



What Your Child Will Learn in Sixth Grade

Greetings Sixth Grade Parents!

In Harford County Public Schools (HCPS), we are committed to ensuring that every child graduates having received an outstanding education. We know that you as parents are integral to this process and want you to know the role that the Maryland College and Career-Ready Standards (MCCRS) serve in the implementation of our curriculum.

How do the MCCRS relate to the Common Core State Standards?

In school year 2013-2014, Maryland implemented the MCCRS in all schools across the state. Maryland's new standards are based on the Common Core State Standards (CCSS), a set of consistent, high-quality academic goals in English language arts and mathematics, adopted by Maryland and more than 40 other states. The MCCRS define the knowledge and skills all students should master by the end of each grade level in order to graduate from high school fully prepared to enter college and the workforce.

What is the connection between the MCCRS and the HCPS curriculum?

The MCCRS guide HCPS instructional leaders to develop and refine curriculum so that teachers consistently create lessons that give our students the most essential knowledge and skills they need to progress academically.

What will lessons look like in the classroom?

Teachers are encouraged to create engaging and interactive lessons, integrating technology when appropriate. Our teachers provide the best environment for learning so that our children grow as learners but also gain the content and skills necessary to become productive members of our workforce and society.

How do the MCCRS affect all content areas?

The MCCRS clearly define benchmarks for learning in reading, writing, and mathematics. The literacy expectations for English language arts are clearly outlined, but just as importantly, so are the expectations for literacy in all content areas. For students to be college and career ready, they must be proficient in reading and writing complex informational and technical texts. This means that instruction in EVERY classroom focuses on both the critical content as well as the reading and writing skills necessary to demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of that discipline.

How can you support your child at home?

As you review this brochure, think about ways you can support your child's learning at home. We need your help as we implement our curriculum and hold students to the highest standards of academic performance. Through a strong partnership with you, we will ensure that your child is fully prepared for success in school, work, and life.

A Sample of What Your Child Will Learn

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Reading

- Determine a theme or central idea of a text and how it is conveyed through particular details; provide a summary of the text distinct from personal opinions or judgments.
- Analyze how a particular sentence, chapter, scene, or stanza fits into the overall structure of text and contributes to the development of the them, setting, or plot.
- Trace and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, distinguishing claims that are supported by reasons and evidence from claims that are not.
- Compare and contrast texts in different forms or genres in terms of their approaches to similar themes and topics.

Writing

- Write arguments to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence.
- Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information through the selection, organization, and analysis of relevant content.
- Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, relevant descriptive details, and well-structured event sequences.

Speaking and Listening

- Present claims and findings, sequencing ideas logically and using pertinent descriptions, facts, and details to accentuate main ideas or themes.
- Include multimedia components and visual displays in presentations to clarify information.

Language

- Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.
- Vary sentence patterns for meaning, reader/listener interest and style.
- Consult reference materials, both print and digital, to clarify the precise meaning of a word.

MATHEMATICS

Ratios and Proportional Relationships

- Understand ratio concepts and use ratio reasoning to solve problems.
- Understand the concept of ratio and describe a ratio relationship between two quantities.
- Use ratio and rate reasoning to solve real-world and mathematical problems using a variety of strategies.

The Number System

- Apply and extend previous understanding of multiplication and division to multiply and divide fractions.
- Compute fluently with multi-digit numbers and find common factors and multiples.
- Apply and extend previous understandings of numbers to the system of rational numbers.

Expressions and Equations

- Apply and extend previous understandings of arithmetic to algebraic expressions.
- Reason about and solve one-variable equations and inequalities.
- Represent and analyze the relationship between the dependent and independent variable using graphs and tables, and relate these to the equation.

Geometry

- Solve real-world and mathematical problems involving area, surface area, and volume.
- Find the area of right triangles, other triangles, special quadrilaterals, and polygons in the context of solving real-world problems.

Statistics and Probability

- Develop understanding of statistical variability.
- Summarize and describe distribution.

Mathematical Practices

- Make sense of and persevere in solving problems.
- Reason abstractly and quantitatively.
- Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others.
- Model with mathematics, use appropriate tools strategically, and attend to precision.
- Look for and make use of structure as well as express regularity in repeated reasoning.

A Sample of What Your Child Will Learn

SCIENCE

Construct Knowledge

- Differentiate among sedimentary, igneous, and metamorphic rocks based upon the processes by which they are formed.
- Explain how sedimentary rock is formed periodically, embedding plant and animal remains and leaving a record of the sequence in which the plants and animals appeared and disappeared.
- Recognize and describe the internal and external structure of the Earth.
- Recognize and explain how major geologic events are a result of the movement of Earth's crustal plates.
- Recognize that objects of our solar system are interrelated.
- Identify and describe the components of the universe.
- Identify and explain celestial phenomena using the regular and predictable motion of objects in the solar system.
- Recognize and describe the various factors that affect climate.
- Identify and describe the atmospheric and hydrospheric conditions related to weather systems.

Apply Evidence and Reasoning

- Cite evidence to demonstrate and explain that physical weathering and chemical weathering cause changes to Earth materials.
- Cite evidence to explain the relationship between the hydrosphere and atmosphere.

Understand and Use Technology

- Design, analyze, or carry out simple investigations and formulate appropriate conclusions based on data obtained or provided, using technology as necessary.
- Analyze the value and the limitations of different types of models in explaining real things and processes.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Political Science

- Analyze the characteristics and structure of various systems of government around the world.
- Analyze the historic events, documents, and practices that are the foundations of political systems around the world.
- Analyze how governments, organizations, and policies around the world protect or fail to protect the rights of individuals and groups.

Geography

- Use geographic tools to locate places and describe the human and physical characteristics in early world history.
- Examine how physical and human characteristics shape the identity of places and regions and influenced the development of civilizations in early world history.

History

- Examine the emergence, growth, and decline of empires in the Americas.
- Analyze the emergence and enduring influence of Aegean civilizations.
- Analyze the emergence, expansion, and decline of the Roman Empire.
- Compare the dynasties/empires in Ancient China.
- Analyze the emergence, growth, and decline of African Empires.
- Analyze the emergence and expansion of Islamic civilization.

Economics

- Explain that people made choices because resources were limited relative to wants for goods and services in the context of early world history.
- Analyze how scarce economic resources were used to satisfy economic wants in early world history .

A Sample of What Your Child Will Learn

UNIFIED ARTS

Art

- Identify how artists use design concepts to organize the elements of art and principles of design to convey ideas, thoughts, and feelings.
- Identify themes, ideas, and issues common to the visual arts and other forms of human expression.
- Demonstrate the ability to organize materials, techniques, and processes to create visual arts compositions and products that emphasize the elements of art and focus on the use of shading to imply form, color mixing processes, and techniques to transform two-dimensional designs to three-dimensional forms.
- Use appropriate vocabulary to formulate and express a personal rationale in evaluating objective/non-objective art works from diverse cultures and various historical periods.

Music

- Identify elements and characteristics of musical sound as they are used in a variety of genre and styles representative of world cultures.
- Describe how musical expression reflects social, political, and ethical issues and determine the factors that influence musicians in historical eras and places.
- Identify and explain the relationship of music, dance, theater, the visual arts, and other disciplines.
- Explore musical ideas through simple improvisations, compositions, arrangements.
- Evaluate selected musical compositions using established criteria.

Media

- Locate and evaluate resources and sources using a wide variety of formats.
- Find, generate, record, and organize information relevant to the information need.
- Interpret recorded data/information to create new understandings and knowledge.
- Use ethics in all matters related to information needs.

Physical Education

- Display excellent sportsmanship during group activities.
- Perform offensive and defensive strategies.
- Engages in health related fitness assessment.
- Demonstrate mature throwing and catching skills within modified games.
- Demonstrate striking skill development and accuracy through practice.

A Message from the Superintendent:

Sixth grade is a critical year in your child's education. In 6th grade, students apply skills they learned in earlier grades to make sense of longer, more challenging books and articles. Teachers will be prodding students to think about how authors influence readers. Your child will have to sharpen his/her ability to write and speak with more clarity and coherence. Your child will need to make arguments across the content areas using evidence and reasoning to support ideas. Help your child at home by watching news stories and thinking about the reporter's viewpoint or bias. Ask your child about the speaker's main points or a movie's main theme. Make your child support opinions at home with evidence. Continue to explore real-world math applications using money, time, units, and rates. Most importantly, remember to encourage your child and celebrate successes.

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