

Parent Guide to Sixth Grade Curriculum 2019-2020



This guide contains a partial listing of the curriculum your child will learn this year. Contact your child's teacher for more information.

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K-5 Schools

Baton Elementary
Davenport Elementary
Dudley Shoals Elementary
Gamewell Elementary
Granite Falls Elementary
Hudson Elementary
Lower Creek Elementary
Sawmills Elementary
Valmead Elementary
West Lenoir Elementary
Whitnel Elementary

K-8 Schools

Collettsville Elementary
Happy Valley Elementary
Kings Creek Elementary
Oak Hill Elementary

Middle Schools

Gamewell Middle
Granite Falls Middle
Hudson Middle
William Lenoir Middle

High Schools

Caldwell Early College
Career Center Middle College
Hibriten High
South Caldwell High
West Caldwell High

Alternative Schools

Horizons Elementary
Gateway Alternative

Caldwell County Schools

Mission Statement

To provide quality instruction in a safe, caring environment.

Vision Statement

Every student will graduate from high school, be globally competitive for work or postsecondary education, and be prepared for life in the 21st century.

Board of Education

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All programs, activities and facilities of the Caldwell County School System are available to all on a non-discriminatory basis, without regard to race, color, creed, religion, sex, age, handicap, or national origin. The school system is an equal access, Equal Opportunity Employer. Questions pertaining to educational equity, equal opportunity, or equal access should be addressed to the Associate Superintendent for Human Resources.

Caldwell County Middle Schools recognize that the 21st Century presents remarkably different challenges for young adolescents than in the past. Our middle schools are designed for student success. Reflecting recommendations of the Association of Middle Level Educators (AMLE), Caldwell County Middle Schools are developmentally responsive, challenging, empowering, and equitable and exemplify the following characteristics:

In Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment:

- Educators value young adolescents and are prepared to teach them.
- Students and teachers are engaged in active, purposeful learning.
- Curriculum is challenging, exploratory, integrative, and relevant.
- Educators use multiple learning and teaching approaches.
- Varied and ongoing assessments advance learning as well as measure it.

In Leadership and Organization:

- A shared vision developed by all stakeholders guides every decision.
- Leaders are committed to and knowledgeable about this age group, educational research, and best practices.
- Leaders demonstrate courage and collaboration.
- Ongoing professional development reflects best educational practices.
- Organizational structures foster purposeful learning and meaningful relationships.

In Culture and Community:

- The school environment is inviting, safe, inclusive, and supportive of all.
- Each student's academic and personal development is guided by an adult advocate.
- Comprehensive guidance and support services meet the needs of young adolescents.
- Health and wellness are supported in curricula, school-wide programs, and related policies.
- The school actively involves families in the education of their children.
- The school includes community and business partners.

The Importance of Middle Level Education and Young Adolescents

National Middle School Association. (2003). This We Believe: Successful Schools for Young Adolescents.
Westerville, OH: NMSA.

Young people undergo more rapid and profound personal changes between the ages of 10 and 15 than at any other time in their lives. Changes occur irregularly, and no two young adolescents enter puberty at the same time or progress at the same rate. Achieving academic success is highly dependent upon their developmental needs being met.

Changes in students' patterns of thinking become evident in the ideas they have about the world and how it functions. These shifts may be apparent in the questions they ask to each other and trusted adults, in reflections about personal experiences, their views on moral issues, and through their perceptions of the things around them. Because cognitive growth occurs gradually and irregularly, middle school students require ongoing, concrete, experiential learning in order to develop intellectually.

To read more about the developmental needs of 10 – 15 year olds and the goals of Middle Level Education, visit:

<http://amle.org/>.

Parent Involvement

As students begin to age and are able to handle more responsibility, parents will often step back and become less involved with their child's academics. We encourage parents to remain involved in their child's academic success. The moment you have a concern or question, immediately call your child's teacher, school counselor or principal. Should your schedule allow, we encourage you to volunteer at your child's school. Many opportunities are available for parents to volunteer. It truly takes all of us working together to ensure the success of our students.

We look forward to building a strong school community with you.

The Parent Power publication includes Annual Notices and other items of interest for parents and or guardians. These resources are located on the Caldwell County Schools website.

<https://www.caldwellschools.com/domain/2966>

North Carolina Standard Course of Study

The link below will provide you with information on the North Carolina Standard Course of Study. To access the North Carolina Standard Course of Study utilize the following link: <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/curriculum/>

Mathematics

The new K-8 mathematics standards were adopted by the North Carolina State Board of Education on June 1, 2017 for implementation in the 2018-2019 school year. The adoption of the North Carolina Standard Course of Study for Mathematics (NCSCoS) marks a new leap forward in the continual process of improving learning for all our students. These standards are based on a philosophy of teaching and learning mathematics that is consistent with the most current research and exemplary practices. Within the NCSCoS are The Standards for Mathematical Content and Practice. The content standards provide a clear focus of content that must be mastered at each grade level, K-8. They are organized by conceptual categories or themes. Equally important are the Standards for Mathematical Practice, describing the behaviors or 'habits of mind' of mathematically proficient students.

Students will build upon their previous instruction in math by learning the following concepts this year:

- Use Ratios and Rates to Solve Problems
- Dividing Fractions by Fractions
- Compute fluently with multi-digit numbers and find common factors and multiples.
- Rational Number System
- Algebraic Expressions, Equations, and Inequalities
- Independent and Dependent Variables
- Real-world mathematical problems with Area, Surface Area, and Volume.
- Statistical Variability and Distributions

Students will also use Eight Mathematical Practices as outlined by the North Carolina Standard Course of Study.

1. Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.
2. Reason abstractly and quantitatively.
3. Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others.
4. Model with mathematics.
5. Use appropriate tools strategically.
6. Attend to precision.
7. Look for and make use of structure.
8. Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning

6th Grade Math End of Grade Assessment Specifications

Domain	Percent of Test
Ratios and Proportional Relationships	26%
The Number System	22%
Expressions and Equations	24%
Geometry	14%
Statistics and Probability	14%

In accordance with House Bill 986, students scoring a Level 5 on the Math End of Grade assessment in grades 3-8, when practicable, will be enrolled in an advanced math course. The curriculum for the middle level advanced math courses are provided online for your review. <https://www.caldwellschools.com/Page/1126>

English Language Arts (ELA)

In April 2017, the North Carolina State Board of Education adopted new ELA standards for grades K-12. The Standard Course of Study describes what students should know, understand, and be able to do by the end of each grade level. How these standards are taught is decided at a district level.¹ Students will use oral language, written language, media and technology for expressive, informational, argumentative, critical, and literary purposes. Students will also study the structure of language and grammatical rules in order to speak and write effectively.

Informational text pieces will be emphasized in all classrooms. Additionally, there is a strong focus on vocabulary and language, including determining meanings of words and phrases in context.

For more information, please read the sixth grade English Language Arts Parent Guide published by the North Carolina Department of Instruction by following this link:

<https://ncdpi.instructure.com/courses/914/pages/parent-guides>

6th Grade ELA End of Grade Assessment Specifications

Domain	Percent of Test
Reading for Literature	32-36%
Reading for Information	41-45%
Writing	NA
Speaking and Listening	NA
Language	21-25%

Accelerated Reader

Accelerated Reader (AR) is utilized in language arts classrooms to monitor reading comprehension of student self-selected literature, as well as promote strong reading habits. Follow this link to learn more about the AR program:

<http://www.renaissance.com/services/parent-resources/>

¹Source: NCDPI, <https://elavik.weebly.com/search.html?dT=y&name=Parent%20Guide%20FINAL>

Sixth Grade Writing

It is the goal of Caldwell County Schools to strengthen students' abilities to produce and publish quality written work. Sixth grade students will practice narrative, explanatory, persuasive and argumentative writing throughout the school year in several content areas. Writing tasks occur in classes on a consistent basis in order to reinforce and assess classroom performance. Sixth grade students will also conduct research across multiple content areas and create written products. Students will learn how to choose valid sources for information and to cite sources in their writing. This will prepare students for more comprehensive research writing products in the seventh and eighth grades. Students will be required to use correct grammar and spelling in their writing.

Social Studies

Students in sixth grade will continue to expand the knowledge, skills and understandings acquired in the fourth and fifth grade studies of North Carolina and the United States by connecting those studies to their first formal look at a study of the world. Sixth graders will focus heavily on the discipline of geography by using the themes of location, place, movement, human-environment interaction and region to understand the emergence, expansion and decline of civilizations and societies from the beginning of human existence to the Age of Exploration. Students will take a systematic look at the history and culture of various world regions including the development of economic, political and social systems through the lens of change and continuity. As students examine the various factors that shaped the development of civilizations, societies and regions in the ancient world, they will examine both similarities and differences among these areas. A conscious effort should be made in social studies classes to integrate various civilizations, societies and regions from every continent (Africa, Asia, Europe and the Americas). During this study, students will learn to recognize and interpret the "lessons of history;" those transferable understandings that are supported throughout time by recurring themes and issues. The standards are organized around five strands: history, geography and environmental literacy, economics and financial literacy, civics and government and culture. The strands should not be taught in isolation, but woven together in an integrated study that helps understand the ancient world. ¹

6th Grade Social Studies North Carolina Final Exam Specifications

Domain	Percent of Test
History	18-24%
Geography	26-36%
Economics	10-15%
Civics and Government	18-24%
Culture	15-21%

¹Source: NCDPI, <http://www.dpi.state.nc.us/docs/curriculum/socialstudies/scos/6.pdf>

Science

Sixth grade science is based on three instructional domains: Physical (P), Earth (E), and Life (L) Science. Within physical science, students study forces and motion, properties and change of matter, and the conservation and transfer of energy. Earth Science includes the study of earth in the universe and earth systems, structures and processes. Life science includes ecosystems and the structures and functions of living organisms.

Science will be taught using inquiry-based instruction in order to help students build conceptual understandings of topics. Students will engage in scientific investigation and will use reasoning and problem-solving to demonstrate how science is constant, historic, probabilistic, and replicable. Science as Inquiry provides for “hands on/minds on” student activities and encourages students to think like scientists.

6th Grade Science North Carolina Final Exam Specifications

Domain	Percent of Test
Physical	36-50%
Earth Science	24-34%
Life Science	12-24%

Information and Technology

Standards for Information and Technology will be used throughout all content areas.

- Students will learn to analyze resources for relevance, reliability, bias, and intent of information.
- Students will use technology to gather, analyze, and present data.
- Students will learn to apply the research process to gather information and to properly cite sources of information.
- Students will apply responsible behaviors when using information and technology sources.

Effective use of the Information and Technology Essential Standards will become increasingly important for students as we move toward future assessments of the North Carolina Standard Course of Study.

Healthful Living

The focus areas for students in this grade level include the following focus areas: mental and emotional health, personal and consumer health, interpersonal communication and relationships, nutrition and physical activity, and alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs. The accompanying objectives and curriculums can be found at:

<http://www.ncpublicschools.org/docs/acre/standards/new-standards/healthful-living/6-8.pdf>

Student Accountability Standards

The state's Student Accountability Standards brought accountability measures for schools and families. The standards are designed to improve student achievement and increase the number of students performing at grade level. For this plan to work, however, parents must remain involved in and informed about their child's education.

The standards for accountability are important because they promote:

- higher expectations for students and teachers as well as higher student achievement
- the opportunity for every student in North Carolina to receive a sound basic education
- an emphasis on workplace skills as being crucial for a student's future success
- For additional information about the North Carolina Testing Program, visit the Accountability Services Division website at <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/accountability/>.

Benchmarks and Universal Screenings

Caldwell County Schools will have Schoolnet benchmark assessments and/or NC Check-Ins this school year for students in grades six through eight. The benchmark assessments will assess students on the current English Language Arts and Mathematics curriculum for grades six through eight and the Science curriculum for grade eight. Schools have been given a window of time to complete these assessments. Students will also take part in STAR Reading and Math assessments throughout the year. These assessments help teachers utilize data to drive instruction as part of the Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) framework.

End of Grade Tests (EOGs)

Based on the North Carolina Standard Course of Study, state required End of Grade (EOGs) Tests, are given in May. EOGs are designed with an emphasis on assessing mastery of skills and higher level thinking skills. These assessments are used to ensure students are working at grade level in reading and math in grades 3-8. It is the goal of the state and CCS that all students score level III or higher. Student proficiency on the EOGs are scored at five levels:

- Level I - Students have limited command of knowledge and skills.
- Level II – Students have partial command of knowledge and skills.
- Level III – Students have sufficient command of knowledge and skills.
- Level IV – Students have solid command of knowledge and skills
- Level V – Students have superior command of knowledge and skills.

Examples of EOG test questions:

<http://www.ncpublicschools.org/accountability/testing/releasedforms>

NC Final Exams in Science and Social Studies

The NC Final Exams in selected subjects and grades are part of the NC State Testing Program and measure growth in various subjects and grades. The goal is to capture students' knowledge and skills in an authentic way.

Assessment specifications files for the North Carolina Final Exams provide greater detail on the assessments, including background information, the prioritization of the standards, cognitive rigor, item complexity, item types, and assessment delivery modes. The following links will provide information aligned to each NC Final Exam.

NC Final Exam in Science for Grade 6

<http://www.ncpublicschools.org/docs/accountability/common-exams/specifications/67scispecs16.pdf>

<http://www.ncpublicschools.org/accountability/common-exams/released-items/middleschoolitems>

NC Final Exam in Social Studies for Grades 6

<http://www.ncpublicschools.org/docs/accountability/common-exams/specifications/678ssspec16.pdf>

<http://www.ncpublicschools.org/docs/accountability/common-exams/released-items/g6ssrel1617.pdf>

Middle School Attendance Policy

Attendance in school and participation in class are integral parts of academic achievement and the teaching-learning process. Through regular attendance, students develop patterns of behavior essential to professional and personal success in life. Regular attendance by every student is mandatory. The State of North Carolina requires that every child in the State between the ages of 7 (or younger if enrolled) and 16 attend school. Parents and legal guardians are responsible for ensuring that students attend and remain at school daily.

Middle School (6-8) Attendance Requirements

A. Attendance

In preparing students for the rigors of middle school and successful entry into high school, attendance is fundamental. The primary responsibility of school attendance rests with students and their parents, guardians, or custodians. In order to maintain a consistent academic environment, there will be consequences for excessive unexcused absences, tardies, and early dismissals. As stated previously, the principal may require documentation to verify reasons for absences.

A student in grades six through eight must be in attendance at least 94.4% of the school year or 170 days. Students having more than ten (10) unexcused absences may not be promoted to the next grade level.

The school attendance committee will review student absences at the end of the first three grading periods and in the middle of the last grading period. The attendance committee will submit, to the principal or his/her designee, the names of students who are in danger of not being promoted due to excessive unexcused absences.

B. Reporting Absences

1. After the third unexcused absence, the principal or designee will notify the student's parent, guardian or custodian of the excessive absences.
2. After the sixth unexcused absence, the principal or designee will notify the students' parents, guardian or custodian of the excessive absences and refer the student to the school social worker.
3. The school social worker will investigate the cause of the unexcused absences and provide intervention as needed.
 - A. The student will also be referred to the school's Student Success Team.
 - B. In coordination with the school's Student Success Team, the school social worker will continue to monitor student attendance.
4. After the tenth unexcused absence, the principal, in consultation with the school social worker and other members of the school's Student Success Team, will refer the student and his/her family to an outside intervention agency and may file a complaint with the juvenile court counselor pursuant to Chapter 7B of the General Statutes that the child is habitually absent from school without a valid excuse. Also note, the principal or social worker may notify the district attorney or director of social services, of the county where the child resides, if absences become extremely excessive. Students in danger of not being promoted due to missing the maximum number of days stated above will be reviewed by the school attendance committee. Each school will determine the consequences for students in excess of ten (10) unexcused absences.

Helpful Resources and Web Links

Caldwell County Schools
www.caldwellschools.com
828-728-8407

North Carolina Public Schools
www.ncpublicschools.org

LearnNC
www.learnnc.org

Caldwell Community College & Technical Institute
www.cccti.edu

Caldwell County
www.caldwellcountync.org
Health Department 828-426-8400
Social Services 828-426-8200

Caldwell County Public Library
www.ccpl.libguides.com/main
828-757-1270

Caldwell County Chamber of Commerce
www.caldwellcochamber.org

Middle School: Movin' On Up
<http://pbskids.org/itsmylife/school/middleschool/>

Middle School Math Problems of the Week
<http://mathforum.org/prealgpow/>

Virtual Middle School Library
<http://www.sldirectory.com/virtual.html>

North Carolina School Library Media Association
2019-2020 Middle School Battle of the Books List

Title	Author
Serafina and the Black Cloak	Robert Beatty
Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus	Dusti Bowling
The War that Saved My Life	Kimberly Brubaker Bradley
Gym Candy	Carl Deuker
The Ruins of Gorlan	John Flanagan
The Boys Who Challenged Hitler	Phillip Hoose
House Arrest	K. A. Holt
Cracker! The Best Dog in Vietnam	Cynthia Kadohata
To Kill a Mockingbird	Harper Lee
Legend	Marie Lu
Greenglass House	Kate Milford
A Monster Calls	Patrick Ness
A Night Divided	Jennifer A. Nielsen
The First Rule of Punk	Celia C. Perez
Ghost Boys	Jewell Parker Rhodes
Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone	JK Rowling
Bomb	Steve Sheinkin
I'll Be There	Holly Goldberg Sloan
The Bitter Side of Sweet	Tara Sullivan
The Running Dream	Wendelin Van Draanen
Crow	Barbara Wright
I Am Malala *	Malala Yousafzai

* Young Reader's edition with Patricia McCormick

Schools Serving Middle Grades Students

Collettsville Elementary

4690 Collettsville School Road, Collettsville, NC 28611
828-754-6913

Happy Valley Elementary

1350 Yadkin Valley Road, Lenoir, NC 28661
828-754-3496

Kings Creek Elementary

3680 Wilkesboro Blvd., Lenoir, NC 28645
828-754-6039

Oak Hill Elementary

4603 Oak Hill School Road, Lenoir, NC 28645
828-754-6128

Gamewell Middle

3210 Gamewell School Road, Lenoir, NC 28645
828-754-6204

Granite Falls Middle

90 North Main Street, Granite Falls, NC 28630
828-396-2341

Hudson Middle

291 Pine Mountain Road, Hudson, NC 28638
828-728-4281

William Lenoir Middle

1366 Wildcat Trail, Lenoir, NC 28645
828-726-3910

Gateway Alternative

1889 Dudley Shoals Road, Granite Falls, NC 28630
828-396-8373