

# A PARENT'S GUIDE TO Sixth Grade



# Child Development

WE KNOW...

*“Stages of growth and development follow a reasonably predictable pattern. Children and adolescents do not proceed through each stage at the same pace. Children and adolescents progress through the various aspects of development at their own rate. Growth is uneven.”*

Source: Yardsticks: Child and Adolescent Development Ages 4-14, by Chip Wood



## Growth Patterns of Sixth Graders

- Need a lot of sleep, exercise, and food
- Capable of self-awareness, insight, and empathy, and will see both sides of an argument
- Care more about peer opinions than those of teachers and parents
- Will initiate their own activities without adult prompting
- Able to think more abstractly; understand and enjoy sarcasm, double meanings, word play, and more sophisticated jokes
- Increasingly able to organize their thoughts and their work
- Growing ability to set realistic short-term goals, and able to tackle long-term projects
- Both playful and serious - love to play class games but can have a serious discussion a moment later

# Sixth-Grade Experience

Sixth graders will . . .

## ART

- Begin art career discussions
- Learn how to use rulers and how to shade properly
- Learn how to draw using perspective
- Explore personal narratives throughout projects
- Prepare for Nagel expectations

## MUSIC

- Have the opportunity to join a performing ensemble (band, orchestra, and/or choir) or continue in general music
- Compare and contrast using elements of music using developmentally appropriate vocabulary
- Identify terms related to form (D.C. and D.S. al Fine; D.S. al Coda, repeat signs, 1st and 2nd endings)
- Identify the major periods, genres, and composers in the development of music
- Using elements of music, describe the connection between emotion and music in selected musical works
- Explain how the elements and subject matter of music connect with disciplines outside the arts
- Explain music instrument groupings for various styles of music
- Identify different functions and uses of music in American culture and other cultures

## INNOVATION

- Use a variety of online and offline resources to code and apply this knowledge in physical and digital environments
- Create a variety of products using video, graphic design, and presentation tools
- Use design thinking to empathize and develop new understandings through collaboration
- Gather appropriate information from a variety of sources
- Be able to identify cyberbullying and know strategies to address the problem
- Think critically about online content and content creators

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

- Find fun and excitement in physical activity
- Develop knowledge, motor and social skills, and confidence needed to live a healthy, active lifestyle
- Develop the ability to throw, catch, strike, kick, and dribble in game play
- Make healthy food and beverage choices
- Work to combine locomotor and non-locomotor skills into movement patterns
- Improve the ability to move at different speeds, in space and in distance
- Practice exhibiting personal and social behavior that shows respect for themselves and others
- Understand the importance of physical activity in all environments (classroom, home, and community)

# End-of-Year Expectations

## Sixth grade students will know how to . . .

	READING	WRITING
LITERACY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Integrate information presented in different media or formats to develop a coherent understanding of a topic or issue</li> <li>• Trace and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text to determine if there is evidence to support the claim</li> <li>• Write objective summaries and draw inferences from informational texts, including central ideas and relevant details using text evidence to support ideas</li> <li>• Analyze literary text development and determine theme</li> <li>• Explain how an author uses point of view to develop the perspective of the narrator</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Write arguments to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence including a thesis and conclusion</li> <li>• Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and concepts, including a thesis, well organized relevant facts/details, precise language, and a conclusion</li> <li>• Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences with relevant descriptive details and well structured event sequences</li> <li>• Conduct short research projects to answer questions</li> <li>• Use the writing process to strengthen writing by editing and revising</li> </ul>
MATH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Connect ratio and rate to whole number multiplication and division</li> <li>• Use concepts of ratio and rate to solve problems</li> <li>• Divide fractions</li> <li>• Order negative and positive rational and integer numbers</li> <li>• Write, interpret, and use expressions and equations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume of 2 dimensional and 3 dimensional shapes</li> <li>• Display, organize, describe and summarize data in tables, plots, and graphs</li> <li>• Describe and summarize numerical data sets, identifying clusters, peaks, gaps, and symmetry, while considering the context in which the data were collected</li> </ul>
SCIENCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct investigations, make observations, and record data</li> <li>• Participate in activities, discussions, and investigations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrate understanding of key concepts for the following science units:            Life Science: Cells            Physical Science: Matter &amp; Energy            Earth &amp; Space Science: Rocks, Minerals, &amp; Soil</li> </ul>
SOCIAL STUDIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand the importance of being an informed, active participant (citizen) in a democratic society</li> <li>• Articulate that groups of people have different beliefs and live their daily lives in different ways (culture)</li> <li>• Compare economic data sets to identify relationships and draw conclusions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compare unique governments, economic systems, social structures, religions, technologies and agricultural practices of early civilizations (India, Egypt, China, and Mesopotamia)</li> <li>• Understand the purpose of government in the US is to establish order, protect the rights of individuals, and promote the common good</li> <li>• Understand that governments may be organized in different ways and have limited or unlimited powers</li> </ul>



# Family Learning Activities

## LITERACY

- Make time to talk about school, and let them know you care about them and their academic lives
- Encourage your child to read daily
- Determine the theme of a story or show by asking your child what the character learns about life
- Help your child to be responsible for any homework or projects
- Help your child access books by visiting the library or the bookstore

## MATH

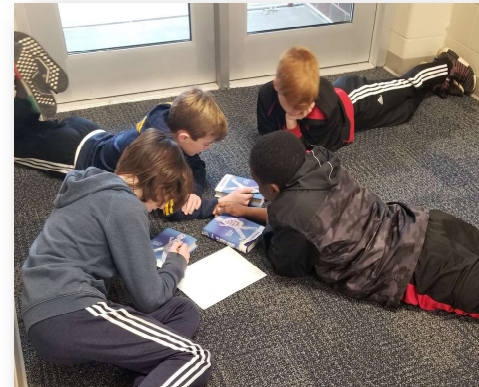
- Play thinking and logic games such as cards, and discuss strategies
- Help your child make study plans and review work by solving practice problems
- Discuss math in real world places like cooking, shopping, budgeting
- Focus on student math thinking, listen to how they problem solve and ask clarifying questions

## SCIENCE

- Encourage your child to be curious by asking questions about how things work and investigating them
- Ask questions and discuss things you notice about the world around you
- Value and encourage your child's questions about the world and explore and find answers together

## SOCIAL STUDIES

- Discuss events and their impact on the community
- Discuss voting
- Discuss where products you purchase are made and how much they cost
- Talk about how/where you get information
- Use maps to help you get places and explore the world
- Help them understand the difference between a need and a want



For district approved resources and additional family learning activities, scan this QR code to access the Forest Hills Learning Hub.  
[www.bit.ly/FHSDLearningHub](http://www.bit.ly/FHSDLearningHub)

Forest Hills curriculum is aligned to Ohio's Learning Standards.



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