



The Mission of the Souderton Area School District is to prepare students to demonstrate competencies needed to contribute and to succeed in a changing world by building on a commitment to excellence and innovation, by working in partnership with family and community, and by assuring a quality education for all students in a safe and nurturing environment.

Sixth Grade Overview

The Souderton Area School District emphasizes student growth and achievement academically, socially, and emotionally. The District programs are developed and revised to meet district and PA Core standards in 12 subject areas and graduation requirements of the Chapter 4 Regulations. SASD ensures accomplishment of necessary curriculum characteristics in all standards areas by collaboratively working with teachers through curriculum reviews, curriculum mapping and curriculum writing. Planned course documents include academic standards, end of unit/course assessments, essential questions, enduring understandings, key concepts and competencies, major teaching points, instructional time, and materials and resources.

English Language Arts

In this course, sixth grade students are immersed in the reading and writing workshop where they extend their learning that began in elementary school. Students continue to master a repertoire of thinking skills and strategies that will be developed as they progress through middle school.

Highlights of the course include developing strong analysis skills as they investigate and examine character traits and apply those skills in writing personal narratives and literary essays. Students further tap into specific strategies to use as they read nonfiction texts and conduct research. Finally, the year concludes with the exploration of how power, perspective and conflicts affect characters.

➤ READING

A Deep Study of Character: This unit focuses on developing students to grow as readers through a deep study of character. Students will consider more complex character traits, to investigate how setting shapes characters, and to analyze how characters are vehicles for themes.

- Considering Complex Character Traits
- Investigating How Setting Shapes Characters
- Analyzing Characters as Vehicles for Themes

Tapping the Power of NonFiction:

This unit focuses on developing students love for nonfiction by a solid set of reading skills:

discerning central ideas, summarizing to create a concise version of a text, synthesizing within and across texts, building vocabulary, growing ideas, and reading critically to question the author’s point of view and perspective.

- Navigating Nonfiction Chapter Books in Book Clubs, with an Emphasis on discerning Central Ideas
- Investigating Topics with Research Groups, and Synthesizing across Texts on that Topic
- Researching a New Topic with More Independence While Helping Students to Read Critically

Social Issue Book Club:

Reading for Empathy and Advocacy: This unit focuses on social issues as the lens for developing reading and thinking skills. During middle school, many issues start to surface and weigh heavily on students. A variety of texts create the opportunity to discuss issues facing characters, groups and their own lives.

- Studying Characters’ Relationships
- Analyzing Group-Related Issues: Considering Power, Perspective, and Tone
- Bringing Your Life and Others’ Lives to Your Reading

WRITING

Personal Narrative:

This unit focuses on developing a strong foundation of the Writer’s Workshop. Students will learn to move through the writing process and establish goals for themselves. They will increase their independence by bringing the knowledge they have about the writing process and applying it to current writing. Students will develop the qualities of good writing that they will be able to transfer to other writing genres in future.

- Launching Independent Writing Lives and Generating Personal Narratives
- Moving through the Writing Process and toward Our Goals
- Writing a Second Personal Narrative with New Independence

The Literary Essay- From Character to Compare/Contrast:

This unit focuses on developing a foundation for writers’ claims as well as improve upon reading skills by teaching students how to read a text closely to find the details about a character. Using these details, students will examine characters more closely looking at their motivations and desires. Students will learn how to develop a claim, plan for an essay, and use evidence to support their thinking.

- Writing Strong Literary Essays
- Elevating the Complexity of Literary Essays
- Writing Compare-and-Contrast Essays

Researched Based Information Writing:

This unit focuses on teaching students how to glean a big picture of a topic, uncover key points or ideas within that topic, and draft an informational essay quickly conveying the information and ideas. Students will learn to strengthen their credibility by incorporating solid evidence into their writing. Students will frame and reframe their work for delivery in multiple ways, including visually.

- Writing Researched-Based Informational Essays
- Drafting and Revising Information Books on More Focused Topics
- Digital Writing Projects: Sharing Expertise Online

Math

➤ 6th Grade Math

The story of this mathematics course is told in nine units. Each unit has a narrative that describes the mathematical work that will unfold in that unit. Each lesson in the unit also has a narrative.

Lesson Narratives explain:

- A description of the mathematical content of the lesson and its place in the learning sequence.
- The meaning of any new terms introduced in the lesson.
- How the mathematical practices come into play, as appropriate.

Activities within lessons also have a narrative, which explain:

- The mathematical purpose of the activity and its place in the learning sequence.
- What students are doing during the activity.
- What teacher needs to look for while students are working on an activity to orchestrate an effective synthesis.
- Connections to the mathematical practices when appropriate.

Scope and Sequence

The progression of learning for the course and each unit of study is below:

Unit 1: Area and Surface Area

Unit 2: Introducing Ratios

Unit 3: Rates and Percentages

Unit 4: Dividing Fractions

Unit 5: Arithmetic in Base Ten

Unit 6: Expressions and Equations

Unit 7: Rational Numbers

Unit 8: Data Sets and Distributions

Unit 9: Putting it All Together

➤ Accelerated Math

Accelerated Math is a compacted and advanced program to provide the rigor necessary to prepare students to take the Algebra I course in either seventh grade or eighth grade. It is an exceedingly fast paced course that covers the PA Core Standards for grades 7 and 8 in a one-year course of study.

- Two-year accelerated students will skip the 6th grade Math and begin middle school with Big Ideas Accelerated Math and proceed to take Algebra I in grade 7 and Geometry in grade 8. The sixth-grade standards extend into the 7th and 8th grade courses of study which are encompassed within Accelerated Math.
- One-year accelerated students will take the 6th grade Math prior to taking Big Ideas Accelerated Math in 7th grade and will then take Algebra I in grade 8.

Topics covered in the course:

- Integers
- Rational Numbers
- Expressions and Equations
- Inequalities
- Ratios and Proportion
- Percents
- Constructions and Scale Drawings
- Circles and Area
- Surface Area and Volume
- Probability and Statistics
- Transformations
- Angles and Triangles
- Graphing and Writing Linear Equations
- Real Numbers and the Pythagorean Theorem

Science

➤ Physical Science 1: Can I Believe My Eyes?

Unit Summary: This physical science unit begins with students asking questions about what they see and why, in order to understand the role of light in seeing. Why is it important for students to learn about light? Although many people do not realize it, the scientific principles that explain the behavior of light are the same principles that govern much of the behavior of cellular phones, computers, MRI scanners, microwave ovens, nuclear power plants, televisions, satellite

communication, GPS, and many other systems. Nearly all of the major scientific discoveries and major technological advances made in the last 100 years are based, directly or indirectly, on principles underlying the behavior of light. It is impossible to make sense scientifically of the world in which we live without understanding how light propagates and how it interacts with matter.

➤ **Intro to Chemistry 1: How Can I Smell Things from a Distance?**

Unit Summary: How Can I Smell Things from a Distance? is an introduction to chemistry that focuses on one of the core ideas in physical science— the particle nature of matter. Students experience, model, and explain a variety of laboratory and everyday phenomena related to core ideas about matter and its interactions and, more specifically, the structure and properties of matter. The unit uses the widely experienced phenomenon of humans’ ability to smell odors to contextualize the science ideas.

➤ **Life Science 1: Where Have All the Creatures Gone?**

Unit Summary: This ecosystem unit focuses on organisms’ needs for survival and what happens when those needs are not met. Students investigate why food is important; what structures/functions different organisms have in order to obtain food and reproduce; the different relationships between organisms and the role abiotic factors play in the ecosystem. Although the specific anchoring phenomenon is about the decline of Great Lakes trout, these big science ideas apply to all organisms and ecosystems and, thus, can be used to make connections to local, place-based population phenomenon.

➤ **Earth Science 1: How Does Water Shape Our World?**

Unit Summary: How Does Water Shape Our World? is a project- based Earth Science unit. In order to provide context in real- world experiences, students are given the task of creating materials for visitor centers in specific national parks in order to show how water has shaped the land in the park. Students explore how water moves in the parks, what rock is present in the parks, and how water and rock interact.

Social Studies

Middle School Student will think, act, and behave just as historians do by developing explanations for their observations, hypotheses, and thoughts through investigating, reading, writing, and sharing. Students will:

- Analyze the importance of the Nile River on the development of the Egyptian civilization
- Trace how China evolved from a vast array of diverse regions into a unified empire
- Explore the elements that contributed to the Greeks forming a cultural identity
- Identify and explain the forces that influenced the development of the Roman Empire and the Gupta Empire
- Identify important achievements and contributions from the ancient world

Scope and Sequence

The progression of learning for the course and each unit of study is below:

Unit 1: Gift of the Nile

Unit 2: From Silk Road to Great Wall

Unit 3: Greece: Foundation of Western Civilization

Unit 4: Great Empires