6th Grade Program

English

Mathematics

Science

Social Studies

Project Inquiry

Physical Education

Performing and Visual Arts Exploration

(Dance, Instrumental Music, Theatre, Visual Arts, and Musical Theatre)

In order to ensure the success of our students, the 6th grade teachers have agreed to utilize a team approach to all student matters; have consistent expectations of student behavior and work; communicate regularly and consistently about student/parent concerns and matters; work closely with students, parents, administration, and teachers.

The main goal of the 6th grade program is to deliver an integrated curriculum that provides awareness and appreciation of diversity in an environment where teaming and group collaboration can flourish. Consequently, students can experience academic success as well as personal, social, spiritual, and emotional growth.

Curriculum integration reinforces the importance of interpersonal relationships, which is an essential life skill for students to become a productive member of a global society. The meaningful learning and mastery of skills enable the student to apply the knowledge to real life situations, and provide for more powerful and meaningful learning that scaffolds a smoother, graduated transition between the Elementary and Middle Schools.
# 6th Grade Course Descriptions

## 6th Grade English (M1000)
In the 6th Grade English class, students participate in the Six Traits of Writing system, which provides the students with opportunities to communicate effectively through reading, writing, speaking, and listening for authentic and meaningful purposes. Reading, writing, and mechanics (grammar, spelling, and vocabulary) are deeply interconnected and therefore instruction is integrated. Written pieces: creative and expository, book projects and group and individual presentations are rooted within a combined integrated curriculum.

## 6th Grade Project Inquiry (M1050)
This course is designed to develop the habits of mind of a lifelong learner through the process of problem solving, sequencing, collaboration, communication, global awareness, and organizational skills through inquiry and project-based learning. In this course, students will be exposed to a unique approach to learning by solving real-world problems that require an empathetic approach, computational thinking, and rapid prototyping.

## 6th Grade Mathematics (M3000)
In 6th Grade Mathematics, the students will be provided with problem solving opportunities to help develop their mathematical knowledge, understanding and skill, and foster their awareness and appreciation of the abundant connections among mathematics as well as between the other content areas and the real world.

## 6th Grade Science (M4000)
The 6th grade science course is designed to introduce and help facilitate the students experience in the scientific learning process. The first semester of this course covers the nature of science, math in science, foundations for scientific inquiry including the Scientific Method, and human biology. During the second semester, focus is directed towards human health and environmental science.

## 6th Grade Social Studies (M5000)
World Geography will provide students with a greater understanding of the Earth. Through the use of the Five Themes of Geography (place, location, movement, region and human environmental interactions), students will be able to compare and contrast countries and regions of the world, and look at world events and their impact on countries, cultures, environments and individuals. When these themes are paired with sound geography skills, students will be empowered to become better citizens of the world. Students will learn to work together using problem solving and critical thinking skills, as they interpret the past, understand the present and plan for the future.

## Performing and Visual Arts (PVA) Exploration (M6000)
This course broadens the students’ view of the different arts disciplines and provides them with a holistic arts experience. Students will study visual arts, theatre, dance, vocal ensemble and instrumental music. Every seven weeks, they will experience one of the five arts disciplines. Faculty from the MPSA who are professional artists/teachers will instruct the classes and help students discover their particular interests and talents. This course will allow numerous opportunities to gain self-confidence, self-discipline, and self-motivation as well as learning to work with others in a group with common goals.

## 6th Grade Physical Education ~ An Individualized Approach (M7000)
This course encourages the development of a positive attitude for physical activity and exercise. Students will experience group and individual sports, plus competitive and non-competitive athletic environments. Activities may include: swimming, basic skills/movement training, basketball, racquet sports, soccer, and field games. Other course related topics may include: nutrition, fitness testing, anatomy/physiology, strategy, sportsmanship, teamwork, and health-related fitness concepts.