

Sixth Grade Curriculum

Students in the Sixth Grade Program at Al Nur School explore the concepts listed below. Children learn these concepts at their own pace. Children are taught with hands-on materials, as well as with traditional methods.

Goals

- Provide a safe and loving environment for all children
- Foster a sense of self-confidence and well being in each child
- Expose children to and build a love for grade appropriate reading, math, science, Arabic, Quran, social skills, art, and movement
- Provide physical activities to facilitate gross and fine motor development
- To develop in children and parents a positive attitude towards self, others, school and learning

Math

Students will gain an understanding of the properties of real numbers, solve linear equations and inequalities, and use data analysis techniques.

In the first half of the Pre-Algebra sequence, students sharpen their computational and problem-solving skills while learning the language of Algebra. Students will:

- Change word phrases and sentences into mathematical expressions and equations
- Solve equations and inequalities
- Continue to develop computational skills using fractions and decimals
- Study circles, polygons, and space figures
- Add, subtract, multiply, and divide positive and negative integers
- Solve problems involving percents, ratios, and proportions
- Draw graphs and compute statistics to communicate about data
- Compute the probability of an event and combined events
- Communicate strategies for solving word problems

Language Arts

The Sixth grade Language Arts program provides a solid foundation in reading and writing. The course is divided into two main strands: Literature and Language Skills. Literature includes the study of a diverse range of classic and contemporary stories, poems, plays, nonfiction works, and novels. The Language Skills strand includes composition; grammar, usage, and mechanics; and vocabulary. The instructional plan includes readings and activities on a range of topics and skills:

Composition

- Choose and use writing processes to create paragraphs, essays, reports, and stories.
- Generate ideas through brainstorming, lists, notes, and graphic organizers; organize material for drafting; revise drafts by adding, deleting, or moving material; proofread for errors in grammar, usage, mechanics, and spelling; and publish selected pieces of work.
- Recognize the purpose and audience for each piece of writing.
- Write to express (e.g., personal narrative), influence (e.g., persuasive essay, advertisement), inform (e.g., compare-and-contrast essay, how-to essay), and entertain.
- Use a voice and style appropriate for the audience.
- Use transitions and precise wording to promote coherence.
- Analyze and appreciate the writer's craft and use the work of others as models for writing.
- Evaluate their own writing through the use of checklists.
- Use offline and online methods of research to increase knowledge and follow an appropriate format for documenting sources.
- Understand and interpret the meaning in visual images (e.g., graphs, charts, tables).
- Produce their own visuals to enhance meaning in an oral presentation.

Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics

- Understand and apply the conventions of grammar, usage, and mechanics in written work.
- Use capitalization and punctuation (end marks, commas, quotation marks, apostrophes, semicolons, colons, and hyphens) to clarify meaning.
- Understand and use various kinds of complete sentences and appropriate conjunctions to connect ideas.
- Use adjectives, adverbs, and prepositional phrases to expand upon ideas and make writing precise.
- Recognize and use verb tenses correctly and avoid unnecessary shifts in tense.
- Use standard English, including correct subject-verb agreement, proper pronoun-antecedent agreement, and appropriate pronoun case.

Literature

- Read a diverse variety of literature, both classic and contemporary, for different purposes (e.g., information, entertainment, research).
- Use various comprehension strategies (e.g., accessing prior knowledge, identifying main ideas and supporting details, making inferences, paraphrasing, summarizing, comparing and contrasting) to aid in understanding the text.
- Respond to a variety of texts by sharing observations, speculations, and interpretations.
- Use a reading notebook to record ideas.
- Make connections within texts and between texts, when appropriate, of themes and major issues.

- Analyze the elements of various genres (e.g., poetry, short stories, biographies, informational texts).
- Understand, identify, and use literary terms and literary devices.
- Analyze characters, settings, and plots.
- Understand how tone, style, mood, and point of view affect the text.
- Use reading assignments as a springboard for research.
- Use text features (e.g., headings, graphics, images, table of contents, index) to locate information efficiently.
- Read to increase knowledge of their own culture and the cultures of others.
- Listen actively and purposefully to professional presentations of reading selections.
- Listen in order to analyze and appreciate spoken language.
- Use oral presentations for dramatic readings and to provide information to an audience.

Vocabulary

- Use systematic word study to increase vocabulary.
- Determine the meaning of words through the application of knowledge of Latin and Greek roots and the study of prefixes and suffixes.
- Use prior knowledge and past experiences to understand words in context, analogies, and multiple-meaning words.
- Refer to dictionaries, thesauruses, and related software to clarify the meanings of words and to identify synonyms and antonyms.

Science

Students perform experiments, develop scientific reasoning, and recognize science in the world around them. The sixth grade science curriculum focuses on Life, Earth, and Physical Sciences which includes units on:

- Understanding Living Things
- Interactions in Ecosystems
- Exploring Earth
- Cycles on Earth and in Space
- Matter and Energy
- Forces and Machines

Social Studies

In the grade 6 social studies course, students study people and places of the contemporary world. Students describe the influence of individuals and groups on historical and contemporary events in those societies and identify the locations and geographic characteristics of selected societies. Students identify different ways of organizing economic and governmental systems. The instructional plan includes readings and activities on a range of topics and skills covering history, geography, civics, economics, and cultural studies.

Technology

- Use computer programs to create and write picture stories
- Use a computer mouse: click, click and drag
- Use the Internet to explore kid-friendly websites
- Acquire technology skills as outlined in the TEKS

Quran Memorization Program:

Quran

- Develop the love of Quran and a motivation to memorize it.
- Know the right etiquette for learning Quran and learn to respect it.
- Continue memorizing the Quran starting from where the student left off.
- Revision of past surahs previously memorized.
- Understand meanings of the Surahs with the help of stories, pictures, and plays.
- Improve on Quran recitation and pronunciation.
- Learn how to read and write the Ayahs they are memorizing.

Arabic Grammar and Islamic Studies

- Arabic grammar is taught through a customized curriculum which enhances their understanding and reading of the Surahs they are memorizing.
- Islamic Studies is customized to the Surahs that the student are memorizing by having them understand the meanings of the verses in the Quran as well as deriving lessons from those verses.
- The Islamic Studies curriculum also incorporates Islamic manners and concepts which will enhance the student's understanding and character development and leadership skills.
- The boys will be trained to write and deliver Friday Khutbahs and be given the opportunity to lead daily salat.