

## **SIXTH GRADE BENCHMARKS**

Sixth grade students are beginning to show self-assertion and curiosity in exploring concepts in-depth. Sixth graders are socially expansive and aware of the needs of their fellow students. They are forming stronger cross-curricular connections and demonstrating their desire to excel. As self-aware individuals sixth graders are actively engaged in their academics and responsibilities. Sixth graders embrace their role as Catholic learners and extend their faith through active service to their school and community.

### **RELIGION**

#### **CREED**

Students will:

- explain that faith is God's gift and our lifelong response to God, who calls all people into a loving relationship with Him
- demonstrate an understanding of God's revelation through Scripture and Tradition in our lives
- demonstrate an understanding that the creation stories in the Bible are not scientific accounts, but are intended to teach important truths of our faith: there is one God; creation was made by God who is good and loving; human beings are made in God's image and likeness, with intellect and free will

#### **SCRIPTURE**

Students will:

- articulate the relationship between the Old and New Testaments
- recognize that the Bible contains different literary forms
- name major figures in the development of God's relationship with the Israelites: Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, etc.
- explain the importance of the Exodus to the Israelites
- demonstrate the ability to relate Scripture to one's life

#### **PRAYER/WORSHIP**

Students will:

- discuss similarities between the Passover and Eucharist
- discuss the meaning of Baptism and Confirmation and their relationship
- explain the meaning of the Church's Feast of Pentecost
- demonstrate an understanding of different forms of prayer

#### **CHRISTIAN LIVING**

Students will:

- give examples of the effect of sin in the larger global community
- identify prophets of the Bible who spoke out against injustice and suffering and discuss how they are called to be prophetic in their day
- relate the Ten Commandments, The Great Commandment, and the Beatitudes to life experiences
- recognize the importance of "service" in Christian life

# **MATH**

## **NUMBER SENSE**

Students will:

- solve addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division problems
- compare and arrange positive and negative fractions, decimals, and mixed numbers
- solve fraction problems, ratios, proportions, and percentages

## **ALGEBRA AND FUNCTIONS**

Students will:

- write sentences and phrases as algebraic expressions and equations
- evaluate algebraic expressions, solve linear equations, graph results, and interpret results
- analyze and interpret tables, graphs, and rules to solve rate and proportion problems
- investigate geometric patterns and explain them algebraically.

## **MEASUREMENT AND GEOMETRY**

Students will:

- strengthen understanding of the measurements of plain and solid shapes and use understanding to solve problems
- distinguish and describe the properties of two-dimensional figures

## **STATISTICS, DATA ANALYSIS AND PROBABILITY**

Students will:

- calculate and analyze statistical measurements for sets of data
- utilize data samples of a population to describe the characteristics and limitations of the samples
- conclude theoretical and experimental probabilities and use these to formulate predictions about events

## **MATHEMATICAL REASONING**

Students will:

- create decisions regarding how to approach problems
- employ strategies, skills, and concepts in finding solutions
- extend beyond a particular problem by generalizing to other situations

# LANGUAGE ARTS

## READING

### Word Analysis, Fluency, Vocabulary, Comprehension, and Literary Response and Analysis

Students will:

- use appropriate grade level literary terms
- use background knowledge to form predictions about the text
- understand sequence of events, and are able to articulate the sequence
- recognize and understand cause and effect
- compare and contrast characters and events effectively
- summarize information to form understanding and meaning
- make and explain inferences, and draw conclusions based on context clues or events from the text
- distinguish and sort important information correctly
- recognize and analyze the main idea from a text, and correctly identify the supporting details
- use the information from the text to support generalizations and form conclusions
- distinguish between fact and opinion through a variety of sources
- understand and identify problems in a text, and are able to find and apply an appropriate solution
- use understanding of the text to make judgments and decisions
- recognize persuasion and propaganda, and are able to distinguish between fact and fiction
- evaluate information by checking a variety of sources, as well as referencing experts
- analyze character and motive in a variety of texts, and understand point of view, plot, setting, tone, style, and mood
- describe how the author's point of view changes or affects the text

## SPELLING

Students will:

- use high frequency words correctly, appropriate to grade level
- use understanding of specific spelling patterns to spell words correctly
- differentiate between plurals and possessives, and are able to spell them correctly
- understand and are able to spell correctly, words that change forms when adding -ed and -ing
- spell compound words correctly and distinguish between single, two word and hyphenated
- continue understanding of contractions, and the relationship between the two words and understand that contractions are not used in formal writing
- learn and correctly spell words from foreign languages
- identify the Latin roots of words
- understand and differentiate between homophones and homographs
- indentify prefixes and suffixes in base words, and understand that prefixes and suffixes change the word meanings
- understand how to transfer words and patterns across the curriculum

## VOCABULARY DEVELOPMENT

Students will:

- use context clues in a sentence to determine the meaning of words across the curriculum
- use context clues to demonstrate their understanding of the vocabulary words
- use and identify synonyms and antonyms
- understand and demonstrate knowledge of multiple meaning words
- use knowledge of root words to determine the meaning of unknown words within a passage
- use resources and reference materials as aids to writing and understanding
- use denotation and connotation correctly and effectively in speech and writing
- understand analogies and identify their use in literary works

## **GRAMMAR**

Students will:

- review types of sentences and parts of speech
- identify direct object, indirect object, prepositional phrases, predicate nominative  
predicate adjective
- use the grammatical elements in grade-level sentences
- correct grammatical errors in written work
- explain how words relate to each other within a sentence
- diagram the grammatical elements

## **WRITING**

Students will:

- organize paragraph structure to show sequence of appropriate examples and details relevant to topic sentence
- develop a variety of transition words to signal additional examples
- use logical details that directly support each example
- organize examples into a logical sequence that help to guide the readers understanding of the topic
- demonstrate knowledge of appropriate tone and person relevant to the topic
- organize paragraph structure to include a topic sentence that clearly states the main idea; development sentences with examples and supporting details that are relevant to the topic sentence; and a summary sentence that restates the main idea, all in logical sequence
- write complete sentences following the conventions of correct grammar, capitalization and punctuation
- use grade level vocabulary and spelling in writing
- incorporate grade level content in writing across the curriculum

## **SCIENCE**

Students will:

- understand how plate tectonics shape features on Earth's crust
- identify and define the different layers of the Earth
- identify and explain the creation of major features of California geology
- know that weathering of rock and soil reshape the Earth's surface
- understand that landforms change due to energy from the Earth's interior or the Sun
- explain how wildlife habitats are changed by earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, landslides and floods.
- classify different natural energies as renewable or nonrenewable
- read a topographic and geologic map
- interpret and create math scales

## **SOCIAL STUDIES**

Students will:

- analyze the causes and effects of the vast expansion and ultimate disintegration of the Roman Empire
- analyze the geographic, political, economic, religious, and social structures of the civilizations of Islam in the Middle Ages
- analyze the geographic, political, economic, religious, and social structures of the civilizations of china in the Middle Ages
- analyze the geographic, political, economic, religious, and social structures of the sub-Saharan civilizations of Ghana and Mali in Medieval Africa
- analyze the geographic, political, economic, religious, and social structures of the civilizations of Medieval japan
- analyze the geographic, political, economic, religious, and social structures of the civilizations of Medieval Europe
- analyze the origins, accomplishments, and geographic diffusion of the Renaissance
- analyze the historical developments of the Reformation
- analyze political and economic change in the sixteenth, seventeenth, and eighteenth centuries (the Age of Exploration, the enlightenment, and the Age of Reason)

# **ART**

## **ARTISTIC PERCEPTION**

Students will:

- identify and describe all the elements of art found in selected works of art (e.g., color, shape/form, line, texture, space, value)
- discuss works of art as to theme, genre, style, idea, and differences in media
- describe how artists can show the same theme by using different media and styles
- describe how balance is effectively used in a work of art (e.g., symmetrical, asymmetrical, radial)

## **CREATIVE EXPRESSION**

Students will:

- use one-point perspective to create the illusion of space
- use various observational drawing skills to depict a variety of subject matter
- create a drawing, using varying tints, shades, and intensities
- create increasingly complex original works of art reflecting personal choices and increased technical skill

## **HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL CONTEXT**

Students will:

- view selected works of art from a culture and describe how they have changed or not changed in theme and content over a period of time

## **AESTHETIC VALUING**

Students will:

- derive meaning from works of art, including their own
- construct and describe plausible interpretations of what they perceive in works of art
- develop specific criteria as individuals or in groups to assess and critique works of art

## **CONNECTION, RELATIONSHIPS, AND APPLICATIONS**

Students will:

- establish criteria to use in selecting works of art for a specific type of art exhibition

## MUSIC

Students will:

- name and talk about differences in tempo, meter and dynamics in contrasting musical selections
- develop and apply appropriate criteria to support personal preferences from specific musical works
- discuss the cultural and/or historical importance of certain composers and musical figures
- discover how sounds may be created or altered by the musician or composer
- recognize patterns and recurring themes in varied musical compositions
- identify the music of various classical, jazz and pop musical compositions
- research and talk about the details of various composers' lives

# **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

## **MOVEMENT SKILLS AND PATTERNS**

Students will:

- volley an object repeatedly with a partner, using the forearm pass
- strike a ball continuously with a partner, using a tennis racket for the forehand stroke and the backhand stroke
- dribble and pass a ball to a partner while being guarded
- throw an object accurately and with applied force, using the underhand, overhand, and sidearm movement (throw) patterns
- perform line dances

## **PHYSICAL FITNESS AND HEALTH**

Students will:

- assess the components of health-related physical fitness (muscle strength, muscle endurance, flexibility and aerobic capacity) by using a scientifically based health-related fitness assessment
- compare individual physical fitness results with research-based standards for good health
- develop individual goals for each of the components of health-related physical fitness (muscle strength, muscle endurance and aerobic capacity)
- monitor the intensity of one's heart rate during physical activity

## **SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

Students will:

- participate productively in group physical activities
- identify and define the role of each participant in a cooperative physical activity

## COMPUTER

Students will:

- do more in-depth internet-based research
- save their work in folders and sub-folders
- learn frame by frame computer animation using *Pencil* software
- research, write, and produce a short movie on an important historical figure
- record a voice-over for the short movie in garage band
- continue building their typing skills and words per minute (20 wpm goal)
- learn to use 3D animation program – “alice”