

Grade 6 at Ellis School

Home-School Connection

Sixth grade is an exciting and challenging year for your child. Bodies are changing; social awareness is growing; and the curriculum is becoming more challenging. Sixth graders are starting to think more abstractly and critically and remain curious and energetic. Life is also a bit more dramatic but they remain enthusiastic learners.

In 6th grade, students apply skills they have learned in earlier grades to make sense of longer, more challenging books and articles. This includes learning about how authors try to influence readers and find reasons to support their ideas. Focusing on how authors make their points and support their arguments with evidence and reasoning helps 6th grade students sharpen their ability to write and speak with more clarity and coherence. Students also will expand their vocabularies and use new words in their stories, reports, and essays. To meet these literacy goals, students must devote significant attention to precise details in their reading and writing.

In mathematics, the skills and understanding that your child will gain during 6th grade are among the most important foundations for college and career readiness. These include working with ratios and rates and working with variables and variable expressions — the building blocks of algebra. Many of this year's topics will remain a major emphasis throughout the middle school years and into high school.

Please stay in touch with your child's teachers. Papers may disappear from voluminous backpacks and messages may be forgotten, but we remain partners at insuring your child's success.

Expectations of 6th Graders

1. Be independent as a learner.
2. Be responsible.
3. Be respectful.
4. Practice positive character traits in social media, as well as personal interactions.
5. Practice problem solving in social and academic settings.

Language Arts

By the end of the school year, your child can:

1. Use the writing process to produce a persuasive, informative, and entertaining written piece that exhibits higher-order thinking.
2. Analyze and evaluate a variety of texts: informational and genre.
3. Produce academic projects collaboratively and independently.

Suggestion for home activities in language arts

- Read and discuss newspapers, magazines, and news programs
- Read recipes and cook with your child
- Play board games with your child (not video games)
- Share your own writing with your child
- Read aloud to your child
- Emphasize the importance of literacy in your

<p>4. Use grade level grammar, punctuation, and spelling.</p>	<p>daily life, including work</p>
<p>Mathematics</p> <p>By the end of the school year, your child can:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Compare quantities in rates and ratios. 2. Compute with any type of number (decimals, fractions, whole numbers), using all operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication, division). 3. Begin solving equations with variables . 4. Expand their knowledge of solving for area and volume, including surface area. 5. Collect and manipulate statistical data using a variety of graphs and displays. 	<p>Suggestions for home activities in mathematics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Allow your child to figure out unit prices of items in grocery stores ● Allow your child to determine the cost of an item on sale or tip on a restaurant bill ● When cooking or baking, allow your child to cut a recipe in half or double a recipe ● Have your child redesign the furniture in his or her bedroom or your living room having first determined the area
<p>Science Topics</p> <p>By the end of the school year, your child can:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Use science process skills to follow procedures, analyze data, and draw conclusions during inquiry investigations. 2. Create and analyze tables and graphs. 3. Successfully use science writing to communicate the findings of an investigation. 4. Study topics such as waste management, ecosystems, human body systems, classifications of living and non-living things, weather and climate, tides and eclipses, forces and motion, properties of matter, elements, energy, and conservation. 	<p>Suggestions for home activities in science</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Observe a living thing in nature and identify the organism’s characteristics ● Observe, draw, and label the living and non-living things in any location ● Write a song/poem or story about the rock cycle or water cycle ● Create a model of a human body system (e.g. nervous, circulatory, endocrine, respiratory, excretory) ● Make a musical instrument and discuss sound energy ● Design a weather station and maintain data
<p>Social Studies Topics</p> <p>By the end of the school year, your child can:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Read and evaluate current events. 2. Locate geographical locations on a map. 3. Develop an understanding of the eight elements of culture for the Middle Ages and the following ancient civilizations: Mesoamerica, Egypt, China, Greece, and Rome. 	<p>Suggestions for home activities in social studies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Discuss current events and process the importance of knowing what is happening locally and globally ● Discuss the importance of learning from mistakes and successes in history ● Visit museums ● Gather, look at, and discuss travel brochures ● Cook and discuss ethnic cuisines ● Read maps and use GPS devices together