



# SIXTH GRADE



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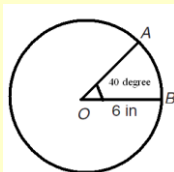
Briarwood, New York

Sixth Grade Curriculum  
March 2011

## Sixth Grade Curriculum Newsletter

### Math

Geometry is our next mathematical unit of study! It's the study of Earth's measure, and students will uncover the relationships of points, lines, angles, surfaces, and solids. Triangles, quadrilaterals, circles spin into focus – perhaps students will even celebrate Pi Day on 3.14! We find geometry in every facet of life, and the comprehension of these elements make looking around the world that much more fascinating.



### Science

March comes in like a lion, and we'll watch the weather as it roars in. Do you know the difference between weather and climate? There is a big difference, and the sixth grade will not only learn what that difference is they will learn how to investigate and explore those differences. The whipping winds of March will also be a major part of these investigations. Will March go out like a lamb? We'll read the weather and let you know!

### Social Studies

Ancient Greece is in the forefront of our exploration of ancient cultures, and it's not hard to understand why: many of the gifts of Ancient Greece are still in active use today. From drama to philosophy to democracy to structured education, the Ancient Greeks helped create the foundation of the modern Western world. With that in mind, the students will turn their minds to the events surrounding Alexander the Great who was one of the most influential conquerors of the ancient world, introducing Greeks ways across the known world.

### Reader and Writer's Workshop

Historical fiction is up to bat in sixth grade classrooms. Students are diving into different time periods, learning about various eras through the eyes of characters thrust into hot spots of history. The readers will determine how the political and social tensions of a time might affect the plot; they will come to think differently about history and reading through these often-intense stories. They will take the time and walk in the characters' shoes to fully come to understand what is going on around them, finding different perspectives, analyzing different aspects of the story and the history, and identifying layers of problems and how they are resolved or not resolved.

Taking a nod from our historical fiction reading, the sixth grade will write within an historical context on an epic scale. And we mean epic! The students will take on the task of responding to their historical time periods through poetry. Walking in the footsteps of such epics as Homer's *Odyssey*, Shakespeare's *Henry the Fifth*, Chaucer's *The Canterbury Tales*, and such great American poets as Langston Hughes and Walt Whitman, the sixth grade will express their thoughts, feelings, discoveries, and moments of their chosen time period through the wide variety of styles the art of poetry offers. They will tell tales, relate points of view, describe places, and reveal emotions through the intricate word play that demonstrates an understanding of poetry.

