6th Grade
Curriculum Guide

*English-Language Arts

As a result of the language arts experience, an Episcopal Day School student will be a lifelong learner who is a critical reader and thinker, an effective writer and communicator, able to apply learning in a meaningful, responsible, and honorable way, contributing to the greater community. ELA 6 features study of novels, plays, non-fiction, and poetry. As students develop an appreciation of the various literary genres, they improve their comprehension skills. Students are encouraged to broaden their literary thinking beyond plot analysis and into interpretation for meaning. Selected texts will reinforce concepts and skills encountered across the 6th grade curriculum. Students increase their facility with written language through paragraph and essay writing, reporting, literary analysis, journals, and creative writing. Writing conventions are enhanced through regular practice across the curriculum. Public speaking techniques and experience allow growth and confidence. Grammar study emphasizes usage of parts of speech and a thorough understanding of sentence structure. Vocabulary, taken from guided reading, continues to grow as it is applied to both speaking and composition.

*Math

The students of Episcopal Day School will be able, confidently and effectively, to use their math skills in daily living, in college level work, and in a professional environment. Each student will possess the necessary skills to analyze a problem, to call on a repertoire of problem-solving strategies and tools, and to think logically and reasonably in arriving at a solution. In addition, students will communicate from a mathematical standpoint both in verbal and written form. Most importantly, it is the hope of the School that students will sustain the desire to be lifelong learners. Math 6 continues to strengthen the functions of addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division which were taught in earlier grades. Decimals, fractions, measurement, variables, equations, geometry, integers, and probability and ratios are also covered. There is a strong emphasis on problem-solving strategies and math vocabulary. In addition to our daily class routine, students have opportunities for math enrichment, including challenge problems and projects, games, online resources, and local competitions.

*Life Science

At the completion of the science education at Episcopal Day School, students will possess a curiosity about the world. The student will have developed skills associated with scientific inquiry and will have acquired the knowledge to make observations about the world so that inferences and predictions can be made that are consistent with natural laws. As science is interdisciplinary and has played a significant role in history and the development of culture, the student will use scientific literacy in making personal decisions and in solving real world problems. The focus of Life Science is to give the student a basic understanding of science in general and life science in particular. The course focuses on the fundamental concepts of living organisms, beginning with cell structure, then moving into genetics, classification of life, and exploration of different Animal Kingdom phylums. Various methods will be used in teaching this class including lecture and note-taking, audio-visual aids, performance-based assessment, teamwork activities, and labs. Students will complete several projects throughout the year.
*Ancient History

The sixth grade ancient history curriculum at Episcopal Day School is designed to help students continue to develop strong study skills acquired in lower school through content based upon ancient and medieval cultures. Students focus on developing the skills of an historian including, but not limited to, researching, writing, reading critically, analyzing primary sources, forming logical oral and written arguments, note-taking, and organizing information. With mobility and community as well as conflict and reconciliation as overarching themes, students begin their studies with an overview of early humans of the Paleolithic Era, before transitioning to early civilizations. Specific units include the first civilizations of Mesopotamia, Egypt, China, Indus River Valley, Maya, Aztec, and Inca. The class then moves into the study of Greece and Rome, causes of the Fall of Western Rome and Eastern Rome, and the Middle Ages. Thematic questions asked during the year include the following: “why do humans migrate?”; “what effect does this movement have on the world?”; “what do these communities look like once settled?”; and “how does conflict affect this movement?”

*Spanish

Through foreign language study, students of Episcopal Day School will have acquired an understanding and appreciation of the power of language as a tool of oral and written communication. As responsible citizens of the world, they will have gained an affinity and respect for diverse peoples, ideas, and cultures. They will have developed curiosity, critical thinking skills, and a passion for life-long language learning. Conversational Spanish in the sixth grade focuses on culture and beginning level Spanish expressions. The course will expose students to the target language through a variety of age-appropriate activities covering listening, speaking, reading and writing skills. Concepts such as the alphabet, calendar, basic cognates, classroom objects, commands, numbers, colors, weather, and greetings will be incorporated into the curriculum. Native speakers teach this class and invite other native speakers as guests and presenters.
English – Language Arts
As a result of the language arts experience, an Episcopal Day School student will be a lifelong learner who is a critical reader and thinker, an effective writer and communicator, able to apply learning in a meaningful, responsible and honorable way, contributing to the greater community. Furthermore, the course of ELA 7 focuses on all aspects of the English language: reading, writing, speaking, listening, thinking, and presenting. There is a particular emphasis on composition, reading comprehension, and literary analysis. Students in seventh grade will read a variety of texts including science fiction, fantasy, non-fiction, and historical fiction. Students will complete a variety of tasks including essays, tests, and project-based assessments. Students will broaden their literary thinking beyond plot analysis and into interpretation for meaning. Selected texts will reinforce concepts and skills encountered across the seventh grade curriculum. Grammar study emphasizes usage of parts of speech and a thorough understanding of sentence structure. Vocabulary, taken from guided reading, continues to grow as it is applied to both speaking and composition.

Pre-Algebra
The students of Episcopal Day School will be able, confidently and effectively, to use their math skills in daily living, in college level work, and in a professional environment. Each student will possess the necessary skills to analyze a problem, call on a repertoire of problem-solving strategies and tools, and to think logically and reasonably in arriving at a solution. In addition, students will communicate from a mathematical standpoint both in verbal and written form. Most importantly, it is the hope of the School that students will sustain the desire to be lifelong learners. Pre-Algebra continues to strengthen the functions of addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division which were taught in earlier grades. Decimals, fractions, measurement, variables, equations, geometry, integers, and probability and ratios are also covered. There is a strong emphasis on problem-solving strategies and math vocabulary. In addition to our daily class routine, students have opportunities for math enrichment, including challenge problems and projects, games, online resources, and local competitions. All students will advance to Algebra 1 in the eighth grade.

Earth Science
At the completion of the science education at Episcopal Day School, students will possess a curiosity about the world. The student will have developed skills associated with scientific inquiry and will have acquired the knowledge to make observations about the world, so that inferences and predictions can be made that are consistent with natural laws. As science is interdisciplinary and has played a significant role in history and the development of culture, the student will use scientific literacy in making personal decisions and solving real world problems. Earth science will be the primary focus of study with major units including oceanography, astronomy, plate tectonics, earthquakes, and volcanoes. Other learning experiences will include reading, research, projects, field trips, and experiments. Students participate in the EDS Science Showcase, presenting a project on a topic of their choice. Instruction strategies employ lecture and note-taking, audio-visual aids, educational videos, performance-based assessment, teamwork activities, quizzes, tests, and labs.
Lab activities include measuring mass with balances, volume with graduated cylinders, density of metals and pennies, paper chromatography, and heat energy released from dry cereals. Instruction strategies employ lecture and note-taking, audio-visual aids, performance-based assessment, teamwork activities, quizzes, tests, and labs.

*American History 2*

Students emerging from Episcopal Day School will acquire and utilize lifelong learning skills and values of democracy. Students should be able to evaluate the relative significance of information and to present/express diverse views. Values of democracy include awareness of the world community with a respect and appreciation for individuality, moral courage, and a spirit of inquiry. The course concludes a two year study of American History, covering the Colonial period to the Vietnam War. Units of study in eighth grade include post-Civil War studies, The Industrial Age, World War I, The Great Depression, World War II, the Civil Rights Movement, and the Vietnam War. The course uses timelines, internet activities, research, writing with historical accuracy, maps, and problem-solving to understand history. Current events as well as a History Fair project are also completed. This course examines American culture, the people, the change to America over the decades, the development of the American identity, systems of governance, economics, international relations, and civic responsibility.

*Spanish*

Through foreign language study, Episcopal Day School, students will have acquired an understanding and appreciation of the power of language as a tool of oral and written communication. As responsible citizens of the world, they will have gained an affinity and respect for diverse peoples, ideas, and cultures. They will have developed curiosity, critical thinking skills, and a passion for lifelong language learning. This course concludes a two year journey through secondary-level Spanish I. Students have the opportunity to acquire credit for high school Spanish I. The emphasis for this year is basic conversational skills, vocabulary development, and grammar. Students explore different Hispanic cultures, including foods, holidays, religions, and music. The teachers are native speakers and invite other native speakers to make guest appearances and presentations. The class is primarily project-based in order to incorporate the grammar and vocabulary presented in class. In addition, there is an emphasis on oral presentations incorporating the use of technology.
*English–Language Arts

As a result of the language arts experience, an Episcopal Day School student will be a lifelong learner who is a critical reader and thinker, an effective writer and communicator, able to apply learning in a meaningful, responsible, and honorable way, contributing to the greater community. Furthermore, ELA 8 focuses on all aspects of the English language: reading, writing, speaking, listening, thinking, and presenting. There is a particular emphasis on composition, reading comprehension, and literary analysis. Composition of both short and long pieces includes mastery of the development of ideas, organization, style, sentence fluency, word choice, and conventions. Students in eighth grade will read a variety of texts including drama, non-fiction, and historical fiction. Students will complete a variety of tasks including essays, tests, and project-based assessments. Students will broaden their literary thinking beyond plot analysis and into interpretation for meaning. Selected texts will reinforce concepts and skills encountered across the eighth grade curriculum. Grammar study emphasizes usage of parts of speech, a thorough understanding of sentence structure. Vocabulary, taken from guided reading, continues to grow as it is applied to both spoken and rhetorical uses.

*Algebra 1 Honors

The students of Episcopal Day School will be able, confidently and effectively, to use their math skills in daily living, college level work, and in a professional environment. Each student will possess the necessary skills to analyze a problem, call on a repertoire of problem-solving strategies and tools, and to think logically and reasonably in arriving at a solution. In addition, students will communicate from a mathematical standpoint, both in verbal and written form. Most importantly, it is the hope of the School that students will sustain the desire to be lifelong learners. Algebra 1 Honors requires the mastery of the functions of addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division in addition to decimals, fractions, measurement, variables, equations, geometry, integers, and probability and ratio. There is a strong emphasis on problem-solving strategies and math vocabulary. In addition to our daily class routine, students have opportunities for math enrichment, including challenge problems and projects, games, online resources, an interactive notebook, and local competitions. Testing determines math placement and Algebra 1 credit in high school.

*Chemistry

At the completion of the science education at Episcopal Day School, students will possess a curiosity about the world. The student will have developed skills associated with scientific inquiry and have acquired the knowledge to make observations about the world, so that inferences and predictions can be made that are consistent with natural laws. As science is interdisciplinary and has played a significant role in history and the development of culture, the student will use scientific literacy in making personal decisions and solving real world problems. The focus of the class is to give the student a basic understanding of lab safety and major concepts of Chemistry. Chemistry units include changes in matter; elements, compounds, and mixtures; atomic structure; electron structure; the periodic chart; chemical bonding; naming compounds; writing formulas, and identifying/balancing chemical equations.
Developmentally appropriate, enrichment classes allow students at Episcopal Day School to explore their interests and talents as they prepare for choices they will have in the future. Teachers will assess students in enrichments using standard numerical grades, with the exception of Advisory. Middle school offerings include the following:

**Music** – a project-based program combining choral, instrumental, and dramatic activities driven by performance;

**Art** – a project-based course providing instruction in drawing, painting, printmaking, ceramics, and mixed media with opportunities for local art exhibitions and contests;

**Physical Education** – a participation class providing exercise, skill development, teamwork, strength training, and physical health awareness;

**Advisory** – a program seeking to help every EDS middle school student be a success, as defined by the school’s mission statement; includes an advisor as the nexus of this success in conjunction with the faculty and the family;

**Christian Education** – an ecumenical religious studies class designed to provide spiritual awareness within the context of the liturgical year, participation in and leadership of weekly Devotions and Chapel services, as well as community outreach;

**Technology/Innovation** – a program inspiring students through real-world challenges by learning in context with connections between core subjects and by engaging in logical reasoning for creative problem solving; a program using technology effectively, efficiently, and appropriately; a program following ISTE standards and the design thinking process.