Parent Guide to Learning in MCCSC

SIXTH GRADE

A summary of what children should know and be able to do and ways for families to increase learning at home.
Each quarter, students will learn new skills and build upon skills from earlier in the year. Below are some areas students will focus on each quarter.

**LANGUAGE ARTS**

- Use text evidence to explain and infer from a nonfiction text
- Determine how theme is shown through details
- Explain how point of view impacts a story
- Use context to clarify the meaning of words and phrases
- Use correct capitalization, punctuation, grammar, and spelling
- Summarize a nonfiction text
- Compare and contrast works of literature across genres or forms
- Analyze what a text says and infers
- Determine an author’s perspective or purposed in a text, and explain how it is conveyed in the text
- Compare and contrast more than one nonfiction source
- Determine the meaning of unknown words and phrases
- Write narrative compositions in a variety of forms using the writing process
- Identify and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text
- Determine the meaning of unknown words and phrases to analyze the meaning and tone of literary text
- Write informative compositions in a variety of forms using the writing process
- Compare and contrast how different genres approach similar themes and topics
- Demonstrate correct grammar usage including pronouns
- Write persuasive compositions in a variety of forms using the writing process

**MATH**

- Multiply at least 2 ways accurately, including the standard algorithm
- Define and use multiple variables when writing and evaluating expressions
- Apply the order of operations to solve expressions/equations
- Use reasoning involving rates and ratios to model real-world problems
- Identify and explain positive and negative numbers and their opposites
- Find and interpret the absolute value of numbers
- Use positive fractions and decimals to solve real-world problems
- Know the sum of interior angles of triangles is 180° and quadrilaterals is 360° and use the information to solve real-world problems
- Find the area of complex shapes in real-world contexts
- Find and apply the volume of a right rectangular prism with fractional edge lengths
- Solve real-world problems by graphing coordinates
- Make tables of equivalent ratios and plot on the coordinate plane
- Use variables to represent two quantities in a proportional relationship in a real-world problem
- Represent real-world problems as equations and solve
- Formulate statistical questions, and collect, organize, display, and interpret the data
- Summarize numerical data sets
- Determine mean, median, and mode of a data set
**ART**
In art class, students develop and refine artistic techniques and work, combine concepts collaboratively to generate innovative ideas for creating art, and reflect on whether personal artwork conveys the intended meaning.

**MUSIC**
In music, students will expand upon what they learned in 5th grade with singing, reading and writing music, and playing instruments. In addition, they will experience music from various historical eras, world cultures, and contemporary American culture. They will also identify and explore various careers related to music.

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION**
In PE, students demonstrate motor skills and movement patterns and concepts, exhibit respectful and responsible personal and social behavior, and learn the value of physical activity. They also achieve and maintain a health-enhancing level of physical fitness.

**SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING**
MCCSC is using the Second Step curriculum with our elementary school students. The program provides age-appropriate lessons to teach important skills, such as how to disagree respectfully, be assertive, and recognize and respond to bullying. Videos and class discussions engage students and offer strategies for solving problems, identifying hopes, and making plans.

**SCIENCE**
Students learn about science through hands-on exploration. In sixth grade, students will learn about energy, ecology, waves, studying people scientifically, and exploring space and earth.

**SOCIAL STUDIES**
In social studies, sixth graders learn about world cultures, colonial and revolutionary America, industrial expansion, and the Civil War and Reconstruction.

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*Image: A teacher and students in a library.*
SIXTH GRADE DEVELOPMENTAL MILESTONES

- Often behave best when away from home
- Love challenge of competition; prefer team sports and getting better at playing as a team
- Need adult empathy, humor, and sensitivity to help them cope with changing minds and bodies
- Moody, self-absorbed, and sensitive
- Like to challenge rules, argue, and test limits; may be cruel; sometimes physically aggressive
- Desire to test limits and rules is important developmental milestone
- Worry more about who’s “in” and who’s “out” than when they were younger
- Need lots of time to talk with peers; heavy use of cell phone and social media
- Impulsive—often talk before thinking
- Have trouble making decisions
- “Saving face” is important; not necessary for adults to “win” arguments—giving children private, physical space to think things over helps resolve problems peacefully

WAYS TO SUPPORT YOUR CHILD AT HOME

- Build a routine that allows for homework and studying time and enough sleep to help your child establish a healthy balance.

- Listen with your child to a television reporter, politician, or other speaker. Ask your child to tell you the speaker's main points. Was the speaker trying to convince the audience of something? How?

- Invite your child to participate in an adult gathering, such as a meal with friends, to practice listening skills and making conversation.

- Encourage your child to keep a journal. When your child finds a passion topic, have them write about it in a relevant way. For example, write letters to favorite authors, write letters to publications about articles or even try and submit an article to a local publication or website.

- When you encounter math in your life, show your child how you solved the relevant math equation or have him assist you in solving it. This may occur in areas such as changing the measurements in recipes, computations having to do with creating and working with a budget, figuring out distances when traveling or sales prices when shopping, or data collection or analysis.

USEFUL LINKS

Indiana Department of Education Academic Standards
https://www.doe.in.gov/standards

MCCSC Curriculum and Instruction
https://www.mccsc.edu/domain/42

MCCSC Special Education
https://www.mccsc.edu/domain/53

MCCSC High Ability
https://www.mccsc.edu/domain/62

MCCSC School Age Care
https://www.mccsc.edu/domain/64

PARENT INFORMATION

Ways to support your child at home

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