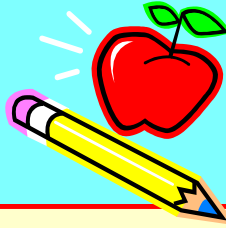




# SIXTH GRADE



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Briarwood, New York

Sixth Grade Curriculum  
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## Sixth Grade Curriculum Newsletter

### Math

The sixth grade is diving into Algebra! We're deciphering and creating our own expression and equations, following the Order of Operations, comprehending what we're being asked to solve in distinct and interesting word problems. We take this into specific addition, subtraction, multiplication and division equations, solving for variables and using established knowledge of exponents to understand and evaluate for square roots. Students will also solve and evaluate formulas based on the student's new knowledge of equations.

### Science

As snow falls around us, the sixth grade is able to apply their newly developed knowledge of weather and water to figure out how and why we've been bombarded with white, fluffy precipitation this winter. We're delving deeper into the science of weather, getting as deep as molecular movement being the cause of heat! It's cold outside (because of how the Earth revolves around the Sun) but, it's hot in the sixth grade (because we're radiating heat through our constant movements)!

### 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 Greek ways across the known world.

### Reader and Writer's Workshop

We're writing realistic fiction in Writer's Workshop. Realistic fiction takes the students on a familiar ride, looking at their own lives and finding inspiration to create a world in which they could find themselves. They inhabit this world with characters they "know," places they've been, and feelings they've had. Conflicts arise and are overcome through plotting a story mountain, establishing scenes and a climax. Their work is getting stronger, more detail oriented, showcasing their skills and development of the writing concept: step-by-step planning, and building upon what has come before.

The sixth graders are also reading through series books. They really enjoy them, with much of the grade already fans of *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* and *Percy Jackson*. Reading this type of book, students strengthen their stamina and hold on to ideas and characters across multiple books. They discover how the setting is an important aspect of a story, and how a changing setting can affect their character. Through a series, they can follow the changes their main character goes through, see how supporting characters influence their lives and decisions, and enjoy an entire tale in many different ways. This kind of reading allows them to take on their next topic, historical fiction, with a new sense of purpose. They can follow a character through a particular time period, picking up details that give evidence of what life was like back then and, now knowing how to see how setting can influence a character, take a deeper look at the character and visualize how these uncovered details made him or her the character he or she is in this story.