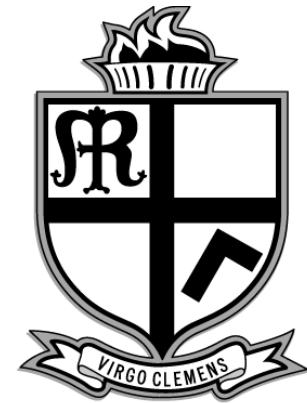


SIXTH GRADE

For more specifics on Sixth Grade curriculum, you can visit the Diocese of Charlotte website at www.schools.charlottediocese.org or download a PDF at: http://schools.charlottediocese.org/images/schools/PDF_files/curriculum/6th_grade.pdf

You can also get more details about class schedules on our school website at www.ourladyofmercyschool.org under Teacher Pages link and select Mrs. Myszowski's page.



caring dedicated child-focused

respectful inspiring compassionate

Christ-centered proud creative

challenging welcoming confident

humble prayerful engaging

leaders followers scholars servants

brothers & sisters teachers family

**Our Lady of Mercy
Catholic School**

1730 Link Road, Winston-Salem, NC 27103
(336) 722.7204

www.ourladyofmercyschool.org
Welcoming students of all races, religions, ethnic and national origins.

Core Curriculum

In sixth grade, our focus is the analysis of good character and independent reasoning skills. Our students learn how to organize the provided materials, their time, as well as their thoughts. The Common Core Standards are practiced in each content area. Students begin to develop independent study skills, in preparation for high school.

Our spelling program includes activities completed in the classroom and at home. Reading skills are honed via a vocabulary program, which introduces students to new terms, and drives good reading habits and techniques. In literature we examine the five story elements in fiction, oral tradition, and biography, which culminates in students reading a novel at the end of the year. In writing, we learn organization of a five-paragraph essay and how to build an argument with supporting details and facts. Grammar discusses simple sentence strategies and parts of speech.

Science introduces students to the science lab for the first time, along with scientific methods, procedures and applications. The curriculum includes physical science, study of our planet, examination of the rocks and minerals, learning about rockets, space and the environment.

Social Studies coordinates with the state textbook, *North Carolina Journeys*, which introduces the history and geography of Europe, Russia and South America. Math reinforces basic math skills in a whole group setting.

6th Grade Projects and trips:

- Sound to Sea: Overnight in spring to Salter Path, NC (Trinity Center)
- Science: Pringle Project, Pilot Mountain, Rockets, Egg Drop, Science Fair
- Social Studies: Family Crest, Greek Orthodox Church Visit

- Literature, Writing: Vocabulary Day, Picture Book (Piedmont Young Authors), Myth and Folklore podcasts, Book in a Bag, Character in a Box, *The Pearl*
- Religion: Peace Books, Old Testament People and Events, Temple Emmanuel Visit

Catholic Identity

In religion, we study the Old Testament. Our theme is God's plan for our salvation, which was revealed to us through the stories and people of the Old Testament. We also take ecumenical field trips to other houses of worship to broaden the students' understanding of world religions.

The key focus of the curriculum is to prepare the sixth graders with questions they face each day: what does it mean to be a Catholic, how does it affect our decisions, how do we contribute to the community and serve all?

With the rest of the school, we start our day with prayer and the daily scripture reading/reflection. We pray the Angelus, as a school, before lunch and then ask our lunchtime blessing. At the end of the day we say our closing prayer. We go to weekly Mass and monthly adoration.

Specials

Sixth graders have classes in their "special" subjects of Media/Technology, Spanish, Art, Music and Physical Education on a rotating basis.

PE: Units include soccer, volleyball, basketball, health and fitness, bowling, lacrosse, baseball, track and field, kickball, and tennis. PE is twice a week.

MEDIA/TECHNOLOGY: We cultivate a learning environment where technology and media are integrated into the curriculum to enhance student learning. Students understand important issues of a technology-based society including safe and ethical behavior in the use of tech-

nologies. Teachers collaborate to provide learning experiences that incorporate access to print and digital resources and students use a variety of technologies to access, analyze, interpret, synthesize, apply and communicate information.

SPANISH: In sixth grade students meet twice per week for Spanish. Students embark on a full Spanish I program with DVD materials, online exercises, and regular tests and quizzes. This program prepares them for Spanish II level when they reach 9th grade. Students write an original skit and perform it as a culminating activity in almost every chapter and have a fashion show in Spanish. We also have "Spanish only" times at the middle school level where students are challenged to speak only Spanish.

ART: Students work on advanced color theory, advanced perspective with multiple vanishing points, and advanced 3-D design. We begin critiques by peers and increase our focus on art appreciation.

MUSIC: We continue our study of music history and different musical styles, instruments, and compositions of various composers. We build on our understanding of musical notation. We perform in the school-wide Christmas music program and Spring Concert.

Service and Buddies

Sixth graders have church buddies, which are our first graders. We have story times and take field trips with our buddies. We also go caroling together at Maryfield Retirement Community as part of a community outreach project.

Middle Schoolers do the planning for Helping Hands of Mercy, our student-led outreach program. This group coordinates many projects to help others in need, with the focus being "children helping children." The leadership of this team helps the whole school demonstrate that EVERY one is important to God.