

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The physical education program engages students in carefully planned and sequenced movement experiences, activities, and sports that enable them to learn about themselves and their world.

## HOMEWORK

Ellington Public Schools defines “homework” as independent practice and learning that happens outside the classroom. Reading and developing literacy skills is a priority in the elementary curriculum. Ideally, students should read outside of school on a daily basis, in addition to any other homework assigned. In sixth grade the expected length of time for independent reading is 30 minutes each day, or 150 minutes or more across a week. Families are encouraged to support this goal by setting aside time for reading.

Students in grade 6 may also be expected to complete other independent practice assignments and long-term projects in addition to daily reading. Other independent practice assignments and work on long-term projects should not exceed an average of 15-20 minutes daily. Some students may require less or more time than that which is indicated for a grade level. Teachers are not expected to assign homework every day.

## TESTING

Students participate in standardized testing as required by state and federal guidelines. In sixth grade this would include Smarter Balanced Assessments for Literacy and Mathematics.

# 6



## Curriculum Guide for Grade 6

The Ellington Public Schools elementary curriculum is designed to enhance children’s intellectual, social, emotional, and physical development, while supporting students in acquiring the skills needed to become collaborative and independent learners.

This document provides you with an overview of the skills, topics, and concepts that form the core curriculum at this grade level. The curriculum is aligned with the Common Core State Standards and other state and national standards in each content area.

Each child is viewed as a unique person with an individual pattern and pace of growth. Different approaches to learning and skill levels are expected, accepted, and used to design curriculum and instruction.

### MATHEMATICS

Students apply their knowledge of basic skills and concepts while working on meaningful and challenging tasks. The goal of mathematics instruction is to understand and apply mathematical concepts and develop reasoning and problem solving skills. Students are expected to explain their mathematical reasoning orally and in writing. The Illustrative Mathematics 6-8 math program, by Open Up Resources, is used for instruction.

### KEY SIXTH GRADE MATH SKILLS

- Use reasoning about multiplication and division to solve ratio and rate problems;
- Apply and extend understandings of multiplication and division to divide fractions by fractions;
- Write expressions and equations that correspond to given situations, evaluate expressions and use expressions and formulas to solve problems
- Develop ability to think statistically.

For more information about our curriculum, please visit our website:

[www.ellingtonpublicschools.org](http://www.ellingtonpublicschools.org)

## LANGUAGE ARTS

Our sixth grade language arts curriculum is aligned with the Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts and continues to spiral the skills students need in reading, writing, speaking, and listening. We approach the teaching of literacy through a balanced instructional approach that supports students through both reading workshop and writing workshop. Through this model students have opportunities to apply learned strategies independently. Our reading and writing units of study are closely intertwined to allow our reading work to support our writing work.

### READING

In sixth grade students apply strategies learned in earlier grades to read and comprehend longer, more challenging books as they move up the levels of text complexity. Students are supported through explicit instruction, read aloud, and mentor texts. As readers, they will be expected to read closely and analyze parts of a text.

## WRITING

Our sixth graders will use their knowledge of how authors write to improve their own writing abilities. Sixth graders will use a writing process to improve their writing skills in narrative, argumentative, and informational writing. Our sixth graders will learn to incorporate research into their writing and write with more clarity. Additionally, students learn and apply the rules of grammar in their own writing.

### KEY SIXTH GRADE LITERACY SKILLS

- Evaluate the argument and specific claims in texts;
- Present claims and findings orally and logically;
- Analyze how the structure of a text contributes to the development of ideas;
- Conduct research on a topic and create nonfiction books to convey ideas;
- Determine the correct meaning of a word based on the context used.

## SOCIAL STUDIES

Students sixth grade study three regions of the world: Sub-continental Asia, East Asia, and Western Europe. Using an inquiry process, students research each region to develop an understanding of the region's geography, economics, current events, culture, and selected points of history. As part of their study, students will evaluate sources and use evidence to support conclusions.

## SCIENCE

In sixth grade, students work toward formulating explanations to phenomena such as, "How do humans impact our environment?", "How can climates be so different across our world? and "Why don't hurricanes happen everywhere?" Emphasis is placed on students developing questions and investigations around presented phenomena. Students will engage in science and engineering practices in order to construct explanations for complex science ideas and develop solutions to problems.

## ART

The art program develops an appreciation of art, introduces design elements, and gives opportunities to create art in a variety of media. Content is based on art appreciation, art history, art criticism, and art creation.

## MUSIC

The general music program develops an appreciation for music and teaches listening skills, music history, music vocabulary, and theory.

### CHORUS

This program engages students in singing songs in a variety of musical styles and encourages proper vocal techniques. This group meets once a week and performs at least two concerts each year.

### BEGINNING BAND

This program continues the evolution of the instrumental student's skills. Intermediate band meets twice a week with rotating instrumental lessons given weekly. Continued home practice is encouraged. At least two concerts are held each year.

## HEALTH

The health education program provides students with opportunities to acquire the attitudes, knowledge, and skills necessary for making health-promoting decisions. Students continue to study the dimensions of personal wellness: physical, emotional, social, mental, spiritual, and environmental. In sixth grade, students investigate mental health topics related to self-image and self-care versus self-injury behaviors. Students learn to take charge of their wellness in order to lead healthy and balanced living for themselves and for the world around them.