

Darlington Community School's Parents' Guide to Sixth Grade

Traits Exhibited by Many Ten-to Twelve- Year Olds

All children develop differently but you may notice the following traits as your child attends Fourth, Fifth or Sixth Grade.

- Want to be together in groups and teams
- Have the patience to work toward short-term goals
- Form cliques and friendships with own sex and age group
- Seek status through excellence in skills and knowledge of grown-up things
- Are fairly competitive in team and individual activities
- Have a growing concern with their physical size and appearance
- Like to make, do and collect things
- Boys and girls can work and socialize in programs where they share planning responsibilities
- Enjoy being mischievous and daring

This year your child will learn to:

Art

- Use materials purposefully and safely
- Understand color, texture, shape, balance, mood, and line as elements of art
- Understand and apply mathematical principles to art (proportion, scale, geometry, pattern, repetition, measurement)
- Express self through art media
- Reflect on works of art in the world today and in history

Language Arts/Reading

- Use oral and written language to convey a message appropriate to a situation
- Listen when others are speaking
- Contribute ideas to discussions
- Analyze text to identify character, plot, setting, conflict
- Make predictions about a variety of stories
- Read books for information and enjoyment
- Read a variety of books (biography, non-fiction, fantasy, historical fiction, etc.)
- Write informational reports
- Write complete sentences and paragraphs
- Write stories, personal thoughts, letters, poetry or reactions to reading
- Summarize fiction and non-fiction after reading
- Apply the uses of punctuation
- Apply knowledge of parts of speech, subject-verb agreement, and verb tense
- Recognize that words may have different meanings and uses
- Present an oral report
- Understand the importance of word choice in conveying a message and relating to an audience
- Develop note-taking skills
- Spell high frequency words correctly
- Read the newspaper
- Use writing process to plan and create an inventor report
- Increase written and spoken vocabulary
- Use keyboarding skills
- Use computers to organize and communicate information

Mathematics

- Use problem solving strategies
- Estimate to recognize answers which make sense
- Understand properties of numbers to allow more ways to solve problems (commutative, distributive, associative)
- Understand place value
- Explain answers orally and in writing
- Read and understand statistical data
- Make graphs and tables
- Use statistical measure of mean, mode, median, range
- Use symbols to stand for numbers
- Understand prime and composite numbers

- Add, subtract, multiply, and divide decimals and fractions
- Understand basic geometric principles (congruency)
- Understand and use geometric formulas for perimeter and area
- Move and change geometric shapes
- Estimate measurements
- Understand basic units of measurement
- Use and understand ratios, proportions, and percents
- Understand positive and negative integers
- Locate points on a grid using ordered pairs
- Understand probability or chance

Music

- Sing using solfege symbols
- Sing and play in a three-part harmony
- Identify forms of music
- Write and play 6/8 and 4/4 time
- Identify instruments by sound
- Identify vocal types
- Distinguish major and minor keys
- Hear and identify musical forms (Minute Trio, Theme and Variations)
- Use basic music symbols
- Listen respectfully to others' performances
- Discuss performances using music vocabulary
- Recognize musical compositions and identify composer, country, and era
- Understand how music contributes to culture today and interrelates to other subjects
- Create a musical piece with non-traditional notation

Instrumental Music

- Demonstrate basic instrumental technique
- Read, identify, and use standard notation symbols
- Sight read simple melodies in bass or treble clefs
- Play different musical styles
- Compose music using different note values
- Identify and evaluate different styles of music
- Evaluate group and individual performances
- Demonstrate proper performance and audience etiquette

Physical Education

- Use a variety of basic motor movements in flag football, soccer, basketball, softball, volleyball, floor hockey, and track and field
- Learn rules of flag football, soccer, basketball, softball, volleyball, floor hockey, and track and field
- Demonstrate eye-hand coordination
- Understand and display sportsmanship
- Use feedback to improve performance
- Understand the relationship between physical activity and good health
- Understand the social contributions of physical activity (respect, cooperation, teamwork, honesty)
- Engage in activities that increase respiration and heart rate
- Engage in activities that develop flexibility, muscular strength and endurance
- Participate in the Presidential Fitness testing program
- Engage in group activities that teach cooperation
- Participate in scooter activities
- Be able to juggle
- Be able to bowl
- Apply safety procedures

Science

- Understand how technology is used in daily life and in people's careers
- Understand that scientific knowledge is always growing
- Learn about famous scientists
- Learn about atomic structure
- Learn about the Periodic Table
- Understand gravity and motion
- Understand electricity
- Learn about ecology and conservation
- Plan and conduct simple science experiments and communicate results
- Understand light and sound
- Understand concepts of motion (speed, velocity, acceleration, momentum, friction)
- Understand weather and forecasting
- Understand how the earth has changed and continues to change
- Participate in the invention fair
- Understand the solar system

- Understand the metric system
- Learn about ecosystems and biomes
- Create tables and graphs to record and communicate scientific data

Social Studies

- Understand that people are alike and different in many ways
- Construct a timeline
- Use latitude and longitude to find places on maps and globes
- Identify directions on a map
- Understand that buildings and decorations reflect cultural values and ideas
- Learn about Prehistoric times, Ancient Greece, Ancient Babylon, and Ancient China, Ancient Rome, Ancient Egypt, and Ancient Japan
- Learn about early Europe and Europe of the Middle Ages
- Learn about significant people from ancient times
- Understand how art reflects culture
- Understand that we depend upon workers who produce goods or services
- Learn about basic economic principles using ancient civilizations
- Learn how different governments are organized
- Know ways that people solve common problems by cooperating and working in groups
- Use maps and globes to locate settings of stories or discussions

Information and Technology

- Use software to organize thoughts for written work
- Understand basic computer functions and terms
- Produce word processing document, spreadsheets, and drawing products
- Understand and use databases
- Search using the internet, encyclopedia and other reference materials
- Use data from weathernet site
- Use bookmarks to find internet sites
- Convert spreadsheets to charts and graphs
- Utilize text editing and formatting pull-down menus
- Incorporate graphics or pictures into a word processing document
- Understand that information is organized in the library in a logical manner
- Choose appropriate library materials
- Care properly for library materials and equipment
- Learn to assess one's own progress and quality of work
- Work with a group to complete a project

Self-Directed Learning

- Follow school and classroom rules
- Use self-control
- Show respect for others
- Work to solve own problems
- Work cooperatively with others
- Work independently to a greater degree as the school year progresses
- Use time productively
- Make plans and organize before working
- Work quietly when directed
- Complete work in a timely manner
- Evaluate own work

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