

Sixth Grade Curriculum

At Canyon Heights Academy, a leading private Catholic school in Campbell, California, our Sixth Grade curriculum fosters confident, capable students for a lifelong joy for learning. Our Integral Formation model is designed to foster intellectual curiosity, critical thinking, compassionate leadership, and a moral character rooted in Catholic values.

English Language Arts (ELA) - Reading, Grammar, and Writing

Our ELA program encourages students to deepen their ability to analyze literature and express themselves through writing and speech, developing a lifelong love for reading, writing, and speaking.

In reading, students will:

- Master reading strategies for comprehension and discussion, such as synthesizing and categorizing information, developing a mental picture, making inferences and predictions, drawing conclusions, and identifying point of view
- Identify elements of a plot, using terminology related to the author's techniques
- Read several class novels and additional literary genres with the aim of strengthening reading as well as comprehension and exposure to various themes and genres
- Respond to texts through oral presentations and structured writing, including literal, interpretive, and allegorical responses
- Learn literary terminology and understand figurative language
- Conduct research projects using digital and print sources

In writing composition, students will:

- Identify and employ literary devices such as characterization, imagery, humor, point of view, foreshadowing, alliteration, rhyme and rhythm
- Create a variety of writing pieces: narrative, expository, and creative
- Strengthen skills in report writing that discuss cause and effect as well as comparison/contrast
- Strengthen skills in descriptive and expository essays

In grammar and vocabulary, students will:

- Compose essays with structured paragraphs, providing ample supporting statements and being mindful of varied syntax and diction
- Study Greek and Latin roots, prefixes, and suffixes
- Learn the denotations and connotations of basic and advanced vocabulary
- Master correct grammar and mechanics in all forms of writing

Communication Skills - Listening and Speaking

We give students many opportunities to share their voice through classroom projects, socratic method instruction, and wider audience engagements, which fosters confidence and poise for a lifetime of self-advocacy.

Students will:

- Ask and answer questions clearly and respectfully
- Participate in various classroom discussions and formats (lecture, socratic method, debate, etc)
- Recite poems and passages from memory
- Present oral reports with organized main ideas
- Use technology (typing, digital research, formatting, slide deck building, etc) to conduct research projects and present findings
- Learn note-taking and studying skills in preparation for cumulative exams
- Practice public speaking skills with poise and confidence

Mathematics - Deepening Problem-Solving Skills

Our Middle School math curriculum emphasizes logical thinking and problem-solving abilities to advance math skills and apply them in real-world scenarios, using the Sadlier Math program.

Students will:

- Develop and master strategies for to solve and pose problems
- Master multi-step, complex word problems with real-world applications
- Convert among fractions, mixed numbers, decimals, and percents
- Explore concepts like averages, operations with fractions and decimals, geometrical formulae (perimeter, volume, and area for 3D shapes), algebraic concepts, probability and ratios, statistics
- Read and interpret graphs and tables, modeling multiple data sets and plots
- Convert standard and metric units
- Use technology to build graphs and tables
- Develop study skills to prepare for cumulative exams
- Participate in Catholic Math League

Science - Experiential and Inventive

Our science program encourages inquiry, exploration, and wonder about God's creation. In Sixth Grade, our students focus on Earth Science and are encouraged to investigate the dynamic nature of our planet through observation and experimentation.

Students will:

- Analyze Earth's layers and geological structures
- Investigate fossils, sedimentary rock layers, and methods of dating (relative and absolute)
- Evaluate geological events through the study of plate tectonics, earthquakes, and volcanic activity
- Understand the effects of erosion and weathering on Earth's surface
- Explore water cycles, freshwater distribution, climate zones, and atmospheric structures
- Engage in hands-on experiments and STEM-based investigations, using the scientific method
- Develop scientific thinking skills, including hypothesizing, analyzing (conducting trial runs), predicting, classifying, and writing/reporting findings
- Use scientific tools and lab practices to apply skills and habits
- Complete an individual science fair project
- Attend overnight field trip to engage in onsite, hands-on scientific inquiry and experimentation

History - World History (Medieval Europe to Early Modern Era)

Sixth Grade history at Canyon Heights Academy encourages students to engage with community, history, and the world around them.

Students will:

- Review Middle Ages and rise of early European societies
- Use archeological, anthropological, and historical evidence to understand world history
- Discover a variety of viewpoints and opinions through original source material and history textbooks written from other worldviews
- Encounter stories of virtuous leaders who inspired others by acting with integrity and communicating truth
- Explore the influence of the Catholic Church, the Crusades, and the Counter-Reformation
- Study the cultural and political impact of the Renaissance and Age of Exploration
- Analyze the interactions between civilizations, including trade, warfare, and cultural exchange
- Examine historical figures, inventions, religious movements, and global expansion
- Recognize and discuss major characteristics of medieval European culture
- Understand geography's role in the development of civilizations through mapping physical features and studying human/environment interactions

Theology - New Testament

Through our religious education program, children begin to understand that they are intentionally and uniquely created in God's image and called to live with purpose and love.

Students will:

- Deepen their understanding of moral law and conscience formation
- Focus on the New Testament, Christology, Typology, and Church history
- Study the Gospels and key moments of Jesus' life and the lives of the apostles
- Make connections between Old Testament prophecies and New Testament fulfillment
- Learn about the parables, miracles, and teachings of Jesus
- Study the Sacraments and direct encounters with Christ
- Understand the beginnings of the Church, the early Christian community, and themes in the Book of Revelation
- Participate in local service projects
- Develop a stronger connection with and understanding of the community of Saints and their role in our lives
- Participate in the sacramental life of the school, including weekly Mass (serving the role of altar servers and lectors), Sacrament of Reconciliation, and Adoration
- Understand how the body is a gift from God through the Theology of the Body curriculum
- Use Sacred Story prayer as a daily reflective practice
- Integrate faith and creativity in projects and through hands-on learning in Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

Enrichment Programs - Co-curricular

To nurture the whole child, Middle School students also attend weekly classes in:

- Art - exploring techniques, various mediums, color theory, and artistic expression
- Music - learning rhythm, instruments, theory, and vocal performance
- Library - discerning texts for younger students, conducting research
- Foreign Language: Spanish or Latin
- Physical Education - building coordination, fitness, and teamwork
- Formation - deepening responsibility for education goals and developing self-assessment skills and strategies

These subjects enrich creativity, expression, motor skills, and global awareness.

Why Families Choose Canyon Heights Academy

As one of the top-rated Catholic private schools in Campbell, CA, Canyon Heights Academy offers a comprehensive, Christ-centered education that forms students in academics, character, and leadership. Our Second Grade curriculum is carefully crafted to support children's intellectual and spiritual development in a nurturing and joyful environment.

Located in the heart of Silicon Valley, we proudly serve families from Campbell, San Jose, Los Gatos, Saratoga, and the greater Bay Area.