

# What will my student learn in grade 6?



Alaska's public schools now have higher expectations in English and math. These parent guides help you understand what your child will learn. For more information, see <http://education.alaska.gov>

## English Language Arts

In Grade 6 your child will read increasingly challenging fiction and nonfiction. Students will build knowledge about subjects through research projects and analysis of literary and informational sources. They will write stories and essays of several paragraphs, using a larger vocabulary, precise language, and correct grammar and punctuation.



### YOUR CHILD WILL:

- Cite textual evidence to support his or her analysis and inferences drawn from a text. Distinguish among fact, opinion, and reasoned judgment in a text. Analyze a text's structure and how each part contributes. Explain how an author develops the point of view of the narrator or speaker. Compare the experience of reading a literacy text with listening to or viewing an audio or video version of it.
- Write opinion pieces and informative texts in historical, scientific, and technical subjects, including an introduction, a structure to group ideas and evidence, and a conclusion. Support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence. Use a formal style. Write narratives to develop characters or events, using dialogue, description, concrete and sensory details, and a clear chronology. Plan, edit, and revise writing.
- Use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing, collaborate with others, and gather information. Conduct short research projects, gathering information from multiple print and digital sources. Avoid plagiarism.
- Engage in discussions, building on others' ideas and expressing his or her own clearly. Ask and answer questions about information from a speaker. Report on a topic or tell a story, speaking clearly. Create audio recordings and add visual displays.
- Use standard grammar, usage, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling. Use intensive pronouns, such as *myself*. Ensure that pronouns are in the proper case: subjective, objective, possessive (*we*, *us*, *our* or *ours*). Understand nuances in word meanings.

## Help Your Child Learn at Home

**Parent Tips** Try to create a quiet place for your child to study, and carve out time every day when your child can concentrate. You should also try to sit down with your child at least once a week for 15 to 30 minutes while he or she works on homework. This will keep you informed about what your child is working on, and it will help you be the first to know if your child needs help with specific topics.



### English Language Arts— Sixth Grade

- Listen with your child to a television reporter, politician, or other speaker. Ask your child to tell you the speaker's main points. Was the speaker trying to convince the audience of something? How?
- Encourage your child to learn at the library or on the Internet what life in your community was like 100 years ago. Have your child write a story, poem, or play about that time.

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## Math

In Grade 6 your child will use reasoning about multiplication and division to solve ratio and rate problems. Students will understand why the procedures for dividing fractions make sense. They will understand the use of variables in mathematical expressions. Students will begin to develop their ability to think statistically.



### YOUR CHILD WILL:

- Understand ratio concepts, and use ratio reasoning and ratio language to solve real-world and mathematical problems. For example, if it took 7 hours to mow 4 lawns, then at that rate how many lawns could be mowed in 35 hours? At what rate were lawns being mowed?
- Divide fractions by fractions. For example, create a story context for  $\frac{2}{3}$  divided by  $\frac{3}{4}$  and use a visual fraction model to show the quotient.
- Compute fluently with multi-digit numbers and find common factors and multiples. Express the remainder as a whole number, decimal, or simplified fraction.
- Understand that positive and negative numbers describe quantities having opposite directions or values, such as temperature above and below zero, or elevation above and below sea level.
- Apply arithmetic to algebraic expressions. Identify parts of an expression using the terms sum, term, product, factor, quotient, coefficient.
- Solve one-variable equations and inequalities. For example, does 5 make “ $3x$  is greater than 7” true?
- Analyze quantitative relationships between dependent and independent variables, including the use of graphs and tables. For example, in a problem involving constant speed, list and graph ordered pairs of distances and times, and write the equation  $d = 65t$  to represent the relationship between distance and time.
- Solve real-world and mathematical problems involving area, surface area, and volume.
- Develop his or her understanding of statistical variability. Understand that a set of data can be described by its center (mean, median, or mode), spread (range), and overall shape. Summarize and describe distributions, using dot or line plots, histograms, and box plots.

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### Math—Sixth Grade

Look for “word problems” in real life. Some 6th-grade examples might include:

- Determining the average speed of a family trip in a car, skiff or snowmachine, based on the distance traveled and the time taken; or estimating the time that a trip will take, given the distance and an estimate of the average speed.
- Finding the surface area of the walls and ceiling in a room to determine the cost of painting the room.