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# Sixth Grade Specialist Teachers

Religion: Rev. Kurt Hy. Asplundh [kurt.asplundh@bacs.org](mailto:kurt.asplundh@bacs.org)

Art: Linda Kees [linda.kees@bacs.org](mailto:linda.kees@bacs.org)

Music: Nathan Odhner [Nathan.odhner@bacs.org](mailto:Nathan.odhner@bacs.org)

Science: Gail Neukum [gail.neukum@bacs.org](mailto:gail.neukum@bacs.org)

P.E.: Heather McCurdy [heather.mccurdy@bacs.org](mailto:heather.mccurdy@bacs.org)

Alex Rogers [alex.rogers@bacs.org](mailto:alex.rogers@bacs.org)

Student Support Teachers for Sixth Grade:

Jessica Baker (Melinda) [jessica.baker@bacs.org](mailto:jessica.baker@bacs.org)

Barbara Rose (Melinda) [barbara.rose@bacs.org](mailto:barbara.rose@bacs.org)

Anika Kistner (Melinda/Sheila) [anika.kistner@bacs.org](mailto:anika.kistner@bacs.org)

Janna King (Sheila) [janna.king@bacs.org](mailto:janna.king@bacs.org)

Enrichment: Jessica Johns (Sheila/Melinda) [Jessica.johns@bacs.org](mailto:Jessica.johns@bacs.org)

# Main Units Taught in Sixth Grade

**Religion:** Solomon and the Temple. The story of the Divided Kingdom (Israel and Judah); the period between Solomon and the birth of the Lord, including the main prophets. Also, an overview of the Five Churches as presented in the Heavenly Doctrines.

**Math:** The *Prentice-Hall Mathematics Program Course 1* includes a review of the four basic operations through problem solving, decimals, fractions, integers, measurement, graphs, patterns, and number sense, probability, geometry, ratio, percent, area, volume, and equations. See [**www.phschool.com**](http://www.phschool.com)for online math help and test preparation website.

**Literature:** Besides novels, students will be exposed to a variety of literature including myths, legends, fairy tales, biographies, and resource materials. They will read *Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH*, *The Sign of the Beaver*, *The Egypt Game*, and other self-selected novels of various genres.

**Reading Skills:** A special emphasis is placed on the ability to respond to literature. Students also work on reading skills such as vocabulary, fluency, locating information, skimming and scanning, main ideas, details, personification, literal and inferential comprehension, and critical thinking.

**Composition:** Students write regular literature responses and various other assignments including autobiography, expository essay, Native American stray combining fact and fiction, African based Just-So story, biography related to country study, research papers, and poetry.

**Writing Skills:** Simple and compound sentences, paragraph structure, process of writing, proofreading, editing, capitalization, punctuation, spelling and bibliography.

**Spelling:** Our spelling program is based on the 500-core word BACS curriculum along with homonyms that are easily confused. Students are taught spelling accountability through daily work. We also use the *Everyday Spelling Program* to help reinforce skills.

**Grammar:** Subjects and predicates (complete and simple), nouns, verbs, pronouns, adjectives, adverbs, prepositions, conjunctions, interjections, and introductory diagramming.

**Geography:** Europe (overview, western, and eastern), Africa (overview, northern, western, eastern, and southern regions), Independent Country Study, and map skills including latitude and longitude.

**History:** Overview of the Five Churches integrated with a study of culture: Most Ancient Church, Ancient Church, Sumer, Ancient Egypt, Israelitish Church, Ancient Greece, Ancient Rome, Christian Church, and the New Church.

**Class Meeting:** Most weeks there is a class meeting to address particular topics, including a variety of real world problem solving and peer issues, organization and study skills. This includes discussion based on the school wide program against bullying.

**Art:** Form through drawing, light and shadow, sculpture, plus other projects.

**Music:** Rhythm, melody, harmony, and pitch. Some music history. Hand bell ringing takes place most Tuesdays.

**Science:** Metrics, Chemistry, Magnetism and Electricity, Animal Classification, Plants, Ecology.

**Physical Education:** Through introduction/practice of skills, balance, teamwork, charity and sportsmanship, we will cover a variety of sports and activities.

# General Information

**Arrival Times**

Students should not arrive before 7:45 and not later than 8:00 in the morning. Students need to be in their classrooms by 8:00 so they will not be considered late. Exceptions are made for students who take buses.

In the afternoons students who go home for lunch should arrive no earlier than 12:50 and no later than 12:55, as we go over homework assignments at this time.

According to the BACS parent handbook if a student has 3 unexcused lates within a term, the classroom teacher will connect with parents to help promote on-time behavior. If a student has 2 more unexcused lates during the duration of the term, the student will receive a detention. The vice-principal will likely be involved, and further unexcused lates in the term will result in additional detentions.

**Dismissal Times**

School is over in the morning at 12:15 and in the afternoon at 2:30.

Students may not hang around the school building or property without permission from parents and teachers after dismissal. This includes, but is not limited to, waiting for detained classmates. All social arrangements must be made before school. School phones are not for this purpose. Please note that cell phones may not be used until the student is outside the school building.

**Absences**

Following BACS policy, if your student will not be in school, you must phone (215-947-4086, ext 213) or email ([Natalie.lambertus@bacs.org](mailto:Natalie.lambertus@bacs.org)) the school office This is for your child’s safety.

**Please also communicate with your child’s teacher during absences and/or appointment times to make arrangements for missed work. A phone call, written note or email is needed when your child returns to school explaining his/her absences or appointments.**

**Class Parents**

During the year, class parents may contact you about help on projects and class trips.

They are: Melinda Friesen – Janet Kretteck 251-454-3236

Sheila Daum – Hilary Hogan 484-687-0989

# Bullying Program

BACS has adopted a school wide program against bullying. It is based on the Olweus’ Core Program Against Bullying and Antisocial Behavior. There are four simple rules:

1. We will not bully

2. We will help bullied students

3. We will include students easily left out

4. We will tell an adult at school and at home

We will implement this into our own classrooms through class meetings and additional discussions as needed.

# Field Trips

During the course of the school year the sixth grade visits Glencairn two times. We often visit the:

Mesopotamia collection

Ancient Egypt collection

Ancient Greek collection

Ancient Roman collection

African collection

We go to the Cathedral twice.

Comparing the Cathedral to Solomon's Temple

View the 5 Churches window

We will also be going to the University of Pennsylvania’s Museum of Archeology and Anthropology to visit the Egypt and the Mesopotamia exhibits on **Thursday, November 29**.

When time allows, we like to end the school year with a field trip to the Swedenborg Library to support our study of New Church history.

# Contact Information

We look forward to a happy, productive year with your students. Please feel free to call with questions, comments and concerns. The best way to reach us is through our school e-mail accounts or through our voicemail system at school. We check our messages daily to ensure that your call won’t be missed! You can reach our voice mail even during school hours and leave us a message. Due to our daily schedules we may not be able to respond until the end of the day, so call the school office (ext. 213) if you need to reach your child.

[**Melinda.Friesen@bacs.org**](mailto:Melinda.Friesen@bacs.org) **215-947-4086 ext 243 215-370-3341 (cell)**

[**Sheila.Daum@bacs.org**](mailto:Sheila.Daum@bacs.org) **215-947-4086 ext 233 215-938-7704 (home)**

After school (2:30 p.m.) we are often able to answer calls directly at the above extensions. If for some reason you need to contact us at home in the evening, please make the call before 9:00 p.m. if possible.

# Management System

Every day starts with a clean slate, and while we hope that the day will progress smoothly there are sometimes bumps along the way. We strive to make the classroom a pleasant place for all students and that means that a certain degree of order is necessary. While we hope that everyone will do their best to help maintain this order, sometimes consequences are necessary for instances where order does not exist.

**Group Behavior**

Group behavior is regulated using the “marble” system. Marbles are earned when the whole class is working nicely for a given length of time or when individuals do something especially charitable. Marbles may be earned for other reasons depending on the circumstances, *i.e.* motivation to encourage a certain behavior or activity. If the majority of the class is not following directions or is misbehaving in some other way as a group, a representative number of marbles will be removed. When the jar is full, the whole class will receive some sort of reward or celebration for their good work.

**Individual Behavior**

 In order to respect individuality, warnings may be accumulated throughout the day and recorded using a card system (similar to previous intermediate grades). Each student has a pocket on the wall that contains four cards: green, blue, yellow and red. At the beginning of the day, students start with their green card showing. If students choose to break a rule, they will receive a warning and the card will change. Blue is the first warning, and yellow is the second warning. Upon reaching the red card, the student will receive a thirty-minute detention to be served the following day in the conference room. Any further incidents that day will result in another 30-minute detention to be served the day following the original detention. An email will come from the school to inform you of the detention and why it was given, and often we will call you if the detention was given by the classroom teacher. In extenuating circumstances, a one-day grace period may be possible.

Cards can be flipped for behavior that goes against both school and classroom rules. They include, but are not limited to, talking back, repeatedly talking out of turn, not keeping hands to self, disrespectful or rude behavior or any other behavior that they have been asked to stop.

Upon receiving a fifth detention within the term, the student may be placed on a Behavioral Support track and will meet with the vice-principal along with their parents. During the meeting, the vice-principal and the student may co-create a plan that maps out goals for success and outlines strategies for achieving that success. The student may need to check in with the vice-principal or the school counselor after every subsequent detention. After the 8th detention in the term, the student will receive an in-school. If a student receives 3 detentions within 5 school days, he/she could also have an in-school. If further action is needed beyond this, the teacher(s), the parents and administration will remain involved and additional consequences will result as outlined by the intermediate unit. This action plan is available upon request.

In extenuating circumstances or for severe behavior, these stages may be bypassed and stronger consequences may be indicated.

# Homework Policy

Homework is written on the board. Students are given time to write homework in their assignment book. According to BACS policy, students in sixth grade should spend approximately 60-65 minutes on homework, including independent reading for about 15 minutes each night. If your child **regularly** spends more time than this on homework each night, please contact your child’s teacher. It may be useful to set up a modified program for your child, often in consultation with the head of student support. There are projects assigned several days or even weeks in advance. If your child chooses to wait until the night before the due date, he/she may have over one hour of work. If the work is not handed in on time, a deduction in the grade will result for these long-term projects.

**Homework will be expected at 8:00 a.m. on the date it is due.**  If it is not completed/handed in, the student will need to make up the work. For each assignment not handed in on time, the student will receive one study hall to be served the following day in the upper unit computer lab. For example, if a math and a history assignment are not completed/handed in, the student will need to serve two consecutive study halls. In addition, work considered essential for the day may need to be made up during recess or lunch breaks on day it is due. Even if the work is completed, the study hall will still need to be served. An email will come from the school to inform you of the study hall and why it is being assigned. (If your student gets both a study hall and a detention, the detention will be served first and the study hall on the subsequent day.) If your student develops a habit of neglecting his or her homework, an individualized system may need to be established. According to school policy, if a student receives 10 study halls in a term, then they will be required to attend study hall daily for the remainder of the term.

Students are urged to communicate with the teacher if there is a problem understanding or completing a homework assignment. In instances where the student contacted their teacher and/or has a legitimate reason for not finishing an assignment, indicated in a letter/email from home, a study hall will not be given. It will still be necessary for the student to make up the work. This sixth grade homework policy may seem firmer than the students have had in the past and is designed to promote **accountability** and **responsibility** in homework completion. This is appropriate for their middle school state.

If a student does not complete classroom work within the assignment time given, he/she may need to complete the work at home in a timely manner. This would be in addition to regular homework. Ten incomplete or late homework/classwork assignments will result in daily required attendance at study hall for the remainder of the term. If the problem persists, an action plan may be developed between the teacher, the parent and the student.

# Test Policy

Tests are usually scheduled about a week in advance with an accompanying study guide. If a student misses a test due to absence the teacher will schedule a make-up day. Depending on the reason for absence the test may occur on the day the student returns to school, so it is important to communicate with your student’s teacher during absences.

In the event that a student earns less than a 70% on a test a letter/email will be sent home to be signed, notifying the parents that the student has received a failing grade. This letter/email will also indicate what further requirements need to be met, whether it be make-up work, a re-test, or leaving the grade as is. If extra work or a re-test is required, the student may only increase their test grade up to 70%. This is because those who receive 70% and above are not given the opportunity to have a re-test and so will then also not have a second chance to study the material. Please note in the spring term, test grades in the 60’s will stand, but parents will still receive notification.

*Note: homework and test dates are usually posted on each teacher’s website.*

# Independent Country Study

**Objectives:**

* To develop a broad knowledge of a specific country and gain an appreciation for the variety of cultures the LORD has created.
* To integrate previously learned skills from geography, math, and language arts into a long-term project.
* To organize and write a grade appropriate research paper.
* To foster a sense of curiosity in their subject and to experience a sense of accomplishment.
* To appreciate and be inspired by the work of classmates and to work together in a sphere of charity toward a common goal.
* To build on research skills developed in previous grades and introduce new ones that will prepare the students for research skills needed in seventh grade.
* To pace and follow through on a long-term assignment.
* To have the opportunity to share research with a visual display and oral exchange with the community.
* To experience a learning environment where a variety of learning styles can be utilized and appreciated.

This year the culminating experience of our independent country study will take place on **Tuesday, May 14**, 7:00 – 8:15 p.m. (preparation and clean-up will extend beyond this time frame on both ends). Countries will be chosen some time in January. The unit of study begins in mid February.

Students will complete a variety of assignments over the course of Spring Term. Each assignment will demonstrate the student’s knowledge in a different way. The variety of projects will help to develop a solid foundation of knowledge for students about their country. These projects build up to a research paper intended to reflect each student’s individual areas of interest. Students will create a clay country map, write a fictitious travel journal, and develop a biography of someone living or important to the country in some way. All students will be given the opportunity and time to do extensive reading about their country.

The paper will be a minimum of five typed pages, use at least ten sources and cover three subject areas of the student’s choice and teacher’s approval. The total time given to this part of the project will be about a month. Students will have a thorough exposure to their subject matter before the writing process begins.

The Independent Country Study is intended to accommodate a variety of learning styles, interests and abilities. It is a unit that takes many weeks to complete, but is designed to put minimal stress on the student. We have involved several subject areas into the preparation and expect there to be minimal parental involvement until close to the culminating event. Parental help is welcomed when students are selecting pictures and creating a poster of them. A color printer is helpful, but is not required.

More information will follow as we draw closer to the start of the unit. Everyone will have the opportunity to shine! We can’t wait to share our hard work with you in May.

# Independent Reading

Sixth graders are expected to read at least 15 minutes every night. We really **benefit** from support at home to make this happen. The pages for independent reading are recorded daily and handed in weekly.

Often one of the books the student is reading will be the book that they are using for Literature class. Students are encouraged to read a variety of books at a reading level that suits their skills.

During the year we will focus on five different genres in independent reading: realistic fiction, non-fiction, historical fiction, poetry and fantasy. During these times, students are required to read **at least** one book from this genre. Students will be given the opportunity to choose a book for these assignments from the BACS library, but other titles may be chosen from other sources in order to help them find something at their reading and interest levels. At the end of the unit, the students will do a report on their book; each genre has a different type of report. Students will be given at least a week to complete this assignment.

A list of books recommended by sixth grade teachers, past and present, is available upon request. Many of these "classic" type books can be found on the shelves in the sixth grade classrooms.

READING GOALS FOR FIRST TERM (11 weeks)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| SYMBOL  -  √-  √  √+  + | TOTAL PAGES  <450  450-750  750-950  950-1450  >1450 | PAGES/WEEK  <41  41-68  68-86  86-132  >132 |

READING GOALS FOR SECOND TERM (14 weeks)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| SYMBOL  -  √-  √  √+  + | TOTAL PAGES  <550  550-800  800-1150  1150-1500  >1550 | PAGES/WEEK  <40  40-57  57-82  82-107  >107 |

READING GOALS FOR THIRD TERM (13 weeks)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| SYMBOL  -  √-  √  √+  + | TOTAL PAGES  <500  500-775  750-950  950-1450  >1450 | PAGES/WEEK  <39  39-63  63-80  88-120  >120 |

# 500 Core Spelling Words

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| a  able  about  above  across  add  after  again  against  ago  air  all  almost  alone  along  already  also  although  always  am  American  among  an  and  animal  animals  another  answer  any  anything  are  area  around  as  asked  at  away  back  ball  be  beautiful  became  because  become  been  before  began  begin  behind  being  below  best  better  between  big  black  blue  boat  body  book  both  bottom  box  boy  bring  brought  build  built  but  by  called  came | can  can’t  cannot  car  care  carefully  carry  center  certain  change  check  children  city  class  close  cold  come  common  complete  could  country  course  cut  dark  day  deep  did  didn’t  different  distance  do  does  dog  don’t  done  door  down  draw  dry  during  each  early  earth  easy  eat  either  else  end  English  enough  even  ever  every  everyone  everything  example  face  fact  fall  family  far  fast  father  feel  feet  felt  few  field  finally  find  fine  fire | first  fish  five  floor  follow  food  foot  for  form  found  four  friend  from  front  full  game  gave  get  girl  give  glass  go  going  gold  gone  good  got  great  green  ground  group  grow  had  half  hand  happened  hard  has  have  he  head  hear  heard  heart  heavy  held  help  her  here  high  him  himself  his  hold  home  horse  hot  hour  house  how  however  hundred  I  I’ll  I’m  ice  idea  if  important  in  inside  instead | into  is  it  it’s  its  itself  job  just  keep  kept  kind  knew  know  land  language  large  last  later  lay  learn  learned  least  leave  leaves  left  less  let  letter  life  light  like  line  list  little  live  lived  living  long  longer  look  low  made  main  make  man  many  map  matter  may  me  mean  men  might  mind  miss  money  moon  more  morning  most  mother  move  much  must  my  name  near  need  never  new  next | night  no  not  nothing  notice  now  number  of  off  often  oh  old  on  once  one  only  open  or  order  other  our  out  outside  over  own  page  paper  part  past  pattern  people  perhaps  person  picture  piece  place  plants  play  point  poor  possible  power  probably  problem  put  question  quite  rain  ran  read  reading  ready  real  really  red  remember  rest  right  river  road  rock  room  round  run  sad  said  same  sat  saw  say  school  sea | second  see  seen  sentence  set  several  shall  she  ship  short  should  show  shown  side  simple  since  six  size  sky  small  snow  so  some  someone  something  soon  sound  space  special  stand  start  state  stay  still  stood  stop  story  strong  study  such  suddenly  summer  sun  sure  surface  system  table  take  talk  tall  tell  ten  than  that  that’s  the  their  them  themselves  then  there  these  they  thing  think  third  this  those  though  thought  three | through  time  tiny  to  today  together  told  too  took  top  toward  town  tree  true  try  turn  turned  two  under  understand  United States  until  up  upon  us  use  usually  very  voice  walked  want  warm  was  watch  water  way  we  weather  well  went  were  what  when  where  whether  which  while  white  who  whole  why  wide  wild  will  wind  winter  with  within  without  words  work  world  would  write  year  yes  yet  you  young  your |