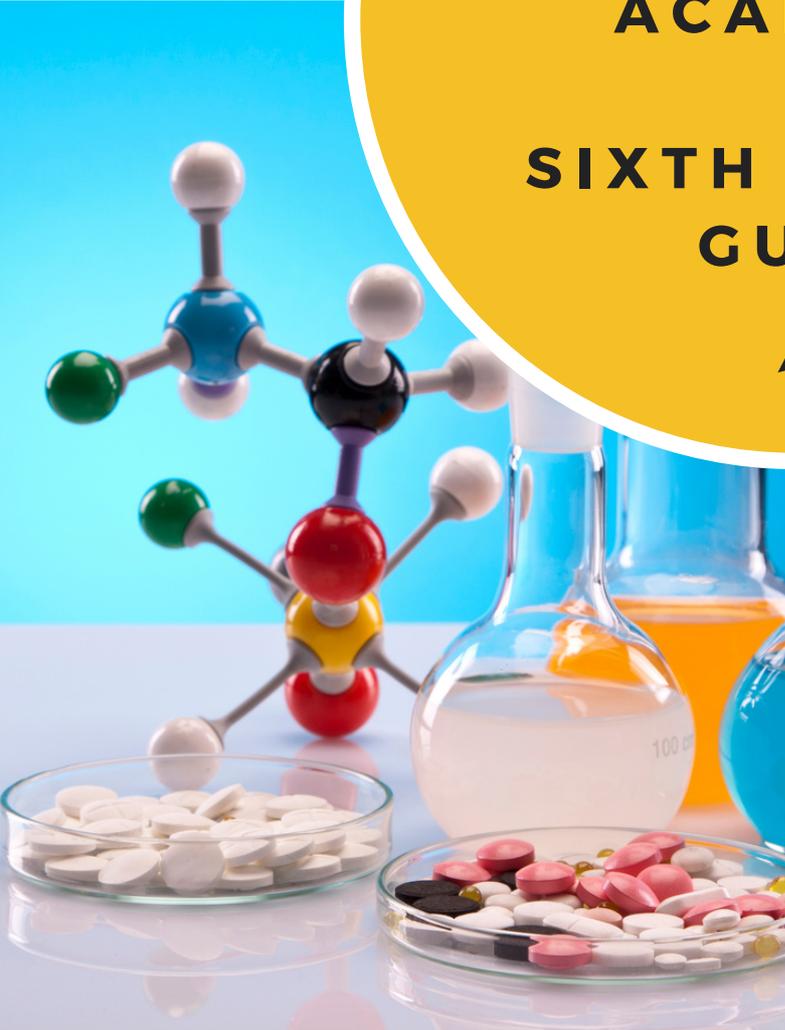




**ASANTE
PREPARATORY
ACADEMY**

**SIXTH GRADE
GUIDE**



OVERVIEW

Hello Sixth Grade Families-

This academic success guide has been created to give you an overview of the important concepts your child should be mastering by the end of the year during their time here at Asante Preparatory. It will also give you some ideas of things you can do at home to help support your child. In addition, the guide will give you an overview of the special area classes your child will participate in during their year.

At Asante, we track student progress by standard. We look for opportunities to deepen their learning in some areas and also accelerate them when appropriate. As your student is progressing through their education, our goal is all middle school students will leave Asante with at least one high school credit.

We know how important our partnership will be in helping your child be as successful as possible, so please don't ever hesitate to reach out with ideas or questions!

We hope this is the most amazing year for your child!

The Sixth Grade Team

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

In 6th grade, students apply skills they learned in earlier grades to make sense of longer, more challenging books and articles. That includes learning about how authors try to influence readers and find reasons to support their ideas. Focusing on how authors make their points and support their arguments with evidence and reasoning helps 6th grade students sharpen their ability to write and speak with more clarity and coherence. Students also will expand their vocabularies and use new words in their stories, reports, and essays. To meet these literacy goals, students must devote significant attention to precise details in their reading and when writing.

What Your Child Is Learning

- Analyzing how chapters of a book, scenes of a play, or stanzas of a poem fit into the overall structure of the piece and contribute to the development of ideas or themes
- Gaining knowledge from materials that make extensive use of elaborate diagrams and data to convey information and illustrate concepts
- Evaluating the argument and specific claims in written materials or a speech, and distinguishing claims that are supported by reasons and evidence from claims that are not
- Presenting claims and findings to others orally, sequencing ideas logically, and accentuating main ideas or themes
- Writing arguments that provide clear reasons and relevant evidence, using credible sources
- Writing brief reports that examine a topic, have a clear focus, and include relevant facts, details, and quotations
- Conducting short research projects to answer a question, drawing on several sources and sharpening the focus based on the research findings
- Reviewing and paraphrasing key ideas and multiple perspectives of a speaker
- Recognizing variations from standard English in his or her own and others' writing and speaking, and using this knowledge to improve language use
- Determining the correct meaning of a word based on the context in which it is used (e.g., the rest of the sentence or paragraph)

MATHEMATICS

The skills and understanding that your child will gain during 6th grade are among the most important foundations for college and career readiness. These include working with ratios and rates and working with variables and variable expressions — the building blocks of algebra. Many of this year's topics will remain a major emphasis throughout the middle school years and into high school.

What Your Child Is Learning

- Understanding ratios and rates, and solving problems involving proportional relationships (e.g., if it took 7 hours to mow 4 lawns, then at that rate, how many lawns could be mowed in 35 hours? At what rate were lawns being mowed?)
- Dividing fractions and solving related word problems (e.g., how wide is a rectangular strip of land with length $\frac{3}{4}$ mile and area $\frac{1}{2}$ square mile?)
- Using positive and negative numbers together to describe quantities; understanding the ordering and absolute values of positive and negative numbers
- Working with variables and expressions by generalizing the way numbers work (e.g., when adding numbers, the order doesn't matter, so $x + y = y + x$; likewise, properties of addition and multiplication can be used to rewrite $24x + 18y$ as $6(4x + 3y)$, or $y + y + y$ as $3y$)
- Understanding the process of solving simple equations
- Writing equations to solve word problems and describe relationships between quantities (e.g., the distance D traveled by a train in time T might be expressed by an equation $D = 85T$, where D is in miles and T is in hours)
- Reasoning about relationships between shapes to determine area, surface area, and volume

SOCIAL STUDIES

Sixth grade students will understand the cultural, religious, economic, and political systems of selected societies in the Eastern Hemisphere. Regions in the Eastern Hemisphere include the Middle East and North Africa, sub-Saharan Africa, Europe, Asia (east, south, and southeast), and Oceania. A course on world regions and cultures can be approached from many angles and perspectives. Areas of focus include:

- Beginnings of human society such as early hominid development, peopling of the earth, and the Neolithic Revolution
- Early river civilizations such as Mesopotamia, the Nile River Valley, the Indus River Valley, and the Yellow River Valley
- World religions including, but not limited to Buddhism, Christianity, Confucianism, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, Shintoism, Sikhism, and Taoism, (origins, founders, major tenets, practices, and sacred writings)
- Classical civilizations such as Greek, Roman, Persian, and Chinese (political, social, religious, and economic systems)
- Rise and fall of empires and the impacts to the region
- Growth of trade networks across the Eastern Hemisphere and impacts such as cultural exchange and diffusion, inventions, ideas, diseases, and languages
- Development of feudal systems in medieval Europe and Japan
- Different civilizations in the Eastern Hemisphere during the Middle Ages with regards to political, social, religious, and economic systems
- Origins, accomplishments, and geographic diffusion of the Renaissance and the Reformation
- Ancient and modern geography of the Eastern Hemisphere
- Examination of primary and secondary sources including written and oral histories, images, and artifacts
- Disciplinary skills and processes including change and continuity over time, multiple perspectives, using and understanding sources, and cause and effect

SCIENCE

By the end of sixth grade, students apply their understanding of how matter and energy relate to atoms, the solar system, and ecosystems. Students will develop an understanding of the nature of matter and the role of energy transformation. Students will also deepen their understanding of scales, patterns, and properties of matter, the solar system, and ecosystems. Student investigations focus on collecting and making sense of observational data and simple measurements using the science and engineering practices:

- ask questions and define problems,
- develop and use models
- plan and carry out investigations,
- analyze and interpret data
- use mathematics and computational thinking,
- construct explanations and design solutions
- engage in argument from evidence
- obtain, evaluate, and communicate information

SPECIAL AREA CLASSES

At Asante Preparatory Academy, students in sixth grade enroll in elective courses. Band and choir are both offered at these grades. Students also have a range of elective courses to enroll in each quarter in other areas of the arts, physical education, and iExplore courses. For a full offering of the elective courses that were offered see the 2021-2022 elective course descriptions.

WAYS TO HELP YOUR CHILD AT HOME

- 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
- Visit a library or book store together and ask the librarian or bookseller to recommend young adult books, such as *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* by Mildred D. Taylor.
- 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 learn at the library or on the Internet what life in your community was like 100 years ago. Have your child write a story, poem, or play about that time.
- Mathematics Look for "word problems" in real life. Some 6th grade examples might include:
 - Determining the average speed of a family trip, based on the distance traveled and the time taken; or estimating the time that a trip will take, given the distance and an estimate of the average speed. (Examples can also come from the news — for example, a swimmer crossing the English Channel or a space probe traveling to another planet.)
 - Finding the surface area of the walls and ceiling in a room to determine the cost of painting the room.

**THANK YOU
FOR SHARING
YOUR CHILD
WITH US!**



ASANTE
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