Our goal for social studies is for the students to become independent critical thinkers who are ready to participate in their communities as responsible, thoughtful, and informed citizens exhibiting moral and civic virtues.

All social studies students begin the curriculum year with a study of identity and community, and how those two things shape one another. Sixth grade social studies then concentrates on the world’s first communities in the ancient world. Units we’ll cover this year include: Identity & Community, Prehistory, Mesopotamia, Ancient Egypt, Ancient India & China, Ancient Greece, and Ancient Rome. The year will offer your children hands-on opportunities to become historians.

In addition to the curriculum, students have opportunities to take part in field trips, talk with guest speakers, and participate in History Fair. History Fair is optional for 6th grade students.

**Grading Categories**

- Homework - 10%
- Class Work - 20%
- Projects - 30%
- Assessments - 20%
- Writing - 30%
**Language Arts**

Reading instruction and expectations are similar classroom to classroom. The work we do integrates reading and writing as guided by the Common Core Standards. We’ll work toward being able “to exhibit, with increasing fullness and regularity, the capacities of a literate individual.” The goal is for all of us to...

- become independent
- know our content
- be able to write to various audiences about a variety of topics
- understand and evaluate what we read
- value evidence and support
- use technology and digital media strategically and capably
- come to understand other perspectives and cultures

In 6th grade language arts this year, we will read a selection of short stories, both fiction and nonfiction. The novels we’ll read include: *Seedfolks*, *Inside-Out & Back Again*, *The Pearl*, and *The Outsiders*.

The writing we’ll work on this year will range from personal narrative to argument writing and will be integrated into the reading curriculum.

**Grading Categories**

- Workshop - 10%
- Vocabulary - 20%
- Writing - 20%
- Assessments & Projects - 30%
- Literary Discussions - 20%