

James H. Vernon School

2023-2024

Curriculum Guide

Grade

6

Empowering ALL Students to Achieve Excellence

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS / READING

English Language Arts is aligned with the New York State Next Generation Learning Standards and Teachers College, Columbia University's philosophy. Students practice reading critically and writing purposefully.

READING

With a focus on fluency, accuracy, and comprehension, students read independently, in partnerships, and in book clubs. Units of study include but are not limited to:

- Character Analysis and Interpretation
- Non-Fiction: Complex Texts & Informative Research
- Book Clubs: Non-fiction and Fantasy

The sixth-grade ELA curriculum and resources serve students of various reading levels and interests with a middle-level approach to literacy building. We invite our families to be partners in their child's education and engage in ongoing discussions around the work they are doing and the books they are reading to encourage healthy reading habits and good book choices.



WRITING

With a focus on process writing, students practice developing ideas, drafting, revising, and editing. Units of study include but are not limited to:

- Literary Essay
- Research-Based Informational Writing
- Writing About Reading
- Graphic Story Writing

In addition, students are prepared for the New York State English Language Arts Assessment. Students also create and present multimedia presentations.

MATHEMATICS

The sixth grade mathematics curriculum is aligned with the New York State Next Generation Learning Standards and is designed for students to expand their number sense, computational skills, and develop their algebraic thinking skills.

Topics sixth graders study include:



- Ratios and Proportional Relationships
- Integers and the Number System
- Expressions, Equations, and Inequalities
- Fractions, Ratios, and Proportions
- Geometry
- Statistics and Probability

In addition, students are prepared for the New York State Mathematics Assessment.

SCIENCE

Students will apply scientific and engineering practices to explore and explain scientific phenomena. Throughout the year, students will develop an understanding of and make connections between the following core disciplinary ideas:



- Motion and Stability: Forces and Interactions
- Weather and Climate
- Matter and Its Interactions
- Waves and Their Applications
- Energy

SOCIAL STUDIES



The social studies curriculum focuses on the geography and history of the Eastern Hemisphere, including the development of cultures, civilizations, and empires; interactions between societies; and the comparison of trends in government and economics. Skills will be developed through map reading, DBQ's, and political cartoon analysis.

Units of study include:

- Mesopotamia and the Fertile Crescent
- Ancient Civilizations including Israel, Egypt, China, and Greece
- Map Skills
- Current Events

WORLD LANGUAGES

The World Language Exploratory program (WLEX) aims to introduce students to language learning, build awareness and appreciation of other cultures, develop an appreciation for the value of learning another language, and increase motivation for future language study.



WLEX construction is focused on basic communication in a world language through visuals, manipulatives, realia, songs, rhymes, games, role-playing, and other age-appropriate physical activities.

ALL students will be exposed to one of three languages (French, Mandarin, and Spanish) for 45 minutes daily for 12 weeks. This approach helps students decide which language to study in grade 7.

ART

Students demonstrate their creativity in a variety of ways and develop artistic skills through:



- Creating visual art using a variety of materials and resources
- Practicing techniques such as color mixing to create abstract art
- Responding critically to artists and their works
- Studying famous artists and artworks as mentors and inspiration for original pieces

MUSIC

Students develop musical skills and appreciation of music through:



- Integration of music into subject area curriculum
- Classroom instrument instruction and vocal instruction focusing on creating, performing, and responding in a music community setting
- Music history

LIBRARY MEDIA

Designed to encourage students' curiosity, the library program equips students with the skills they need to explore the world through literature and research.



- Students learn to navigate the library and use its resources
- Students learn to locate and critique sources of information
- Students learn to create multimedia presentations

TECHNOLOGY

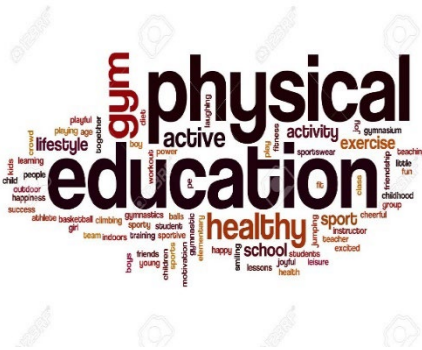
Students learn how to use technology productively and safely. Throughout the curriculum, students build an understanding of the essential features of digital technologies, why and how they work, and how to communicate and create using those technologies:

Technology & Learning

- Google Suite and Office 365 Tools
- Digital Citizenship and Literacy
- Computational Thinking (Robotics and Coding)
- Keyboarding
- Cyber Security

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Team building and personal growth form the foundation of the P.E. program. Students in the sixth grade have lockers and change clothes. Activities include:



- Fitness
- Track and Field and Team Sports
- Circus Arts
- Project Adventure

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James H. Vernon Administration

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Theodore Roosevelt Administration

Devra Lee Small, Principal



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