child.

Try it!

What activities can your student incorporate into their weekly schedule?

It is also helpful when your child sees other people doing physical activity at home. As a parent/guardian you are the role model. You can get involved in your child's physical activities. Something as simple as a walk in the morning or evening is enough to impact a child and push him or her to stay active.

Exploring Interests

Try it!

Ask your child what sports, events, or activities he or she likes. Then look for books, magazines, or other materials about those topics that would motivate your child to read about the activity.

Make time for conversation at home. Discuss current events, shared interests, and future aspirations for education and career. Visit recreation centers, pools, parks, walking/jogging paths, and other physical activity places to help increase your child's exposure to new activities.

Try it!

Where can you visit to increase your child's exposure to new activities?

Technology

Use technology to help build your child's interest in physical activity. There are several websites where students can read books or articles online. The computer will help with words the student cannot read independently. Libraries also have computers students can use to access those sites. Feel free to ask a librarian or teacher for suggestions

Try it!

Go to www.onlib.org for information on the Onondaga County Public Libraries.

My local County Library Branch is:

My Local Parks and Recs Department is:
