



# The Atlanta Academy

## **6th Grade Curriculum**

### **Language Arts**

The primary aim of the sixth grade writing curriculum is to provide the tools, resources and inspiration for students to become better writers. Students are taught through a writing workshop approach, where poetry and mini-lessons will integrate grammar, punctuation, genres, and principles of good writing into the writing process. The students will learn to write and publish written work in various genres, including poetry, memoirs, short stories, book reviews and persuasive essays.

### **Vocabulary/Literature**

Students must have a good command of language in order to become good readers. Therefore, we will focus on increasing their vocabulary skills. They will master words listed in their vocabulary text. Twenty words per week will be assigned as homework each night. They will learn the definition, synonym, antonym, part of speech and sentence usage. A quiz on each unit will be given to test their study skills and mastery. These skills will be reinforced in their writing assignments.

The primary aim of the literature program is for every student to appreciate, understand and enjoy some of the classics. Reading will be taught through specifically chosen works. Students will learn to identify the author's purpose, theme, conflict, characters, settings and conclusion. They will master these skills and become discriminating critics of the written word. At the conclusion, students will be given a test on the novel. We will read from famous authors like: Golding, Steinbeck, Lee, Orwell, Hemingway, Shakespeare, and others.

### **Math**

Mathematics in the Middle School encourages problem solving, critical thinking and mathematical inquiry. The aim is for all middle school students to become free thinkers, applying their math foundations to solve real world problems. Sixth grade mathematics focuses on the discussion, mastery and application of skills in the areas of number theory, decimals, fractions, ratios, proportions, percents and statistics. Through practice and problem solving techniques, students are able to explore each topic using traditional skill-building practice and review.



## The Atlanta Academy

### **Social Studies**

Sixth grade World Geography emphasizes note-taking and study skills. Students learn landforms, economics, climate zones, types of vegetation, and cultures of geographic areas around the world. Students are taught how to make geographical inferences based on climate, vegetation, physical, resource, political, and population maps. Cross curriculum research projects and presentations are utilized so that students can demonstrate their knowledge of geographic areas that are being taught. We use the Prentice Hall textbook World Explorer People, Places and Cultures.

### **Science**

Throughout the year students will be actively engaged in two main content areas. The first being Life Science which integrates life diversity, bacteria, plants, fungi, vertebrate and invertebrate animals. The second is Earth Science, which includes atmosphere, weather, and oceans. Students complete dissections and various labs throughout the school year which encompass all areas of Science.

### **Spanish**

This course is level 1 Spanish. It focuses on communicative competence of the Spanish language as well as the culture and customs of the Spanish- speaking world. The language is taught with emphasis on both writing and speaking.

### **Media Center**

Students are given a library orientation and review at the beginning of the school year. Middle School students come on an as needed basis. Students in these grades should have a continually increasing knowledge and understanding of library and research skills. Students continue to become aware of and proficient in the use of resources available for research. Students are encouraged to work independently and locate needed materials for both research and leisure reading with minimal assistance from media center staff. Informal, one-on-one teaching based upon the students needs and understanding is provided.

### **Technology**

Students spend the first quarter using the typing program “Mavis Beacon Typing Tutor”. 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> quarters students are introduced to new computer skills while using PCs and Apple computers. Students create cross-curriculum projects using a variety of programs and applications. Applications include but are not limited to multimedia, Microsoft: Word, PowerPoint, Excel, Publisher, and I-Works: Numbers, Pages, and Keynote. Applications are taught in both the PC and Apple formats.



## The Atlanta Academy

### **Band**

Open to all Middle School students regardless of experience. Each student selects their particular instrument and continues to further develop their skills all year. This is the fine-tuning stage of learning their instrument before going on to High School. Students perform at least three times each year: Grandparent's Day, Christmas and Night of the Arts.

### **Art**

Students will be exposed to a broad range of mediums. Through drawing, painting, ceramics and mixed mediums we will develop our skills for "seeing" and interpreting the world around us. Students will make pottery, paint landscapes, self-portraits and much more to explore our visual world. As "artists" in class, students will have the freedom to find and explore their own sense of style and creativity. Through art history the class will look at how art has developed through the years, while studying specific artists and their respective movements. Students will learn the technical skills used by professional artists, while discovering their own personal style.

### **Physical Education**

In the sixth grade students continue to apply motor skills in the sports arena. Middle school students are given more challenging physical fitness activities. They continue to spend a lot of time playing team sports which include lacrosse, softball, ultimate frisbee, flag football, fitness testing, tennis, badminton, basketball, soccer, team handball, and volleyball. Each student also participates in the President's Fitness Challenge and has the opportunity to win the President's Physical Fitness Award. Students have PE twice a week for 50 minutes

### **Exploratory**

Students will go to exploratory class once a week. They will rotate through four different classes. Each class will last for one quarter. The music and art exploratory are in addition to the regular special classes. Some of the courses offered include:

- SSAT- 8th Grade Only
- Health
- Music (ensemble practice)
- Art- Photography (Digital Cameras)
- Community Outreach with Officer Hood which will include discussing civil rights, making good choices, and learning about laws in the Legislative branch of government.