

English Language Arts

Spelling

BHCS uses the program **Spelling Connections Grade 6**. It provides comprehensive daily spelling practice by connecting spelling to high level thinking, vocabulary, reading, and writing through motivating exercise and activities. It has comprehensive daily spelling practice that allows students to study and master each unit's word lists. The activities are engaging exercises and activities such as: word categorization, word structures, analogies, making inferences, using context clues, proofreading, and word study. A weekly spelling assessment is given on Friday.

Writing

The sixth-grade focuses on units in argumentative, informative, and narrative writing. We start with a personal narrative unit which allows students to generate story ideas, create a plan before writing and a first draft, evaluate, revise, edit, and share with their classmates. Later in the first semester, expository writing is practiced to inform, explain or describe something to a classmate. The second semester students learn strategies to gather, analyze, and use text evidence supporting their claims in argument writing. Frequently, informative/explanatory writing is done to increase knowledge of a certain topic. The students answer questions of why or how. Through the use of clear reasons and relative evidence gathered, the students understand the purpose behind informative writing and how it is to educate others on a certain topic. Frequently, response letters are written to allow students to summarize, connect, and wonder about what they are reading. Another purpose of response letters is to encourage active reading and improve their ability to respond to text.

Reading

Sixth grade is a big year for reading. Students have the necessary literacy strategies to decode the writing in front of them, but it must be practiced. Lessons change from "learning to read" to "reading to learn," with the use of texts to make sense of unknown concepts. All of this is done through textbooks, classroom novel study, and independent reading in a good fit book. A good fit book is one that when the student chooses a book,

the book should seem easy (not simple) for the child. When a student can read without too many comprehension issues, reading becomes fun. This is part of their daily homework.

Social Studies

Sixth grade focuses on Ancient Civilizations. Students will evaluate geography and communities of Maine, the United States, and various major eras in the history of the world. Students research social studies questions through the use of their History Alive - The Ancient World textbook, or TCI online program. All year long we identify and find answers to social studies questions using relevant information, research and discussion skills. We select, plan, and participate in a service learning project. In addition students study the basic ideas, structures, and principles of democracy.