

PROGRAM OVERVIEW AT-A-GLANCE



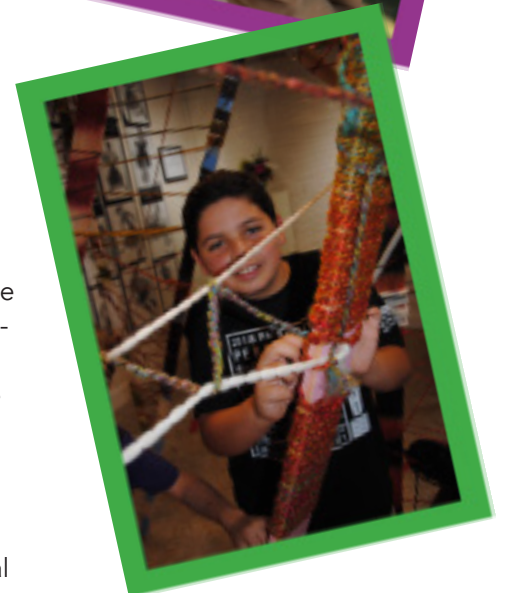
A Quick Overview

The sixth grade experience at Park Maitland School is one-of-a-kind! Students mature significantly, learning to balance increased academic expectations with myriad leadership roles. The curriculum supports independence as students develop time-management, critical thinking, and study skills beyond the classroom. Unlike previous grades, sixth graders each follow an individual schedule to more closely align with a typical middle school. This fosters personal responsibility as well as social bonding across the grade level. In addition, artistic, athletic, and community service opportunities abound for students to develop self-confidence and personal strengths as a “whole individual.” As our twelve and thirteen year olds move on to other schools, they have learned how to work hard to achieve personal accomplishments, synergize with others, and help others beyond themselves. It is truly an incredible year!

Chances to Shine

Whereas at other middle schools sixth graders are the youngest students on campus, at Park Maitland they are our “seniors.” As such, they have numerous opportunities to lead and soar. One such opportunity is the “Jelly Fudge Friends” program, in which sixth grade students are paired with first grade students and act as personal mentors. Sixth graders are also invited to become peer tutors and members of the “Eagle News Crew” news team, where they produce a monthly newscast for the school community with the computer teacher after school.

Furthermore during sixth grade, students polish their artistic selves as they shine in the arts. A delightful showcase takes place at the end of the year with a “Gallery Opening” at the art studio of their dynamic sixth grade art teacher, Sandy Bonus. The culminating, and perhaps most memorable event for all sixth grade students, is the end of the year show at the Bob Carr Performing Arts Centre in Orlando, in which students take the entire stage and perform a full-length musical for a sold-out audience. These shows have become a Central Florida tradition, attracting not only current families and teachers, but also former students, friends, school associates, and others in the community who love musical theater -- especially when performed by children!





PROGRAM OVERVIEW AT-A-GLANCE



**PARK MAITLAND
SCHOOL**

Excellence Begins in Wonder

Our sixth graders also emerge as masters of 21st century skills. Having established a strong foundation in the use of technological resources and tools, our students wield their one-to-one iPads with finesse. They know how to utilize this academic tool to the optimal level with an ease that impresses any onlooker. In addition, the 21st century skills continuum that has been leading students on a journey to be a productive asset in a global society reaches its peak in the sixth grade. The 4C competencies are now second nature to each student, and the highest levels of creativity, critical thinking, communication, and collaboration are bridged into the habits which frame innovation. One example of this is the sixth grade Passion Project in the Design Thinking enrichment course.

Of all the special experiences of sixth grade, it is the academic program at Park Maitland that most paves the way for the future success of our students.

Course Descriptions:

Language Arts: Reading and E.S.W (English, Spelling, and Writing)

Writing mechanics, literary analysis, higher-level comprehension skills, and intense vocabulary study are core components of the sixth grade language arts curriculum. Reading and English, spelling, and writing are taught in conjunction, with an emphasis on grammar, composition, and critical reading strategies. Literature units include mysteries, gothic fiction, science fiction, persuasive essays, a research paper, and poetry. Teacher-directed literature selections and essay tests are balanced with student-selected literature and project-based assessments. The goal is to offer students practice in real-life reading skills: scanning a text for information, understanding the main idea, exploring an author's purpose, determining a story's theme, relating a text to one's own life, etc.

Writing assignments coordinate with literature units and utilize featured pieces as inspiration for each student. The result is that sixth graders develop a taste of composing with various writing styles in order to draw closer to developing a mature and personal style of their own.

In Park Maitland fashion, the language arts curriculum is celebrated with several showcases throughout the year. Gothic Fiction Night is one of these highlights, during which students perform famous suspenseful scenes and share their own dark and dreary works for families and friends.





PROGRAM OVERVIEW AT-A-GLANCE



**PARK MAITLAND
SCHOOL**

Excellence Begins in Wonder

Math

The sixth grade math curriculum focuses on higher level math concepts. The curriculum includes mathematical operations of whole numbers, decimals, fractions, and integers, algebraic reasoning, geometry, probability, and statistics. Word problem solving skills are reinforced to further develop mathematical prowess. As with fifth grade, differentiated math placement is provided to allow for the appropriate skill level and to challenge each student.

Of course the wonder hidden in this course is the intentional mixture of the concepts and the method of instruction. Students ultimately learn to make their growing admiration for math relevant to real world situations. The Stock Market Experience is a long-term project students especially enjoy. Additional projects like the House Flipping Project and Comparison Shopping make math an engaging foray into the adult world of practical application.

Science

The sixth grade science curriculum seeks to encourage and motivate students to become more inquisitive about the world in which they live. Students use 21st century tools, including the iPad, to investigate and research solutions to problems. They enjoy performing dissection in their science lab, learning safety measures and practicing teamwork. The in-depth research of a self-selected topic for the annual "Dr. Alan Saffran Science Expo" at the Orlando Science Center is further enhanced by the use of iPads in sixth grade and a round of interviews by judges.

Enrichment Classes

Emphasis on the education of the whole child is extended through a variety of outstanding enrichment classes which celebrate the talents and passions of each student. These courses are all taught by highly talented and experienced teachers who inspire and engage their students in a variety of ways.

Music: The sixth grade students further ignite their love of music by studying the art of musical performance in preparation for the major production at the end of the year. Each student is taught the nuances of vocal projection and how to bring a character to life through song, staging, choreography, and presence.

Drama: A focus on professional audition techniques brings a new element to the world of drama as the students gain confidence in this process. They will learn about the balance of peer support and personal development involved in nurturing their craft. Drama will also include scene and performance work for Gothic Fiction Night, self-written monologues, preparation for the Greek festival, and a unit on Shakespeare.



Grade 6 PROGRAM OVERVIEW AT-A-GLANCE

Visual Arts: This course encourages an interest in a lifelong exploration of visual forms of expression. Through complex yet extremely enjoyable art activities, students develop confidence and self awareness skills which culminate in an opening at the Swoope Gallery at the end of the year.

Physical education: Each child is challenged to increase awareness of their body through the development of psychomotor, cognitive, and affective skills. The collaborative aspect of P.E. also enables students to learn about the benefit of teamwork and sportsmanship.

Computer: The computer course aims to build on students' digitally native status. Sixth graders will participate in enlightening projects, exploring technological skills that will support them for years to come. A small sample of these projects includes experimenting with Scratch (basic programming), playing a virtual stock exchange game for math, gaining a working knowledge of Excel and spreadsheets, creating a PowerPoint presentation, and utilizing the entire Google Suite to develop several academic products.

Spanish: Students will exercise their language muscle in order to learn and retain Spanish. This immersion in language ensures a mastery of conversational skills at a novice level, developing a familiarity with the language, preparing participants for further instruction as they head off to middle and high school.

Design Thinking: Students are challenged to grow in their 21st century skills of collaboration, communication, critical thinking, and creativity as they cultivate their use of Design Thinking and Project Based Learning. The sixth grade students carry out a year long project in Design Thinking Class called the Passion Project, in which they pursue their passions by discovering a need in their field of interest and work with a mentor to engineer a device/product or event to meet that need.

In the past students have connected with surgeons, lawyers, pharmacists, seamstresses, bloggers, IT professionals, local business owners, and more! These connections to experts have enabled our students to receive real time critique of their prototypes and ideas. Former innovators have made strides toward sustainable projects that evolve and develop further long after the class is finished.

