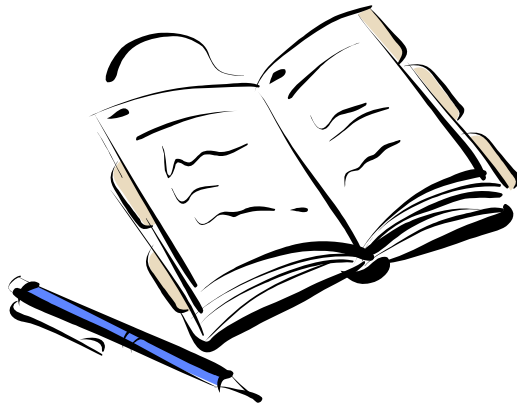


Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District

Parent Guide
to
Grade Six Curriculum



HWRSD MISSION STATEMENT

*Our mission is to be one community of learners
committed to educating productive and responsible world citizens
within a safe, healthful environment.*

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Primary Curriculum Resources: Prentice Hall Literature, Penguin Edition; Prentice Hall Writing and Grammar (2008)

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- ☆ Give oral presentations for various purposes.
- ☆ Recognize organizational structures.
- ☆ Identify and analyze main ideas, supporting ideas, theme, and supporting details.
- ☆ Identify and analyze the characteristics of various genres.
- ☆ Identify and analyze the elements of setting, characterization, and plot (including conflict).
- ☆ Write stories or scripts, poems, explanations, formal letters, summaries, and research reports.
- ☆ Revise writing to improve level of detail, precise language, and vocabulary development.
- ☆ Use knowledge of correct mechanics, correct sentence structure, and correct Standard English spelling when writing, revising, and editing.
- ☆ Organize information about a topic into a coherent essay.
- ☆ Apply steps for obtaining information from a variety of sources, organizing information, documenting sources, and presenting research.

MATHEMATICS

Primary Curriculum Resources:

Prentice Hall Mathematics Course 1, selected Connected Mathematics units, and Math's Mate

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- ☆ Apply number theory concepts to the solution of problems.
- ☆ Accurately and efficiently add, subtract, multiply, and divide whole numbers, positive decimals, fractions, and mixed numbers.
- ☆ Represent real situations and mathematical relationships with concrete models, tables, graphs, and rules in words and with symbols, e.g., input-output tables.
- ☆ Produce and interpret graphs.
- ☆ Select and use appropriate operations to solve problems.
- ☆ Add and subtract integers, with the exception of subtracting negative integers.
- ☆ Predict, describe, and perform transformations on two-dimensional shapes.
- ☆ Determine if two shapes are congruent.
- ☆ Identify, measure, describe, classify, and construct various angles, triangles and quadrilaterals.
- ☆ Solve problems involving proportional relationships and units of measurements.
- ☆ Find areas of triangles, parallelograms, and circles.
- ☆ Apply the concepts of perimeter and area to the solution of problems.
- ☆ Find volumes and surface areas of rectangular prisms.
- ☆ Describe and compare data sets.
- ☆ Construct and interpret stem-and-leaf plots, line plots and circle graphs.
- ☆ Predict the probability of outcomes of simple experiments and test the predictions.

SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING/TECHNOLOGY

Primary Curriculum Resource: Science Explorer (Prentice-Hall, 2002)

The science curriculum is designed to help students develop scientific reasoning as they investigate and solve complex real-world problems using the tools they need. Units of study are: *Living Things and Their Environment; Energy and Living Things; Weather, and The Human Body*. The science or engineering lab experience, which is part of the related arts schedule, enriches and extends science learning.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- ☆ Give examples of ways in which organisms interact and have different functions within an ecosystem.
- ☆ Explain the roles and relationships among producers, consumers, and decomposers in the process of energy transfer in a food web.
- ☆ List and describe Earth's major land, water, and ocean biomes.
- ☆ Explain the relationship among radiant energy, global atmospheric movement, and the temperature differences among water, land, and atmosphere.
- ☆ Differentiate among radiation, conduction, and convection.
- ☆ Identify the general functions of the major systems of the human body and how these systems interact with each other.
- ☆ Identify and explain the steps of the engineering design process.
- ☆ Define and differentiate among volume, density, weight, and mass.

HISTORY AND SOCIAL SCIENCE

Primary Curriculum Resources:

A Message of Ancient Days (Houghton-Mifflin); *History Alive!* (Teachers Curriculum Institute)

The history and social studies curriculum in grade six focuses upon Human Origins in Africa through the Neolithic Age, Mesopotamia, Egypt, Phoenicia, Ancient Israel, Ancient Greece, and Ancient Rome. Skills and concepts within the strands of civics, history, geography, and economics are embedded within the content of the units specified above.

MUSIC AND VISUAL ARTS

An effective arts curriculum provides a sequential program of instruction in music and visual arts for all students beginning in preschool and continuing through high school. For all children at all ability levels, the arts play a central role in human development. Cognitive, language, and social-emotional development are positively impacted by participation in the arts. As stated in the Massachusetts curriculum frameworks, the arts serve to:

- ☆ Motivate and engage children in learning.
- ☆ Stimulate memory and facilitate understanding.
- ☆ Enhance symbolic communication.
- ☆ Promote relationships.
- ☆ Provide an avenue for building competence.

Much research substantiates that good arts programs in elementary and middle schools not only build skills needed to learn math, reading, and writing, but motivate students, particularly those who are at risk of failure.

HWRSD provides the option for sixth grade students to participate in instrumental music and/or chorus in addition to the weekly music program. Typically there are two evening performances, mid-year and end-of-year, to celebrate the excellent accomplishments of the young musicians.

HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

As an integral part of the total educational process, health and physical education will create opportunities to develop a lifelong physically active lifestyle as well as respect for self and others, through a safe learning environment. Through health literacy, self-management skills (Second Step), and health promotion, comprehensive health education teaches fundamental health concepts, promotes habits and conduct that enhance health and wellness, and guides efforts to build healthy families, relationships, schools, and communities (Massachusetts Department of Education, 1999). Students experience health/physical education class twice weekly. The DARE program, a supplemental ten week experience presented by a trained DARE police officer for all HWRSD sixth graders, supports wellness goals by promoting resistance to drugs, alcohol and violence.



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