

Winnisquam Regional Middle School

6th Grade Program of Studies

2011-2012

English/Language Arts (ELA)

Topics of Study: Students will be reading and responding to materials from a variety of literary themes, using the text book, classroom novels, and other materials. Students will be using the writing process in varied formats for different audiences. Students will also work to improve their spelling, mechanics, and grammar.

In addition to occasionally needing to finish a class work assignment, or complete reading to prepare for class assignments, students are required to read a minimum of 20 minutes per night, 5 nights per week, in the Accelerated Reader (independent reading) book. The way to become a better reader is to READ! Students will set a point goal for Accelerated Reading each quarter and then work to achieve that goal by choosing and reading a book, then taking a computerized comprehension test.

An honors option is offered to students who are capable of extending their learning by engaging with the curriculum at a more advanced level.

Read 180

Read 180 is a remedial ELA program designed for students whose literacy skills are significantly below grade level. The program includes Whole-Group Instruction, Individualized Computerized Instruction, and Modeled and Independent Reading. This program replaces the regular 6th grade ELA class until students are performing at grade level.

Foundations of Algebra

Foundations of Algebra is a course designed to bridge the gap between concrete mathematics and abstract mathematics. The class reinforces skills necessary for the successful study of algebra. Arithmetic skills will be strengthened and introductory algebra skills will be emphasized to better ready students for an Algebra I course. Some topics include the four basic operations with integers, fractions, decimals and percents, evaluating expressions, exploring data, solving one and two step equations, and working with the coordinate plane. This is an honors level course in Grade Six.

General Math

General Math is a course designed to further the development of students' mathematical concepts. Students will continue with grade level course work, along with strengthening basic arithmetic skills. Mathematical skills will be strengthened; working with rational numbers and geometry are the skills that will be emphasized to better ready students for higher level mathematics. Some topics include factors, multiples, fractions, decimals, percents, angles and polygons.

General Math with Lab

General Math with a lab follows the same description as General Math except there will be an additional lab component to the class. The lab will allow time for students to focus on individual skill building needs. The program(s) will be technology based and occur in the learning lab. The math teachers and the learning lab instructor will work together to create, monitor, and adjust labs to enable students to make progress and meet individual learning goals.

Science

The main focus of the 6th grade science curriculum at WRMS is Earth Science. The curriculum is divided into three sections: Astronomy, Weather/Water and Earth History. Throughout the year, these three aspects of earth science are closely studied and analyzed in a variety of methods. We use the Full Option Science System (FOSS) which lends itself to many hands-on, inquiry-based labs and activities. In addition to FOSS, the students are provided with a Glencoe textbook which has supplement material to enrich and enhance the curriculum.

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Social Studies

Sixth grade social studies is an overview of Ancient Civilizations. The course covers a wide range of topics such as map skills, Themes of Geography, Ancient Greece, Mesopotamia, and Ancient Egypt. If time allows, additional civilizations may be covered as well. Students will be exposed to major events and people who have helped to shape the ancient world and its lasting effects on modern day. Students will work on a variety of assignments throughout the year; these will include but are not limited to the following: map studies, open response questions, collages, oral presentations, debates, source document analysis, role playing simulations, virtual field trips, clicker practice and assessments, WebQuests and research papers.

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Band and Chorus

Students in the 6th grade have the option to choose to participate in Band and/or Chorus.

