

# A Parent's Guide to Curriculum

## Sixth Grade

### Bensenville School District 2 Mission Statement

The purpose of Bensenville Elementary School District 2 is to prepare each student for a world of opportunities as a responsible citizen.

The Primary Goal of District 2 is:

To have staff members who each and every day work to give children a foundation for success so that they may achieve academic excellence and reach their full potential as responsible citizens.

#### Strategies

- 1) Create a safe, trusting, secure and orderly school learning environment.
- 2) Achieve a greater understanding of each other and the world around us.
- 3) Teach children and adults to manage conflict in a responsible manner.
- 4) Build partnerships to unite schools, families, community members and businesses that create a community of life-long learners who support and take pride in District 2.
- 5) Establish recognition for all members of the learning community - students, parents, teachers, volunteers, staff members and community partners - so that excellence is recognized and rewarded.

Bensenville Elementary School District 2

210 S. Church Road

Bensenville, Illinois 60106

630-766-5940

[www.bsd2.org](http://www.bsd2.org)

# Curriculum Overview

## Language Arts

The District 2 Language Arts program reflects the belief that literacy is a communication process that includes the academic areas of reading, writing, spelling, listening and speaking. Program goals are based on the Illinois State Goals and Standards for Learning for Language Arts and current best practices in the area of language arts.

The goal of the language arts program is to develop high achieving students who will:

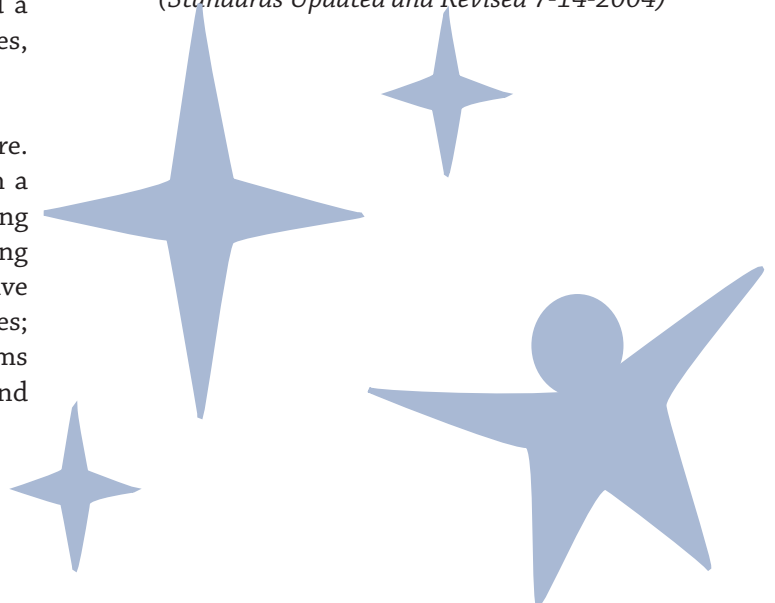
- read, comprehend, interpret, and use written materials.
- experience a variety of different forms of literature.
- understand how and why language functions and evolves.
- apply the writing process to communicate effectively for various purposes and audiences.
- listen critically and analytically for understanding and to gain information.
- utilize spoken language effectively in formal and informal situations to communicate ideas.

## Sixth Grade Language Arts Overview

The K-8 curriculum is designed to promote each child's development and progress toward mastery of the skills and knowledge expected as students advance through the grades. The sixth grade curriculum is designed to:

- Develop and apply appropriate strategies to read with understanding and fluency. Learning experiences include: previewing reading materials; making predictions, relating reading to information from other sources; making inferences; drawing conclusions; summarizing and retelling; checking and clarifying for understanding; comparing, contrasting and evaluating ideas; using information to form, explain and support questions and predictions; and applying appropriate strategies to self-correct errors while reading.
- Develop and apply a functional system for word study and identification. Learning experiences include: reading and comprehending unfamiliar words using root words, synonyms, antonyms, word origins, and derivations; and clarifying word meaning using context clues and a variety of resources including glossaries, dictionaries, and thesauruses.
- Develop and apply reading to a variety of literature. Learning experiences include: choosing material from a variety of genre to read and enjoy; selecting and reading material to access information; identifying and analyzing a variety of literary techniques such as figurative language, dialogue, description in a variety of genres; and identifying characteristics of various literary forms including short stories, novels, biographies, poetry, and science fiction.
- Develop written work for a variety of purposes and audiences using a process for organizing thoughts, ideas and/or information. Learning experiences include: composing narrative, expository and persuasive writing; producing written work that conveys a clear understanding of ideas and information displaying focus, organization, elaboration, and coherence; and writing compositions that contain complete sentences and effective paragraphs.
- Develop active listening and speaking skills to use in a variety of situations. Learning experiences include: developing speaking and listening to promote effective communications and applying these skills to individual and group experiences.

*(Standards Updated and Revised 7-14-2004)*



# Mathematics

Purpose: To apply mathematical knowledge and use appropriate strategies to analyze data, develop solutions to a variety of problems, and evaluate and communicate results.

The District's Mathematics program is based on the Illinois Standards for Learning and the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics Standards. Mathematics is taught as a separate subject. The study of mathematics is also integrated into the ongoing daily routines of the classroom and other subjects.

The goal of the curriculum is to develop high-achieving students. The focus of the program is to develop problem-solving strategies and mathematical concepts built on a strong computational skill base. Emphasis is given to establishing links from past experience, action with concrete materials, pictures, verbal statements, and symbolic arithmetic statements.

The mathematical goals addressed throughout the K-8 program are:

- Numeration and Computation
- Measurement Systems
- Algebra
- Geometry and Spatial Sense
- Data Collection and Analysis

## Sixth Grade Mathematics Overview

- Compute accurately using decimals, fractions, and percents
  - Evaluate and select appropriate and efficient methods to solve problems, such as use of paper/pencil, calculator, and mental math
  - Communicate mathematically
  - Use number theory to solve problems, such as finding prime factorization, factors, and multiples
  - Read, interpret, predict, draw conclusions, and evaluate data from bar and line graphs
  - Solve problems using unit rate
  - Use proportions to solve problems with similar figures
  - Write algebraic expressions to represent situations and patterns
  - Apply formulas of perimeter, surface area, and volume and mental math
  - Communicate mathematically
  - Make generalizations using variables
  - Write algebraic expressions to represent situations and patterns
  - Develop and use formulas to solve problems
  - Understand and apply formulas of volume and surface area
  - Use the distance formula
  - Recognize and represent linear relationships
  - Evaluate expressions using positive and negative exponents
  - Understand proportional and non-proportional relationships
  - Add, subtract, multiply, and divide using positive and negative integers
  - Understand ratios, rates, and proportion
- Pre-Algebra
- Evaluate and select appropriate and efficient methods to solve problems, such as use of paper/ pencil, calculator,
- (Standards Updated and Revised 7-14-2004)*



# Science

Purpose: All students will know and be able to apply the scientific method to learn scientific concepts and vocabulary and investigate scientific principles as they apply to a contemporary technological society. The District's science program is based on the Illinois State Goals and Standards for Learning and the National Science Education Standards.

The goal of the curriculum is to develop high-achieving students in the area of science. The focus of the program is to develop students who have an understanding of the process of scientific inquiry; the key concepts and principles of life science, physical science, and earth science; and understand the relationship among science, technology, and society. The science units are also designed to be integrated with math and reading strategies.

The scientific process skills addressed throughout the K-8 program are:

Observing	Classifying	Inferring
Predicting	Communicating	Measuring
Using numbers	Creating models	Identifying variables
Formulating hypothesis	Recording data	Interpreting data
Drawing conclusions		

## Sixth Grade Science Overview

### Life Science

Classification of Living Things - Students will discover how living things are classified. They will compare and contrast the characteristics of various species within the plant and animal kingdoms. Students will end their study by exploring ways in which people can help protect endangered species.

### Physical Science

Interactions of Matter and Energy - Students will explore different types of energy. They will study how the sun's energy can be used to generate electricity and compare and contrast alternate forms of energy. They will also trace the path of electricity from the power station to the home.

### Physics

Students will discover how machines can help people do work by changing the force applied to an object. They will

distinguish between potential and kinetic energy and experiment with levers, pulleys and inclined planes.

Using Bernoulli's principle and aerodynamic studies, students will investigate forces and motion of molecules. They will learn to identify the difference between potential and kinetic energy. Students will study Newton's laws of motion by designing and performing experiments.

### Space

In the study of space students explore stars and galaxies including our own star, the sun. On their trip through the solar system, students will make discoveries about the planets, moons, comets, and meteorites. Students will conclude this unit with a discussion of the achievements of space technology and exploration.

*(Standards Updated and Revised 5-24-2007)*

## Social Science

Purpose: To apply social scientific knowledge and use appropriate strategies to analyze data, develop solutions to problems, evaluate, and communicate results. The goal of the curriculum is to develop high-achieving students in the area of social studies. The focus of the program is to develop students who can access, process, and present information. Emphasis is on establishing links from the past to the present.

The District's Social Sciences program is based on the Illinois State Goals and Standards for Learning and the National Council for Social Studies' recommended themes. Social sciences will be integrated across the curriculum.

The social sciences goals and themes addressed throughout the K-8 program are:

Politics	Economics	History	Geography	Sociology	Reasoning
Culture	Technology	Civics			

## Sixth Grade Social Science Overview

During sixth grade, students are taught the history and culture of the ancient world. They will study the significant people, places, and events that have helped to shape the world culture. Through the use of District 2 reading strategies, social studies and literacy are united to increase student achievement. Geographic literacy continues to be a primary objective of the program. Finally, continuing with the “spiral” framework philosophy, sixth grade will flow into seventh grade with connections between the ancient world and the modern U.S.A.

- The Scope and Sequence is as follows:
  - Unit 1: Tools For Investigation  
(Geography and Archaeology)
  - Unit 2: Early Humans
  - Unit 3: Cradle of Civilization
  - Unit 4: Ancient Egypt
  - Unit 5: Ancient Greece
  - Unit 6: Ancient Rome
  - Unit 7: Middle Ages
  - Unit 8: Renaissance
  - Unit 9: Reformation
- Current Events: Taught regularly throughout the year, and reinforced at home with Scholastic News.
- Politics: Direct democracy, representative democracy, dictatorship, monarchy, imperial, republican, U.S. system, leaders, citizens’ rights.
- Economics: Trade, currency, location (e.g. river valleys, etc.) natural resources, military relationships.
- History: World (prehistory-1600s), chronology of events, people and places, effects of time on people and places, countries/cultures.
- Geography: Skills, resources, effect of time on local landscape, application of geography themes throughout course.
- Sociology: Social classes, types of groups, leaders, slaves, merchants, interdependence, liberty, religion.
- Reasoning: Ability to make clear, well-supported decisions.
- Culture: Ancient and modern world cultures, migration.
- Technology: Development of, applications world-wide, use of available modern technology.
- Civics: U.S. symbols, citizenship, democratic values, U.S. system, parallels to world civilizations.

*(Standards Updated and Revised 7-20-2005)*

## Physical Development and Health

The District’s Physical Development and Health program is based on the Illinois State Goals and Standards for Learning. The program is designed to develop in students the desire to acquire and maintain a strong and healthy body. Students are taught to realize that a strong body and good health are basic to their lives.

In District 2, physical education provides students with the knowledge and attitudes necessary to achieve healthful living throughout their lives and to acquire physical fitness, coordination and leisure skills. The Physical Health and Development program is one phase of the total educational program which enables students to safely develop physically, mentally, socially, and emotionally to their maximum capacity according to their individual abilities.

## Middle School Physical Education Overview

At the middle school level, students meet daily to participate in a variety of physical activities. Emphasis is placed on safety, fitness, skill development, good sportsmanship, and active participation.

The activities the students will be involved in include:

Soccer	Ping-pong	Flag football
Aerobics	Speed ball	Badminton
Basketball	Fitness activities	Volleyball
Floor hockey	Softball	Track and field

In cooperation with the Village of Bensenville, District 2 provides physical education classes at the Redmond Recreation Center to provide additional high-quality physical education activities for students. Student activities at Redmond include ice skating, roller blading, cross-country skiing, wall climbing, orienteering, and fitness lab.

Health education is also taught to all students. Topics include nutrition, exercise-fitness, muscular and skeletal systems, first aid, and wellness.

Physical fitness is assessed throughout the year with the Presidential Physical Fitness test administered in the spring.

An intramural program is available to all sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students. In addition, an extracurricular program is available to all seventh and eighth grade boys and girls. Activities include cross-country, girls basketball, boys basketball, cheerleading/dance, girls volleyball, boys volleyball and track and field.

*(Standards Updated and Revised 7-20-2005)*

# Fine Arts

The District 2 Fine Arts program is based on the Illinois State Goals and Standards for Learning as well as the National Standards established by the Music Educators National Conference, the Illinois Music Educators Association, the Illinois Art Education Association, and the Illinois Theater Association.

The goal of the Fine Arts program is to develop high achieving students who will:

- understand the elements, processes, tools, and the unique qualities of the arts.
- demonstrate and apply the skills and knowledge necessary to create and perform in the arts.
- know and be able to recognize significant works in the arts and how they reflect various cultures and civilizations past and present.
- nurture talents and abilities that will continue throughout their lives.

The K-8 discipline-based curriculum is designed to build upon the knowledge, understanding, and skill development from the previous year(s). It contributes to creative development, self-discipline, critical thinking, and self-esteem of every child. Whenever possible, the arts are integrated into the other areas of learning.

## Sixth Grade Fine Arts Overview

### ART, MUSIC, DRAMA/VIDEO COMMUNICATIONS

Students will receive six weeks each of visual art, music, and/or drama/video communication which will be integrated with other classes in the middle school as appropriate.

Topics may include Ancient Egypt, China, Mayans and Incas, Ancient Greece and Rome, the periods of the Middle Ages, and the Renaissance. Music classes cover both basic music skills, music appreciation, as well as composition and/or performance.

Instruction in the elements, history and culture of these art forms will be reflective of the topics taught. Performance in art and music will consist of the creation of various art pieces, the listening to and/or creation of music, and participation in programs or operettas. Performance in drama/video communications will consist of the creation of television commercials. Basic camera techniques will be covered.

## Instrumental Music

Students in grades 5-8 may participate in the District's Instrumental Music program. Participation in band provides students with an opportunity to develop, enrich, and refine instrumental performing skills.

### Sixth Grade Band

The Sixth Grade Band at Blackhawk Middle School rehearses prior to the start of school. In addition, band students will receive one sectional lesson per week during the regular school day on a rotating basis. Students will build on their knowledge of basic music fundamentals begun in the previous year of instruction. There will be a focus on proper playing and breathing technique as well as extending the student's playing range, learning more complex rhythms, and further developing good tone quality. In addition to large ensemble playing in their weekly rehearsals, sixth grade students will also be given the opportunity to participate in extracurricular solo and small ensemble playing.

## Geometry Skills Extension

Sixth graders will use a "hands-on" approach to explore properties of planes, lines, rays, angles and shapes, both bi- and tri-dimensional with extensions, in algebraic geometry (first coordinate geometry and transformations).

## Technology Education

The District 2 Technology Education program is designed to incorporate and reinforce a variety of math and science concepts and objectives in the Technology Education Lab.

The goals of their six week class are to develop students who will:

- Be able to utilize computers to learn keyboarding skills, word process, to edit and make revisions to processed pieces, create excel spreadsheets, as well as powerpoint presentations
- Be able to better select career paths based on the exploration of technical areas.

## Practical Life Skills Education

The District 2 Life Skills Technology program provides students with the practical experiences needed to become independent, organized and self-motivated learners.

The goal is to develop students who will:

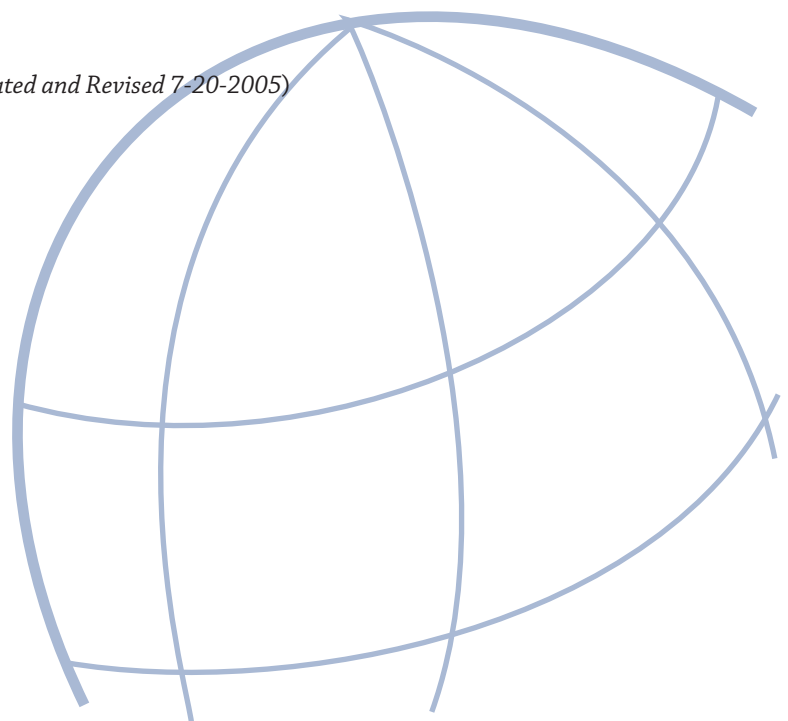
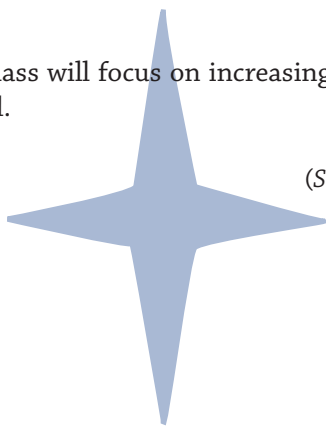
- Increase their understanding and use of procedural, technical text while learning life skills.
- Experience teamwork, time management principles, cooperative and collaborative learning, and develop self-direction and motivation in work-related situations.
- Increase knowledge of vocabulary used in the area they are studying and use their vocabulary for a better understanding of the materials and equipment.
- Reinforce and enhance mathematical, social studies, language arts, reading and science skills by solving problems which are integrated into all modules. All modules are based on interdisciplinary facts and information.

Students will have three modules to investigate and study in this six week class. The modules will focus on cooking, sewing and consumer awareness.

## Career Strand

This six week class will focus on increasing organizational, study and personal skills that will help a middle schooler be more successful.

*(Standards Updated and Revised 7-20-2005)*



## Foreign Language/Literacy

Purpose: The District's Foreign Language program is designed to:

- provide children with both the knowledge and opportunity to communicate using another language.
- establish a solid basis for pronunciation and intonation in the foreign language.
- establish a favorable attitude toward language learning.
- support the student's intellectual and cultural growth/awareness.

The Foreign Language program is based on the Illinois Standards for Foreign Languages.

Students in grades 6-8 have the option of studying Spanish as part of their school program. Students may elect to take Spanish as an exploratory course of study.

The benefits of foreign language instruction focus on the role the individual plays in a multilingual, global society. According to the Illinois State Standards, research indicates the study of a foreign language provides students the 'edge' needed to succeed at higher levels in other subjects.

## Library Media Centers

The purpose of the K-8 Library Media Center program is to support all areas of the curriculum by:

- providing students and staff members with quality print, electronic, and telecommunications resources and providing guided access and instruction in their use.
- assisting classroom teachers in planning and implementing expanded curriculum opportunities for identified gifted students.
- supporting and connecting with other community resources, e.g. the Bensenville Community Public Library.
- teaching students to select, evaluate, interpret, record, and organize information.
- supporting the development of life-long reading and learning in all students by exposing them to a variety of literature, authors, and illustrators.

