

LSU Laboratory School

Sixth Grade

Sixth graders are entering the first year of the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme (MYP). They will be introduced to the five *Areas of Interaction*, which are incorporated and intertwined throughout the sixth grade curriculum. When students enter the sixth grade, they will encounter a dedicated teaching staff that will work together to transition students smoothly into middle school and the Middle Years Programme.

As 6th graders, students can expect many opportunities to demonstrate how they are growing and learning. The grading scale is as follows: A=90-100; B=80-89; C=70-79; D=60-69; F=below 60. Tests and major projects are always announced several days in advance. Other assignments, such as homework, lab reports, daily geographies, reader response logs, journaling, and practice problems, are due as they are assigned. Students are responsible for writing these dates in their agendas, which are provided during prep day. It is critical that assignments are in class on due dates as they are often the focus of the lesson. In addition, teachers expect students to assume the responsibility for homework. Specific guidelines will be provided by teachers in their individual classes. Students can expect to spend 15-20 minutes of homework each night per subject.

Courses

FOREIGN LANGUAGE: Spanish or French

The sixth grade foreign language courses are designed to permit the use of language to communicate. Strategies to help students will be presented throughout these courses and students will be encouraged to use them. These strategies will help them in their understanding and verbal production of the language.

MATH: Math 6 or Pre-Algebra

Math 6: This is the first of three courses designed for middle school students. It is an integrated approach to the skills and concepts needed for success in subsequent math courses. Units will include Fractions, Geometry, Data, Probability, Measurement, and Algebra. In addition, basic skills that include adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing whole numbers and decimals will be taught throughout the year.

Pre-Algebra: This course is designed for middle school students to prepare them for Algebra I. It is an integrated approach to the skills and concepts needed for success in subsequent math courses. Basic skills that include adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing whole numbers, decimals and fractions, will be taught

throughout the year. In addition Number Sense, the mental search for alternative and easy ways of dealing with numbers, will be a key component of Pre-Algebra.

READING WRITING WORKSHOP:

RWW is designed to produce creative, skillful, and efficient readers and writers who work closely with one another in our learning community. Students are immersed in reading and responding and in the writing process, and they are provided frequent opportunities to read a variety of works, to write for a variety of purposes and audiences, and to reflect on what they both read and write. In addition to assigned readings, such as *Seedfolks* by Paul Fleischman and *The Watsons Go to Birmingham* by Christopher Paul Curtis, and assigned writings, such as memoirs, character sketches, and a research report, independently chosen reading selections and writing topics and genres insure that each student is working at his or her own level and speed. Students also build skills in other forms of communication, including speaking and listening. Students are assessed in a variety of ways, including reader response logs, various writings, projects, student/teacher conferences, and homework.

SCIENCE: Physical Science

Sixth grade science concentrates on the area of Physical Science. Science process and inquiry skills are taught through units that include Characteristics of Matter, Chemistry, Forces and Motion, Properties of Energy, and Work, Power and Efficiency. Evaluation and assessment include but are not limited to, daily journal entries, formal lab reports, projects, quizzes, and chapter tests.

SOCIAL STUDIES: Ancient History

Social Studies-6 is designed to have students understand the contributions of former civilizations onto the modern world. Students will be expected to see themes emerging, such as the development of religion, art and government, in each of the ancient civilizations we study. Through using tools like primary documents, role-play and hands-on activities, we will learn to view history through the perspectives of those who lived it. Other skills such as reading maps, globes, charts, timelines, graphs, etc. will be utilized. Assessments will consist of daily geography checks, tests, quizzes, homework, class work, projects, and presentations.