



Sixth Grade Curricular Program

Our sixth grade curriculum is a well-conceived blending of tradition and innovation. Cross-disciplinary and exploratory in nature, the program is designed to meet students at their level of cognitive development. Our humanities program is focused on the perennial truths and insights of western civilization. Our students explore the history, literature, and philosophy of the ancient Israelites, Greeks, and Romans and the rich theological and spiritual insights of Christians through the ages. In our arts program, our students come to appreciate and practice the art, music, and poetry of that western heritage.

Though the subjects of their study in these areas draw upon our rich cultural heritage, the method of instruction and the means by which our students explore this heritage embrace the technological advances of the 21st century. Our students explore and investigate this heritage under the guidance of inspiring teachers who provide them with tools and strategies for research, analysis, and presentation.

Our STEM program (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) focuses on developing core competencies and knowledge in the context of real-world applications. Problem solving begins with an understanding of and application of the scientific method, but progresses to methods of observation and data gathering and analysis that support and illuminate scientific theory. Students may track the motion of a car on an incline plane aided by radar, enter their data into a Google spreadsheet, develop a graph, apply mathematical processes to formulae, and come to a better understanding of Newtonian physics in the process. Or they might analyze the biology of and take water samples from Allens Creek in nearby Corbett's Glen Nature Park to discern humans' impact on the environment.

Throughout the program, students are expected to use state-of-the-art technologies to access relevant and accurate information, to analyze that information, and to produce presentations that demonstrate a growing awareness of and competency in the conventions of written and oral communication. This emphasis on the liberal arts prepares our students for more advanced study in 7th and 8th grade. It exceeds the standards set by the Common Core Curriculum. More importantly, it develops within our students the ability to see the interconnectedness of ideas, to apply skills creatively, and to exercise virtue and adhere to worthy values – attributes that will make them successful in academics and in life. Our goal is to transform lives and, by extension, the world.