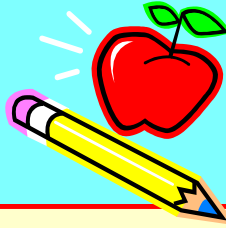




SIXTH GRADE



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Briarwood, New York

Sixth Grade Curriculum

April 2011

Sixth Grade Curriculum Newsletter

Math

The sixth graders have just finished their geometry unit, in which the students had an opportunity to complete hands on projects demonstrating their knowledge of the subject area. Currently, we are studying ratios, proportions, percents and probability. In addition, we are preparing our students for the New York State Math test through intensive test practice highlighting the skills we have learned throughout the school year.

Science

April 22nd is Earth Day. Using our knowledge of weather and water, students will explore modes of conservation and ecology. They will develop suggestions about how they can treat the earth. This background will lead them into our next unit, Population and Ecosystems.



Social Studies

Students are continuing their investigation into the development of western civilization. They are identifying development made in the past that we still use today. We will spend time in the middle ages and see how far mankind has come in the last thousand years.

Reader and Writer's Workshop

We are preparing the fifth and sixth grade for the New York State English Language Arts Exam. This year, students will most likely be asked to read for longer periods of time than ever before on the test. Students will likely be asked to read for sixty (grade 5) or eighty (grade 6) minutes, during which time they may encounter a greater variety of texts, and most likely a greater amount and variety of nonfiction. Students will have to maintain focus and use a repertoire of strategies across many texts over this time period. In addition to being asked to read for longer amounts of time, students will most likely be asked to read longer texts. It is likely texts will average about two pages for grades 3-5 and two to three pages for grade 6. Students will be asked to accumulate and synthesize information and ideas across these longer texts. Therefore we need to build their reading stamina, both in the amount of time they read and the length of texts they read.

We are also preparing our students during writing workshop for the writing section of the English Language Arts Exam. Students will have to read two texts on a topic and write an essay by using details from both stories. Students are writing essays in class during writing workshop. Writers need to learn that throughout the essay, he or she needs to cite specific evidence from the text. The general plan of this writing unit will be that students will write a new essay every other day, by writing in response to a new question.