Sixth Grade Curriculum Guide

Southfield Public Schools

2019-2020

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What is Curriculum?

Curriculum is all of the tools/resources (academic and non-academic), books, online academic supports, pacing guides, assessments, strategies, and instructional practices used within a classroom and throughout the district that are aligned with and to state standards in an effort to ensure that students acquire academic proficiency and/or mastery in any and all academic and social areas.

English Language Arts

Southfield Public Schools believes reading is the bedrock of most or all academic actions. Reading is the complex act of constructing meaning from print. It serves a variety of purposes in school and in life in general.

The Common Core asks students to read stories and literature, as well as more complex texts that provide facts and background knowledge in areas such as science and social studies. Students will be challenged and asked questions that push them to refer back to what they've read. This stresses critical-thinking, problem-solving, and analytical skills that are required for success in college, career, and life.

Curriculum

Middle School classrooms use *Collections* by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt as its comprehensive English Language Arts curriculum. *Collections* provides flexible materials that allows teachers to customize their lessons through the use of personalization, differentiation, high interest texts, and assessments.

To access the digital resource please visit: https://my.hrw.com/

Supplements

Exact Path: access via Clever Portal (see page 8)

Mathematics

Southfield Public Schools views children as sense-makers. Our educators strive to know students as individuals and leaners. As a result, students confidently engage in complex mathematical tasks, drawing on knowledge from a wide variety of mathematical topics, sometimes approaching the same problem from different mathematical perspectives.

The Common Core concentrates on a clear set of math skills and concepts. Students will learn concepts in a more organized way both during the school year and across grades. The standards encourage students to solve real-world problems.

Curriculum

Middle School classrooms use *SpringBoard* by College Board as its comprehensive mathematics curriculum. *SpringBoard Math* gives student-centered instruction, classroom-proven resources, and lessons and assessments aligned with the standards.

To access the digital resource please access it through the Clever Portal (see page 8).

Supplements

Exact Path: access via Clever Portal (see page 8)

Khan Academy: access via Clever Portal (see page 8)

Science

In Southfield Public Schools, important ideas in science are about the relationships between a natural phenomenon and a causal explanation that helps us understand why something in the world unfolds the way it does. Studying events or processes rather than "things" or abstract ideas intrigues students.

The new Next Generation Science Standards are really a set of student performance expectations. These performance expectations incorporate three main elements: disciplinary core ideas, science and engineering practices, and cross-cutting concepts. These expectations are also interwoven across disciplines, including connections to language arts and mathematics.

Curriculum

Middle School classrooms use *Science Explorer* by Prentice Hall as its science textbook. *Science Explorer* engages students as it weaves together content with hands-on science inquiry that's sure to reach every student.

To access the digital resource please visit: http://pearsonsuccessnet.com/

Supplements

Study Island: access via Clever Portal (see page 8)

Social Studies

Southfield Public Schools approaches Social Studies learning as an intellectual process in which learners develop what they know by fitting new ideas together with ideas they already have learned from previous experience.

The revised Social Studies standards amplifies the need for students to construct meaning, highlight purpose, explore and process learning with depth in the classroom.

Curriculum

Sixth grade classrooms use *Discovering our Past: World Geography* by McGraw Hill as its Social Studies textbook. *Discovering our Past: World Geography* connects today's students to the people and places from around the world with integrated print and digital curriculum that includes a full suite of teaching and learning tools for flexible, customized learning.

To access the digital resource please visit:
http://connected.mcgraw-hill.com/

Supplements

Study Island: access via Clever Portal (see page 8)

Assessment

Sixth grade students are assessed with various district assigned assessments.

NWEA Growth

The NWEA Reading, Math, and Science Growth Assessments are adaptive computerized tests that measure what students know and informs what they're ready to learn next.

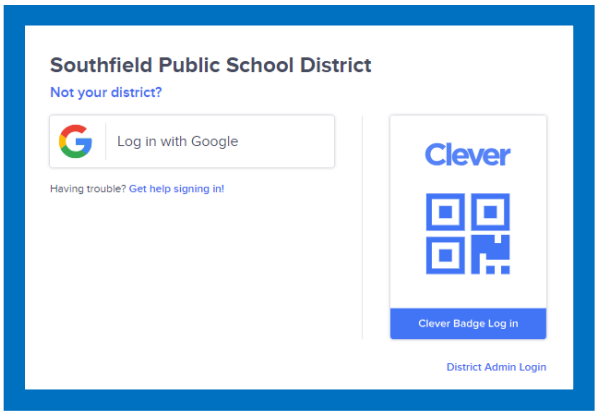
M-STEP

The Michigan Student Test of Education Progress (M-STEP) is an online test given every spring to students in grades 3-8. It is designed to gauge how well students are mastering the state standards in English Language Arts and Mathematics.

Access

Many of our resources can be accessed online. The best way to access these resources is to use the Clever portal (see link below).

- Go to clever.com/in/southfieldpublicschools
- Click “Log in with Google”
- Enter your Southfield email address and password.
- Click on any of the apps to continue learning all year long



Don’t know your Southfield email address?

Email: SFD, Last Name, First initial, last two digits of student’s ID number.
EX: Lebron James would be SFDJamesL23**@sfldk12.org**

Password: Capital first initial, lowercase last initial, 6 digit birthday
EX: Lebron James would be Lj123084

How to Help at Home

Build the Habit of Good Attendance

Too many absences can cause children to fall behind in school. Students can still fall behind if they miss just a day or two days every few weeks.

Visit MISTAR Parent Portal

MISTAR helps parents stay connected. Parents can see their students' grades, tardiness, absences, and much more.

https://mistar.oakland.k12.mi.us/southfield/parentportal/

Attend School Events

Middle school students do better in school when parents are involved in their academic lives. Attending events such as back-to-school night and conferences are a great way to stay informed.

Follow Southfield Public Schools on Social Media

Another great way to stay connected is to follow Southfield Public Schools on social media.

https://www.facebook.com/SouthfieldPublicSchools
https://twitter.com/Southfieldk12
https://www.instagram.com/southfieldpublicschools/
https://www.youtube.com/user/SPSTV16

Standards

Educational content standards describe what students should know and be able to do at each grade level.

English Language Arts

- https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/MDE_ELA_Standards_599599_7.pdf

Mathematics

- https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/K-12_MI_Math_Standards_REV_470033_7_550413_7.pdf

Science

- https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/K-12_Science_Performance_Expectations_v5_496901_7.pdf

Social Studies

- https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/SS_May_2018_Public_Final_622357_7.pdf

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