

CSP Sixth Grade Curricula—An Overview

For required Sixth Grade curricula purchase(s), please see the “CSP Curriculum Orders” tab on the CSP website or click [here](#).

Writing

Text(s): *The Institute for Excellence in Writing: U.S. History Volume I-Explorers to the Gold Rush (IEW), English from the Roots Up*

We use the IEW series of curriculum in grades 3-6 to teach students specific elements that make for quality writing (i.e. the use of quality adjectives, strong verbs, and varied sentence openers). Throughout the sixth-grade year, students use a multi-paragraph source text to create a synthesized key word outline followed by writing a paper containing several multi-sentence paragraphs. The *process* of writing is emphasized over the end result as students experience writing several drafts of a paper, learning how to edit and revise their work with each draft. Students write their own summaries, narratives, and research report. The learning of new vocabulary is also incorporated into every IEW lesson. Additionally, sixth grade students begin learning Latin and Greek roots to help them understand the origins of the English language as well as recognize base words and derivatives within longer and perhaps unknown words. (Please note that reading itself is not explicitly taught in CSP, and spelling is not taught after second grade.)

Grammar

Text(s): *FixIt! Grammar by IEW*

Students learn more advanced elements of grammar, such as nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, prepositions, and sentence structure (to include the formation of complete sentences and the use of proper capitalization and end marks). Students also begin learning the proper use of commas, semicolons, and colons and how to write more complex sentences. Students end the year being able to write several connected paragraphs correctly, continually using more advanced sentence- and paragraph-construction techniques. These advanced skills are taught in the context of a piece of classical literature using the IEW *FixIt! Grammar* curriculum.

Literature

Text(s): *Where the Red Fern Grows, The Children’s Homer-The Odyssey, The Cay, The Merchant of Venice, books from the Core Knowledge reading list*

During class read-alouds as well as literature sent home to read either independently or with a parent, students are exposed to different genres, authors, and styles of writing. Students learn about the essential story elements of plot, character(s), setting, symbolism, and theme. We also discuss different types of writing, such as poetry, fiction/nonfiction, narrative, historical, and informative. Literature appreciation and a love of books are key areas of focus as we experience quality texts as a class.

Character Education

Character education plays a central role in our overall curriculum and is therefore incorporated into many parts of our school day. We talk about behaviors that exhibit good character and how we can practice them daily. Each month, we focus on different character traits that include the following: kindness, love of learning, curiosity, self-regulation, teamwork, gratitude, courage, respect, responsibility, diligence, perseverance, compassion, loyalty, forgiveness, and true heroism. Literature is used to reinforce these character traits.

Enrichment

In addition to the Language Arts instruction offered at CSP, we are pleased to offer enrichment classes, (aka Specials) in the areas of art, music, and physical education. A field trip, field day, school concert, and art show are also part of every CSP student’s experience.

Our Mission

The Classical Academy exists to assist parents in their mission to develop exemplary citizens equipped with analytical thinking skills, virtuous character, and a passion for learning, all build upon a solid foundation of knowledge.

We look forward to partnering with you!