

Block Schedule Overview for 6th Grade
Teacher: Brandt Bowen
2011 – 2012

Block: Geometry
Date: August 20 – September 16
Description: In geometric drawing, the students learn to use compasses and rulers in very precise drawing. The work includes the construction of hexagons, stellar hexagons, dodecagons, pentagons, and other geometric forms. This block gives students hands-on experience of angles and forms that may lead to a deeper understanding of geometry.

Block: Language Arts
Date: September 19 – October 7
Description: Language arts includes a review of the eight parts of speech, conditional sentences, business essays, description, subjunctive mood, transitive and intransitive verbs, possessive and objective nouns, phrases and clauses and comparative adverbs. Spelling rules, dictionary use, and additional vocabulary complement the work in this block. Students may be taught the fundamentals of note-taking at this point.

Block: History of Rome Part I
Date: October 10 – November 4
Description: The founding of Rome in the eighth century, B.C. The Seven Kings of Rome. The overthrow of Tarquinus Superbus and the establishment of the Republic. The structure of the Roman Republic. Lives of noble and heroic Romans. Hannibal and other enemies of Rome. Daily life in the Roman Republic. Roman engineering and methods of construction. The structure of the Roman army and government in the provinces.

Block: Astronomy
Date: November 7 – December 2
Description: Students study the movement of the sun, moon, and stars, the equator, constellations and planets. The goal is to utilize observation skills and intellect. By observing the phases of the moon, seasonal changes, and the varying relationship of the stars to the earth from the standpoint of the poles and the tropics, the students may make a connection between conditions of the earth and the heavens.

Block: Business Math
Date: December 5 – January 13
Description: In math, the students work with decimals, percentages, and fractional conversions to percentages. Business math usually includes the study of taxes, discounts, commissions, and interest (principal, rate, time) calculations.

Block: History of Rome Part II
Date: January 18 – February 10
Description: Julius Caesar and the end of the Roman Republic. Caesar's European campaigns. Mark Anthony and Cleopatra, Octavius (later Augustus) Caesar and the establishment of the Empire. Daily life in the Empire. The "mad Emperors," Caligula and Nero. Jesus of Nazareth, the Apostle Peter and Paul of Tarsus. The pomp and decadence of imperial Rome and the simplicity of life in the Catacombs. The decline of Rome: the vitality of the Germanic tribes and the weakness of the Roman people. The conversion of Constantine, and the division of Rome into the western and eastern (Byzantine) empires. The rise of the Roman church.

Block: European Geography
Date: February 13 – March 2
Description: European geography: mountains, bodies of water, land formations, climate, and social conditions. Students present country reports that focus on history (timeline of major events and important individuals), population, politics (form of government), economy (important products) and culture, religion, traditions and arts.

Block: Physics
Date: March 5 – April 6
Description: The physics block is often divided into five sections: sound, heat, magnetism, static electricity, and light. Through the physics curriculum, children learn to observe a phenomenon during an experiment and write about it the following day. This aspect of the curriculum approaches the heart of the twelve-year olds' stage of development and their absorption with sense impressions. The goal is to present physical phenomena to the students and to train their skill in accurate observation. They learn that only after careful observations are made can valid judgments be formed. Next, they develop the skill to write these observations with objective and clear thoughts.

Block: Fall of Rome/ Middle Ages
Date: April 9 – May 4
Description: The Diaspora and the development of medieval Judaism. The Torah and the Talmud. The life of Mohammed and the rise of Islam. The "Dark Ages" in Europe. King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table. The castle and the monastery. The feudal system. Charles Martel and his sons. The conflict of Europe and the Arab world. Charlemagne and Haroun Al-Raschid, a study in contrasts.