



Office of Instruction Buffalo Public Schools

GRADE 6

Grade Level Expectations

New York State learning standards outline what a student should know and be able to do by the end of the grade level or band. There are also additional skills that a well-rounded student should possess. Listed below are examples of Buffalo Public Schools' academic expectations for sixth grade students. These should be viewed holistically and are not meant to determine promotion or retention; a student may demonstrate or be on track for proficiency without having mastered every skill. Teachers intervene as appropriate to support skills development.

READING

- Provide relevant & specific details from texts to support answers, inferences
- Determine a theme or central idea of a text & how it is developed by key supporting details; summarize a text
- Describe the plot & how the plot affects characters' behavior
- Analyze how sections (e.g., paragraphs, stanzas, scenes) are part of overall text structure & help develop theme/central idea, setting, or plot
- Identify & explain how point of view is developed & conveys meaning
- Evaluate argument & claims in text; distinguish between claims supported by relevant evidence from claims that are not
- Compare/contrast texts in different forms or genres
- Read & understand grade 6 literature & informational texts

WRITING AND LANGUAGE

- Demonstrate grade-appropriate use of spelling, grammar, usage, mechanics
- Write an argument to support claim(s) using clear reasons, relevant evidence
- Write informative texts to share relevant ideas & information
- Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details, & clear sequence
- Use transition words to help develop key ideas
- Conduct research to answer questions & to build knowledge
- Take notes & create outlines using appropriate strategies

VOCABULARY

- Use context clues & knowledge of common Greek & Latin roots, prefixes & suffixes to determine word meaning
- Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships (e.g., part/whole, item/category) & nuances in word meaning
- Acquire & use grade-appropriate general academic & content area words

LISTENING & SPEAKING

- Engage in collaborative discussions
- Come to discussions prepared, having read or studied required material
- Present claims & findings, sequencing ideas logically & using relevant descriptions, facts, & details; make appropriate eye contact, use adequate volume, & clearly enunciate

Grade 6 students are screened at the start of the school year to determine proficiency. If screening results indicate that a student is at risk of not achieving proficiency, teachers will administer a diagnostic assessment to help determine specific areas in need of reinforcement.

Students in grade 6 use a computer based adaptive diagnostic that assesses vocabulary and comprehension.

Grade 6 Mathematics Screening Measure

Short, computer adaptive diagnostic assessment that screens students across four domains:

- Algebra and Algebraic Thinking
- Measurement and Data
- Number and Operations
- Geometry

Students in grade 6 take NY State Assessments in English Language Arts and Mathematics.

GRADE

6



TIPS FOR PARENTS

Set aside daily time for reading. Ask students questions about the book they read. Read the book yourself to foster better conversation.

Encourage students to select informational books about science, history, art, music, and famous people. Building background knowledge is important for comprehension.

Expect students to write daily, using the strategies they learn in school. Writing about what they read improves comprehension.

Observations are an important scientific skill; writing, drawing, and taking photographs are all ways to record observations.

Take pictures of butterflies, record chirping crickets, use a website to learn more about a specific phenomenon or creatures.

Practice basic math facts by posing problems to solve mentally; expect a quick verbal response.

Involve your student in tasks that require math like cooking, measuring, building, etc.

When students make a mistake, help them to problem-solve a better solution.

MATH

Grade Level Fluencies: Multi-digit division using the standard algorithm; Multi-digit decimal operations using the standard algorithm

Geometry: Solve real-world & math problems involving area, surface area, & volume

Ratios and Proportional Relationships

- Understand ratio concepts & use ratio reasoning to solve problems

The Number System

- Apply & extend previous understandings of multiplication & division to divide fractions by fractions
- Compute fluently with multi-digit numbers & find common factors and multiples
- Extend understanding of numbers to the system of rational numbers

Expressions and Equations

- Apply and extend previous understandings of arithmetic to algebraic expressions
- Reason about and solve one-variable equations and inequalities
- Represent and analyze quantitative relationships between dependent and independent variables

Statistics and Probability

- Develop understanding of statistical variability
- Summarize and describe distributions
- Investigate chance process and develop, use, and evaluate probability models

SCIENCE

- Understand & apply scientific concepts, principles, theories related to the physical setting, Earth & space science, & the living environment
- Recognize the historical development of ideas in science: ecosystems & biomes; plant & animal characteristics; forces & motion; electricity; magnetism & electromagnetism; weather; the atmosphere; the Earth, moon & sun
- Recognize that objects have properties that can be observed, described, and/or measured (e.g., states of matter, density, temperature, conductor, etc.)
- Use scientific inquiry to show understanding of the scientific process & concepts by making observations & testing explanations; analyze using both conventional & invented methods to provide insights into phenomena

SOCIAL STUDIES

- Analyze the development & interactions between cultures, civilizations, empires; compare governmental & economic trends in the Eastern Hemisphere
- Compare/contrast belief systems and religions that developed in the EH
- Analyze how complex societies & civilizations change over time & how their political & economic structures evolve
- Examine how trade networks promoted the exchange & diffusion of language, belief systems, tools, intellectual ideas, inventions, & diseases

ART

- Use Elements & Principles of Art & Design to communicate meanings & ideas
- Use various materials/tools, including digital technology, to promote creativity
- Analyze, reflect, discuss and interpret artwork, and identify artist inferences
- Research & discuss a variety of artworks from diverse cultures throughout time

MUSIC

- Sing alone & with others using steps, skips, repeated notes
- Listen to music & write descriptions of musical elements
- Compose simple melodies, rhythms & multiple part songs
- Identify music styles including: American folk, blues/jazz, rock 'n' roll
- Identify the main components of musicals including: composer, lyricist, scenery, choreographer, characters, costumes

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

- Perform basic motor & manipulative skills
- Attain competency in a variety of physical activities
- Demonstrate safe, responsible, personal & social behavior