

“Each child is unique and develops at their own pace, but there are predictable patterns in child and adolescent development. This guide is intended to help you identify and understand these patterns so that you can better support your child’s learning at home and in school.” (Yardsticks/Responsive Classroom, Chip Wood)



Physical Development:

- will be restless and very energetic
- will need a lot of food and physical activity and much more sleep than previously
- will demonstrate an improvement in motor skills
- girls may experience an early adolescent growth spurt and sexual maturation. Some boys begin growing taller.

Social-Emotional/Academic Development:

- needs reasonable amount of peer talk time
- heavy social media users
- can be impulsive - talking before thinking and desire to test limits
- needs adult empathy to help them cope with their changing bodies and minds
- loves the challenge of competition and prefers team sports
- inclusion/exclusion issues important
- can be moody, touchy, and self absorbed
- prefers new skills versus review
- has difficulty making decisions and becomes defensive about mistakes
- begins to be more skilled at abstract thinking and deductive thinking
- enjoys the challenge of reasonably hard work

Throughout the year your grade 6 student will experience...

Phys Ed

- Movement concepts with emphasis on self and spacial awareness
- Underhand and overhand throwing
- Playing cooperative games
- Dancing, choreographed and improvised

Health

- Understanding and developing a healthy and active self
- Knowledge about alcohol and tobacco
- Healthy decision making
- Family life and community health skills

Music

- Singing songs and playing basic instruments
- Performing songs in front of an audience

Technology

- Using academic programs, like Google Apps for Education
- Attend class in the technology lab
- Learn to write code to create a basic game

Library

- Use of the library and library resources
- Using online resources
- Concepts of digital citizenship
- Introduction to plagiarism and tools to use to avoid it

World Language

- Basic vocabulary
- Greetings
- School subjects and items
- Likes and dislikes
- Breakfast and lunch foods

Art

- Experimentation using various art media including but not limited to: clay, paint, pastel and digital platforms

Social Emotional Learning

- Participating in mindful meditation practices
- Participating in character education lessons

By the end of Grade 6, your child will know how to...

Reading

- Engage in productive and collaborative discussions
- Identify literary elements and develop logical inferences
- Conduct an analysis of characters
- Compare and contrast themes in texts
- Identify the main idea of a text
- Analyze text structure and author’s craft
- Use strategies to identify unknown words

Practice these skills at home ~

- Build reading stamina
- Foster deep conversations about reading
- Review vocabulary nightly

Writing

- Structure a writing piece based on the text type
- Support thinking with evidence
- Follow the steps of the writing process
- Evaluate writing using rubrics

Social Studies

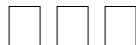
- Learn about classical civilizations (i.e., Greece, Rome, India and China), how they developed and expanded into empires with centralized governments and had commerce, a common culture, and social values.
- Learn how cultural exchange and diffusion dramatically increased, and enduring world religions emerged during the era of classical civilizations.
- Recognize that classical civilizations declined as a result of internal weaknesses and external invasions, but left lasting legacies for future civilizations.

Science

- Develop and use a model to collect evidence and explain a system, cause and effect relationship, and/or demonstrate scale, proportion and quantity.
- Construct an explanation based on evidence that predicts patterns, explains systems, discusses stability and change, energy and matter, and/or structure and function
- Analyze and interpret data to identify patterns, cause and effect relationships and/or stability and change.
- Construct and use arguments based on empirical evidence and scientific reasoning to support a claim.
- Evaluate competing design solutions using defined criteria and constraints of a problem to ensure a successful solution.
- Plan an investigation to generate and analyze evidence (through simulations, models, or long term investigations)

Math

- Problem solve using ratio concepts and ratio reasoning
- Develop understanding of statistical variability and summarize/describe distributions
- Solve algebraic equations and inequalities
- Solve multi step word problems using fractions and decimals
- Interpret rational numbers
- Reason about two and three dimensional objects



Music

- Listen to and critique a variety of musical genres
- Identify by name notes and their rhythmic values
- Identify pitches on the musical staff



Art

- Create a coil pot out of clay
- Show depth in a 2D work of art
- View and critique works of art

Spanish

- Greet others and talk about themselves, weather, activities they like and dislike
- Discuss opinions and things they need for class
- Talk about breakfast and lunch foods
- Compare and contrast traditions and items related to their culture and other Spanish speaking cultures

Practice these skills at home ~

- Write regularly on assigned or choice topics

Practice these skills at home ~

- Be civic minded, globally aware and socially responsible by:
- Observe lasting legacies of ancient civilizations
- Discussing how content in class connects the community

Practice these skills at home ~

- Ask questions and define problems
- Plan and carry out investigations/science experiments together
- Create and use models to show the results of experiments.
- Construct explanations and design solutions to problems
- Search for information on interesting topics; determine if the sources are reliable; discuss what you have found together.
- Engage in friendly debates using evidence from reliable sources.

Practice these skills at home ~

- Develop homework routine
- Determining unit rate of food items
- Measure and weigh when cooking using both measurement systems
- Measure items about your home using both measurement systems
- Determine the percent of tip and tax
- Determine the travel time of a trip using a map and scale

Practice these skills at home ~

- Listening to music of varying styles
- Perform alone and with others
- Online note reading practice at musictheory.net

Practice these skills at home ~

- Sketching still lifes, people, portraits, observational drawing

Practice these skills at home ~

- Watch videos in Spanish
- Read short stories in Spanish
- Complete practice in Duolingo.
- Practice vocabulary in quizlet

Tech Apps

- Create a basic computer game using Blockly code.
- Ethically use technology and intellectual property
- Practice good digital citizenship
- Use an Apple Computer

Phys Ed

- Effectively communicate with peers and teach
- Perform basic fundamental movement skills
- Work together collaboratively with peer

Library

- Use the library catalog to select books as well as resources for classroom projects
- Understand concepts of digital citizenship such as cyberbullying and how to ask for help/help others

Practice these skills at home ~

- Practice writing sequential directions
- Organizing Google Drive
- Use Google docs, sheets and slides

Practice these skills at home ~

- Be a healthy, life-long learner of physical activity and wellness through exercise and proper nutrition

Practice these skills at home ~

- Visit the public library to check out books and participate in programs
- Practice safe use of the internet and social media
- Complete summer reading and related assignments

Recommended Resources:

- Yardsticks, by Chip Wood
- www.responsiveclassroom.org
- www.childdevelopmentinfo.com

Please visit your child's teacher website for additional resources and information at www.ctsdnj.org