



St Joseph Catholic Elementary

School/Parent Guide to the Sixth Grade Curriculum

August, 2010

Philosophy of Catholic Education
St. Joseph Elementary School

"I am the way, and the truth, and the Life; no one comes to the Father but through me." John, 14:6). We believe Jesus is the reason for our existence and the Gospel message is central to the integration of religious truths and values with life.

The primary responsibility for education resides with the parents. The choice of Catholic education is further implemented by the faculty, staff and parish community. In striving to become a responsible Christian adult, each student is challenged to achieve his/her potential in all areas.

The children are called to grow in their faith and to develop a wholesome regard for self as well as a Christian respect for others through service, message, community and worship. By discussion and comment, the religious and secular perspectives, each complementing the other, offer a deeper and fuller picture of reality.

Our Philosophy of Education clearly states that the Gospel message is central in our school. To this end, all of us, faculty, staff, administration, priests, parents and students model for each other the example of Christian life. Our Philosophy is our guide for all decisions made at St. Joseph.



SCHOOL WIDE GOALS

The specific goals of St. Joseph's Catholic Elementary School follow the curriculum recommended by the State of Missouri and the Archdiocese of St. Louis for elementary schools, with some additional emphasis upon individual needs at all grade levels. The ultimate goal of our school for its students is the Catholic-Christian formation of the child. The more immediate goal is to provide for each student's unique intellectual, spiritual, moral, emotional, aesthetical, physical and social needs.

The primary focus of St. Joseph's Catholic Elementary School is to teach and model our Catholic faith to the children of St. Joseph's Parish.

"We strive to provide a background of the basics in an atmosphere where the fourfold purpose of Christian education is realized; to develop the Catholic message at the student's age level; to live in a community the way Jesus wants each of His children to live; and to be of service to each person in a manner that is honest and peaceful"*

(*"To Teach As Jesus Did" - Bishops' message on Pastoral Education)

1. Provide students with the knowledge, understanding, and practice of the Catholic Faith which will lead them toward a mature faith commitment, which includes living by Gospel values and actively sharing faith.
2. Help students demonstrate a commitment to justice through responsible and accountable decisions founded on Christian principles.
3. Create a welcoming atmosphere where students will listen to and show respect for the diversity of others' thoughts, opinions, and cultures.
4. Develop an environment where students will be able to connect knowledge to real life situations by making responsible decisions that allow them to cope with life's challenges.
5. Foster an environment that encourages the students to show intellectual development by demonstrating their ability in the use of curiosity, analytical thinking, effective communication skills, and the responsibility for one's own learning.
6. Provide students with the opportunities to experience spiritual, creative, intellectual, and emotional growth.



SCHOOL WIDE ART GOALS

- Students will recognize, through aesthetic awareness, that art is part of everything in their environment.
- Students will understand that there are various purposes for creating art.
- Students will develop awareness that there are different responses to specific artworks.
- Students will examine their own artwork and that of other people, times, and places in order to learn that the visual arts have specific historical and cultural relationships.
- Students will relate works of art to the historical and cultural contexts in which they were created.
- Students will study about artists and their contributions and ways of communicating cultural values and beliefs.
- Students will select and use subject matter, symbols, and ideas to communicate meaning through the use of higher order thinking skills and creative problem solving processes.
- Students will learn to examine objects and events in their lives in an historical progression.
- Students will learn to use all materials and tools in a safe manner.
- Students will realize the relationship of visual art to all other disciplines.
- Students will understand that the arts provide lifelong learning that may both a vocational and professional.

LANGUAGE ARTS SCHOOL WIDE GOALS

- Students will demonstrate knowledge of the Six + 1 Traits of Writing (Content, Organization, Word Choice, Sentence Fluency, Voice, Conventions and Presentation).
- Students will use developmentally appropriate vocabulary in speaking and writing.
- Students will communicate clearly in speaking and writing.
- Students will demonstrate the ability to use Standard English in speaking and writing.
- Students will use correct spelling in written work.
- Students will demonstrate the ability to use critical thinking and listening skills in oral and written language.
- Students will use various strategies to help them read and comprehend information.
- Students will recognize and show an appreciation for genres of literature.
- Students will demonstrate proficiency in silent and oral reading for pleasure and information.
- Students will demonstrate the ability to use technology, reference material, and a variety of resources as needed.

MATH SCHOOL WIDE GOALS

- Students will apply knowledge of numbers and operations to successfully solve problems.
- Students will use models to transfer math concepts to concrete math problem solving situations.
- Students will identify two and three-dimensional objects.
- Students will use symbols to represent unknowns in mathematical equations.
- Students will demonstrate and apply knowledge of standard and metric measurements.
- Students will show evidence of understanding in probability concepts.
- Students will collect, organize, and interpret data in various types of graphs.
- Students will demonstrate the ability to solve problems using various methods and adapt the strategies to new situations.
- Students will accept and show appreciation for differences in strategies in problem solving.
- Students will recognize mathematical progression of skills.

MUSIC SCHOOL WIDE GOALS

- Students will use their voices to sing God's praises.
- Students will value and respect their own musical efforts and those of others. They will appreciate various types of music and will conduct themselves well as performers and as audience members.
- Students will read music notation and will exercise musical creativity by composing short pieces, writing lyrics, and improvising melodies and accompaniments.
- Students will develop skills in playing pitched and unpitched rhythm instruments, recorders, and tone chimes.
- Students will identify by sight and sound the various families of instruments (string, woodwind, brass and percussion).
- Students will listen to music with focused attention, and will identify dynamic levels, tempos, high and low pitches, and a melody line; they will use appropriate music vocabulary to describe music.
- Students will research the lives, times, and contributions of various composers and the history of opera and related subjects.
- Students will understand music relative to its historical and cultural significance, and will understand the relationships between music and the other arts.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION SCHOOL WIDE GOALS

- Students will develop an awareness of the body and its function through movement and exercise.
- Students will develop an awareness and understanding of the importance of life-long physical fitness.
- Students will be provided with opportunities to learn life-long recreational skills.
- Students will understand the rules of the games and sports played.
- Students will develop sportsmanship and respect toward one another.
- Students will participate in organized and unorganized play in a cooperative spirit.
- Students will recognize that physical exercise is an important aspect of a healthy mental attitude.
- Students will acquire and develop desirable traits of health concepts and a wholesome, well-integrated personality.

RELIGION SCHOOL WIDE GOALS

- Students will demonstrate by word and action a commitment to living the Gospel values.
- Students will apply knowledge of Catholic dogma, Scripture, Church history, and traditions to their daily experiences.
- Students will lead a sacramental life.
- Students will experience planning and participating in liturgies.
- Students will develop an ongoing personal relationship with God.
- Students will join in the mission spirit of the Church.
- Students will recognize their responsibility to help build a world of peace and justice.
- Students will show respect for God's creation.
- Students will show a readiness to share their faith.

SCIENCE SCHOOL WIDE GOALS

- Students will apply knowledge of the five-step scientific method and apply it to specific scientific investigations.
- Students will be able to explore and integrate physical, earth and life sciences and connect them with related social and technological themes.
- Students will be able to investigate how living things interact with their environment and with each other.

SOCIAL STUDIES SCHOOL WIDE GOALS

- Students will identify and describe the economic, cultural, political and ecological connections within the global community.
- Students will recognize and exercise their responsibilities of citizenship in a democracy.
- Students will research our nation's past and relate it to the ever-changing world.
- Students will demonstrate an understanding of the five fundamental themes of geography:
 1. location
 2. description of place
 3. people and their environment
 4. movement
 5. region
- Students will recognize the connection which exists between social studies, history, geography AND literature, art, music and theology.
- Students will identify and utilize community resources.
- Students will demonstrate a working knowledge of world, national, state and local history and geography.
- Students will show interest in daily events occurring locally, nationally and globally.

SPANISH SCHOOL WIDE GOALS

(from the National Standards for Foreign Language Learning)

- Students will engage in conversations, provide and obtain information, express feelings and emotions, and exchange opinions.
- Students will understand and interpret written and spoken language on a variety of topics.
- Students will present information, concepts, and ideas to an audience of listeners or readers on a variety of topics.
- Students will demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between the practices and perspectives of the culture studied.
- Students will demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between the products and perspectives of the culture studied.
- Students will reinforce and further their knowledge of other disciplines through the foreign language.
- Students will acquire information and recognize the distinctive viewpoints that are only available through the foreign language and its culture.
- Students will demonstrate understanding of the nature of language through comparison of the language studied and their own.
- Students will demonstrate understanding of the concept of culture through comparisons of the cultures studied and their own.
- Students will use the language both within and beyond the school setting.
- Students will show evidence of becoming life-long learners by using the language for personal enjoyment and enrichment.

LEARNING CONSULTANT

The Learning Consultant is responsible for monitoring students with learning disabilities, language disorders, Attention Deficit Disorder, and other medical conditions in accordance with the Archdiocese and Special School District.

It is essential for the Learning Consultant to be responsible for:

- Reviewing diagnostic and evaluation reports
- Developing student profiles from service plans and modifying them as necessary
- Meeting with teachers, parents/guardians, and students to review and explain profiles and service plans, and to recommend specific instructional and learning strategies
- Monitoring teacher's implementation of strategies
- Providing information to teachers, parents/guardians, administrators and students in related areas
- Serving as an advocate for students and parents/guardians
- Educating students and parents/guardians to advocate for themselves
- Maintaining regular communication with tutors and other specialists who work with students outside the classroom setting
- Attending review meetings held by agencies (Archdiocesan Special Education Department, Special School District, etc.)
- Networking services within the community
- Reviewing diagnostic evaluation of incoming students
- Reviewing high school curriculum for all transferring students with special needs
- Screening referred students for the presence of a learning disability and notifying the parents/guardians
- Coordinating the completion of parents/guardians initiated referral packets and forwarding the packets to the appropriate agencies
- Organizing standardized testing (ITBS/CogAt) for students with special needs and arranging for accommodation in the administration of these tests

The Learning Consultant meets with classroom teachers to discuss and analyze the learning profiles of their students with special needs. At this time, they explore learning strategies, modifications, and accommodations that hold promise for facilitating the student's success.

Some methods for facilitating this communication include:

- Meeting periodically before and after school
- Meeting during preparation and planning time
- Teachers providing the Learning Consultant with test copies and study guides
- Teachers providing the Learning Consultant with work samples, progress reports, and weekly reports
- Assessing instructional strategies periodically
- Evaluating students who are experiencing difficulty prior to scheduling a parent/guardian conference or initiating contact
- Referring students who are experiencing difficulties related to or affecting learning but who have not been previously identified

The Learning Consultant should be present at the initial parent/guardian meeting of the school year and should be available to answer questions. The Consultant should meet with parents/guardians of students with identified special needs to clarify how services will be provided. Parents/guardians should also be informed of relevant community resources.

LIBRARY MEDIA PROGRAM

Educational experiences gained through the school library media program will assure that students know and can demonstrate how to:

- Select an essential research question or topic using given information and narrow topics as necessary.
- Use alphabetical order in reference and search sources (i.e. dictionary, encyclopedia, indexes, catalog).
- Search for materials by author, title, subject, or keyword, and search catalogs (online or print) with minimal assistance.
- Independently select resources (print, non-print, electronic) that are appropriate to topic.
- Follow a research plan established by librarian or teacher.
- Use search tools (indexes, main menus, keywords), parts of a book (table of contents, glossaries, bibliography) and apply Boolean logic for database searches.
- Demonstrate an ability to synthesize retrieved material into a meaningful product.
- Analyze research process after completion of an assignment and adjust search strategies.
- Prepare bibliography, citing sources according to established methods.



ART
Sixth Grade

Goals:

1. Students will use a variety of processes to create 2-D and 3-D artworks that communicate ideas.
2. Students will create art using symbols and themes from select countries and cultures.
3. Students will learn about major historical works of art from select time periods.
4. Students will identify and apply the elements of art and the principles of design when creating art.
5. Students will learn there are a variety of art related career opportunities.
6. Students will know how to compare and contrast different artist's styles.
7. Students will use the correct art vocabulary and terminology that is appropriate for this grade level.

Content: Knowledge/Skills/Values

1. Use art materials that are appropriate for this grade level correctly.
2. Understand what representational art is.
3. Create values, tints, and shades of colors.
4. Solve artistic problems in their plan for a work of art.
5. Understand and use basic color theory when producing artwork.
6. Describe how repeated elements of art can create unity in the artwork.
7. Develop a stronger use of perspective.
8. Learn traditional clay building techniques.
9. Learn how to create forms for paper mache.
10. Know one point perspective.

COMPUTER Grade Six

GOALS:

1. Identify major parts of a computer.
2. Learn that wires go from mouse, keyboard, monitor, printer to hard drive and then to power source; mouse pad necessary to use mouse correctly.
3. Become knowledgeable about computer care.
4. Learn computer skills to reinforce sixth grade curriculum.

CONTENT TOPICS:

- Keyboard skills—Home keys
- Computer terminology
- Care and use of floppy disks. CDs or flash drives.
- Dictionaries/Library Media
- Drawings
- Stories, poems and illustrations
- Spreadsheet projects
- Word processing worksheets
- Letters
- Calendar
- Sixth grade curriculum
- PowerPoint projects
- Digital Photography

RESOURCES:

Computer lab
Classroom computers
Windows 2000
Various software
Digital cameras/printers

HOME ACTIVITIES:

Ask your children to tell you (maybe teach you) what they learned in computer class.

Encourage your children to follow computer care guidelines: keep computer area in order; keep magnetic sources, food, and drink (etc.) away from computer.

Explain the difference between educational software and games that are made for computers.

Encourage your children to use a draw or paint program and save their work on their own floppy disks, CDs or flash drives.

Teach your children the importance of saving work on a floppy disk, CDs or flash drives in case the computer crashes.

Make it possible for your children to practice keyboard skills at home if they want to.

See if your children would be interested in taking a computer class during the summer.

Make sure that your computer meets “system requirements” before you purchase new software.

Ask your friends what software and web sites that they have found helpful to their children.

LANGUAGE ARTS
Sixth Grade

GOALS:

1. The student will write to communicate effectively with various audiences and for a variety of purposes
2. Students will participate in the 5 step writing process writing
3. Students will demonstrate the ability to speak and write clearly in a variety of settings.
4. Students will use critical thinking and listening skills in class discussions and when working on projects.
5. Student will imitate teachers' models of note taking and identifying important information.
6. Students will identify and show an appreciation for genres of literature and different types of reading materials for information and pleasure.
7. Students will use technology, reference materials, and other resources when working on class projects.
8. Students demonstrate proficiency in reading orally and silently.

Reading Skills:

- Determine author's purpose in a piece of writing (persuade, inform, entertain).
- Explain the author's message using support from the text or by making inferences.
- Discuss how the genre supports the author's communication of the message.
- Identify story elements
 - Plot
 - Setting
 - Characters
 - Climax
 - Conflict
 - Resolution
 - Point of view
- Construct written or oral responses that include specific textual references. For example:
 - sequence events
 - infer author's purpose
 - explain figurative language
 - explain vocabulary in context
 - find specific references in text to support an argument.
- Identify the signal words that indicate cause/effect, compare/contrast, and problem-solution.
- Analyze and evaluate the characteristics of different text structures including cause/effect, compare/contrast, and problem-solution.
- Compare information across multiple texts.
- Read orally with expression and fluency from a sixth grade level reading passage

Writing

- Students will recognize various forms of writing serve different purposes.
- Identify examples of onomatopoeia, alliteration, simile, metaphor, and personification in text.
- Apply the use of onomatopoeia, alliteration, simile, metaphor, and personification in a piece of writing.
- Research done in conjunction with Social Studies or Science
- Students will write a personal narrative using the writing process and the most up-to-date technology.
- Students will write a character analysis paragraph using the writing process and the most up-to-date technology.
- Students will conduct and write a multi-paragraph interview using the writing process and the most up-to-date technology.
- Students will write reading responses following a given format
- Students will write a personal persuasive paragraph/multi-paragraph paper using the writing process and the most up-to-date technology

English

- Sentence and paragraph formation
- Parts of Speech
- Antonyms/Synonyms
- Punctuation/Capitalization
- Diagramming

RESOURCES:

Hatchet

Island of the Blue Dolphins

Elijah of Buxton

The Giver

The Tales of King Arthur

Textbooks (writing, grammar,vocabulary)

Electronic Spell Checks

Dictionaries

Thesaurus

Library Literature Sets

Video and Audio Tapes

Rhyming Dictionaries

Encyclopedias

Internet

HOME ACTIVITIES:

Suggested Language Arts Activities for Home

Read nightly for at least 30 minutes as a family.

Play Vocabulary/Spelling games.

Keep a personal journal or diary

Join the school Speech Team

Read several Mark Twain award-winning/nominated novels.

Attend a live theatre production.

Attend the Storytelling Festival.

Encourage your student to write various forms at home, i.e. journals, letters, etc...

Explore a variety of your favorite poems/poetry styles/authors with your child.

Correct your child when his/her spoken language isn't correct and ask them to repeat it properly.

Use the Internet to explore time periods and settings of novels read in class.

Listen to books on tape

Read the newspaper

Buy a subscription to a magazine

Go to the public library once a month

Write or say your own blessing at dinner



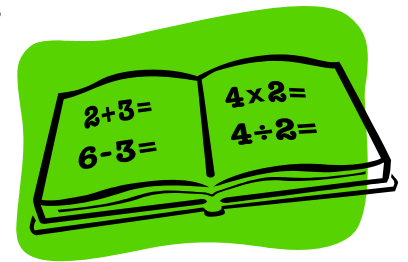
MATH Sixth Grade

GOALS:

1. Students will apply knowledge of numbers and operations to successfully solve problems.
2. Students will use models to transfer math concepts to concrete math problem solving situations.
3. Students will identify two dimensional objects.
4. Students will demonstrate and apply knowledge of standard and metric measurement.
5. Students will show evidence of understanding probability concepts.
6. Students will collect, organize, and interpret data in various types of graphs.
7. Students will demonstrate the ability to solve problems using various methods and adapt the strategies to new situations.
8. Students will accept and show appreciation for differences in strategies in problem solving.
9. Students will recognize mathematical progression of skills.

CONTENT TOPICS:

- Problem solving
- Place value systems and operations
- Addition, subtraction, multiplication and division of decimals
- Addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division of fractions
- Applications of decimals and percents
- Statistics and graphs
- Fractions, ratios, and proportions
- Geometry (patterns and measurement)
- Integers and the coordinate plane
- Algebra: equations and probability



RESOURCES:

Textbook: Math Course 1, McDougall Littell, publisher (student text book and workbook; teacher manual, assessment tools and resources)

Accelerated Math Program: Renaissance Learning Software

Calculators

Fraction pieces

Graph paper

Geometric pieces

Standard and metric rulers

Protractor

Compass

HOME ACTIVITIES:

Use catalogs to calculate or estimate purchase subtotals, figure taxes, totals, and change.

Play card games requiring the use of logic.

While driving on a trip, figure distance and time lapsed, and miles per gallon.

Play challenging computer games.

While shopping at restaurants; compute tip, taxes or discounts.

MUSIC

Sixth Grade

GOALS:

1. Students will use their voices to sing God's praises.
2. Students will value and respect their own musical efforts and those of others. They will appreciate various types of music and will conduct themselves well as performers and as audience members.
3. Students will read music notation and will exercise musical creativity by composing short pieces, writing lyrics, and improvising melodies and accompaniments.
4. Students will develop skills in playing pitched and un pitched rhythm instruments, recorders, and tone chimes.
5. Students will identify by sight and sound the various families of instruments (string, woodwind, brass and percussion).
6. Students will listen to music with focused attention, and will identify dynamic levels, tempos, high and low pitches, and a melody line; they will use appropriate music vocabulary to describe music.
7. Students will research the lives, times, and contributions of various composers and the history of opera and related subjects.
8. Students will understand music relative to its historical and cultural significance, and will understand the relationships between music and the other arts.

CONTENT TOPICS:

- Develop musical sense and sensitivity.
- Experience singing in tune.
- Increase awareness of steady beat.
- Acquire skills to sight-read rhythmic patterns.
- Understand correct phrasing from notation.
- Determine form from notation and listening.
- Appreciate differences in timbre of various voice types.
- Appreciate differences in timbre of specific instruments.
- Become familiar with how choice of instruments and elements (rhythm, dynamics, tempo, etc.) can affect music.
- Understand relationship of words and mood to performance style.
- Appreciate religious, historical, and cultural aspects of music.
- Gain increased appreciation for music and processes involved.

RESOURCES:

Steinway grand piano
Electronic keyboard
Tone chimes, resonator bells
Pitched and un-pitched percussion instruments
Hymnals
Music textbooks
Sacred and secular songbooks
Octavos/anthems
Rhythm practice books
Metronome

Music K-8 magazine
Encyclopedias
Reference books
Music-related storybooks
Computer
Overhead projector and screen
Television, VCR, CD/cassette/record players/DVD players
Compact discs, cassettes, LP records, videos
Globe
Easel
Music-related games

HOME ACTIVITIES:

Ask your child to write a review of a musical performance that you have attended or viewed.

Examples can be found in the newspaper.

Attend performances of popular groups in which your child shows an interest.

Read and talk about music reviews in newspapers.

Listen to classical music radio programs produced especially for children.

Express high, but realistic, expectations.

Make flash cards for material being covered in Music class.

Establish a routine for homework.

Set an example by singing at church.

Ask your child what he/she did in Music class this week.

Talk about music used at church, weddings, sporting events.

Participate in recitals for relatives, friends, and neighbors.

Attend recitals of relatives, friends, and neighbors.

Listen to a variety of music at home and in the car.

Attend recitals of relatives, friends, and neighbors.

Listen to a variety of music at home and in the car.

Check out compact discs and videos (even those you may not prefer) from the public library.

Listen to a particular piece of music and talk about the reasons you and your child may like or dislike it.

Attend music performances at grade schools, high schools, colleges/universities, and municipalities.

Attend performances by community bands, choruses, and orchestras, the St. Louis Philharmonic Orchestra, the Saint Louis Symphony Youth Orchestra, the Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra, the Fox, and the Muni. Many performances are free or are very inexpensive.

Talk about music used at church, weddings, sporting events.

Participate in recitals for relatives, friends, and neighbors.



OUTDOOR EDUCATION Sixth Grade

GOALS:

1. Students will develop a sense of Christian community.
2. Students will feel acceptance and love as whole persons.
3. Students will deepen their faith in God.
4. Students will show appreciation for God's creation.
5. Students will learn to appreciate the talents of themselves and their classmates and see how, in working together, challenges may be overcome.

CONTENT TOPICS:

Shared experiences as they relate to:

- Ecological Exploration
- Adventure Courses
- Archery
- Horseback riding
- New games
- Social Studies
- Math
- Bridges
- Science
- Art and Humanities
- Physical Education
- Night Hike
- Pioneer Activity
- Campfire/Hayride
- Predator/Prey
- Dream Catchers
- Lodging and Meals



PHYSICAL EDUCATION
Sixth Grade

GOALS:

1. Students will safely and skillfully use a variety of equipment
2. Students will exhibit the desire to explore space through controlled movement.
3. Students will participate in sport lead up activities and skill development games for learning, exercising, and enjoyment
4. Students will develop an understanding of fitness and healthy living.
5. Students will begin to form strategies and be able to trouble shoot problems during skill development.
6. Students will demonstrate respect, positive sportsmanship, and always give their best effort.

CONTENT TOPICS:

- Practice Christ-like behavior in class and during athletic competition
- Demonstrate movement concepts and principles for the learning and development of motor skills
- Develop a progression from simple to complex while learning skills
- Develop and practice aspects of fitness

RESOURCES

Balls	Carpet squares	Hoops	Beanbags	Parachute
Jump ropes	Tumbling mats	Net	Bats	Scoters
Frisbees	Cones	Goals	Scoops	Paddles
Music				



RELIGION
Sixth Grade

GOALS:

1. Students will demonstrate by word and action a commitment to living the Gospel values.
2. Students will apply knowledge of Catholic dogma, scripture, Church history, and tradition to their daily experience.
3. Students will lead a sacramental life.
4. Students will experience planning and participation in liturgies.
5. Students will join in the mission spirit of the Church.



CONTENT TOPICS: Old Testament

- Unit I Forming the Covenant
- Unit II Building the Covenant Nation
- Unit III Redefining the Covenant People
- Unit IV The Covenant Fulfilled in Jesus

*Each Unit contains:

- Faith statements for each chapter
- Catechism of the Catholic Church
- Scripture and the Rites of the Church
- Saints and Catholic Profiles: Feasts and Devotions

RESOURCES:

Textbook: Sadlier's We Believe

The We Believe assessment book

The We Believe review and resource book

Music for the We Believe series

In-class resource library that includes books about saints, activities, Gospel plays, and Bible resources

Bibles

Video library

Lectionary

Family Life Textbook: Benziger

Maps

Safe Touch Program

HOME ACTIVITIES:

“Sharing Faith with My Family”: A take home page from We Believe

Take children to Mass

Discuss weekend liturgy

Ask about and discuss what is being taught in Religion

Encourage personal prayer

Monitor television/movie choices

Use television and/or current events as a discussion starter

Pray before meals as a family

Take home magazines from Safe Touch Program: “Stop the Hurting” and “Peer Pressure”

SCIENCE Sixth Grade

GOALS:

1. Students will use the scientific method to research and investigate in a clear and concise format.
2. Students will be able to explore physical, life, and earth sciences and connect them with related social and technological themes.
3. Students will be able to investigate how living things interact with their environment and each other.
4. Students will discover that organisms carry out life processes in order to survive.
5. Use critical thinking skills to review data from an experiment, summarize data, and form logical arguments about the cause-and-effect relationships in experiments.
6. Remain open to and acknowledge different ideas and explanations, accept the skepticism of others, and consider alternative explanations.

CONTENT TOPICS:

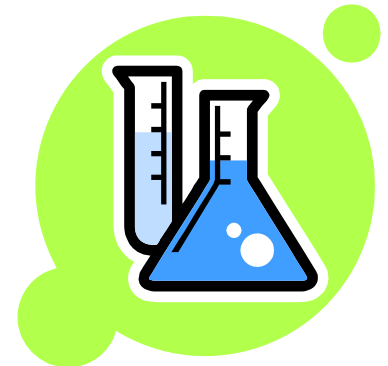
- Life Science
 - a. Animals
 - b. Environmental Science
- Earth Science
 - a. Weather & Climate
 - b. Earth's Waters
- Physical Science
 - a. Chemical Building Blocks

RESOURCES:

Prentice-Hall Science Explorer Textbooks
Guided Reading and Study Workbook
Teacher Resources from the community
Science Equipment for Hands-on Activities
Internet, Guest Speakers, field trips, videos

HOME ACTIVITIES:

Visit the Saint Louis Science Center, the Saint Louis Zoo, the Missouri Botanical gardens, Recycle cans, paper, etc.
Appreciate nature by joining a nature club
Plant a flower and vegetable garden
Take walks in the woods
Join Stream Team
Adopt an animal or become a Zoo Member
Try to live "Green"
Watch documentaries about earth
Subscribe to a science magazine for kids



SOCIAL STUDIES Sixth Grade

GOALS:

1. Students will demonstrate their understanding and appreciation of the economic, cultural, political and ecological connections with the global community.
2. Students will apply their responsibilities of citizenship in a democracy.
3. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the five themes of geography.
4. Students will have a working knowledge of world history and geography.

CONTENT TOPICS:

- Five Themes of Geography
- Geography concepts
- Global Communities - Eastern hemisphere (Western optional) ancient civilization to present, including:
 - a. history
 - b. geography
 - c. culture
 - d. major religions
 - e. contributions
- Current Events

RESOURCES:

Textbook: Our World (student textbook, teacher manuals, study guides, tests),
MacMillan/McGraw-Hill, publisher
World Book encyclopedias
Classroom library of related books
Maps
Globes
Historical Videos
Posters
Computer

HOME ACTIVITIES:

Follow an important current event together by reading or watching information about it and discussing it together.

Find out about what your child is studying and discuss any personal or family connections to the topic.

Visit the Art Museum or Forest Park for regular and special exhibits related to the areas of the world and periods of time studied in Social Studies.

Take advantage of the many cultural/ethnic fairs that are held in the area throughout the year.



SPANISH
Sixth Grade

GOALS:

1. Students will engage in conversations, provide and obtain information, express feelings and emotions, and exchange opinions.
2. Students will understand and interpret written and spoken language on a variety of topics.
3. Students will present information, concepts, and ideas to an audience of listeners or readers on a variety of topics.
4. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between the practices and perspectives of the culture studied.
5. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between the products and perspectives of the culture studied.
6. Students will reinforce and further their knowledge of other disciplines through the foreign language.
7. Students will acquire information and recognize the distinctive viewpoints that are only available through the foreign language and its culture.
8. Students will demonstrate understanding of the nature of language through comparison of the language studied and their own.
9. Students will demonstrate understanding of the concept of culture through comparisons of the cultures studied and their own.
10. Students will use the language both within and beyond the school setting.
11. Students will show evidence of becoming life-long learners by using the language for personal enjoyment and enrichment.

CONTENT TOPICS:

- Alphabet
- Where are you from?
- Family words
- Counting up to the millions
- Calendar words
- Seasons and weather
- Sports
- Telling time
- Question words
- Directions
- Traditional prayers
- Songs and games
- Holidays and celebrations

RESOURCES:

Rock 'N Learn Spanish, Volume 2

Storybooks

Maps, globe

Spanish/English dictionary

Games
Flashcards
Transparencies and overhead projector
Travel brochures
Posters, photographs
Television, VCR
Videos
CD/cassette player
Compact discs, audiotapes
Computer lab
Pinatas, sombreros, other Mexican souvenirs

HOME ACTIVITIES:

Ask your child to teach you prayers in Spanish to say together.
Attend the St. Joseph Spanish Parish Mass
Make flashcards together of vocabulary your child has learned in class and practice with him/her.
Go to Mexican restaurants for a meal; prepare one at home.
Visit the Hispanic festival held in August at Jefferson Barracks Park.
Visit U.S. cities/states/countries where Spanish is spoken.
Read articles about culture and current events in Spanish speaking countries in magazines and newspapers.
Watch a Spanish cable channel or listen to a Spanish radio station.
Play scrabble using Spanish words.
Play “I Spy” (Veó algo) game with Spanish words for colors, objects, etc.
Check the “get out” section of the St. Louis Post Dispatch for multicultural Events and fairs to enjoy during the year.
Explore foreign language and cultural websites on the Internet.
Use Public Library resources, rent, or buy some CD Roms (e.g. “Language Starter”, “My First 1000 words in Spanish”) for extra practice.
Write to a pen pal in a Spanish-speaking country.

