

Sixth Grade



Bible

Sixth-grade Bible uses the *Fundamentals of the Faith* workbook by Dr. John MacArthur. This is essentially a systematic theology curriculum designed to walk students through thirteen areas of theology, using the Scriptures as its basis. In sixth grade, we cover the first three areas of the study, which include a Bible history survey, a study of the various biblical genres, a unit on the process of inductive Bible study, and an examination of the character and attributes of God.

Language Arts

Within the classical model of education, sixth-grade is a transition year, as students move into the Dialectic Stage, learning to think more critically and to engage in higher-level reasoning. This is especially true in language arts, which uses the core literature of sixth grade to give them an opportunity to learn to analyze, evaluate, respond and write about the various themes and elements of literature. As part of this in-depth reading, students read *The Hobbit*, *Tales of O. Henry*, and *Treasure Island*. *Julius Caesar* is read as part of a Shakespearean appreciation unit. Along with in-class literature, students complete independent reading from the Junior High Classics Reading List, as well as free reading. During the course of the year, students complete a variety of writings, including creative, extemporaneous, informative, and persuasive, each addressing a variety of topics and styles. *Vocabulary Workshop Level A*, by Sadlier-Oxford provides in-depth, quality vocabulary development. This comprehensive grammar curriculum hones the skills learned in elementary school, and helps students transition into high school with confidence. In all aspects of sixth-grade course work, students are directed to consider God's Word and how it pertains to the topics, situations, or worldviews presented in the curriculum.

History/Social Studies

The focus of sixth-grade history and social studies is Ancient Civilizations, in which students examine the earliest influential societies and empires from approximately 4,000 B.C. to approximately 500 A.D., including, Mesopotamia, Egypt, Israel, China, India, Greece and Rome. As students make the transition from elementary to middle school, history/social studies is a particularly strong area for skill development in critical thinking and analysis and in integration with other subjects (i.e. language arts and science), skills developed through reinforcing cultural literacy via stories, note-taking, hands-on art projects and re-enactments. This comes through students reading increasingly sophisticated literature as supplementary material, conducting highly animated debate-style, in-class discussions and, most of all through discerning research and correlation with scripture. Old and New Testament historical accounts are consistently brought to bear as the linchpin for understanding and retaining the material. Testing modalities emphasize personal ownership and analysis of material beyond rote memorization. Connections to the modern day are also featured.

Math

In sixth-grade math, basic computation skills students have been learning over the last few years are reinforced, with the goal of applying these skills to real-life situations. Students learn about integers, decimals, fractions, ratios, proportions, percents, and statistics. Some basic algebra concepts are introduced, and problems are examined from a more algebraic frame of reference. As part of reviewing and reinforcing concepts already learned, students use manipulatives and other math tools. Also, this year, students delve into more complex operations within multiplication and division.



Science

In earth science, we begin with a firm scriptural foundation, cementing the knowledge that God has control over all the earth and its creation. As we delve into the various areas of earth science, students are involved in critical thinking skills, hands-on labs, and preparation for our Junior High Science Fair. Throughout the school year, students investigate the earth's systems and cycles, its composition and energy resources, along with studying earthquakes and volcanoes.

Health

Health is an area that allows students to learn about their God-given bodies. During the course year, as part of caring for their bodies, students learn about the dangers of tobacco, drugs and alcohol, along with how to practice good hygiene and how to make good food choices. They learn about common illnesses, how to develop a personal fitness plan and how to set goals for themselves. Learning basic first aid and how to take care of simple injuries is important, whether students are caring for themselves, or babysitting others. And, as part of our health education, we also teach graded, gender-centric workshops on sexual education. This program is designed so that, while these topics are being covered with students, a separate parent class is available for those want to know more about what is taught. It is our heartfelt desire that parents take an active role in their student's learning in this vital area, as well as in answering questions at home and continuing to talk more more in-depth about these topics, if their student is ready.

Basic Computers

This course focuses on preparing students to be

confident, successful computer users during their junior high and high school years. Each week, students are challenged with meeting minimum typing speed and accuracy requirements. As part of the course, students are given a GSuite for Education account with which they learn how to complete assignments and tests electronically. In GSuite, file organization is learned through Google Drive, class management in Google Classroom, word processing in Google Docs, spreadsheets in Google Sheets and presentations in Google Slides. An additional, important focus of this course is teaching students to safely use the internet and how to understand their computer history. These skills are taught along with other basic computer processes.