

Understanding What Your Child Will Learn

Your child will learn many new concepts and skills over the course of the school year. In Louisiana, all public schools use the Louisiana Student Standards as the basis for what they teach students. This are provided for Grade 6 in the following content areas:

- English Language Arts & Reading
- Mathematics
- Science
- Social Studies
- Physical Education
- Health Education

Below are a few of the standards that your child will learn along with strategies you can use to support your child's learning at home.



Reading

Standards for English Language Arts and Reading

The goal for students in English language arts (ELA) is to read, understand grade-level texts and express their understanding of those texts through writing and speaking. Students in Louisiana are ready for college or a career, when they are able to pick up any text, such as a picture book, newspaper, article, or painting, understand what the text means, and be able to speak or write about the ideas they learned or challenge from the text and why.

What does it mean?

- By the end of the year, a 6th grade student should be able to:
- Read, analyze (breakdown), and annotate (make notes) text to comprehend and infer meaning
 - Cite evidence from the text to support their answers (claim)
 - Determine a theme or central idea of a text and how it is shown through details
 - Provide a summary of the text without personal opinions or judgment
 - Understand plot development, character responses and changes
 - Use context clues to determine word meaning
 - Understand and use figurative language
 - Explain how a scene, paragraph, or stanza develops or contributes to the plot, theme, setting or characters in a story
 - Determine and explain how an author develops the narrator or speaker's point of view
 - Compare and contrast texts to explain how experiences are the same and different
 - Determine/explain how the author's purpose is shown in the story
 - Compare/contrast an account on the same topic from different sources
 - Find common central ideas, central messages, purposes and points of view among multiple sources

How can you support your child?

- Listen to your child read
- Read to your child
- Have your child read a story and have a conversation about:
 - main idea
 - theme
 - compare the characters
 - how the character changed
 - point of view of the story
- Ask your child can to show you exact evidence to support his/her ideas from the story



Writing

Standards for English Language Arts and Reading

The goal for students in English language arts (ELA) is to read, understand grade-level texts and express their understanding of those texts through writing and speaking. Students in Louisiana are ready for college or a career, when they are able to pick up any text, such as a picture book, newspaper, article, or painting, understand what the text means, and be able to speak or write about the ideas they learned or challenge from the text and why.

What does it mean?

By the end of the year, a 6th grade student should be able to:

- Write a multi paragraph essay answering a question
- Support your answer with reasons
- Support each reason with direct quotations
- Explain how the evidence supports your answer
- Use correct grammar, spelling and conventions

How can you support your child?

- Encourage your child to write stories
- Help your child add details to their writing by asking them to tell you more about something
- Show interest in your child's writing





Mathematics

Standards for Mathematics

All students should be able to recall and use math skills and concepts on a daily basis. A student should know certain math facts and know how to add, subtract, multiply, and divide basic numbers. They should be able to use the number system with ease. Students should be able to work with simple fractions and percentages. They should be able to apply basic algebra and geometry principles. These are addressed in five domains: ratios and proportional relationships, the number systems, expressions and equations, geometry, and statistics and probability. Additionally, students need to be able to reason mathematically, communicate with others about math through speaking and writing, and problem solve in real-world situations to be prepared mathematically for college or a career.

What does it mean?

Ratio and Proportional Relationships:

- Write a ratio
- Find equivalent ratios
- Calculate percents
- Convert measurements
- Solve unit rate problems

The Number System

- Divide fractions in word problems
- Add, subtract, multiply and divide decimals and fractions
- Long division
- Find Greatest Common Factor and Least Common Multiple
- Plot and describe positive and negative rational numbers
- Order and absolute value of positive and negative numbers
- Plot points on a coordinate plane

Expressions

- Write and evaluate expressions with variables
- Solve equations using the order of operations
- Solve exponents
- Identify equivalent expressions
- Solve equations and inequalities

Geometry

- Calculate area, volume, and perimeter

Statistics

- Display data
- Mean, median and variability

How can you support your child?

- Complete all homework using class notes as a reference
- Have conversations with your child about what they are learning and go over class notes
- Find real-world applications for math content your child is learning and engage in conversations



Science

Standards for Science

The Louisiana Student Standards for Science represent the knowledge and skills needed for students to successfully transition to postsecondary educations and the workplace. The standards call for students to apply content knowledge on performance expectations. They will investigate, evaluate and reason scientifically using science engineering practices (asking questions, defining problems, developing and using models, planning and carrying out investigations, analyzing and interpreting data, using mathematical and computational thinking, constructing explanations and designing solutions (engineering), engaging in argument with evidence, obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information. Students will explore concepts that cross all grade levels:

- patterns
- cause and effect
- scale, portion, and quantity
- systems and system models
- energy and matter
- structure and function
- stability and change

What does it mean?

Physical Science

- ✦ explore and make atomic models of simple molecules such as carbon dioxide and water.
- ✦ develop questions, make claims, and use evidence to apply Newton's 3 Laws of motion (1-an object stays in motion or at rest until a force acts on it, 2-the speed/direction of an object depends on the force and mass of the object, 3-or every action there is an equal and opposite reaction
- ✦ construct and interpret data from graphs about energy (potential/kinetic), mass, and speed of object (What happens to the energy in a rock when you roll it downhill? What if you roll a bowling ball instead?)
- ✦ develop models to show change in a system depending on energy type and matter (objects falling at different heights, rubbing a balloon on your jeans then holding it close to your hair)
- ✦ create a model and use math (charts, graphs) and images to explain parts of a wave (light, sound)

Earth Science

- ✦ develop and use a model to explain patterns of the earth, sun, moon (sun appears to rise in the east and set in the west, moon and tides, constellation movement, moon phases, the role of gravity that hold the solar system together)
- ✦ make a claim about human's impact on earth (freshwater, minerals)

Life Science

- ✦ conduct investigations and make arguments that living things are made of cells, develop and use a model of a cell
- ✦ analyze and make predictions about the relationship between organisms, populations and the flow of matter

How can you support your child?

- Model asking questions for your child
- Go on walks to find interesting natural materials in your neighborhood or community
- Encourage your child to ask questions by showing interest in their questions
- Go over class notes and talk about what they are learning in class
- Complete homework and study for test with your child



Social Studies

Standards for Social Studies

The Louisiana Student Standards for Social Studies were written with the goal of producing individuals who have:

- ✦ a broad and deep knowledge of U.S. and world history
- ✦ a firm grasp and appreciation of the civic principles that underlie our system of government
- ✦ a solid understanding of fundamental economic principles and the ability to make wise financial decisions
- ✦ proficiency in both physical and human geography.

To achieve these goals students should build content knowledge through engagement with authentic primary and secondary sources and express well-reasoned and nuanced arguments about social studies topics.

What does it mean?

After each unit students should be able to answer these questions:

Unit 1 :The Exploration and Settlement of North America Question: What were the motivations that drove the exploration of North America? What effect did Europeans have on the area of North America recognized as the American colonies?

Unit 2: Colonial America

Question: How were the New England colonies, the Middle colonies, and the Southern colonies both similar and different? How and why did slavery spread in North America?

Unit 3: Colonial Louisiana

Question: How did the Louisiana colony change under French rule? How did Louisiana develop under Spanish colonial rule?

Unit 4: The Road to Independence

Question: How did the British defeat the French in the French and Indian War? What events led to the American Revolution?

How did the events of the American Revolution lead to independence?

Unit 5: Founding a New Nation

Question: What were the strengths and weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation? Why is the Constitution considered a document of compromises?

Unit 6: The Government of the New Nation

Question: How did the debate between the Federalists and the Anti-Federalists lead to the Bill of Rights? What is the structure of the U.S. government, and how does it function?

How can you support your child?

- Have conversations with your child about what they are learning in school
- Complete all homework with your child and study for exams
- Look at current news on any platform (newspaper, social media) and have discussions about it

