

Welcome to sixth grade! We look forward to partnering with our families to provide opportunities for academic, social and spiritual growth.

This year is one of focused preparation for the demands of junior high school; therefore, we emphasize study skills, an increased sense of self-monitored responsibility, and the continued development of critical thinking skills. We offer a strong academic program with ability grouping in some subjects, as well as enrichment activities.

As in the earlier grades, we follow the State-mandated standards for curriculum. Our instruction in reading, language, and mathematics is ability-grouped, so we can offer our students an opportunity to change classes smoothly (in preparation for the junior high school environment) and to work with activities designed for their level. Some capable, self-motivated students may work at an independent level, in a program that has been individualized for them. We group our students heterogeneously for other subjects that include science, social studies, curriculum-based spelling, Bible study, and Spanish. We have several computers and internet access in our classroom. Specialists provide instruction in art, music, and physical education.

Listed below are some of the highlights of the year:

- Field trips include a docent guided tour of El Calle de Los Angeles (Olvera Street), a mock archaeological “dig” at the Skirball Cultural Center, a day at Medieval Times, and a recording session at Capitol Records, that includes a copy of the CD the students make.
- Special rewards for our soon-to-be alumni: Day at the Park (activities organized by our PE Coach), a visit to Knott’s Berry Farm, our annual Sixth Grade Softball Game, including team “tee’s,” an off-campus, optional graduation party at someone’s home. We order special class pins for students in the class colors. Each class chooses a name, class colors, and supporting Scripture. The school yearbook, the class pin, and the graduation ceremony all reflect these choices. Extra pages are set aside every year to honor our graduates.
- Our study of the Spanish language includes a Fiesta. Parents and grandparents are invited for an authentic Spanish lunch and for the students’ program, which is presented entirely in Spanish. The classes create special art projects, learn praise and worship songs in Spanish, and dances.
- Opportunities for research and expository writing include a study of scientific inquiry and research writing skills. Sixth graders prepare a detailed science research project that meets ACSI’s standards and

culminates in a Science Fair. Also, the elements of an extended essay are taught, and students write an informative, persuasive, or entertaining essay. Some are submitted to ACSI for publication consideration.

- We apply Bible Study truths by presenting a half hour chapel and engaging in some type of service project (i.e. supporting a missionary, providing relief for victims of a natural disaster.) Many of our devotions are student-led.
- Our graduation is held in the evening. It is a beautiful ceremony, and each student may bring as many guests as desired, including special-needs guests, for whom accommodations are made. We work on a unique video project that reflects each individual's growth throughout the years. We arrange for a professional video of the graduation that is available for purchase as a keepsake for our families. Our graduation is followed by a lovely reception, planned by the parents of our fifth graders.

In preparation for leaving an elementary school life and learning style behind, we challenge each of our youngsters to grow and mature in a God-honoring way...but we have a lot of FUN too!