



6th Grade

Bible

Our prayer is that Bible at NorthCreek Academy is an important and formative time for each Junior High student. Dividing the boys and girls into separate classes and lowering the number in each class means that focused attention can be given to the study, application, and understanding of God's word. All junior high Bible classes use a curriculum from *Positive Action for Christ*. Sixth grade uses the *Route 66* curriculum, which presents a survey of the 66 books of the Holy Bible. In sixth grade, students focus on the Old Testament. With their own personal journaling Bibles in hand, students "travel" through books of the Law all the way to Major and Minor Prophets. With the goal of examining the character and attributes of God and Jesus Christ, students memorize Scripture, complete projects, and present findings. The hope is that sixth grade students grow in their faith and understanding by learning God's big picture story as revealed through Scripture.

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*, 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. Sixth grade students benefit from a Writer's Workshop course which includes grammar instruction and 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

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 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 daily life. 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. Sixth grade students also delve into more complex operations within multiplication and division and are stretched as problem solvers.

Science

Each year in Junior High Science, students start by exploring the scriptural foundation of Creation, cementing the knowledge that God created the earth and is in complete control of His creation. Science comes to life as they delve into the various areas of Earth Science such as resources, tectonic plates, the Earth's surface, our oceans, atmosphere, and so much more. Students have opportunities to improve their critical thinking skills, participate in hands-on labs, and grow from cooperative learning opportunities. Preparation for our NorthCreek Academy Science Fair begins during sixth grade, as they work together in teams to learn how the Scientific Method is utilized to solve problems and answer questions. In addition to their in-classroom learning, sixth graders kick off their Junior High journey in the fall with a multi-day class trip to Outdoor Science School.

Health

Health is an area that allows students to learn about their God-given bodies, how to develop a personal fitness plan, and how to set goals for

themselves. As part of our health education, we also teach grade level, 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 offered for moms and dads to be informed of what will be shared. It is our heartfelt desire that parents take an active role in their student's learning in this God-designed area, as well as in answering questions at home and continuing to talk more in-depth about these topics, as 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 use their 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, social media and the protection of privacy. These skills are taught along with other basic computer processes.