

The mission of St. Norbert School  
is to find God in all things through  
learning, faith, and service.



**ST. NORBERT SCHOOL**  
THINK AHEAD

1817 WALTERS AVE. ♦ NORTHBROOK, IL 60062 ♦ 847-272-0051 ♦ FAX 847-272-5274

[www.stnorbertschool.org](http://www.stnorbertschool.org)

*Rosanne Sikich, Principal*

**ST. NORBERT SCHOOL**  
THINK AHEAD

# **Sixth Grade**

## **Curriculum Guide**



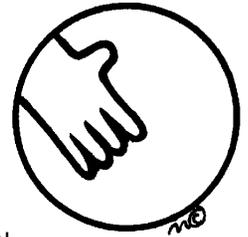
## **SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL LEARNING (S.E.L.)**

Many key sets of skills and behaviors provide a strong foundation for achieving success in school and in life. One skill is knowing emotions, how to manage them, and ways to express them constructively. Another skill is building and maintaining positive relationships with others and contributing to the well-being of a school. These skills help all students learn to recognize the feelings and perspectives of others.

### **By the end of Junior High students will be able to...**

#### **Self-Awareness and Self-Management Skills**

- recognize and accurately label emotions.
- demonstrate control of impulsive behavior.
- identify one's likes and dislikes, needs and wants, strengths, and challenges.
- identify family, peer, school, and community strengths.
- identify goals for academic success and classroom behavior.



#### **Social Awareness and Interpersonal Skills**

- recognize that others may experience situations differently than oneself.
- use listening skills to identify the feelings and perspectives of others.
- describe the ways that people are similar and different.
- describe positive qualities in others.
- identify ways to work and play well with others.
- demonstrate appropriate social and classroom behavior.
- identify problems and conflicts commonly experienced by peers.
- identify approaches to resolving conflicts constructively.

#### **Decision-Making Skills and Responsible Behavior**

- explain why unprovoked acts that hurt others are wrong.
- identify a range of decisions that students make at school.
- make positive choices when interacting with classmates.

## JUNIOR HIGH ELECTIVES

St. Norbert Junior High currently offers numerous unique fine arts and technology electives based on educational significance and student interest. Electives are geared toward engaging students in challenging ways that interest them. All students are enrolled in physical education and a foreign language class as well. Additionally, incoming 6<sup>th</sup> grade students are enrolled in Study Skills to encourage a successful transition to junior high. This class teaches students how to incorporate several organizational techniques.

### By the end of Junior High students may choose from...

#### Fine Arts Electives

- Basic Drawing
- Painting Methods
- Fashion
- Debate
- Guitar
- Hand Bell Choir
- Music Makes a Movie



#### Technology Electives

- Study Skills
- Technology Explorations
- Basic LEGO
- Green City Challenge
- LEGO Mindstorm
- Photoshop/Digital Photography
- Programming (multi-level)
- Journalism
- Film Studies



ST. NORBERT SCHOOL  
THINK AHEAD

Dear Parents,

We hope you find this Curriculum Guide helpful! The guide is meant to give you an overview of what your child will be learning at his/her grade level. This overview will assist you when having conversations about classroom work with your child's teacher and when reinforcing learning concepts at home with your child.

We invite you to contact your child's teacher with any questions throughout the year. We look forward to a successful partnership to enhance each student's knowledge.

God Bless,

St. Norbert School Staff

Curriculum guides for preschool through eighth grade are available on our website.

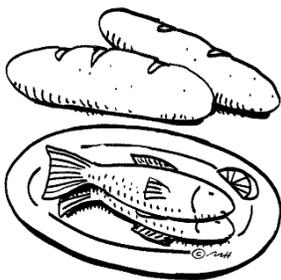
[www.stnorbertschool.org](http://www.stnorbertschool.org)

## RELIGION

Religion promotes continuing growth in religious literacy and faith practice. Our focus is on the study of the Old Testament. As the students learn about our ancestors in faith and the events that shaped their lives, parallels are drawn between those people and events and the lives of the students. The Living Stations of the Cross during Holy Week is a highlight of sixth grade Religion.

### **By the end of sixth grade students will be able to...**

- show evidence of literacy and proficiency in the catechetical message and its application to daily life.
- come to know how Jesus Christ is central to their lives.
- show evidence of moral decision-making and critical thinking.
- demonstrate understanding and application of Catholic social teaching to current societal situations.
- articulate Christian virtues as applied to personal decision-making and behaviors.
- show understanding that they are loved by God, are created for union with God, and are of inestimable value before the Creator.
- exhibit spiritual growth through prayer and a maturing understanding of Christian discipleship and stewardship.
- respect and appreciate the cultural and religious heritage of all people no matter the race, ethnicity or religious identity of the person.

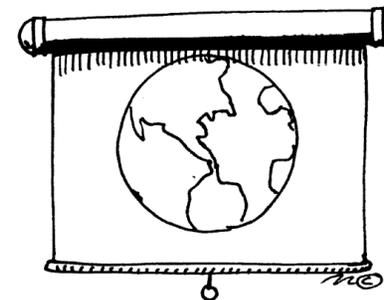


## SPANISH I

Obtaining fluency through the acquisition of vocabulary and grammar in a meaningful context is the focus of Spanish. Students learn to speak, read, write, and listen using a kinesthetic style of learning. Assessments are based on how well students can use the language rather than how well they have memorized the rules. The TPRS® method of teaching Spanish is used. This method focuses on achieving real language acquisition through the development of practical skills.

### **By the end of Spanish I students will be able to...**

- read three novellas and various short stories to learn vocabulary and grammar in context.
- practice speaking through acting out chapters in the novellas.
- develop skits to practice vocabulary and grammar that mimic real-life scenarios.
- use the eTextbook for games, videos, and assessments.
- acquire elements of the culture through the readings and on field trips.
- develop confidence in writing in Spanish through written retells of the novellas or stories.
- listen to videos and audio CD to aid in understanding native speakers.

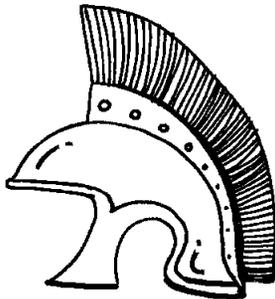


## LATIN I

Learning Latin helps students develop strong study habits, improve their knowledge of English vocabulary, and gain insight into the world of the ancient Romans. In Latin I, students learn the basics of Latin grammar: the focus will be on identifying parts of speech and core elements of a sentence. Vocabulary study emphasizes Latin roots used in English. Culture and history units center around the ancient Roman household and Greek and Roman mythology.

### By the end of Latin I students will be able to...

- read, comprehend, and interpret basic Latin sentences and texts.
- demonstrate an understanding of the practices, products, and perspectives of Roman culture.
- investigate the history and culture of Rome through primary source material (both in translation and in Latin).
- reinforce and expand their knowledge of other subject areas through the study of the Latin language and Roman history and culture.
- use their knowledge of the Latin language to improve their understanding of English.
- compare and contrast their own culture with that of the ancient Romans.



## HUMANITIES

The junior high language arts program prepares student to exceed the norm in reading, writing, and communication while enhancing syntax skills that portray sophistication in writing and speaking; these skills increase progressively each year. Humanities advances the study of literature and affect of story element; writing units focus on the independent writing and revision process.

### By the end of Humanities students will be able to...

#### **Reading Literature and Informational Text**

- cite textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.
- analyze how a particular passage or phrase fits into the overall structure of a text and contributes to the development of the theme, setting, or plot.
- compare and contrast texts in different forms or genres in terms of their approaches to similar themes and topics.
- determine a central idea of a text and how it is conveyed through details; provide a summary of the text distinct from personal opinions.
- integrate information presented in different media or formats as well as in words to develop a coherent understanding of a topic or issue.

#### **Writing**

- introduce claim(s) and organize the reasons and evidence clearly.
- develop the topic with relevant facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples.
- use a variety of transition words, phrases, and clauses to convey sequence and signal shifts from one time frame or setting to another.
- produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.
- gather information from multiple sources; assess the credibility sources; quote or paraphrase the data and provide basic bibliographic information .

#### **Speaking and Listening**

- come to discussions prepared; explicitly draw on preparation by referring to evidence on the topic, text, or issue to reflect on ideas under discussion.
- present claims and findings, sequencing ideas logically and using pertinent descriptions, facts, and details to accentuate main ideas or themes; use appropriate eye contact, adequate volume, and clear pronunciation.

## AMERICAN LITERATURE

The junior high language arts program prepares students to exceed the norm in reading, writing, and communication while enhancing syntax skills that portray sophistication in writing and speaking; skills increase progressively each year. American Literature focuses on finding theme in a variety of texts, as well as advancing the writing process by incorporating support and elaboration while also varying structure and developing individual voice.

### **By the end of American Literature students will be able to...**

#### **Reading Comprehension and Language**

- make connections from text to text, from text to self, and from text to the world.
- use a variety of strategies to comprehend, relate to, and infer meaning across literary genres.
- interpret and analyze text using story elements, point-of-view, voice, and theme.
- compare how authors express their literary devices to add meaning.
- determine inferences regarding the motives of characters and the consequences of their actions.
- interpret and analyze the author's message.
- identify the structure of the text using an outline or a graphic organizer.

#### **Writing**

- demonstrate the use of various writing genres to express purpose and ideas.
- use the writing process: prewriting, planning, writing, revision, editing, and publishing to create an organized paper.
- enhance writing by using descriptive language, varied sentence structures, transitional sentences, and transitional words and phrases.
- establish a voice and tone to clarify the writer's purpose for the audience.

#### **Listening and Speaking**

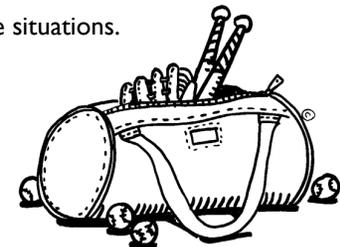
- interprets and synthesizes the words of the speaker to comprehend the main points.
- demonstrate comprehension through oral responses.
- participate thoughtfully in small and large group discussions.
- enhance projects and oral presentations through the use of technology.

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical education promotes the spirit of cooperation, leadership, and good sportsmanship. Students participate in a variety of games, team sports, and physical fitness activities. They receive instruction in rules, skills, and strategies associated with different sports as well as participate in activities involving sports and physical conditioning.

### **By the end of Junior High students will be able to...**

- demonstrate control when performing combinations and sequences of locomotor, non-locomotor and manipulative motor patterns.
- compare and contrast efficient and inefficient movement patterns.
- apply basic offensive, defensive and cooperative strategies in selected activities, games and sports.
- identify the principles of training: frequency, intensity, time and type.
- identify and participate in activities associated with the components of health-related fitness.
- apply rules and safety procedures in physical activities.
- monitor intensity of exercise through a variety of methods.
- set realistic short-term and long-term goals for a health-related fitness component.
- identify opportunities within the community for regular participation in physical activities.
- apply the principles of training to the health-related fitness goals.
- participate in establishing procedures for group physical activities.
- remain on task independent of distraction (e.g., peer pressure, environmental stressors).
- work cooperatively with others to accomplish a set goal in both competitive and non-competitive situations.



## SOCIAL STUDIES

In sixth grade Social Studies the focus is on learning about ancient cultures, including analyzing geographical reasons civilizations rose in various areas and how economies developed. The Middle Ages is also studied as well as empires in South and East Asia and in the Americas. Through the Junior Achievement program, students are introduced to concepts of global economy.

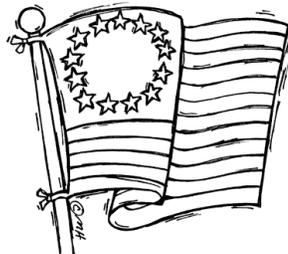
### By the end of sixth grade students will be able to...

#### History/Culture

- describe the origins and development of slavery in the United States and the early ideas of abolition.
- evaluate the economic differences in the pre-Civil War North and South.
- explain the economic impact of the Industrial Revolution on the United States.
- describe the reasons American colonists fought for independence.

#### Geography

- examine the early Spanish, Dutch, French and English colonies.
- identify how the United States has gained territory throughout its history.



#### Civics, Government, and Economics

- discuss the significance of the Declaration of Independence.
- explain the shortcomings of the Articles of Confederation.
- describe the structure and functions of the United States government and the Illinois government.

## FUNDAMENTALS OF MATH

Sixth grade math focuses on computation of whole numbers, integers, fractions and decimals, ratios and percentages, measurements, problem-solving, geometric concepts, data collection and analysis, and the estimation, approximation, prediction and rationality of outcomes. These topics are studied in a variety of ways in order to introduce, develop, and reinforce understanding.

### By the end of Fundamentals of Math students will be able to...

#### Ratios and Proportional Relationships

- understand ratio concepts to describe a ratio relationship between two quantities.
- understand the concept of unit rate.
- use ratio and ratio reasoning to solve real-world problems .

#### The Number System

- apply and extend previous understandings of multiplication and division to divide fractions by fractions.
- compute fluently with multi-digit numbers and decimals.
- find common factors and multiples to use the Distributive Property.
- apply and extend previous understandings of numbers to the system of rational (positive and negative) numbers.
- solve problems by graphing points in all four quadrants of the coordinate plane.

#### Expressions and Equations

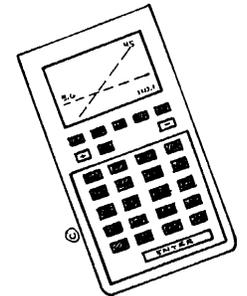
- apply and extend previous understandings of arithmetic to algebraic expressions.
- solve one-variable equations and inequalities using substitution.
- represent and analyze the relationships between dependent and independent variables using graphs and tables.

#### Geometry

- solve problems involving area, perimeter, and volume.
- graph polygons in the coordinate plane and translate or rotate locations.

#### Statistics and Probability

- develop understanding of a set of data by describing its center, spread and overall shape.
- display and summarize numerical data in plots on number lines, histograms, and box plots.



## PRE-ALGEBRA

Problem solving with rates and ratios, working with variables and variable expressions, and gaining an understanding of basic statistical analysis are key skills students will develop. The Mathematics standards for pre-algebra include important foundational skills for high school and college readiness.

### By the end of Pre-Algebra students will be able to...

#### Ratios and Proportional Relationships

- compute unit rates associated with ratios of fractions.
- describe whether two quantities are in a proportional relationship including identifying the constant of proportionality.
- use proportional relationships to solve real-world problems including markups and markdowns, percent increase and decrease.

#### The Number System

- apply properties of operations as strategies to add and subtract rational numbers.
- apply and extend previous understanding of multiplication, division, and fractions to multiply and divide rational numbers.
- solve real-world and mathematical problems using the four operations with rational numbers including those with complex fractions.

#### Expressions and Equations

- use properties of operations as strategies to add, subtract, factor, and expand linear expressions with rational coefficients.
- solve multi-step real-life and mathematical problems with positive and negative rational number in any form.
- use variables to represent quantities in real-world or mathematical problems to construct simple equations and inequalities to solve these problems.

#### Geometry

- solve problems involving scale drawings.
- know the formulas for the area and circumference of a circle.
- use knowledge of angles in a multi-step problem to write and solve equations for an unknown angle.
- solve real-life and mathematical problems involving area, surface area, and volume of two- and three-dimensional objects.

#### Statistics and Probability

- use random sampling to draw inferences about a population.
- draw informal comparative inferences about two populations.
- develop a probability model and use it to find probabilities of events.

## SCIENCE

Sixth grade science is taught utilizing hands-on laboratory experimentation and the use of the scientific method. The focus of the sixth grade curriculum is on Earth and Space Science. Students will investigate: Properties and Structure of Earth, History of Processes on Earth, Cycles and Energy in Earth Systems, Resources from Earth, Structure of the Solar System and Stars, and Evolution of the Solar System and the Universe.

### By the end of sixth grade students will be able to...

#### Scientific Practices

- apply the scientific method to investigations.
- analyze and interpret charts and other graphic information.
- use mathematical and computational thinking.
- follow basic safety procedures and identify and uses basic scientific equipment.
- plan and carry out investigations and understands the connections between science and technology.

#### Physical Science

- describe the structure of the earth.
- identify key parts of the atmosphere and hydrosphere.
- understand the causes of natural hazards and how weather impacts human beings.
- describe processes that show the interaction of earth's cycles.
- understand structures of objects in space and explain the motion of objects in the solar system.

