

Religion

Sixth graders will learn through Scripture, prayer, discussion and reflection about their Catholic faith. Catholic values are discussed and integrated not only in religion, but also in all learning. The focus is on:

- God, Abraham, Moses and other Old Testament figures
- Planning, assisting in liturgy and other forms of worship
- Studying the Old Testament
- The commandments
- Using the Bible
- Morality
- Church responsibility and participation

Language Arts/Reading

The Language Arts program includes reading, writing, speaking, listening and the study of literature and informational text. The components of the program emphasize the development of those skills that allow students to read with fluency, comprehend and interpret written materials, communicate well and listen and speak effectively. The skills acquired and understood are applied and reinforced in all content areas.

Reading/Literature

A diverse selection of literature and informational text will be used to enhance student development of comprehension and high levels of inferential thinking. The focus is on:

- Read and comprehend literary and information text independently
- Describe how a particular story's or drama's plot unfolds in a series of episodes as well as how the characters respond to change as the plot moves toward resolution
- Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in text, including figurative and connotative meaning; analyze the impact of a specific word choice on meaning and tone
- Compare and contrast text in different forms or genres
- Research topics using print and digital tools to locate, analyze and evaluate information

Writing/Language/Speaking and Listening

Sixth grade students will establish and maintain a formal writing style. The focus is on:

- Producing a clear and coherent writing in which the development, organizations and style are appropriate to task, purpose and audience
- Developing and strengthening writing as needed by planning, revising, editing and rewriting
- Using precise words and phrases, relevant descriptive details and sensory language to convey experiences and events
- Demonstrates command of the conventions of standard English grammar
- Use a variety of tools to produce and publish writing
- Engages effectively in a range of collaborative discussions building on others' ideas and clearly expressing their own

Technology

St. Matthew follows the National Educational Technology Standards for Students. We believe that students must have regular opportunities to use technology to develop skills that encourage personal productivity, creativity, critical thinking and collaboration in the classroom and in daily life. The focus is on:

- Use collaborative electronic authoring tools to explore common curriculum content from different perspectives with other learners.
- Select and use the appropriate tools and digital resources to accomplish a variety of tasks and to solve problems.
- Evaluate digital resources to determine the credibility of the author and publisher and the timeliness and accuracy of the content.

Mathematics

Sixth grade students, in following the Common Core State Standards, will be able to make sense of math problems and persevere in solving them. They will construct reasonable arguments and critique the reasoning of others, while understanding how to model with mathematics, use appropriate tools, attend to precision, and look for patterns. The focus is on:

- **Ratios and Proportional Relationships:** understanding ratios and unit rates to solve problems,.
- **The Number System:** applying previous understanding of multiplication and division to multiply and divide fractions and rational numbers; including negative numbers.
- **Expressions and Equations:** using properties of operations to generate equivalent expressions; and solving real-life math problems by using expressions and equations.
- **Geometry:** solving real-life math problems that involve area, surface area and volume.
- **Statistics & Probability:** developing statistical thinking.

Science

Sixth grade students use concrete, hands-on experiences to understand science in the physical and natural world. Students identify problems, formulate and test hypotheses and evaluate experimental results. The focus is on:

- Using inquiry skills
- Using lab skills
- Evaluating and applying ecological concepts to environmental problems
- Analyze and explain large-scale dynamic forces, events and processes that affect the earth's land, water and atmospheric systems
- Describing interactions between solid earth, oceans, atmosphere and organisms that have resulted in ongoing changes

Social Studies

Sixth grade students will explore world geography and the effects of geography on society. The focus is on:

- Explain how human activity is affected by geographic factors
- Understand how resources are used throughout the world
- Analyze how human processes influence settlement patterns including migration and population growth
- Describe how physical characteristics of places influence people's perceptions and their roles in the world
- Understand how religions, arts and sciences have an ancient heritage
- Using primary and secondary sources to understand events, trends, individuals and movements shaping the world

Physical Education

In sixth grade, students learn and explore factors that affect a healthy lifestyle. The focus is on:

- Developing muscle strength, cardio-respiratory endurance and flexibility
- Using rules, offensive and defensive strategies in cooperative sports and games
- Demonstrating sportsmanship and participation in sports and games
- Demonstrating skills and movements necessary to perform individual and team activities

Art

In sixth grade, students will have the opportunity to express themselves in various art forms. The focus is on:

- Using elements and principles of art to express ideas
- Interpreting artistic products and experiences using appropriate vocabulary
- Exploring new experiences artistically

Music

In sixth grade, students will have the opportunity to participate in music activities and to develop an appreciation for music. The focus is on:

Evaluation

Edline will be used to update grades. Report cards are issued at the end of each quarter

Parent-Teacher conferences will be scheduled in November, but can be requested at anytime.

Students will receive a report card at each of the four marking periods.

Homework

Sixth grade students will be assigned homework as needed for practice and reinforcement as well as for the completion of special projects.

Parents can help by:

- Modeling active participation in weekly liturgy, daily prayer, and service
- Showing an interest in homework and school activities
- Providing a quiet place and sufficient uninterrupted time to do school work
- Encouraging good nutrition, rest and exercise
- Staying in touch with the school

This curriculum guide provides a glimpse of goals and activities.

For more comprehensive information, please contact the school principal.

St. Matthew Parish School
1555 Glen Ellyn Road
Glendale Heights, IL 60139
(630)858-3112
www.stmatthewschool.org

1/2014

ST. MATTHEW PARISH SCHOOL

CURRICULUM GUIDE

SIXTH GRADE

A POSITIVE INVESTMENT IN YOUR CHILD'S FUTURE

