



## What Do We Offer Students in Grades 5 - 6?

Competent, engaged, and reaching ever wider into the world, these students love projects!

### **Personal and Social Development**

Independence, responsibility, creativity; problem-solving skills and conflict resolution; community service; study skills and time management

### **Language and Literacy**

*Listening, Speaking, Reading, Writing*

- Discussion skills
- Oral presentations
- Multiple literary genres, often connecting with SS & SCI
- Note-taking
- Essays
- Creative writing – short stories, poetry, drama
- Research
- Word processing

### **Mathematics**

Whenever possible, we enter mathematical topics using real world applications and open ended problems.

*Grade 5 Focal Points*

- Division of whole numbers
- Addition, subtraction of fractions & decimals
- Data – mean, median, mode, range

*Grade 6 Focal Points*

- Multiplication, division of fractions, decimals
- Connecting ratio to multiplication & division
- Writing, interpreting and using mathematical expressions & equations
- Data– mean, median, mode, range, comparisons

### **Science**

*Being a scientist:* Participate in the scientific process, meet scientists, solve design challenges, analyze science in the news, & continually practice scientific and engineering practices.

- Asking questions, defining problems, and forming hypotheses
- Planning & carrying out investigations
- Designing solutions to solve problems
- Collecting, analyzing & interpreting data
- Communicating science understanding.

*Concepts:* cause & effect; patterns, scale, and systems; developing & using models; structure & function; stability & change; scientific process, research, and real world applications.

*Year 1 Topics:*

- *Fall:* Life Sciences/biological systems; cells, organisms, communities, ecosystems; natural selection, evolution, genetics
- *Winter:* Problem solving and invention
- *Spring:* Designing and conducting independent investigations

*Year 2 Topics:* Physical/Earth Sciences

- Motion
- Geology, hydrology, space, oceanography
- Student-designed investigations

## Social Studies

Inquiries include using topography and the lens of Quaker values as means of understanding geography and history.

*Year 1 Essential Questions:*

What does it mean to be an American? Is there a unique American character?

We will engage with these questions using the creation and expansion of the United States in the 18th and 19th centuries as a framework. We will consider how events during this time period shaped our national identity-- intentionally or not. The roles played by Indigenous people and African Americans will be an area of special focus.

- American Revolution and creation of government
- Westward Expansion
- Civil War
- Industrial Revolution

*Year 2: Revolution and Change*

- Definition of revolution
- Political, cultural, artistic revolutions
- French, Russian, Chinese, Cuban, Iranian revolutions

## Spanish

- Make requests, express needs, express simple ideas with detail, describe and compare, engage in back-and-forth conversation
- Continue acquisition of relevant vocabulary: alphabet and spelling, extended greetings and number, preferences, size, quantity, health, weather, seasons. Focus on present, and progressive tense and on commands
- Geography, history, economics, and arts in Spanish-speaking world: Spain; Caribbean Islands; Mayan, Aztec, and Incan civilizations and corresponding regions today; Chile, Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay, and Cuba

## Art Studio

- Demonstrate independent & individual artistic behaviors
- Work cooperatively in an art studio setting
- Group art reflection & critiquing
- Draw and paint with shadows & shading
- Paint with intent and expression using line, color & texture
- Create freestanding sculptures
- Mix intermediate colors
- Practice independent sketch book skills & habits
- Use professional printmaking tools to produce relief prints
- Develop collage & fiber work

## Music: World Music

Why do different cultures have different kinds of music & what are those differences? We define the style, hear & see examples, & sing songs.

- *Musical Literacy:* reading treble & bass clefs with solfege & letter names; complex rhythms; sight-singing
- *Year 1:* Music of Sub-Saharan Africa, Native America, European-America, Latin America, & American music from Revolution to Civil War
- *Year 2:* Music of Ancient Greece & Rome, the Middle East, India, China, Japan, SE Asia, Oceania, Indonesia

## Music Performance Classes

- *Middle School Chorus:* all middle school students participate in weekly classes
- *Beginner Strings (elective):* a year of group lessons for beginner violin, viola, cello
- *String Ensemble (elective):* for students who have completed at least one year of lessons & can play their instrument at the intermediate level
- *Band (elective):* a year of group lessons for beginner & intermediate wind & brass

## Physical Education

- Improved coordination by practicing more advanced skills & movements
- Sportsmanship, fair play, positive attitude
- Further development of leadership qualities through challenge-based curriculum
- Exposure to variety of recreation & leisure activities

## Body, Mind, Spirit

Students explore and experience the blending of body, mind, and spirit. Human sexual development and healthy decision-making are included for everyone, as well as workshops that use nature, movement, the arts and reflection to build inner awareness.