



# Learning Across the Year

## • Sixth Grade •

**Great Falls Public Schools is committed to...**

**Vision:** All kids engaged in learning today...for life tomorrow.

**Mission:** We successfully educate students to navigate their future.

This document provides a broad overview of what your child will be learning in each of the content areas. For a more detailed look at the complete curriculum for 5th grade, go to: [www.gfps.k12.mt.us](http://www.gfps.k12.mt.us)

### **Reading**

In sixth grade, students are aware of the author's craft. They are able to adjust their purpose, pace and strategies according to difficulty and/or type of text. Students continue to reflect on their skills and adjust their comprehension and vocabulary strategies to become better readers. Students discuss, reflect, and respond, using evidence from text, to a wide variety of literary genres and informational text. Students read for pleasure and choose books based on personal preference, topic, genre, theme, or author. Sixth grade units include, The Chocolate Collection, Dahl & Narrative, The Titanic, The Summer of the Mariposas, Mysteries & Investigations, and The Greeks.

### **Writing**

Students approach writing with purpose and maintain their focus. They use form, content, technique, and conventions flexibly to meet their own purpose or assignment requirements. Students work toward precision in all writing and evaluate honestly both their own work and the work of others, making a concerted effort to improve weak areas. Students consider writing to be an important and effective tool for furthering their own learning.

### **Language**

Students in sixth grade understand and correctly use capitalization and punctuation and are encouraged to use correct grammar when reading, writing and speaking. Students utilize content vocabulary and descriptive language to enhance their writing.



### **Speaking and Listening**

In sixth grade, students engage in collaborative conversations and readily contribute to discussions. They are prepared to speak to others and are able to review key ideas presented and determine if evidence backs up the speaker's claims. They report on information using multimedia, clearly explain their own ideas, synthesize the ideas of others, ask and answer questions, and use appropriate speech for the situation.

### **Handwriting**

Sixth grade students use both print and cursive handwriting and continue using basic keyboarding skills.

### **Math**

By developing an understanding of ratio in real-life contexts, students learn how ratio relates to rates and percents. Sixth graders multiply and divide fractions and decimals with conceptual and procedural understanding. Order of operations is introduced and students learn about negative numbers. They write and evaluate algebraic expressions and write and solve algebraic equations.

### **Science**

Children learn to observe, communicate, measure, classify/compare and take notes while conducting experiments in exploring the following units: Exploring Space, Water & Climate, Impacts on the Environment, and The Changing Earth.



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### **Social Studies**

Sixth graders explore ancient cultures through a study of world history and geography from the Mesopotamians through the Romans.

### **Music**

Sixth graders listen, respond to and present music. They interpret music symbols and terms. They identify vocal types in a musical piece. They elect to be part of band or orchestra.

### **Physical Education/Health Enhancement**

Students learn body and space awareness, manipulative and fine motor skills, endurance and flexibility in PE. Other topics covered include nutrition, safety and fitness.

### **Technology**

Students will use a variety of digital tools appropriately and ethically to create, collaborate, communicate and solve problems.

### **Art**

Sixth graders are encouraged to develop individual creativity through visual means. Students learn to use art materials, create works of art, respond to and analyze works of art and understand art influences.

### **Counseling**

Counseling lessons focus on personal and social development, academic development and career development. Sixth graders apply their own interests and strengths to monitor progress toward their goals for academic success.

### **Library**

Students learn effective and efficient ways to access information. They are encouraged to access and read information and literature for learning and enjoyment.

## How to Help Your Child Learn at Home

**Try to develop a routine where your child sits in a quiet place for at least 30 minutes daily to complete homework or reading. Sitting with your child will allow you the opportunity to see what he/she is learning.**

- Make sure reading is part of your child's daily routine. Set aside a quiet time with no distractions for reading. Read together if possible or ask your child to tell you about the book he/she is reading. Ask questions such as: "Why do you think the author wrote this?" "Where does it say that in the text?" "What evidence do you have to support your thinking?"
- Listen with your child to a television reporter, politician or other speaker. Ask your child to tell you the speaker's main points. Was the speaker trying to convince the audience of something? How?
- Invite your child to participate in an adult gathering, such as a meal with friends, to practice listening skills and making conversation.
- Visit a library or bookstore with your child. Ask a librarian or bookseller for recommendations.
- Look for real-life math problems that your child can solve. Ask them to explain their thinking as they solve the problem. Ex: Determine the average speed of a family trip, find how much paint would be needed to paint a room, and find to find miles per gallon of gas.
- Encourage language development and vocabulary building by talking to your child and giving him/her your undivided attention. Eliminate all distractions and have a conversation that has multiple exchanges. Ask questions and use new vocabulary to model effective speaking/listening skills.