

## 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Course Overviews

### Language Arts

#### Reading

The curriculum includes Mosdos Press Literature for 6<sup>th</sup> grade, Pearl Edition, from ACSI Purposeful Design. The selections focus on a variety of genres and literary structures, vocabulary, language arts skills, and literary components. Students read grade-level-appropriate selections from a variety of well-known authors, including Jean George, Ogden Nash, T.S. Eliot, Jack London, William Saroyan, Leo Tolstoy, Russell Baker, E.E. Cummings, James Thurber, Aesop, and James Herriot. The literary genres include historical and realistic fiction, folktales, poetry, science fiction, fables, fairy tales, short stories, nonfiction, memoirs, biographies, and animal tales. The literary components are numerous, centering around elements of plot, characterization, setting, and figurative language.

A related component of the reading curriculum is vocabulary studies based on Greek and Latin roots and affixes from EPS entitled Vocabulary from Classical Roots for Grade 6. Students learn the classical meanings of roots and affixes from which hundreds of English words are derived, as well as the meanings of 120 selected words.

#### Language & Writing

This year students will study the eight parts of speech in some detail, with the greatest emphasis on prepositions, nouns, and verbs. The Easy Grammar curriculum also emphasizes sentence structure, including subjects, predicates, direct and indirect objects, predicate nominatives and predicate adjectives, and objects of the preposition. Grammar, capitalization, and punctuation rules and applications are also studied and reviewed throughout the year. Incremental development and continuous review are a key component of the curriculum.

Writing, though utilized and integrated throughout the other subject areas, is specifically addressed and taught as a unique subject in two primary areas. One is the Easy Writing curriculum, Level Two, for upper elementary and junior high/high school. This teaches students how to write more complex sentence structures by presenting concepts hierarchically in a step-by-step manner. Used in conjunction with the Easy Grammar text, optimum language learning and writing development can occur.

The second component of the formal writing curriculum is journal writing, which is a thrice-weekly activity intended to encourage students' writing development with emphases on curriculum

integration, creative writing, paragraph structure, narrative and expository paragraphs, and story writing.

### Spelling

This year students continue to use the ACSI Purposeful Design Spelling series which approaches spelling as a critical literacy skill that strengthens reading and writing ability. Proofreading of written passages is developed throughout the year, as well as a deeper understanding of complex sentences. Challenging spelling words are grouped by various categories, such as r-controlled vowels, within each lesson. The meanings of the spelling words are emphasized in each lesson as well.

### Math

Using the Saxon Math 76 curriculum, 6<sup>th</sup> grade students explore topics which are developed incrementally over time. One facet of a concept is taught and practiced before the next facet is introduced. This is how the Saxon Math curriculum is organized to help students achieve success in math. The major emphasis over the year is mastery of arithmetic operations in fractions, decimals, and percents, as well as the relationships between these three ways of expressing quantities. Geometry concepts, particularly polygons, perimeter, area, and volume, are also a major topic. Additionally, elements of statistics are explored, including various types of averages, quantitative and qualitative data, and appropriate graphing as a means of displaying data. As the final elementary level course, beginning algebraic concepts are introduced, such as variables, solving two-step equations, and order of operations. Highly successful students will be eligible to move on to pre-algebra in 7<sup>th</sup> grade as the precursor to Honors Algebra in 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

### Science

Students will use the Science 6 curriculum from Christian Schools International. Based on the National Science Education Standards, units of study include Scientific Investigations, the Human Immune and Nervous Systems, and the Diversity of Life, which includes a special emphasis on the following areas: classification system, vertebrate classes, invertebrates, and bacteria, fungi, and protists. Other topics include Energy, Electricity, Matter, Weather, and Flight.

### History & Geography

This year students will use the A Beka curriculum to study American history, with particular emphases on the Civil War and the Twentieth Century. During the study of the Civil War, the class

will engage in field studies of local military engagements during the Burnside Campaign, including both the Battle of New Bern and the Siege of Fort Macon. Throughout the year, the course will focus on particular Americans who have had a unique impact on the course of U.S. history, including Jonathan Edwards, George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, Harriett Tubman, George Washington Carver, Booker T. Washington, Theodore Roosevelt, and Douglas MacArthur, among others. The geography curriculum emphasizes the use and application of map skills, the unique advantages of globes, and understanding and applying geographical terms.

## Bible

Grade 6 uses the ACSI Purposeful Design curriculum for Grade 6, which surveys the New Testament. Beginning with an overview of both the Old and New Testaments, the course studies the life and teachings of Christ as presented in the Gospels. There is a particular emphasis on the gospel of John, including the Seven Signs and the I AMs. The history of the early church is covered from the book of Acts, and the epistles of Paul are considered in some detail. Scripture memorization will also be done throughout the year from each book that is studied. Students are encouraged and guided to apply the teachings of the New Testament to their own lives, both as to personal salvation and our growth in Christ.