



Sixth Grade Overview

Covenant Christian School

Sixth Grade at Covenant Christian School is a capstone year. It is the culmination of the skills and knowledge students have acquired during their elementary experience, while preparing for the future. Over the course of the year, sixth graders are engaged in experiential approaches to learning, both in and out of the traditional classroom. The curriculum comes together in a way that helps students see how God's world works together, not in separate categories. Differentiated experiences provide students with a deeper understanding of the material, build excitement for the learning process, and confidence in their own abilities, while helping them to grow in their understanding of their gifts and interests.

Bible

Sixth Grade students are led each year through an in-depth study of the Gospel of John with Director of Student Life, Colin Ravenhill. Weekly homework from John is assigned as students are challenged to grow in their personal walk with God through an emphasis on Bible study, prayer, an appreciation of hymns, and Scripture memorization.

Chapel (Morning Gathering)

Sixth grade students join the rest of the school community for Morning Gathering three mornings each week. Students and staff come together as a whole to pray, to sing and to memorize Scripture.

Language Arts

Exposure to, the enjoyment of, and the study of great works of writing drives literature study throughout the school year. Using literature and other texts, students deepen their comprehension and writing skills. Historical fiction and biography are carefully chosen to coincide with the timeline studied in the history curriculum. Writing assignments include personal and creative narratives, opinion and research papers. Vocabulary, spelling, and grammar skills are developed through Wordly Wise (vocabulary and spelling), and Voyages in English (grammar).

Math

Covenant utilizes Saxon Math as the primary textbook, with all grades moved up one level in the curriculum (sixth grade uses seventh grade Saxon). In addition, secondary sources are used in support of Saxon. Students study a wide variety of mathematical concepts, which include algebraic expressions, geometry, ratio and proportional concepts, statistics, and probability. Sixth graders learn to write, interpret, and explain mathematical ideas and functions. New mathematical concepts are introduced through a spiral progression that builds on concepts already taught and mastered.

History

The study of history focuses primarily on events from the 1850s through the present. Covenant uses Susan Wise Bauer's *The Story of the World* as the primary text, while supplementing with

appropriate materials. History provides the backbone to our integral studies; thus, natural connections are made to other disciplines. For example, our study of the founding of St. Louis in history coincides with reading from *Tom Sawyer* and works by Laura Ingalls Wilder and other texts on westward expansion. In science, students study aquatics and learn about aquatic ecology. Using maps, timelines and oral and written narration, students connect with the stories of real people who lived and made difficult decisions that impacted history.

Science

In science, students examine the life, physical, and earth and space sciences throughout the year, using a variety of experientially-based curriculum. Students spend much of their science time in the school's outdoor classroom and in the standalone science building. Science is meant to be informative, hands-on and continually spark each student's natural curiosity. While exploring Missouri watersheds, students examine the current and past biology of this unique and diverse landscape and consider environmental issues affecting our streams. Within the physical, and earth and space sciences, students investigate astronomy and rocketry, as well as elements and compounds.

Scientific study includes data collection, which presents opportunities for students to think critically and present their understanding through written work, formal and informal presentations, and other forms of communication. Utilizing the scientific method, provides another layer of structure for which students can illustrate their scientific understanding. Most importantly, students are led to a better understanding of God's beauty and the mysterious, created order He has established. Finally, students examine ways to be good stewards of this world that God has given us.

Geography

In 6th grade, students learn political and physical geography to enrich their historical studies. Students are asked to memorize the 50 states, locate North American rivers and mountain ranges, and identify countries on several continents.

Skills

Covenant works to support the development of each student's skills including collaborative learning, creative and critical thinking, problem-solving, and communication. Each of these areas are woven into curricular and study skill applications in the classroom and throughout the school. Additionally, Covenant places an importance on caring well for one another, being good citizens, friends, and brothers and sisters in Christ.

Enrichment

At Covenant, each child is treated as a whole person, created in the image of God, with a variety of interests, gifts, and learning styles. Therefore, we make every effort to provide opportunities for students to explore their gifts or to begin recognizing them. Each week sixth grade students participate in Physical Education, Art, Drawing, Music, and library.