

**Sixth Grade APAAS  
Course Outlines and Requirements  
Mrs. Goheen**

Language Arts – Reading:

Texts: *Whole Class Novels*  
*Literature Circle Novels*  
*Junior Great Books*  
*Poetry*  
*Non-Fiction Material*  
*Independent Reading*  
*Wordly Wise*

Students will participate in a four part program throughout the year. This will include novels, poetry and non-fiction reading covered in class, their Literature Circle reading done primarily as homework, but discussed in class, Junior Great Books short stories read in class and self-selected, independent reading.

Whole class reading will be completed at irregular intervals due to different lengths of material. Literature Circle novels will be completed approximately every five weeks along with extensive literary analysis. Your child will have a schedule for Literature Circle assignments in his or her Literature Circle binder. This process will culminate in a group interview. Junior Great Books fiction provides the opportunity to practice skills and analysis with shorter pieces. Additionally, these thought provoking stories offer comparisons to longer literature.

Students are responsible for recording, defining and using new vocabulary acquired from reading material throughout the year. In addition, we will use the Wordly Wise program on a weekly basis. My goal is for my students to add at least one half of the words covered to their personal vocabulary.

All students are expected to have reading material in their backpacks daily.

*Ideas to inspire reading:*

- Make your house a house of books. Parents set the best example.
- Turn the television off on school nights and limit use on weekends.
- Ask your child about what they are reading. Have them make predictions throughout and report to you when they discover if they were or were not correct.
- Read to your child. Sixth graders still love this!
- Subscribe to a favorite magazine.

Language Arts: Writing

Persuasive writing, personal narrative and compare contrast essays are the three major areas of focus during the year. In each area, process pieces, evaluated with rubrics, will be produced after several weeks of practice. In addition to these writing genres, students will create formal and informal letters, poems and regular responses to literature. Writing Portfolios will be used to compile each student's work. If you would like to see your child's portfolio at any time, please stop by our classroom and have a look. Each student's goal should be to understand and apply the skills taught while also working

toward developing a personal writing style using figurative language and varied sentence types and structures.

Sixth Grade grammar skills are carefully outlined in the Californian State Standards, though our major emphasis is on verbs and their many forms. Students are expected to correctly apply grammar as it is covered.

Writing fluency is developed in the journal writing sessions in which we engage two to three times weekly. Journal entries may serve as a springboard for process pieces and may also be evaluated for the applications of grammar, spelling and mechanics.

*Ideas to inspire writing:*

- Give your child opportunities to write at home. This may include letters to friends and family, thank you cards, invitations and greeting cards.
- Encourage your child to revise writing on a regular basis. Let them know that adults do this on a regular basis.

### Language Arts: Spelling

Text: *Irvine Unified School Program*

Our goal is for students to communicate clearly and effectively in writing. Our spelling program consists of rules and strategies evident in frequently used words, understanding the impact of prefixes and suffixes, Greek and Latin roots and spelling activities developed by expert Rebecca Sitton.

*Ideas to inspire correct spelling:*

- Encourage dictionary/ spell check usage.
- Correct all spelling errors in everyday writing.

### Mathematics

Text: *Holt*

Our mathematics program moves at a quick pace while balancing computation skills with problem solving and mathematical reasoning. Each day, we practice problem solving, cover new concepts and practice new skills. Homework is assigned Monday through Thursday and on Fridays for students working in the Pre-Algebra text. Homework assignments will be collected on two, unannounced days of the week to be recorded as grades. Additionally, quizzes will be given every one to two weeks and tests will be administered at the end of each chapter.

The mathematics report card grade is as follows: 50% test scores, 25% quiz scores and 25% homework grades.

Students will keep a math journal or “math diary” on a daily basis. All concepts, with examples, should be included as we cover them. This journal provides a valuable tool for homework.

Our new mathematics text book is online and can be found at **<http://my.hrw.com>**. In addition to text book pages, the site provides video tutorials for each lesson. These are particularly helpful when students are absent.

*Ideas for inspiring mathematical thinking:*

- Have your child estimate tax, tip, and percents on a regular basis.
- Discuss how math is used in different professions.
- Access math websites, particularly those that include problem solving.

Ex. *Dr. Math*

## Social Studies

Text: *World History Ancient Civilizations*  
McDougal Littell

Our curriculum covers the ancient civilizations of Mesopotamia, Israel, Egypt, Rome, Greece, China and India. This will include the study of the religions of these ancient cultures, some of which are extinct and some of which are still practiced today. Our text will be supplemented by research conducted using non-fiction books available in our school library and the internet.

Students will use and demonstrate their understanding of social studies concepts on IOLA tests, answering Document Based Questions and while completing individual and group projects throughout the year.

In addition to our study of ancient civilizations we will discuss current events every Friday using the online program, *CNN for Students*. Students are also expected to read the newspaper when ever possible. The discussion of current events is a wonderful way to reinforce geography skills.

*Ideas for inspiring an interest in Social Studies:*

- Watch documentary programs with your child.
- Subscribe to newspapers and news magazines.
- Discuss current issues at the dinner table.

## Fine Arts

District Art Program/District Music Program

In addition to our excellent district programs, art and music are integrated throughout the curriculum. We will explore modern artists and allow their work to influence our own.

*Ideas to inspire your child's creativity:*

- Visit art museums with varied collections.
- Attend live theater and music performances.