

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

LISTENING *New info 2009*

- Listen respectfully to peers and adults
- Listen to various forms of literature
- Listen to different sources and presentations of the spoken word
- Understand principles of active listening

SPEAKING

- Expand verbal vocabulary
- Speak in a respectful manner
- Use appropriate gestures and body language
- Share own writing and respond to audience feedback
- Express appreciation for others' ideas
- Give tactful and constructive criticism
- Ask appropriate questions to seek information

READING

Reading Fluency and Comprehension:

- Use reading strategies to improve fluency and comprehension
- Learn research skills and read to gain information
- Read and understand different genres of literature
- Compare and contrast books
- Read and follow directions independently
- Identify plot elements and main ideas
- Identify literal and figurative language
- Recall details, summarize effectively, show cause and effect
- Understand writer's purpose, infer and draw conclusions
- Distinguish fact from opinion

WRITING

Writing Process:

- Brainstorm, pre-write, organize, write, confer, revise, rewrite, share
- Improve ability to revise and edit independently

Writing Genres:

- Essay to inform, narrative, reflective essay, response to literature, poetry, memoir, and persuasive writing
- Writing in all subject areas

Grammar, Usage and Mechanics:

- Master parts of speech and verb tenses
- Diagram basic sentences
- Understand synonyms, antonyms, and homonyms
- Consolidate general syntactic rules
- Use correct punctuation in dialogue
- Use commas and apostrophes correctly

Word Study and Spelling:

- Learn vocabulary with Greek, Latin and Anglo-Saxon roots
 - Increase subject area vocabulary
 - Learn weekly spelling words
 - Learn and correct misspelled words in compositions
 - Review phonological awareness
 - Consolidate knowledge of advanced prefixes and suffixes, and syllable rules
- ### **Handwriting and Typing:**
- Write in cursive weekly
 - Read cursive writing
 - Practice typing and word processing skills weekly

Core Literature Studies

Teacher Read-Aloud Books:

Rules; The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle;
King of Shadows; Chains; Maniac Magee;
Cast Two Shadows

Genre Studies:

Biography, contemporary fiction, fantasy, folklore,
historical fiction, poetry

MATHEMATICS

Numbers and Number Relationships

- Demonstrate the inverse relationship of addition and subtraction, multiplication and division
- Read, write, and compare whole numbers, fractions, decimals, integers and percents, ratios and proportions
- Know place value to a million, decimals to thousandths
- Round whole numbers to 1,000,000, decimals to hundred thousandths
- Use the commutative, associative and distributive properties, and the identity properties of zero and one
- Recognize odd, even, prime, composite, and square numbers
- Understand prime factors, greatest common factors, and least common multiples

Computation and Estimation

- Add and subtract 5-digit whole numbers and decimals
- Multiply whole numbers and decimals with regrouping, with up to a 3-digit multiplier
- Divide 5-digit whole or decimal numbers by 2-digit whole or decimal numbers
- Add and subtract any three proper or mixed fractions
- Multiply any combination of fractions, mixed or whole numbers
- Divide fractions, mixed or whole numbers
- Introduce percent problems
- Solve one, two and three-step word problems
- Find equivalents of decimals, fractions, ratios and percents

Measurement

- Measure length, perimeter, area, volume, circumference, surface area, and time
- Convert units within a system of measurement
- Estimate and measure angle degrees

Geometry

- Classify angles
- Identify and classify polygons
- Identify the center, radius, diameter, and circumference of a circle
- Identify pyramids, spheres, cubes, cylinders, and rectangular prisms
- Use protractor and compass

Data Analysis, Statistics and Probability

- Collect, organize, represent, and interpret data using lists, tables, graphs (bar, line and circle)
- Interpret data using the mean, median, mode and range
- Predict, perform, record and analyze simple probability experiments
- Use calculators and/or computers to process data

Problem Solving

- Approach problem solving systematically and creatively
- Develop flexibility, confidence, perseverance, and persistence both independently and in groups
- Use concrete, informal and formal strategies to solve mathematical problems in real-world situations

Patterns, Functions and Algebra

- Identify, describe and extend patterns
- Use order of operations to solve equations involving parentheses and exponents
- Use tables, graphs and verbal or symbolic rules
- Understand the use of variables in equations
- Solve simple algebraic equations
- Graph, describe and compare equations on a Cartesian grid

SOCIAL STUDIES

Historical Perspective and Sources

- What's in a name?
- Interpreting material culture (mystery artifacts, trash, heirlooms)
- Reading art and architecture (Colonial portraiture, 18th century domestic architecture)

World History

Atlantic World

- Age of Encounter
- Expansion of worldview
- Cultural and ecological encounters (Colombian Exchange brochures)
- African kingdoms and the slave trade
- Historical geography of South America (Pre-Colombian/Colonial)

U.S. History

"From Colonies to Country"

- Comparative study of North American settlements (first-person presentations)
- Salem Witchcraft trials*
- French Connections (the Arcadian Experience, The French and Indian War)
- History and implications of slavery
- Causes of the War of Independence* (Colonist diary responses to events)
- War of Independence* (Newscast presentations on specific significant battles)
- The aftermath (American Systems of government, Legacy of victory/defeat)

* Includes historical fiction component

SCIENCE

Inquiry and process skills

Analyze data, verify information, experiment, plan experiments, use equipment to collect data, record data in a variety of ways, discuss and analyze data, control and manipulate variables, validate reliability of results, invent, make inferences, use knowledge to solve problems, generalize, expand knowledge to analogous situations

Content

Forces in Motion:

- Galileo's pendulums
- Principles of pendulums
- Construction of pendulums Simple
- Six simple machines and how they work

Electricity:

- Simple, series and parallel circuits
- Materials and conductivity
- Resistance

Gases and Airs:

- Properties of air (composition, pressure, oxidation)
- Properties of vacuums (expansion, contraction)

Oceanography:

- Ocean waves, currents, sea water, sand, ocean floors,
- Man's effect on the oceans
- Adaptations of life cycles

Brain:

- Anatomy and function
- Memory, laterality and language
- Color theory and visual perception

Genetics:

- Patterns of inheritance: punnet squares and pedigrees
- Nature vs. nurture

Health

- Reproductive System and Reproduction
- Drug Education/Substance Abuse
- HIV

FRENCH

Rationale: To continue the development of communication skills in French and to enhance students' understanding and appreciation of the cultures of the Francophone world

Goal: To build oral/aural proficiency and to continue to develop the ability to read and write in French

Listening/Speaking:

- Engage in conversations about familiar topics
- Obtain information using simple questions
- Express likes and dislikes in complete sentences
- Memorize dialogues, songs and poems
- Express ideas and needs using familiar language

Reading/Writing:

- Read familiar basic vocabulary with correct pronunciation and intonation
- Write adaptations of basic dialogues
- Write short pieces about oneself, family and friends
- Write words based on what one hears (dictées)

Content Area: Expansion of topics begun in 4th and 5th grades, for example: basic expressions, weather, place names, nationalities, telling time and age, food and drink, colors, hobbies and activities, numbers, seasons, days, months, seasons, preferences, likes and dislikes

Language Understanding: Grammar, pronunciation and spelling patterns, possessive adjectives, prepositions, descriptive adjectives, common adverbs, verbs with infinitives, negation, conjugation of regular and irregular verbs, definite and indefinite articles, formation of questions, expressions with avoir and faire

Culture

European union and the use of the Euro, location of Francophone countries, French names of European countries, French cuisine, French education system, French-speaking African geography and politics, traditional and modern African music

SOCIAL SKILLS

Civic and Social Responsibility

- Stay current with work assignments
- Be of service to community

Communication

- Advocate for self

Personal Development

- Solve problems
- Negotiate and compromise

LIBRARY SKILLS

Use of the Dewey Decimal System

- Understand the 10 main classes of the Dewey Decimal System and that they can be divided and subdivided into more specific categories

Use of the Reference Collection

- Use cross references in an encyclopedia to locate information
- Use an almanac to find statistics and other facts
- Use biographical and geographical dictionaries

Use of Indexes

- Be aware of indexes in various places (books, encyclopedias, periodicals)
- Use cross-references in indexes

Research and Reporting Techniques

- Take notes from reference and other resource materials
- Organize information into a usable format
- Present information in an in-depth written report and/or visual/oral presentation

Selection and Evaluation

- Discuss reactions to and evaluations of independent reading
- Read and discuss Newbury Medal winners

Literature Appreciation

- Be familiar with important authors and their works
- Describe impact of the historical period on the plot and characters of an historical novel
- Understand the relationship of African American folk tales to the condition of the American slave

Parts of a Book

- Identify the appendix

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Basic Operations and Concepts

- Name, save and retrieve files on the network
- Use strategies for solving routine hardware, software and printing problems
- Practice keyboarding skills with a goal of 25 words per minute at 90% accuracy
- Begin to understand operating system terminology and features
- Save documents to a personal storage device

Social, Ethical and Human Issues

- Use correct posture and hand placement
- Respect the privacy and work of others
- Follow the school's Acceptable Use Policy (AUP)
- Understand concepts of plagiarism and copyright law as they apply to words, music & images
- Document electronic sources using acceptable formats
- Practice personal safety measures when using technology and the internet

Technology Productivity Tools

- Choose appropriate technology tools
- Create documents using a variety of formatting skills
- Use a variety of online databases
- Design spreadsheets using basic formulas, sort data and construct graphs
- Produce and present a multimedia project
- Create original graphics for use in other projects
- Use programming tools to create simple animations

Communication Tools

- Discuss the use and dangers associated with emails and attachments
- Demonstrate multimedia presentation skills
- Create a publication using basic design and formatting concepts

Technology Research

- Use a variety of online resources to research topics and obtain information and images
- Compare information from digital sources to choose the most appropriate
- Employ basic search strategies and begin to evaluate websites
- Identify the authorship and authority of online sources
- Compare and contrast information found on the internet for accuracy, relevance and objectivity

Grade 6 Art

In their last year at the Marion Cross School, the sixth graders continue the tradition of adding their piece to the all-school art creation. The projects for the rest of the year involve longer, multi-tasked, intricate art forms. Students are encouraged to take time during the design phase of their projects as well as to work carefully creating their final products. These include: ceramic mirror frames, various types of sculpture, scenery for 6th grade plays, dyed paper and reed mobiles, design problems, Impressionist water colors, Inkle loom weaving, Shibori fabric dying, LEEEP habitat artbooks (oceans), open studio art, as well as the traditional 6th grade "What's in Your Head?" silhouette drawings (displayed with their first grade self-portraits) and the most anticipated and remembered Gingerbread houses.

Grade 6 Music

The music program at the Marion Cross School is designed to help students develop the skills needed to realize a rewarding and joyful lifetime musical experience and to realize their own and other's innate ability and need to create.

In sixth grade the students continue work learning the language and notation of music and have a concentrated exposure to composition using music technology. Through the use of technology, they also write and perform their own songs. In January we begin a study of American Opera and then create our own, culminating in a performance in April. Sixth grade students have the opportunity to take instrumental lessons, participate in band, orchestra and/or chorus and other small ensembles. Throughout the year they take leadership roles in "rep", the holiday concert and the May Festival.

Grade 6 Physical Education

The goal of the fifth and sixth grade physical education program is to help students enhance their physical skills and awareness, refine skills learned in grades 3, 4 and 5, and practice good sportsmanship and team play. Students learn about and begin to take personal charge of the following: personal fitness and wellness (fitness tests, fitness activities and warm-ups), sportsmanship and social interaction (New Games, cooperative learning situations, problem solving skills, recognizing own strengths and strengths of others, accepting differences), locomotor skills (dance, gymnastics), non-locomotor skills (high and long jumping, balance activities), striking skills (volleyball, pickleball, paddle tennis, badminton, whiffleball), movement concepts (general and personal space, speed, force and flow of movement, offense and defense), and manipulatives of circus arts activities (juggling scarves, balls and clubs; spinning diabolos and plates). In addition they are introduced to and play modified games of lacrosse, whiffleball, volleyball, basketball, ultimate frisbee, and soccer. Track and field events are taught and practiced, and we continue to occasionally play some large group games.

Grade 6 Guidance

The guidance program is designed to help students learn about themselves and others as well as to help them learn about getting along with others. The guidance counselor uses the Life Skills health/guidance curriculum to teach sixth graders about self-esteem, decision-making, stress management, active/passive listening, review of conflict resolution, assertiveness (passive/aggressive/assertive responses), tobacco/drug/alcohol use, and HIV, and reproduction. They use class discussions, role-playing, and writing to express themselves.