

PVSchools Parents' Guide to Student Success: Sixth Grade

Helping Your Child Learn at Home

In sixth grade your child will apply skills learned in earlier grades to make sense of more challenging books, articles, and texts. They will be expected to integrate information from different sources and respond to challenging content through written interpretation and analysis. In math your child will be working with ratio's and rates, variables and variable expressions to build the foundations of algebraic thinking.

Key ideas to support your child's learning:

- Knowing some key benchmarks and how you can support your child in meeting them is important.
- Try to create a quiet place for your child to study every day when your child can concentrate on reading, writing, and math uninterrupted by distractions.
- Help your child seek information through reading. (e.g., looking at maps to determine directions, following a recipe, using dictionaries, and the Internet).
- Sit down with your child at least once a week while he/she does homework and it will help you know if your child needs help with specific topics.
- Look for word problems in real life. For example, finding the surface area of the walls and ceiling to determine the cost of painting the room.

Arizona State Standards

The Arizona State Standards are a state-led effort designed to improve educational outcomes for students.

- are aligned with college and work expectations
- are clear, understandable, and consistent;
- include rigorous content and application of knowledge
- build on strengths and lessons of current state standards
- prepares students to succeed in a global economy and society
- are evidence-based

Key Shifts for Students

English Language Arts (ELA) / Literacy

1. Read as much non-fiction as fiction
2. Learn about the world by reading
3. Read more challenging material closely
4. Discuss reading using evidence
5. Write non-fiction using evidence
6. Increase academic vocabulary

Mathematics

1. **Focus:** Building on foundational skills that matter most to understanding arithmetic.
2. **Coherence:** Making math make sense by building onto foundational skills from grade to grade.
3. **Rigor:** With equal intensity apply conceptual understanding, procedural skills, and fluency.

Resources

Arizona Department of Education

<http://www.azed.gov/>

Arizona K-12 Academic Standards

<http://www.azed.gov/standards-practices/>

6-8 ELA & Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, & Technical Subjects

<http://www.azed.gov/azccrs/elastandards/ela-and-literacy/>

English Language Learners

<http://www.azed.gov/english-language-learners/>

Common Core State Standards Initiative

<http://www.corestandards.org/>

Parent Roadmaps to Common Core Standards

<http://cgcs.schoolwires.net/domain/36>

National Parent Teacher Association

<http://www.pta.org/>

Expect More Arizona

<http://www.expectmorearizona.org/>

Educational Student Websites

ConnectED: <https://learn.pvschools.net/>

FROST: PVSchools Tutoring, frost@pvschools.net
PVSchools Tutoring, # 602-449-2399

Kahn Academy: <https://www.khanacademy.org/>

ABCYA: <http://www.abcya.com/>

IXL: <https://www.ixl.com/>

PBS: <http://www.pbs.org/>

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English Language Arts / Literacy

A sample of reading standards includes:

Reading Literature

- Cite textual evidence of what the texts says explicitly and use inferences drawn
- Explain how an author develops the point of view; analyze meaning of words and phrases including connotative/figurative words

Reading Informational Text

- Determine a central idea of a text and how it is conveyed through supporting details and provide a summary without stating personal opinion.
- Trace and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text

Writing

- Write arguments to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence
- Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and develop a topic with relevant facts
- Use Technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing; demonstrate sufficient command of keyboarding skills to type a minimum of three pages in one setting

Speaking and Listening

- Participate in collaborative conversations about a text/topic; come prepared having read/studied required material
- Present claims and findings, sequencing ideas logically using pertinent facts and details to accentuate main ideas

Language

- Demonstrate the demands of standard English grammar and usage when writing and speaking
- Determine meaning of unknown multiple meaning words and phrases including figurative, connotative, and technical meanings through use of context, Greek or Latin roots, reference materials

Mathematics

A sample of math standards includes:

Ratios and Proportions

- Use ratio and rate reasoning to solve problems

Number and Operations in Base Ten

- **Fluently** add, subtract, multiply, and divide multi-digit decimals
- Understand ordering and absolute value of rational numbers
- Solve problems by graphing points in all four quadrants in the coordinate plane

Expressions and Equations

- Write and evaluate numerical expressions involving whole number exponents
- Solve problems by writing and solving equations

Geometry

- Solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume

Statistics and Probability

- Understand that a set of data has a distribution, which can be described as its center, spread, and overall shape

Science

- Inquiry processes, observations, and hypothesis
- History & Nature of Science
- Science in Personal & Social Perspectives
- Life & Physical Science
- Earth & Space Science

FOSS (Full Option Science System) Kits

- My Body & Me
- Variables
- Weather & Water

Social Studies

A sample of social studies standards includes:

American History

- Describe the characteristics of hunting and gathering societies in the Americas

World History

- Describe, compare/analyze, governments and religions of ancient civilizations such as Egypt, Rome, Greece, and China
- Describe how the Renaissance was a time of renewal and advancement

Civics/Government

- Describe the impact of the Roman republic and Greek democracy as it relates to current forms of government
- Describe rights, responsibilities and roles of citizenship

Geography

- Identify factors that cause regions and places to change

Economics

- Determine how scarcity, opportunity costs and trade offs influence decision-making

Transitioning to 7th Grade

In preparation for middle school, involve your child with more decision-making, time management, and added responsibilities.

Ways to help for Reading and Math:

- Enroll your child in summer enrichment camps such as STEM, Community Ed, ASU, etc.
- Make time for conversations at home. Discuss current events, shared interests, and future aspirations for education and career.