



SIXTH GRADE BENCHMARKS

Saint Hilary students are challenged to be true Christians, inspired learners and effective communicators. Students are encouraged to develop self-advocacy skills. Students are encouraged to develop self-advocacy skills. Our departmentalized curriculum in the middle form includes a core academic program of English, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Spanish, Religion, Physical Education, Art and Music. Strong support for all students through the use of differentiation strategies, adaptive technology, teacher aid support and learning resources.

Students are encouraged to explore their curiosity around spirituality and faith. Students gather for daily prayer to contemplate God's grace. Students are strongly encouraged and provided various opportunities to serve others and live out the Gospel Message.

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.

MATH AND ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS (ELA) – Based on Common Core Standards:

- [Common Core for Parents](#)
- [Ten Things Parents Should Know About the Common Core State Standards](#)
- [Growth Mindset and Common Core](#)

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

In grade six, students will read a range of challenging books, articles, and texts, and will be expected to demonstrate their understanding of the material by answering questions and contributing to class discussions. In writing, students will continue to work on their use of language, sentence structure, and organization of ideas. They will also be expected to integrate information from different sources and respond to challenging content through written interpretation and analysis.

- Providing detailed summaries of texts
- Determining the theme of a text and how it is conveyed
- Describing how a particular story or play unfolds and how characters respond to plot developments
- Using a range of reading strategies to determine the meaning of unknown words as they are used in a text
- Comparing and contrasting various texts, including poems, stories, and historical novels
- Understanding the figurative and connotative (implied) meaning of words and phrases
- Identifying and evaluating specific claims or arguments in a text
- Supporting written claims or arguments with clear reasons and relevant evidence
- Producing clear and coherent writing appropriate to the task, purpose, and audience
- Participating in class discussions about various texts and topics
- Conducting short research projects to answer a question, drawing on several sources

MATH

In grade six, your child will learn the concept of rates and ratios and use these tools to solve word problems. Students will work on quickly and accurately dividing multi-digit whole numbers and adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing multi-digit decimals. Students will extend their previous work with fractions and decimals to understand the concept of rational numbers—any number that can be made by dividing one integer by another, such as $\frac{1}{2}$, 0.75, or 2. Students will also learn how to write and solve equations—mathematical statements using symbols, such as $20+x = 35$ —and apply these skills in solving multi-step word problems. Activities in these areas will include:

- Understanding and applying the concepts of ratios and unit rates, and using the correct language to describe them (for example, the ratio of wings to beaks in a flock of birds is 2 to 1, because for every 2 wings there is 1 beak)
- Building on knowledge of multiplication and division to divide fractions by fractions
- Understanding that positive and negative numbers are located on opposite sides of 0 on a number line • Using pairs of numbers, including negative numbers, as coordinates for locating or placing a point on a graph
- Writing and determining the value of expressions with whole-number exponents (such as $15+32$)
- Identifying and writing equivalent mathematical expressions by applying the properties of operations. For example, recognizing that $2(3+x)$ is the same as $6+2x$
- Understanding that solving an equation such as $2+x = 12$ means answering the question, “What number does x have to be to make this statement true?”
- Representing and analyzing the relationships between independent and dependent variables
- Solving problems involving area and volume

RELIGION (as outlined by the Archdiocese of San Francisco)

- 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
- PRAYERS
 - Rituals and prayers for each sacrament
 - Praying the various forms of prayer including Christian meditation

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
 - understand the relationships between Earth, Moon and Sun
 - know how weather patterns influence the Earth
 - explain how Earth’s climate is changing

NGSS (Next Generation Science Standards) were developed so that students could do less memorizing and more critical thinking, make connections between the Common Core and Science, align classroom practice with scientific research all while encouraging students to apply their knowledge in an appropriate framework. Please use the link below learn more and view the standards.

- [About the NGSS Standards](#)
- [The Standards](#)
- [Why Science Matters](#)

SOCIAL STUDIES (per California State Standards)

- Students will:
 - describe what is known through archaeological studies of the early physical and cultural development of humankind from the Paleolithic era to the agricultural revolution.
 - analyze the geographic, political, economic, religious, and social structures of the early civilizations of Mesopotamia, Egypt, and Kush.
 - analyze the geographic, political, economic, religious, and social structures of the Ancient Hebrews.
 - analyze the geographic, political, economic, religious, and social structures of the early civilizations of Ancient Greece.
 - analyze the geographic, political, economic, religious, and social structures of the early civilizations of India.
 - analyze the geographic, political, economic, religious, and social structures of the early civilizations of China.
 - analyze the geographic, political, economic, religious, and social structures during the development of Rome.