

Essential Skills: 6th Grade

This document summarizes the common terms, skills, and expectations for District 153 students in the core areas of reading, mathematics, language arts, social studies, and science.

District 153 considers these skills to be essential, non-negotiable skills. The District's expectation is that 80 percent of all 6th-grade students will master these skills.

READING

Comprehension

- Determine answer to a literal or simple inference question regarding the meaning of the passage
- Predict probable outcomes or actions
- Summarize the order of events in a story or non-fiction account
- Summarize a story or non-fiction passage or identify the best summary
- Distinguish between the main ideas and supporting details in narrative and expository text.
- Distinguish between explicit and implicit main ideas.

Roots and Affixes

ambi-	vali	de-
sym-	cycle	di-
tempo	arch	para-
super-	bene	-ship
ultra-	duct	fore-
vale	homo-	-ous
bio	ex-	syn-
sys		

Vocabulary

- Use of common prefixes, suffixes, and root words to determine meaning of unfamiliar words
- Identify homophones and homographs

Literature

- Understand characterization and character motivation
- Differentiate between fact and opinion in a passage
- Identify figurative language/literary devices (sensory detail, simile, rhyme, repetition, metaphor, alliteration, personification)
- Identify verbal irony
- Compare and contrast behavior of two characters
- Identify poetic devices using sound (alliteration, onomatopoeia, rhyme, scheme, consonance)



MATH

Algebra

- Create and identify a rule for a sequence
- Write and evaluate an algebraic expression using whole numbers with one or two variables
- Create and plot ordered pairs from a table

Number Sense

- Use decimals and whole numbers to solve problems using all operations
- Recognize and use decimals and their place values through thousandths
- Identify and apply order of operations
- Commutative, associative, distributive properties
- Recognize/use whole numbers and their place value
- Recognize fractions (mixed and improper) and solve addition and subtraction problems



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Measurement & Geometry

- Problem solving with scale drawings (ratios)
- Identify, classify and sketch regular and irregular, similar and congruent 2-D shapes
- Identify characteristics of a circle (chord, radius, circumference, diameter)
- Graph points and coordinated to create figures in 1st quadrant
- Determine distance between integers on horizontal and vertical number line

LANGUAGE ARTS

Written Language

- Ability to write complex sentences with subordinate clauses and the correct use of commas
- Use of advanced punctuation (underlining)
- Use of advanced capitalization (poetry, outlines, titles of books, magazines)

Parts of Speech

- Understanding of interjections and adverbs
- Understanding of subject/verb agreement in compound and simple sentences
- Use of semi-colon, co-

lon, hyphen, apostrophe, appositives, interrupters

- Use of appositives with correct use of commas

Writing

- Use of formal heading on all assignments (full name, date, subject/assignment)

SOCIAL STUDIES

Political Systems

- Understanding of the importance of an individual's responsibility to maintain a democratic, civil society
- Analyze actions taken by government to improve the lives of people

Economics

- Understand the effects of trade on a civilization

History

- Compare ancient maps/charts/graphs to a current map/chart/graph of Europe
- Overview of the time period Pre-history to 1500's
- Understand the rise of political ideologies in the time period of study
- Understand the economical and environ-

mental impact of events (war, inventions, trade, expansion) in time period of study

- Discover societal changes throughout the time period
- Identify and label major cultural and physical features of studied areas

SCIENCE

- Investigate buoyancy and generate a universal explanation
- Develop skills in handling laboratory equipment and its safety
- Maintain and interpret data through graphing, oral and written reports
- Create a valid experimental design
- Conduct surveys, review maps and samples related to scientific data
- Construct a model rocket and explain its flight based on Newton's Laws of Motion