

2025-2026 SIXTH GRADE CURRICULUM GUIDE

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

English Language Arts instruction in sixth grade provides students with a comprehensive and structured literacy experience aligned to the Common Core State Standards. Through the *StudySync* curriculum, students engage in reading a variety of complex texts, developing critical thinking and analysis skills across genres. Writing instruction emphasizes the use of evidence-based argumentation, research, and writing for diverse audiences and purposes. Students expand their academic vocabulary, practice formal English, and build confidence in speaking and listening through collaborative discussions and media presentations. The program integrates technology and media literacy, preparing students to thoughtfully analyze and create content in today's digital world.

MATHEMATICS

Sixth grade students engage in a rigorous Math curriculum using the *Carnegie Learning* program, which emphasizes real-world problem-solving, conceptual understanding, and collaborative learning. The core 6th grade course covers key concepts such as ratios and proportional relationships, number system fluency with fractions and decimals, expressions and equations, statistical thinking, and an introduction to geometry.

Students enrolled in Accelerated Math follow the *Carnegie Learning Accelerated Grade* 6 curriculum, which blends both 6th and 7th grade standards. This includes all core sixth grade topics as well as more advanced concepts such as integer operations, equations and inequalities, proportional reasoning, and probability,

SOCIAL SCIENCE

Social Science instruction introduces sixth grade students to the foundations of history, civics, geography, and economics through an inquiry-based approach aligned with the Illinois Social Science Learning Standards. Students explore early civilizations including Mesopotamia, Egypt, India, China, Greece, and Rome, as well as key concepts in government, geography, and financial literacy. Using the Social Science Inquiry Process, asking questions, analyzing sources, and drawing conclusions, students build critical thinking and reasoning skills while examining how past societies have shaped the world we live in today.

SCIENCE

Middle school Science is designed around the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) and emphasizes curiosity, critical thinking, and discovery. Students engage in hands-on investigations and lab experiences that mirror the work of real scientists, encouraging them to ask questions, conduct experiments, analyze data, and develop evidence-based explanations. Through the integration of life, earth, and physical sciences, students explore key concepts such as ecosystems, forces and motion, energy, weather, and human impact on the environment. This inquiry-based approach fosters a deep understanding of scientific principles while building problem-solving and collaboration skills that prepare students for future learning and real-world challenges.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION/HEALTH

Physical Education and Health builds the foundation for lifelong wellness by promoting physical fitness, personal responsibility, and informed decision-making. In PE, students engage in skill-building activities focused on movement, teamwork, and fitness principles such as the FITT model, while also exploring strategies for conflict resolution, goal setting, and sportsmanship. Health education in sixth grade addresses essential topics including personal care, the spread of disease, the nervous and muscular systems, and decision-making related to safety and wellness. Students also explore topics like Erin's Law and Ann Marie's Law, helping them understand the importance of emotional and physical well-being. This comprehensive program equips students with the knowledge and skills needed to make healthy choices and thrive both individually and as members of a team.

ENCORE CLASSES

BAND

Sixth grade Band will consist of a detailed study of rhythms, scales, percussion rudiments, and musical concepts through student participation in weekly lessons and the completion of both practice charts and performances in and out of school.

ORCHESTRA

Building on students' previous knowledge and playing experience, 6th grade Orchestra offers a more detailed study of rhythms, scales, string techniques and musical concepts will be applied in this course through student participation in weekly lessons, projects and the completion of both practice and practice charts in and out of school.

CHOIR

Choir students will sing two to three-part music in many genres such as classical, folk, holiday, jazz, rock, musical theater, and pop. The emphasis will be on developing a good singing tone, building musicianship, reading music, sight-reading and voice part independence.

ACOUSTICS (Guitar)

Acoustics class is an introductory course in playing the acoustic guitar. Students in acoustics will learn basic melodies, the tuning process, how to identify and play basic chords and how to apply chords to song structure. Guitar Acoustics is aligned to the National Association for Music Education.

WORLD MUSIC

Students will learn about music and dance traditions of other cultures through participation in the World Music class. Through the study of European, African and Central/South American countries, students will play penny whistles, drums, make pan flutes, learn dances and complete research on different cultures.

SPANISH

Spanish class introduces students to the basic vocabulary, sounds and grammar of the Spanish language. By the end of the course students will have a basic conversation, including classroom-type commands, as well as free time activities, shopping and traveling. Students will be able to count to 100, name colors, foods and drinks, classroom objects, rooms in a house, family members, jobs, animals, body parts and clothes, say the alphabet, days of the week, months, weather, seasons and time, and describe themselves using physical and personality adjectives.

EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY: DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP AND APPLICATIONS

Students will expand their understanding of digital safety and learn how to respect and protect both themselves and others online. Students will use multiple technology applications to demonstrate their understanding of these concepts, in addition to practicing typing and learning basic computer applications. Engaging and fun, each course is rooted in the development of 21st century skills and offers exposure to each of the International Society for Technology Education Standards.

GRAPHIC ARTS: ADOBE ILLUSTRATOR

Sixth grade students will learn and apply The Elements of Art through the use of Adobe Illustrator. Through the completion of a series of skill-based tutorials customized by Adobe, students will become efficient in their use of the program and develop an understanding of the fundamentals of art. Projects will demonstrate students' understanding of The Elements of Art and Adobe Illustrator, as students incorporate these skills into their own creative designs. Students will gain an understanding of the latest innovative designing technologies and will have the opportunity to work in virtual reality and create drawings in virtual space.

ART

Students participating in sixth grade Art will learn and utilize the basic elements of art; line, shape, color, value, texture, form and space in their 2-dimensional and 3-dimensional work. They will demonstrate these concepts in a variety of activities that include drawing, painting, and working within 3D design. Using their imagination, or through observation, students create work from both representational and/or non-representational images. The Art curriculum incorporates related art history and culture.

PROJECT LEAD THE WAY: DESIGN AND MODELING

Students apply the design process to solve problems and understand the influence of creativity and innovation in their lives. They learn building skills, how to work in teams, and basic engineering. Using design software and pencil drawings, students create an image of their designs and produce a portfolio to showcase their innovative solutions.

PROJECT LEAD THE WAY: MAGIC OF ELECTRONS

Magic of electrons is a Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) class that studies electricity with hands-on activities. Conduction, current, voltage, magnets and electrical engineering will be taught.

TECHNOLOGY & INFORMATION LITERACY

Antioch CCSD 34 strives to build a strong foundation in technology and information literacy that prepares students for a connected and ever-changing world. Beginning in the early grades, students learn how to use digital tools to explore ideas, solve problems, and express their creativity. As they progress, they develop essential skills for finding, evaluating, and using information responsibly. With a strong emphasis on digital citizenship, students learn how to stay safe online, respect others, and make educated and informed choices in the digital world. Through hands-on experiences and real-world applications, students become confident, capable users of technology who are ready to lead and thrive in the digital age.

SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING

Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) is the process through which children develop awareness and management of their emotions, set and achieve important personal and academic goals, use social-awareness and interpersonal skills to establish and maintain positive relationships, and demonstrate decision making and responsible behaviors to achieve school and life success.

Using Trust Based Relational Intervention (TBRI) as a framework, sixth graders will participate in lessons and school-wide practices designed to increase their knowledge, awareness, skills and understanding of the following areas: self-regulation, building trust and meaningful relationships, and behavioral and social competence.

DIFFERENTIATION & ENRICHMENT

Antioch CCSD 34 is dedicated to meeting the diverse academic, social, and emotional needs of all learners through differentiated instruction and enrichment opportunities. Teachers tailor instruction by adjusting content, process, product, and learning environment to support individual learning styles, readiness levels, and interests. Differentiation ensures that every student is appropriately challenged and supported to achieve growth. Enrichment opportunities are embedded throughout the curriculum to extend learning, foster creativity, and promote critical thinking.

LIBRARY MEDIA CENTERS

Antioch CCSD 34's Library Media Centers are dynamic learning hubs that promote a love of reading, spark curiosity, and support academic success. Through access to diverse, high-quality resources, students are empowered to explore ideas, pursue personal interests, and deepen their understanding of the world around them. Library Media Centers foster essential 21st-century skills, creativity, collaboration, critical thinking, and communication, by integrating technology, supporting curriculum goals, and providing engaging opportunities for inquiry and discovery in a welcoming and inclusive environment.