

Welcome to Sixth Grade!

In sixth grade, students write longer papers, have more homework, and deal with multiple teachers. Sixth graders also do more work independently. In order to keep track of everything, they need to be organized.

Your child will learn a great deal this year, but sixth grade is about more than academics. In sixth grade, students develop important social skills—skills that make the transition to middle school easier.

In this guide you will find information that will help you help your child have a successful sixth grade year. Included in this guide are:

- ▶ Tips to help your child build his/her skills in language arts and math.
- ▶ Ways to help your child build important social skills, and feel secure with the many changes he/she is facing.
- ▶ Information on the physical, intellectual, and emotional growth of sixth graders.

**Your involvement and support are
key to your child's success!**



Learning in the Sixth Grade

Language Arts

Sixth grade reading focuses on understanding texts in a variety of forms (non-fiction and fiction) and subjects (history, science, etc.). Writing assignments often involve the use of technology and focus on the writing process—planning, writing, editing, and proofreading.

Ways to Help at Home

- ▶ If you find an article you think your child would find interesting, read it aloud and ask for your child's thoughts and opinions. Encourage your child to do the same for you.
- ▶ To encourage a love of reading, help your child find materials to read for pleasure (e.g., mysteries, science fiction, biographies, books on a topic of interest, young-teen fiction).
- ▶ Have family reading time—30 minutes when everyone in the family reads.
- ▶ Large assignments and projects can sometimes seem overwhelming to students. Help your child break these down into more manageable parts. Set up a calendar so that large assignments and projects are completed over a period of time, not at the last minute.

Help Your Child Get Organized

- 1) Encourage your child to use a student planner and to write down all assignments, tests, etc.
- 2) Discuss how folders, binders, and notebooks can be used to organize papers.
- 3) Have your child get everything ready for the next day before going to bed.



Math

Sixth grade math includes sharpening existing skills and working with more advanced concepts, such as solving equations, finding the volume of objects, plotting coordinates, and working with statistics and probability.

Ways to Help at Home

- ▶ Check out sports statistics. Have your child figure out how stats like batting average and on-base percentage in baseball are calculated.
- ▶ You might be rusty when it comes to solving equations and basic geometry. Take advantage of it. Have your child make up problems for you to solve—and then have him/her explain how to solve them.
- ▶ Have your child help you solve everyday math problems, such as determining how much money to leave for a tip or how much paint to buy.

If you are looking for some help for you or your child in math, check out the Kahn Academy. They have many excellent, free online videos.

Support Your Child

Sixth graders are learning many new skills, and they can become frustrated at times. If your child is feeling discouraged or frustrated, provide encouragement, keep a positive attitude, and be available to help.

If you have concerns about your child's progress, or if you are looking for more ways to help build your child's skills at home, talk to your child's teacher.



Growing Up: 6th Grade

Your child will develop skills and grow in a number of ways during this important year.

Physical

Children this age vary widely in physical development—with many well into puberty, and some a couple of years off.

Discuss physical differences with your child, and emphasize that everyone grows and matures at his/her own pace.

Intellectual

Sixth graders are better able to grasp more abstract topics, such as morality, love, and justice.

Have deeper conversations with your child. Ask your child what he/she thinks about some of the more complex topics you see on TV or read about online.

Emotional

Children this age are often torn between wanting to emulate adult behaviors to fit in with peers and being afraid of change.

Be patient with changing moods—and with behaviors that range from mature to childish.

"We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future."

Franklin D. Roosevelt



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Parent Involvement Guide