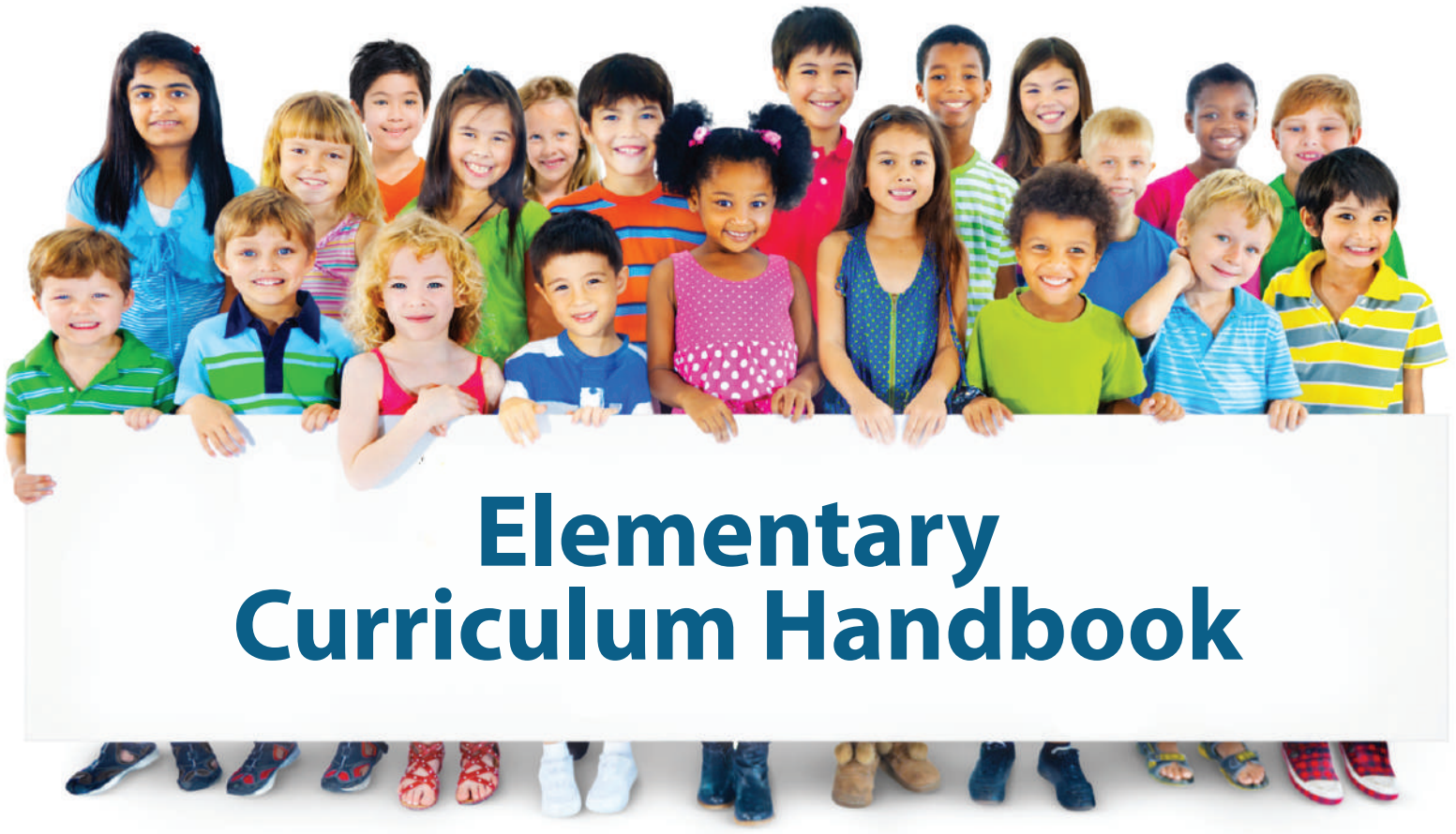


Elementary Curriculum Handbook

A Publication of the Simsbury Public Schools

Revised August 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The *Elementary Curriculum Handbook* presents an overview of each subject and reflects the district's commitment to equity for every student, defining the expectations for achievement and providing a description of the curriculum at each grade level.

Simsbury Public Schools implements a standards-based curriculum that builds students' competencies of our Vision of a Graduate (VoG). The curriculum incorporates sequential instruction, enduring ideas, and discrete skills that students should know and be able to do by the end of each grade. Learning encompasses students' cultures, languages, and life experiences. Teachers use student work and a variety of assessments to individualize instruction and guide decisions to maximize student learning.

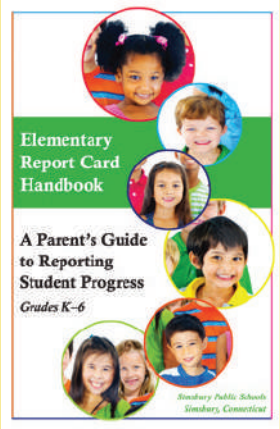
This curriculum handbook is one of the many ways the Simsbury Public Schools supports communication between home and school. We hope that the information will enhance your understanding of the elementary school curriculum and will enrich your role as an active participant in your child's education.

Sincerely,

Betsy Gunsalus
Director of Elementary Curriculum
and Student Assessment

Table of Contents

Elementary report cards



Click on the above image to view a pdf of the file.

Sample report cards are available via the grade level sections in this book.

Formal assessments (K-6)

Assessment	K	1	2	3	4	5	6
NGSS						x	
STAR Reading & Math			x	x	x	x	x
SBAC				x	x	x	x

What Is Assessment?

Assessment is the process of gathering evidence in order to document the learning and growth of each child. Teachers assess student performance every day, integrating assessment and instruction continually. It is this constant overlap between questioning, responding, observing, and evaluating student progress that determines further instructional needs. Assessments include universal screenings, informal and formal measures, and summative assessments.

Why do we need assessments?

- to help educators set standards
- to create instructional goals
- to motivate performance
- to provide feedback to students
- to evaluate progress
- to communicate progress to others

How do we use universal assessments?

- to use as diagnostic screenings prior to instruction
- to inform teaching and learning
- to help identify students who might benefit from extra support *(see graphic at left)*

How do we use informal assessments?

- to assess student performance every day, integrating assessment and instruction continually

Informal assessment occurs when teachers:

- observe students working
- write anecdotal notes that describe learning behaviors
- hold reading and writing conferences to record student strengths and weaknesses
- analyze projects, portfolios, and notebooks

How do we use formal assessments?

- to provide an academic measure of knowledge, concepts, and skills
- to adjust instructional goals and practices

How do we use summative assessments?

- to determine achievement levels for meeting learning standards
- to give teachers and parents/guardians a better picture of where students are succeeding

What Is the Simsbury Language Arts Program?

- a series of developmentally appropriate units, based on the work of the Teachers College Reading and Writing Program, which align with national and state standards for reading, writing, language, and speaking and listening
- a comprehensive language arts program, aligned with the Connecticut Core Standards, which provides a continuum of reading and writing skills and strategies across the grades that appropriately challenges all students, highlighting the essential concepts and skills that will make students effective, independent readers, writers, speakers, and listeners
- a structured curriculum that balances the components of literacy and fosters the integration and transfer of learned strategies and skills for all students across multiple genres and subjects

What makes this program unique?

- Students play an active role in their learning: choosing writing topics, selecting books for independent reading, reflecting on their work, and discussing their ideas with others.
- Students' academic needs drive instruction; teachers use whole-class instruction, small groups, and individual conferences so that all students experience academic success.
- Students develop an appreciation of different points of view through book conversations with partners or in book clubs with other students.
- The learning environment fosters risk taking and expands students' knowledge of literature, nonfiction, and writing through specific units of study.
- The program builds confidence in readers, writers, speakers, and listeners through productive and interactive activities.

What happens in the classroom?

- Students read books that correspond to their instructional reading level, participating in class discussions, book conversations, and structured book clubs in order to deepen comprehension.
- Students read a variety of genres, including fiction and nonfiction reading selections, reflecting a diversity of authors and genres with a balance of classic and contemporary works.
- Students cycle through the writing process, generating ideas, planning new pieces, drafting, revising, and editing across various genres of writing that include narrative, informational, and opinion units.
- Students share and celebrate their written work with authentic audiences.
- Students confer with both teachers and peers about their reading and writing.
- Students participate in conversations about their reading and writing lives in order to gain ideas from each other and set learning goals for themselves.

(Continued on page 5)

Language Arts Philosophy Statement

The Simsbury Public Schools believes that a strong language arts curriculum provides explicit instruction in reading, writing, speaking, listening, and language skills. Our K-12 program prepares students to comprehend and communicate effectively, in order to understand themselves, others, and their society.

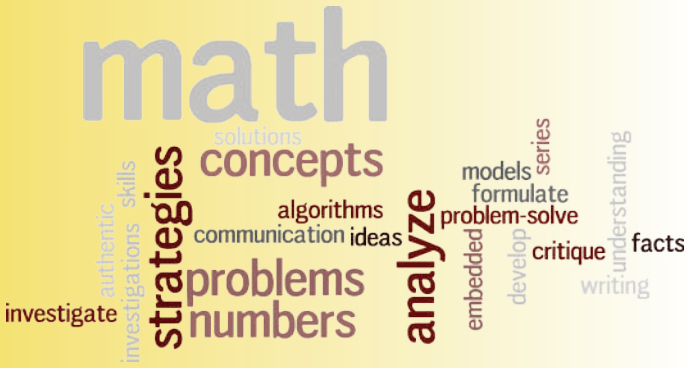
The elements of the Simsbury Public Schools' comprehensive language arts program include:

- instruction to develop proficient readers who understand, interpret, evaluate and appreciate texts;
- opportunities for student choice and collaboration to meet a variety of needs and interests;
- fiction and nonfiction texts, both rigorous and accessible, that reflect diversity of authors and genres and that balance classic and contemporary works;
- authentic tasks and activities that are challenging and have personal value to students;
- a variety of technological and informational resources as a means for collecting and communicating information to meet the demands of our ever-changing society;
- assessments that are frequent and varied, and are used to inform instruction, measure student performance, and provide students with feedback about their own strengths and needs so they can reflect upon and take control of their own learning; and
- a commitment to providing ongoing professional development opportunities to support teacher knowledge of best practices related to curriculum, instruction, and student achievement.

By the end of grade 12, all students will be able to:

- read and respond to a variety of authors, texts and genres, including theatre, film, and art;
- apply strategies and skills to enhance their understanding of multiple types of text;
- develop and communicate informed opinions and arguments through interpreting and evaluating various texts;
- recognize that readers and authors are influenced by individual, social, cultural, and historical contexts;
- appreciate the influence that contemporary and classical authors have on human thought;
- use the traits of writing to communicate effectively for a specific purpose and audience;
- contribute, respond to, and develop what others have said in conversations and discussions;
- write and speak in acceptable standard English; and
- transfer literacy skills across multiple content areas.

- Teachers structure and manage reading and writing workshops so that students receive grade-level skill and strategy instruction, with adequate time for practicing these new skills.
- Teachers provide direct, explicit strategy instruction to develop proficient readers and writers who understand, interpret, evaluate, appreciate, and create texts.
- Teachers provide authentic tasks and activities that are challenging and engaging to students.
- Teachers provide a variety of technological and informational resources as a means for collecting, viewing, and communicating information to meet the demands of our ever-changing society.
- Teachers read aloud and model how to actively use comprehension strategies to demonstrate what proficient readers do.



What Is the Simsbury Mathematics Program?

- a comprehensive K-8 nationally recognized mathematics program, *Math in Focus*, aligned with the Connecticut Core Standards, in which important mathematical concepts are embedded in authentic, real-world problems

What makes this program unique?

- Students work collaboratively to grapple with problems and develop mathematical ideas.
- Students solve problems, construct arguments, and share their thinking, strategies, and solutions with others.
- Students use mathematical language to communicate their thinking through dialogue and in writing and use mathematical tools to enhance their understanding and communication.
- Students build fact fluency and other foundational skills, including the use of US algorithms, to solve more sophisticated mathematical problems and make connections with other mathematical ideas.
- Students develop flexibility and confidence in investigating mathematical concepts, persevering to solve problems, and attending to precision.
- Students analyze and solve problems which emphasize depth in mathematical thinking rather than surface exposure to a series of fragmented topics.

What happens in the classroom?

- Students explore mathematics using concrete, pictorial, and abstract representations to develop a deep understanding of mathematical concepts.
- Students learn a variety of problem solving strategies, including model-drawing, to solve real world problems.
- Students develop a positive mathematical mindset, emphasizing the importance of attitude and habits of mind to achieve success in math.
- Students work in groups, pairs, or individually to engage and/or reason about mathematical ideas.
- Teachers differentiate instruction for students based on learning styles, and/or depth of understanding of the concept.

Mathematics Philosophy Statement

The Simsbury Public Schools believes that a strong mathematics program develops lifelong critical thinkers and learners whose confidence and interest in mathematics will promote college and career readiness. The program guarantees every student a rigorous, coherent, and focused standards-based curriculum where conceptual understanding and acquisition of basic skills serve as the foundation for complex problem solving and critical thinking. Using the Connecticut Core Standards as a foundation, the Simsbury Public Schools believes that all students will attain the mathematical knowledge necessary to persevere as they reason through problems, communicate their thinking, and justify their conclusions.

The elements of the Simsbury Public Schools' mathematics program include:

- opportunities to build towards an increasingly deep and complex understanding of important mathematical ideas;
- opportunities for students to make connections among mathematical topics and ideas;
- experiences with a wealth of complex problems and real world situations that can be solved numerous ways;
- tasks that cover a range of difficulty and complexity;
- experiences that draw on and relate to students' personal experiences and knowledge;
- opportunities for students to see connections between multiple representations: e.g., the story, the table, the graph, and the equation;
- opportunities for student collaboration and differentiated instruction to meet a variety of needs;
- time for students to reflect on their own thinking and learning and to communicate their ideas orally and in writing;
- opportunities for students to develop both computational proficiency and to build problem-solving skills;
- a commitment to providing ongoing professional development opportunities to support teacher knowledge of best practices related to curriculum, instruction, and student achievement.

By the end of grade 12, all students will be able to:

- make sense of problems and persevere in solving them;
- discuss, explain, and demonstrate understanding of a mathematical situation in multiple ways;
- analyze problems and use stated mathematical assumptions, definitions, and established results in constructing arguments and justifying mathematical ideas, as well as evaluating the reasoning of others;
- select and use a variety of models, tools, symbolic representations, and technology to solve mathematical problems and to communicate ideas orally and in written form;
- use mathematical skills and concepts with proficiency and confidence, while attending to precision;
- transfer mathematical skills across multiple content areas;
- identify and use connections within mathematics to identify interrelationships and equivalent representations (numeric, verbal, visual, etc.) to construct mathematical models, and to investigate and appreciate mathematical structure; and
- use mathematical skills and concepts to make and justify decisions and predictions, to identify patterns and trends, to pose questions from data and situations, and to formulate and solve problems.

What Is the Simsbury Science Program?

- a combination of teacher created and published science units that emphasize content knowledge and inquiry skills while providing opportunities for critical thinking and hands-on learning
- units of study and experience that relate to themes of life science, earth science, and physical science, as well as science and technology in society
- a curriculum that aligns with and expands upon the standards outlined by national and state frameworks

What makes this program unique?

- Students have the opportunity to interact directly with materials in a hands-on approach to learning.
- Students learn in an environment where they can act like scientists.
- Teachers encourage students to question, analyze, explain, and interpret scientific phenomena and processes.
- The elementary science curriculum provides a strong foundation of science and engineering concepts.

What happens in the classroom?

- Students explore, ask questions, make observations, design investigations, propose solutions, and communicate their findings using a variety of methods.
- Students develop a scientific vocabulary and begin to talk like scientists.
- Students learn to use research skills and technology to access relevant information.
- Teachers create an environment that fosters students' natural curiosity and guides them through the process of inquiry.

Science
Philosophy Statement

The Simsbury Public Schools believes that a strong science education program promotes student understanding of the natural and human built worlds. The curriculum provides opportunities for students to engage in scientific and engineering practices within core content areas so that students become competent problem solvers, capable of making informed and logical judgments using sound, scientific principles as citizens of the world.

The elements of the Simsbury Public Schools' Science program include:

- opportunities to master a core sequence of science study based on the state standards that cover four major domains: physical sciences; life sciences; earth and space sciences; and engineering, technology and applications of science;
- opportunities to develop science literacy and inquiry skills by using a variety of books, resources, and hands-on experiences;
- authentic learning tasks and assessments that connect to real world problems and topics that are relevant to students;
- learning environments that provide opportunities to work individually, collaborate in small groups, and work as a class to speculate, investigate, discuss, question, observe, collect data, and debate conclusions;
- technology that is integrated throughout the program to enhance learning and support investigations;
- to the extent possible, meaningful opportunities to interact with a wide range of science professionals for the purpose of enriching the classroom experience and for exploring and inspiring possible career pursuits; and
- a wide variety of science elective opportunities at the high school level allowing students to explore personal scientific and career interests.

By the end of grade 12, all students will be able to:

- acquire new knowledge and continually deepen understanding of core science and engineering concepts;
- apply scientific literacy skills in order to research, understand, and communicate major science concepts and theories;
- construct explanations and design solutions through scientific exploration, formulating hypotheses, designing experiments, analyzing data, and drawing conclusions;
- make claims and argue their validity based on the analysis of data and other available evidence;
- build models and theories about the world, design prototypes, and build systems to solve problems;
- apply mathematical concepts to enhance scientific reasoning; and
- understand the possibilities and limitations of science and technology in order to make informed decisions.

What Is the Simsbury Social Studies Program?

- a K-12 curriculum that aligns with and expands upon the standards outlined in state and national frameworks, emphasizing history, government and civics, geography, and economics
- interdisciplinary units that incorporate the use of primary and secondary sources, nonfiction and fiction texts, and various emerging technologies to bridge the gap between the past, present, and future
- a series of units for each grade that are unified by grade-specific social studies themes, emphasizing the consideration of diverse perspectives and cultures

What makes this program unique?

- Each unit integrates subject areas of reading, writing, technology, and media.
- Students investigate essential questions based on individual behaviors, geography, cultures, history, and political and economic structures.
- Students make connections between the units of study and the grade-specific guiding theme.
- Teachers use the inquiry method to ensure understanding of each concept.
- Teachers encourage students to question, analyze, explain, and interpret historical and cultural events.
- The program fosters critical, creative, and ethical thinking so that students consider diverse perspectives and cultures and recognize the impact of ther actions and civic decisions.

What happens in the classroom?

- Students read a collection of primary and secondary sources and nonfiction texts to build knowledge of each unit.
- Students work collaboratively to understand the impact of the unifying theme.
- Students discuss, debate, write persuasively, and conduct research.
- Teachers use multiple texts, media, and technology to explore concepts in each unit.
- Teachers facilitate student thinking by asking probing questions that examine the enduring understandings.
- Teachers use a variety of instructional strategies to meet the needs of individual students.

Social Studies
Philosophy Statement

The Simsbury Public Schools believes that a strong social studies program develops all students' capacities to know, analyze, explain, and argue within the disciplines of history, geography, civics, economics, and behavioral sciences. A balanced repertoire of content and skills, focusing on rights and responsibilities, interdependence, authority, conflict, and uniqueness of place, develops global citizens who are equipped with the critical thinking, problem solving, collaboration, and communication skills necessary for the 21st century workplace, as well as for civic and economic responsibility.

The elements of the Simsbury Public Schools' comprehensive social studies program include:

- integration of literacy and communication skills within the content and units;
- independent and collaborative learning opportunities that promote an understanding of how to acquire, integrate, and apply knowledge;
- authentic tasks and activities that engage, challenge, and have personal value to students;
- assessments that are frequent, varied, and used to inform instruction, measure student performance, and provide students with feedback about their own strengths and needs so they can reflect upon and take control of their own learning;
- multiple opportunities for students to write in argumentative and informational genres;
- texts from primary and secondary sources that are rigorous and accessible, reflect diversity of authors and sources, and develop students' awareness of the biases that exist inherently in all documents; and
- a variety of technological and informational resources as a means for collecting, creating, and communicating information to meet the demands of our ever-changing society.

By the end of grade 12, all students will be able to:

Through Inquiry:

- analyze patterns, connections, causes, and effects in order to strengthen inquiry, literacy, communication, and action; and
- develop meaningful questions to deepen content knowledge through independent research, allowing students to take action as informed citizens.

Within the discipline of history:

- demonstrate knowledge of the structure of United States and world history to understand life and events in the past and how they relate to students' own life experiences; and
- analyze the historical roots and current complexity of international relations and globalization in an increasingly interdependent world.

Within the discipline of geography:

- integrate geographic knowledge, skills, and concepts to understand human behavior in relation to the physical and cultural environment.

Within the discipline of civics:

- explain how people create rules and laws to preserve the delicate balance between individual rights and societal needs; and
- evaluate how ideas, principles, and practices of citizenship have emerged and are maintained over time and across cultures.

Within the discipline of economics:

- explain how people organize systems for the production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services.

Within the disciplines of other key social sciences:

- apply concepts from the study of history, culture, economics, and government to form an understanding of the interrelationships between science, technology, and society;
- describe how the study of individual development and identity contributes to the understanding of human behavior; and
- demonstrate an understanding of the concept of culture and how gender, race, ethnicity, and socio-economic class influence personal perspectives.

Grade K Language Arts

Elementary Report Cards

Grade K

Grade K
Art, Music, PE

Click buttons above to download sample report cards (PDF format).

What is the Simsbury Language Arts Program?

The Simsbury Language Arts Program is a balanced approach to literacy instruction, fostering the integration and transfer of strategies and skills across multiple genres and subjects. Inspired by the ongoing research of Teachers College Reading and Writing Project, teachers provide daily reading and writing experiences.

In reading, students participate in varied instruction, read alouds, and practices that include: teacher-led minilessons, small group instruction, individual conferences, and independent reading/book clubs. Within specific units, students select independent books of various genres; choice, differentiation, and student engagement are hallmarks in every classroom. In word study, children are taught phonics, spelling, and handwriting in an explicit, multisensory, and systematic way. Students actively engage in their learning, and these skills are reinforced in both reading and writing.

Our writing workshops emphasize independence and repertoire, as students generate ideas, plan, draft, revise, and edit written pieces. With a balance of writing genres, our curriculum develops six traits of writing: focus, organization, fluency, elaboration, voice, and conventions.

READING

Unit of Study	*In this unit students will…*
Launching the Reading Workshop	• learn the routines and expectations of reading workshop • develop reading habits • become motivated to read • develop the foundational skills that will allow students to become readers
Look Closely At Familiar Books	• use storytelling to match the pictures in familiar books • match pictures and words with sounds
Reading with Print Strategies and Sight Word Power	• apply strategies for reading words (e.g., looking at beginning/ending letters along with meaning and structure, sounding out words, etc.) • monitor own reading (e.g. matching words with sounds, reading the correct number of words, matching words with pictures, etc.) • reread to build fluency • make predictions while reading • retell the story

(Continued on page 13)

Bigger Books Bigger Reading Muscles	• read more challenging books • continue to apply strategies to read words
Nonfiction Unit	• become experts on topics by reading books, asking questions, and talking with others • learn about words in their books • think about what is the same and what is different in and across books
Readers are Resourceful	• read hard words and tricky parts in books • learn to self monitor while reading • become flexible problem solvers while reading
Becoming Avid Readers	• apply reading skills to harder books • talk about books like an expert • read for understanding

Students experience three priority writing units. The first writing unit for kindergarten is designed to get students expressing themselves through language and pictures with an emphasis on narrative story-telling. The following two units focus on information writing and opinion writing. Additional units may be taught as time permits, and writing will be integrated into other content areas so that students have opportunities to practice and develop their skills.

WRITING UNITS

Unit of Study	*In this unit students will…*
Launching Writing Workshop	• learn the structures, rituals, and routines of the workshop • explore ways to find topics for writing • use basic shapes and lines to draw common objects • begin to use labels, words, and sentences to express thoughts and ideas • revise stories with learned strategies
Information: How-To and All-About Books	• generate topics about which they are expert • develop cohesive information books with varied text features • use mentor texts to explore various strategies for writing information
Opinion: Persuasive Writing of All Kinds	• generate ideas for writing by thinking about what they would like to change • use various forms of writing including signs, petitions, and letters to express opinions • state opinions clearly and begin to convince others with supporting reasons and examples

Grade K Mathematics

Elementary Report Cards

Grade K

Grade K
Art, Music, PE

Click buttons above to download sample report cards (PDF format).

What is the Simsbury Grade K Mathematics Program?

In kindergarten…

Students will focus on two foundational areas of mathematics: learning numbers and what they represent, and the concepts of addition and subtraction. As they work with numbers, students will learn to count objects and compare different quantities. They will extend their understanding of the counting sequence to identify which numbers are greater or less than other numbers. Students will learn that addition is putting things together, while subtraction is taking things away. They will use their understanding of addition and subtraction to solve simple word problems using objects and drawings, and they will practice adding and subtracting small numbers quickly and accurately. Students will learn about the importance of 10 in our number system and study numbers that combine to make ten. Time is also devoted to working with and learning about shapes.

Areas of Focus	*Students will…*
Counting and Cardinality • Numbers to 5 • Numbers to 10 • Counting and Numbers 0 to 10 • Numbers 0 to 20 • Numbers to 100 • Comparing Sets	• develop strategies for accurately counting a group of objects • compare two sets using one-to-one correspondence
Operations and Algebraic Thinking • Counting On and Counting Back • Addition Stories • Subtraction Stories	• represent addition and subtraction with objects, fingers, mental images, and drawings • write and solve addition and subtraction stories
Number and Operations – Base Ten • Number Facts	• break apart numbers from 11-19 into a group of 10 and some ones
Measurement and Data • Order by Size, Length, or Wight • Size and Position • Comparing Length and Height • Classifying and Sorting • Measurement	• compare and order objects by size, length and weight • sort and classify objects by two and three attributes
Geometry • Solids and Flat Shapes	• describe, identify, construct, and compare 2-D and 3-D shapes

Grade K Science

Elementary Report Cards

Grade K

Grade K
Art, Music, PE

Click buttons above to download sample report cards (PDF format).

What is the Simsbury Grade K Science Program?

In kindergarten…

During the 2020-2021 school year, kindergarten students will participate in two major science units. The emphasis in the first unit is on weather, and students will start to notice changes happening outside. The second unit introduces students to the concept of force with opportunities for design and engineering. In addition to the units of study, students have opportunities throughout the year to investigate and learn about scientific concepts through reading, videos, and activities that build their abilities to:

- make observations and ask questions
- find information from a variety of sources
- design and conduct investigations
- collect, analyze, and interpret data
- propose and test solutions
- communicate findings
- use appropriate measurement tools, mathematics, and technology

Unit of Study	*In this unit students will…*
Weather	• learn that temperature, wind, and precipitation are all components of weather • observe that weather conditions change over time (hourly, daily, seasonally) • learn that weather forecasting prepares people for outdoor conditions and helps to keep them safe
Forces, Machines and Engineering	• develop their first concept of "force" • play and experiment with forces in order to engineer greater power • design simple machines that serve specific purposes

Grade K Social Studies

Elementary Report Cards

Grade K

Grade K
Art, Music, PE

Click buttons above to download sample report cards (PDF format).

What is the Simsbury Grade K Social Studies Program?

In kindergarten…

Students engage in a study of themselves, exploring and applying a sense of time in daily routines and distinguishing between events, people, and symbols in the past and present. They will increase their understanding of the connections between the physical and cultural environments through the use of globes, maps, and other visual representations. They will also begin to develop decision-making skills, learning how to participate and use effective citizenship skills at home, in school, and in the community.

Unit of Study	*In this unit students will…*
Holidays: Fall, Winter and Spring	• recognize events that reoccur and the frequency of reoccurrence • compare past and present experiences • use terms such as before and after to compare events
All About Me	• identify cultural characteristics of self and family • examine similarities and differences between ones' own culture and other cultures to which students are exposed through personal experience or media • identify cultural characteristics of self and family
Citizenship	• recognize the importance of rules and laws • understand components of good citizenship • learn various ways of decision-making

Grade 1 Language Arts

Elementary Report Cards

Grade 1

Grade 1 Art, Music, PE

Click buttons above to download sample report cards (PDF format).

What is the Simsbury Language Arts Program?

The Simsbury Language Arts Program is a balanced approach to literacy instruction, fostering the integration and transfer of strategies and skills across multiple genres and subjects. Inspired by the ongoing research of Teachers College Reading and Writing Project, teachers provide daily reading and writing experiences.

In reading, students participate in varied instruction, read alouds, and practices that include: teacher-led minilessons, small group instruction, individual conferences, and independent reading/ book clubs. Within specific units, students select independent books of various genres; choice, differentiation, and student engagement are hallmarks in every classroom.

In word study, children are taught phonics, spelling, and handwriting in an explicit, multisensory, and systematic way. Students actively engage in their learning, and these skills are reinforced in both reading and writing.

Our writing workshops emphasize independence and repertoire, as students generate ideas, plan, draft, revise, and edit written pieces. With a balance of writing genres, our curriculum develops six traits of writing: focus, organization, fluency, elaboration, voice, and conventions.

READING	
Unit of Study	***In this unit students will…***
Building Good Reading Habits	• review the routines and expectations of reading workshop • develop habits for before, during, and after reading • increase reading volume and stamina • use multiple word solving strategies • practice how to engage in meaningful conversations with a partner • work with a partner to strengthen skills
Word Detectives (Print Strategies)	• monitor reading for understanding • use a variety of print strategies • increase bank of high frequency words • use syllables to read words

(Continued on page 18)

READING

Unit of Study	*In this unit students will…*
Readers Get to Know Characters	• get to know characters as friends • use the title, cover illustrations, title page, and back of the book to prepare for reading • use the pictures and words in books to learn important information about characters • imagine what characters are thinking and what they would say • work meaningfully with a partner
Learning About the World **Nonfiction**	• integrate knowledge from print, grammar, and meaning • solve increasingly complex words • learn content-specific vocabulary • look for keywords, words that are important to understanding the topic • develop fluency and comprehension by rereading and acting out nonfiction books
Fluency, Phonics and Comprehension	• read increasingly complex texts with accuracy, fluency, and comprehension • monitor reading and apply strategies when problem solving unknown words • use meaning, syntax, and visual strategies • develop efficient strategies for word solving • maintain comprehension in longer texts
Learning Lessons from Characters	• get to know stories and show understanding through, retelling, and talking about peers • determine importance by separating big events from tiny details • notice how characters change throughout the story • think about life lessons in books • share opinions about books
Mystery	• apply comprehensive strategies to build an understanding to solve the mystery • read and notice elements of a mystery • read with partners to discuss and solve mysteries

First-grade students experience priority writing units in the three core genres: narrative, information, and opinion. Additional units may be taught as time permits, and writing will be integrated into other content areas so that students have opportunities to practice and develop their skills.

In all three units, students will learn to generate ideas, plan the structure of their piece, and then develop their ideas through drafting and revision. Conventions, spelling, and grammar are taught explicitly and reinforced as students write.

WRITING

Unit of Study	*In this unit students will…*
Launching Writing Workshop with Narrative Writing	• understand the structures, rituals, and routines of the workshop • participate in teacher and peer conferences • explore ways to find writing topics • create personal narratives focused on small moments
Information: All-About and How-To Books	• identify areas of personal expertise and write to teach readers about those subjects • organize writing with specific sections • include various facts, text features, and vocabulary related to the topic • draft with an awareness of audience and purpose
Opinion: Opinions and Reviews	• recognize the different genres of writing • write opinion pieces about collections, places, and books • develop a reason for an opinion • organize written pieces with introductions, details, and ending statements

Grade 1 Mathematics

Elementary Report Cards

Grade 1

Grade 1
Art, Music, PE

Click buttons above to download sample report cards (PDF format).

What is the Simsbury Grade 1 Mathematics Program?

In first grade...

Student will work with whole numbers and place value as they extend their understanding of addition and subtraction. Students will learn the importance of the numbers 10, and 100 in our place value system and will begin to break numbers apart into 10s and 1s. Students will use this understanding to order and compare two-digit numbers. Students will deepen their understanding of addition and subtraction by exploring the meaning of the equal sign (=) and by learning the rules of addition and subtraction. Students will be solving word problems and adding one and two-digit numbers together. Students will also use tables, charts, and diagrams to help them solve problems. Measurement and geometry are explored through comparing objects and lengths, while fractions are introduced as students divide rectangles and circles into halves and quarters.

Areas of Focus	*Students will…*
Operations and Algebraic Thinking • Number Bonds • Addition Facts to 10 • Subtraction Facts to 10 • Addition and Subtraction Facts to 20 • Addition and Subtraction to 40 • Addition and Subtraction to 100	• recognize combinations of numbers which add to 10 • add and subtract, using strategies • understand subtraction as an unknown-addend problem • understand the meaning of the equal sign and determine if an equation is balanced • solve addition and subtraction word problems
Number and Operations – Base Ten • Numbers to 10 • Numbers to 20 • Numbers to 40 • Numbers to 120	• understand the value and order of numbers • understand that the two digits of a two-digit number represent amounts of tens and ones • solve addition and subtraction problems
Measurement and Data • Length • Picture Graphs and Bar Graphs • Calendar and Time	• measure and order objects by length • organize, represent, and interpret data • read a calendar and tell time to the hour and half hour
Geometry • Shapes and Patterns	• explore, identify, and compare two-dimensional and three-dimensional shapes

Grade 1 Science

Elementary Report Cards

Grade 1

Grade 1

Art, Music, PE

Click buttons above to download sample report cards (PDF format).

What is the Simsbury Grade 1 Science Program?

In first grade...

The first-grade science unit focuses on the properties of light and sound. Through both digital and hands-on platforms, students use their developing inquiry skills to learn about how human beings create fun and useful things.

In addition to the units of study, students have additional opportunities throughout the year to investigate and learn about scientific concepts through reading, videos, and activities that build their abilities to:

- make observations and ask questions
- find information from a variety of sources
- design and conduct investigations
- collect, analyze, and interpret data
- propose and test solutions
- communicate findings
- use appropriate measurement tools, mathematics, and technology

Unit of Study	*In this unit students will…*
Light and Sound	• explore, analyze, and identify properties of light and sound • recognize various purposes of light and sound in the world • design solutions to real-life situations that involve the use of light and sound

Grade 1 Social Studies

Elementary Report Cards

Grade 1

Grade 1
Art, Music, PE

Click buttons above to download sample report cards (PDF format).

What is the Simsbury Grade 1 Social Studies Program?

In first grade...

Students explore and study school and family communities, focusing on themselves and their roles within communities. Through the integration of social studies with reading, writing, speaking, and listening, students learn about what defines a community and the responsibilities that various community members have. Students continue to develop their ability to ask meaningful questions and explore the answers.

Unit of Study	*In this unit students will…*
Family	• recognize that in the family community, everyone has roles, responsibilities and rights, all of which provide order, safety and respect so the family can be successful • learn that families have many different cultural traditions and beliefs
School	• learn that within the classroom community, people have roles, responsibilities, and rights, all of which provide order, safety, and respect so the community can be successful • recognize that in the school community, as in the classroom community, people have roles, responsibilities, and rights, all of which provide order, safety, respect so the community can be successful

Grade 2 Language Arts

Elementary Report Cards

Grade 2

Grade 2

Art, Music, PE

Click buttons above to download sample report cards (PDF format).

What is the Simsbury Language Arts Program?

The Simsbury Language Arts Program is a balanced approach to literacy instruction, fostering the integration and transfer of strategies and skills across multiple genres and subjects. Inspired by the ongoing research of Teachers College Reading and Writing Project, teachers provide daily reading and writing experiences.

In reading, students participate in varied instruction, read alouds, and practices that include: teacher-led minilessons, small group instruction, individual conferences, and independent reading/book clubs. Within specific units, students select independent books of various genres; choice, differentiation, and student engagement are hallmarks in every classroom.

In word study, children are taught phonics, spelling, and handwriting in an explicit, multisensory, and systematic way. Students actively engage in their learning, and these skills are reinforced in both reading and writing.

Our writing workshops emphasize independence and repertoire, as students generate ideas, plan, draft, revise, and edit written pieces. With a balance of writing genres, our curriculum develops six traits of writing: focus, organization, fluency, elaboration, voice, and conventions.

READING

Unit of Study	*In this unit students will…*
Launching Reading Workshop: Reading Growth Spurt	• make appropriate book choices and strengthen reading strategies • set expectations for reading volume and build reading stamina • use more than one strategy at a time to solve tricky words • read for understanding
Character	• make predictions about characters in books • develop an understanding of characters' traits, feelings, actions, and motivations • connect with characters by empathizing, envisioning, and predicting • notice how and why characters change and grow throughout a story • understand that characters learn lessons from their experiences • identify key moments that highlight the lesson of the story • understand conflicting points of view • conduct mini inquiries to compare characters across a series of books

(Continued on page 24)

READING

Unit of Study	*In this unit students will…*
Nonfiction	• identify key details • notice, learn, and question while reading nonfiction text • use text features to notice and understand key words • read and compare a variety of nonfiction books to become an expert on a topic • use text features and context clues to understand challenging vocabulary
Bigger Books Mean Amping Up Reading Power	• read fluently with voice and meaning • set reading goals to strengthen skills • accumulate and synthesize text and stay on task when books get challenging
Fairy Tales	• transfer knowledge of story elements to fairy tales • understand morals and lessons in a story • discover predictable roles that characters play in fairy tales • understand literary language and vocabulary in fairy tales (e.g. figurative language, idioms, expressions, made up words)
Series	• notice predictable patterns in structure and character traits across a series • understand how and why characters grow and change throughout a story • discover craft moves an author makes across a series
Reading Nonfiction Cover to Cover	• read across texts • discuss topics in clubs

Second-grade students experience priority writing units in the three core genres: narrative, information, and opinion. Additional units may be taught as time permits, and writing will be integrated into other content areas so that students have opportunities to practice and develop their skills.

In all three units, students will learn to generate ideas, plan the structure of their piece, and then develop their ideas through drafting and revision. Conventions, spelling, and grammar are taught explicitly and reinforced as students write.

WRITING

Unit of Study	*In this unit students will…*
Launching Writing Workshop with Personal Narrative	• implement the structures, rituals, and routines of the workshop • focus stories on small moments • write with a clear organizational structure • add detail and information to elaborate • learn strategies to implement editing and revising skills
Information	• identify areas of personal expertise and write to teach readers about those subjects • organize writing with specific sections and transition words • include various text features and vocabulary related to the topic • draft with an awareness of audience and purpose
Opinion	• recognize the different genres of writing • write opinion pieces about various elements of stories including characters, pictures, important parts, and messages • choose reasons and language that will convince readers of opinions • organize written pieces with introductions, transitional language, and concluding statements

Grade 2 Mathematics

Elementary Report Cards

Grade 2

Grade 2
Art, Music, PE

Click buttons above to download sample report cards (PDF format).

What is the Simsbury Grade 2 Mathematics Program?

In second grade...

Students will extend their understanding of place value to the hundreds place, helping them to understand what the different digits in a three-digit number mean. They will use their understanding of place value to solve word problems, including those involving length and other units of measure. Addition and subtraction skills continue to grow as students work on one and two step problems using numbers within 1000, while honing their fluency of addition and subtraction facts within 20. In measurement students will learn to measure length using standard units, represent this and other information graphically, and to solve problems using information presented in a graph. Students continue to build a foundation for understanding fractions by dividing rectangles and circles into halves, thirds, and quarters.

Areas of Focus	*Students will...*
Operations and Algebraic Thinking • Multiplication Tables of 2, 5, and 10 • Multiplication Tables of 3 and 4	• understand the concept of multiplication as repeated addition and division as grouping or sharing
Number and Operations – Base Ten • Numbers to 1,000 • Addition Up to 1,000 • Subtraction Up to 1,000 • Using Bar Models: Addition and Subtraction • Multiplication and Division	• understand the base-ten number system and place value through 1,000 • add and subtract within 1,000 using a variety of strategies • solve real-world problems using addition and subtraction • develop mental math strategies
Measurement and Data • Metric Measurement of Length • Customary Measurement of Length • Money • Time • Graphs and Line Plots	• estimate and measure the length of objects using inches, feet, centimeters, and meters • solve real-world problems involving money, using dollar bills and coins • read and write time to the nearest five minutes • represent and interpret data and solve problems using information presented on graphs
Geometry • Fractions • Shapes and Patterns	• use halves, thirds, and fourths to describe equal parts of a whole • identify, recognize, and draw shapes having specific attributes

Grade 2 Science

Elementary Report Cards

Grade 2

Grade 2
Art, Music, PE

Click buttons above to download sample report cards (PDF format).

What is the Simsbury Grade 2 Science Program?

In second grade…

Over the course of the year, second-grade students learn about property and phases of matter, as well as the power of water. In their first unit, students learn that by taking advantage of the properties of materials, we can solve many problems in our lives, developing an appreciation for the manmade materials of everyday objects and learning to recognize that those materials are chosen based on their properties. During the second unit, students learn about the impact of water including erosion and the earth's surface.

In addition to the units of study, students have opportunities throughout the year to investigate and learn about scientific concepts through reading, videos, and activities that build their abilities to:

- make observations and ask questions
- find information from a variety of sources
- design and conduct investigations
- collect, analyze, and interpret data
- propose and test solutions
- communicate findings
- use appropriate measurement tools, mathematics, and technology

Unit of Study	*In this unit students will…*
Material Magic	• know and name the phases of matter • recognize the properties of various materials • determine the pros and cons of various materials for specific purposes
Work of Water	• recognize and explain erosion • explain how rivers form and impact the land around them • name and create some of the impacts of water on the surface of earth

Grade 2 Social Studies

Elementary Report Cards

Grade 2

Grade 2 Art, Music, PE

Click buttons above to download sample report cards (PDF format).

What is the Simsbury Grade 2 Social Studies Program?

In second grade…

Students study people who make a positive difference in not just our community but also the greater world. Students study both adults and children who make a difference. These people may include, but are not limited to, educators, town leaders, youth leaders, volunteers, town workers, and historical figures. Students study common characteristics of leaders/change-makers, regardless of geography, discipline, or age in order to develop their own skills and potential to make a positive impact on their community and world.

Unit of Study	*In this unit students will…*
Introduction	• differentiate and evaluate the differences between the four disciplines of social studies • analyze and formulate different types of questions
Simsbury People Who Make a Difference	• analyze characteristics, attributes, and behaviors of people who make a positive difference • connect past events with the influences and actions people take in the present • recognize and evaluate the ways people are honored • design and create acknowledgments for people who make a positive difference
People Who Make a Difference in the World	• recognize how individuals and groups make a difference in their commmunities and their world • understand how past events impact the influence people make on the present

Grade 3 Language Arts

Elementary Report Cards

Grade 3

Grade 3 Art, Music, PE

Click buttons above to download sample report cards (PDF format).

What is the Simsbury Language Arts Program?

The Simsbury Language Arts Program is a balanced approach to literacy instruction, fostering the integration and transfer of strategies and skills across multiple genres and subjects. Inspired by the ongoing research of Teachers College Reading and Writing Project, teachers provide daily reading and writing experiences.

In reading, students participate in varied instruction, read alouds, and practices that include: teacher-led minilessons, small group instruction, individual conferences, and independent reading/book clubs. Within specific units, students select independent books of various genres; choice, differentiation, and student engagement are hallmarks in every classroom.

Our writing workshops emphasize independence and repertoire, as students generate ideas, plan, draft, revise, and edit written pieces. With a balance of writing genres, our curriculum develops six traits of writing: focus, organization, fluency, elaboration, voice, and conventions.

READING	
Unit of Study	***In this unit students will…***
Building a Reading Life **Launching the Reading Workshop**	develop the habits of strong readers: ◆ choose books wisely ◆ read with volume addressing reading problems along the way ◆ talk about books with others ◆ apply comprehension strategies, especially envisioning, predicting, and retelling
Reading to Learn **Nonfiction**	• read long stretches of nonfiction text with fluency • identify main idea(s) and supporting details • pay attention to text structure to understand relationships in the text • strengthen literal comprehension skills (orienting, envisioning, monitoring for sense, word work, and fluency) • develop critical reading skills, such as growing ideas and questioning the text • use text features and context clues to understand vocabulary

(Continued on page 29)

READING	
Unit of Study	***In this unit students will…***
Character Studies	• make careful, close observations of characters to craft theories and predictions • gain an understanding of story structure to make cross text comparisons about characters struggles, motivations, reactions, and the lessons they learn
Research Clubs	• learn how to research • strengthen reading skills, such as identifying main idea details and summarizing text • analyze parts of a text in relation to the whole • compare and contrast information across texts • develop critical reading skills by growing ideas and questioning the text
Mystery	• apply comprehensive strategies to build an understanding to solve the mystery • read and notice elements of a mystery • read with partners to discuss and solve mysteries

Third-grade students experience priority writing units in the three core genres: narrative, information, and opinion. Additional units may be taught as time permits, and writing will be integrated into other content areas so that students have opportunities to practice and develop their skills.

In all three units, students will learn to generate ideas, plan the structure of their piece, and then develop their ideas through drafting and revision. Conventions, spelling, and grammar are taught explicitly and reinforced as students write.

WRITING	
Unit of Study	***In this unit students will…***
Launching Writing Workshop	• implement the structures, rituals, and routines of writing workshop • recognize the importance of writing in their lives and the lives of others • recall and apply previous learning and knowledge about writing • share important elements of identity through writing various types of texts
Narrative	• implement the structures, rituals, and routines of the workshop • create a writer's notebook • implement strategies for finding topics: time line of events, photographs, interviews • focus stories on small moments • write with a clear organizational structure • add detail and information to elaborate • begin to add tension to personal narratives
Information	• identify areas of personal expertise and develop questions to extend knowledge • write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly • incorporate and blend known information with newly learned facts, details, and research • organize the presentation of the writing • identify and attend to audience
Opinion (Writing to Make a Real World Difference)	• write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons • develop short- and longer-term writing projects • engage in research, categorizing and organizing evidence

Grade 3 Mathematics

Elementary Report Cards

Grade 3

Grade 3

Art, Music, PE

Click buttons above to download sample report cards (PDF format).

What is the Simsbury Grade 3 Mathematics Program?

In third grade...

Students will continue to build their concept of numbers and develop an understanding of fractions as numbers. They will learn the concepts underlying multiplication and division and apply these new skills in problem-solving situations. Students will also make connections between addition, multiplication, and practical applications like area of a rectangle. The chart below provides an overview of the broad areas of mathematics students will be studying in third grade. In addition to these broad concepts, instruction in discrete math skills will be provided as well.

Areas of Focus	*Students will...*
Operations and Algebraic Thinking • Numbers to 10,000 • Using Bar Models: Addition and Subtraction • Multiplication Tables of 3 and 4 • Multiplication Tables of 6, 7, 8, and 9 • Multiplication • Division • Using Bar Models: Multiplication and Division	• count and compare numbers to 10,000 • solve real-world problems involving addition and subtraction • multiply and divide within 100 • represent and solve real world problems involving multiplication and division • identify and explain patterns in arithmetic
Number and Operations – Base Ten • Addition Up to 10,000 • Subtraction Up to 10,000	• use place value understanding and properties of operations to perform multi-digit arithmetic • solve problems involving addition and subtraction • use estimation to check reasonableness
Number and Operations – Fractions • Fractions	• develop understanding of fractions as numbers and use models to compare, add, and subtract fractions.
Measurement and Data • Area and Perimeter • Time • Metric Mass and Volume • Customary Length, Width, and Capacity • Bar Graphs and Line Plots	• understand concepts of area and relate area to multiplication and addition • measure area and perimeter • solve problems involving measurement and estimation of intervals of time • measure and estimate liquid volumes and masses of objects using standard units of grams, kilograms, and liters • measure lengths using rulers marked with halves and fourths of an inch • use ounce, pound, and ton as units of measurement for weight • measure capacity with cup, pint, quart, and gallon • represent and interpret data
Geometry • Two-Dimensional Shapes	• reason with shapes and their attributes

Grade 3 Science

Elementary Report Cards

Grade 3

Grade 3

Art, Music, PE

Click buttons above to download sample report cards (PDF format).

What is the Simsbury Grade 3 Science Program?

In third grade...

Students will participate in two major science units. The first unit focuses on animals and their habitats. The second unit focuses on weather and climate, developing the idea that by paying careful attention to clouds, wind, and other weather clues around us, we can predict the daily weather and make sense of why places on earth look and feel the way they do. In addition to the units of study, students have opportunities throughout the year to investigate and learn about scientific concepts through reading, videos, and activities that build their abilities to:

- make observations and ask questions
- find information from a variety of sources
- design and conduct investigations
- collect, analyze, and interpret data
- propose and test solutions
- communicate findings
- use measurement tools, mathematics, and technology

Unit of Study	*In this unit students will...*
Animals Through Time	• develop an appreciation for how animals and the places they live are not constant • explore fossils of animals and habitats of the past • investigate the domestication of animals
Weather and Climate	• study various types of clouds, winds, and weather clues • predict daily weather • compare and contrast the weather in various parts of the world

Grade 3 Social Studies

Elementary Report Cards

Grade 3

Grade 3 Art, Music, PE

Click buttons above to download sample report cards (PDF format).

What is the Simsbury Grade 3 Social Studies Program?

In third grade...

Students will explore the geography and history of Connecticut. Through a variety of activities and experiences, they will learn that where people live impacts how people live. Students will also analyze how key events, people, and perspectives impact history as well as how history is interpreted and documented.

Units will center on inquiry, developing students' abilities to develop questions, explore resources, evaluate reliability, and take informed action as responsible and responsive citizens.

Unit of Study	*In this unit students will…*
Geography	• learn how maps and globes help us to understand geography and how it impacts human movement and economy • recognize concepts including geographic features and man-made features, political map, physical map, and population map • compare and contrast different map types including physical, political, and population • locate towns and cities on a map • locate the rivers in Connecticut
History	• identify differing historical perspectives from Connecticut historical events • determine important people, places and events in Connecticut history

Grade 4 Language Arts

Elementary Report Cards

Grade 4

Grade 4

Art, Music, PE

Click buttons above to download sample report cards (PDF format).

What is the Simsbury Language Arts Program?

The Simsbury Language Arts Program is a balanced approach to literacy instruction, fostering the integration and transfer of strategies and skills across multiple genres and subjects. Inspired by the ongoing research of Teachers College Reading and Writing Project, teachers provide daily reading and writing experiences.

In reading, students participate in varied instruction, read alouds, and practices that include: teacher-led minilessons, small group instruction, individual conferences, and independent reading/book clubs. Within specific units, students select independent books of various genres; choice, differentiation, and student engagement are hallmarks in every classroom.

Our writing workshops emphasize independence and repertoire, as students generate ideas, plan, draft, revise, and edit written pieces. With a balance of writing genres, our curriculum develops six traits of writing: focus, organization, fluency, elaboration, voice, and conventions.

READING

Unit of Study	*In this unit students will…*
Interpreting Characters	• read with deep engagement to grow ideas about characters based on their thoughts, words, and actions • identify character traits and support with text evidence • identify character change and the cause or reason for the change • build substantial ideas that are grounded in text evidence • develop interpretations that are supported across the whole text • develop and revise theories about characters • identify themes in texts
Reading the Weather/Reading the World **Nonfiction**	• determine main ideas and supporting details • summarize texts • identify nonfiction text structures • figure out the meaning of unknown words • synthesize information across texts

(Continued on page 34)

READING

Unit of Study	*In this unit students will…*
Historical Fiction Book Clubs	• develop ideas about characters, settings, and time periods that are grounded in text evidence • determine themes in and across texts • grow critical ideas about power and perspective • strengthen book club conversations and writing about reading skills • synthesize information to develop theories about historical time periods • use vocabulary specific to the genre and time periods • determine importance, synthesize, and think critically across texts
Social Issues Book Clubs	• read and discuss chapter books with strong characters that deal with familiar issues • identify common social issues in society • analyze the interrelationships among primary and secondary characters • talk with peers about the social issues focusing on characters' feelings and the problems they face • revise and extend thinking through conversations • develop opinions about social issues
Author Study: Reading Like a Fan	• read multiple books by one author to study the author's work and style • analyze author's craft and explain the purpose of the craft techniques used • identify and analyze themes and life lessons in the author's books • notice similarities and differences across the author's books • discuss ideas with peers about characters, story elements, author's craft, and themes

Fourth-grade students experience priority writing units in the three core genres: narrative, information, and opinion. Additional units may be taught as time permits, and writing will be integrated into other content areas so that students have opportunities to practice and develop their skills.

In all three units, students learn to generate ideas, plan the structure of their piece, and then develop their ideas through drafting and revision. Conventions, spelling, and grammar are taught explicitly and reinforced as students write.

WRITING

Unit of Study	*In this unit students will…*
Launching Writing Workshop	• implement the structures, rituals, and routines of writing workshop • recognize the importance of writing in their lives and the lives of others • recall and apply previous learning and knowledge about writing • share important elements of identity through writing various types of texts
Narrative	• implement the structures, rituals, and routines of the workshop • create a writer's notebook • implement strategies for finding topics • focus stories on small moments • understand and develop the important parts of stories • add details and information to elaborate • develop tension within stories
Information Writing	• identify and develop areas of expertise and develop questions to extend knowledge through research and exploration • write informative/explanatory texts that convey ideas and information • incorporate independent thinking with newly learned facts, details, and research • identify and attend to audience, using content-specific vocabulary and a teaching tone
Research-Based Essay	• write opinion essays on debatable topics supporting a point of view with reasons • engage in research, integrating the information from a variety of resources • organize information into reasons with evidence that supports the overall claim • use transitional language within paragraphs

Grade 4 Mathematics

Elementary Report Cards

Grade 4

Grade 4

Art, Music, PE

Click buttons above to download sample report cards (PDF format).

What is the Simsbury Grade 4 Mathematics Program?

In fourth grade…

Students will use addition, subtraction, multiplication and division to solve real world problems, including those involving measurement of volume, mass, and time. They will continue to build their understanding of fractions – learning how to add and subtract fractions, and how to multiply fractions by whole numbers. They will also begin to develop an understanding about the relationship between fractions and decimals. The chart below provides an overview of the broad areas of mathematics students will be studying in fourth grade. In addition to these broad concepts, instruction in discrete math skills will be provided as well.

Areas of Focus	*Students will…*
Operations and Algebraic Thinking • Estimation and Number Theory • Whole Number Multiplication and Division	• solve multi-step problems involving four operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division) • generate and analyze patterns
Number and Operations – Base Ten • Working with Whole Numbers • Whole Number Multiplication and Division • Decimals • Adding and Subtracting Decimals	• read, write, and compare multi-digit whole numbers • add and subtract whole numbers using the standard algorithm • multi-digit multiplication and division • understand decimal notation and extend decimal understanding to compare, add, and subtract decimals
Number and Operations – Fractions • Fractions and Mixed Numbers	• extend understanding of fraction equivalence, comparisons, and operations using fractions and mixed numbers
Measurement and Data • Angles • Area and Perimeter • Conversion of Measurements	• understand the concept of angles and measure angles • measure area and perimeter • solve problems involving real-world measurements and conversion of measurements
Geometry • Perpendicular and Parallel Line Segments • Squares and Rectangles • Symmetry	• draw and identify the attributes of two-dimensional shapes

Grade 4 Science

Elementary Report Cards

Grade 4

Grade 4

Art, Music, PE

Click buttons above to download sample report cards (PDF format).

What is the Simsbury Grade 4 Science Program?

In fourth grade...

Students study the scientific systems and processes that shape the earth. Through inquiry and investigations, they learn about how the earth was formed and continues to change. In addition to the units of study, students have opportunities throughout the year to investigate and learn about scientific concepts through reading, videos, and activities that build their abilities to:

- make observations and ask questions
- find information from a variety of sources
- design and conduct investigations
- collect, analyze, and interpret data
- propose and test solutions
- communicate findings
- use measurement tools, mathematics, and technology

Unit of Study	*In this unit students will…*
Earth's Systems: Processes that Shape the Earth	• identify patterns in rock formations and fossils to explain changes to a landscape over time • observe the effects of weathering and erosion caused by water, ice, wind, and vegetation • provide evidence that the speed of an object is related to the energy of that object, and that when objects collide there is a change in their energy • design solutions to reduce the impact of natural Earth processes on humans

Grade 4 Social Studies

Elementary Report Cards

Grade 4

Grade 4
Art, Music, PE

Click buttons above to download sample report cards (PDF format).

What is the Simsbury Grade 4 Social Studies Program?

In fourth grade...

Students investigate and explore the geography of regions throughout the United States. Through a variety of activities and experiences, they will learn that where people live impacts how people live. They will also analyze how key events and people impact the development of a place. The integration of social studies with reading, writing, speaking, and listening will allow students to continue to learn how to integrate information and ask questions in order to deepen their learning.

Unit of Study	*In this unit students will…*
United States Geography	• learn how maps and globes help us to understand geography and how it impacts human movement and economy • recognize concepts including geographic features and man-made features, political map, physical map, and population map • compare and contrast different map types including physical, political, and population
Elements of Culture in the United States	• compare and contrast states and regions in terms of cultural make-up and the historical reasons for it • identify specific ways that geography impacts art, food, and music of regions across the United States • plan and create trips and tours, attending to distance, easy of travel, and points of interest

Grade 5 Language Arts

Elementary Report Cards

Grade 5

Grade 5
Art, Music, PE

Click buttons above to download sample report cards (PDF format).

What is the Simsbury Language Arts Program?

The Simsbury Language Arts Program is a balanced approach to literacy instruction, fostering the integration and transfer of strategies and skills across multiple genres and subjects. Inspired by the ongoing research of Teachers College Reading and Writing Project, teachers provide daily reading and writing experiences.

In reading, students participate in varied instruction, read alouds, and practices that include: teacher-led minilessons, small group instruction, individual conferences, and independent reading/book clubs. Within specific units, students select independent books of various genres; choice, differentiation, and student engagement are hallmarks in every classroom.

Our writing workshops emphasize independence and repertoire, as students generate ideas, plan, draft, revise, and edit written pieces. With a balance of writing genres, our curriculum develops six traits of writing: focus, organization, fluency, elaboration, voice, and conventions.

READING

Unit of Study	*In this unit students will…*
Interpretation Book Clubs	• read thoughtfully and strengthen reading strategies of analyzing characters and identifying themes in literature • talk and write in meaningful ways about books • create a year-long reader's notebook to record their thinking in independent reading and their thinking about class read aloud books • create personal reading goals
Tackling Complexity—Nonfiction	• identify how texts at this level become more complex and develop reading strategies to deal with the difficulties they encounter • determine multiple main ideas and key details in nonfiction texts in order to summarize learning • build independent nonfiction reading lives outside of school • follow their interests and be a strong reader of nonfiction • learn how to be an independent researcher • become critical readers by not taking facts for face value, but making their own connections, raising their own questions, and growing their own ideas from the text

(Continued on page 39)

READING

Unit of Study	*In this unit students will…*
Argument and Advocacy—Nonfiction Research	• read across a variety of nonfiction texts to research a specific topic and compare information • develop specific questions to guide and deepen research focus • acquire and apply specific vocabulary when speaking and writing about research topics • determine multiple main ideas and key details • integrate information from multiple sources to synthesize learning • identify and think critically about the author's point of view and bias • share research-based learning with others
Short Text	• closely read and respond to a variety of short texts (poems, short stories, pictures books, articles) in conjunction with independent reading books • use comprehension strategies (rereading, questioning, inferring, making connections, envisioning, synthesizing, monitoring for understanding) • identify themes in literature • demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings
Fantasy Book Clubs	• engage in book club conversations with increasing independence and purpose • navigate the other worlds of their novels (complicated settings, multiple characters, multiple plotlines, etc.) • trace the way characters change • analyze techniques authors use and how those techniques impact the story • explore quests and themes that reveal themselves within and across novels • come to an understanding that fantasy has parallels with the real world • interpret symbolism and allegory to help understand underlying themes in a story

Fifth-grade students experience priority writing units in the three core genres: narrative, information, and opinion. Additional units may be taught as time permits, and writing will be integrated into other content areas so that students have opportunities to practice and develop their skills.

In all three units, students will learn to generate ideas, plan the structure of their piece, and then develop their ideas through drafting and revision. Conventions, spelling, and grammar are taught explicitly and reinforced as students write.

WRITING	
Unit of Study	***In this unit students will…***
Launching Writing Workshop	• implement the structures, rituals, and routines of writing workshop • recognize the importance of writing in their lives and the lives of others • recall and apply previous learning and knowledge about writing • share important elements of identity through writing various types of texts
Narrative	• implement the structures, rituals, and routines of the workshop • create a writer's notebook • implement strategies for finding topics • focus stories on small moments, expanding actions, dialogue, thoughts, and feelings • write with clear organizational structures, developing the beginning and providing a meaningful resolution or story message • include precise and sensory details and figurative language to bring stories to life
Information	• identify and develop areas of expertise and develop questions to extend knowledge through research and exploration • write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly through various text features and organizational structures • incorporate and blend known information with newly learned facts, details, research, and quotes • identify and attend to audience, using specific vocabulary, varied sentence structure, and precise language
Research-Based Essay	• write opinion pieces on debatable topics supporting a point of view with reasons • learn from each other through debate and collaboration in order to strengthen or restructure claims • engage in research, categorizing, organizing, and integrating evidence • organize information into reasons with supporting evidence that address the claim

Grade 5 Mathematics

Elementary Report Cards

Grade 5

Grade 5
Art, Music, PE

Click buttons above to download sample report cards (PDF format).

What is the Simsbury Grade 5 Mathematics Program?

In fifth grade...

Students will build their understanding of place value by working with decimals to the thousandths place. Students will extend their fraction work to include multiplying fractions and dividing fractions with whole numbers. They will continue to expand their understanding of measurement and geometry by learning about volume (and how to measure the volume of a solid figure) and how to convert units of measure. The chart below provides an overview of the broad areas of mathematics students will be studying in fifth grade. In addition to these broad concepts, instruction in discrete math skills will be provided as well.

Areas of Focus	*Students will...*
Operations and Algebraic Thinking • Whole Number Multiplication and Division, including Exponents and Order of Operations	• write and interpret numerical expressions • generate numerical patterns
Number and Operations – Base Ten • Whole Numbers • Whole Number Multiplication and Division, including Exponents and Order of Operations • Decimals • Adding and Subtracting Decimals • Multiplying and Dividing Decimals	• understand the place value system • multi-digit multiplication using the standard algorithm • multi-digit division using strategies based on place value and the relationship with multiplication • compare and round decimals in thousandths • extend place value understanding to add, subtract, multiply, and divide decimals
Number and Operations – Fractions • Fractions and Mixed Numbers • Multiplying and Dividing Fractions and Mixed Numbers	• solve problems involving the addition and subtraction of fractions with unlike denominators • apply and extend previous understanding of multiplication and division to multiply and divide fractions and mixed numbers by fractions or whole numbers
Measurement and Data • Volume • Conversion of Measurements	• understand the concept of volume and relate volume to multiplication • find the volume of right rectangular prisms • convert among different-sized standard measurement units and use these conversions in solving real-world problems
Geometry • Graphs • Properties of Triangles and Four-Sided Figures	• graph points on the coordinate plane to solve real-world problems • classify two-dimensional figures into categories based on their properties

Grade 5 Science

Elementary Report Cards

Grade 5

Grade 5
Art, Music, PE

Click buttons above to download sample report cards (PDF format).

What is the Simsbury Grade 5 Science Program?

In fifth grade...

Fifth-graders focus on the components, patterns, and features of the solar system. In addition to the unit of study, students have opportunities throughout the year to investigate and learn about scientific concepts through reading, videos, and activities that build their abilities to:

- make observations and ask questions
- find information from a variety of sources
- design and conduct investigations
- collect, analyze, and interpret data
- propose and test solutions
- communicate findings
- use measurement tools, mathematics, and technology

Unit of Study	*In this unit students will…*
Stars and the Solar System	• understand that differences in the apparent brightness of the sun compared to other stars is due to their relative distances from Earth • investigate patterns in the daily, monthly, and seasonal changes of shadows, day/night, and climate • develop a model to describe that matter is made of particles too small to be seen • measure quantities to provide evidence that regardless of the type of change that occurs when heating, cooling, or mixing substances, the total weight of matter is conserved • identify materials based on their properties

Grade 5 Social Studies

Elementary Report Cards

Grade 5

Grade 5
Art, Music, PE

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What is the Simsbury Grade 5 Social Studies Program?

In fifth grade...

Students will learn, explore, and analyze events, people, documents, and historic trends that led to the establishment of the United States. Beginning with the Age of Exploration, students will continue by studying American colonization. The integration of social studies with reading, writing, speaking, and listening promotes students' continued development of integrating information and asking questions in order to deepen their learning.

Unit of Study	*In this unit students will…*
Exploration	• understand how exploration and colonization of North America transformed human history • describe how global trade and cultural exchanges alter the lives of people around the world • identify personal freedoms among individuals and groups that significantly affect us today • recognize that conflicts between cultures and countries contrast with trade and development of self-rule • learn that geography is the foundation for civilization, settlement, and culture
The American Colonies	• learn the relationships that exist between individuals and government • explain the need to organize in order to survive in new places • compare and contrast how where people live impacts how they live • trace the evolving relationship between England and its American colonies

A NOTE ABOUT CURRICULUM IN GRADE 6: Beginning in sixth grade, the Connecticut Core Standards include specific writing and reading skills to be taught within social studies and science. Students learn reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills throughout the curriculum, with explicit literacy teaching points embedded within content areas. In order to prepare students for middle school, students have multiple teachers who deliver instruction across the subjects.

Grade 6 Language Arts

Elementary Report Cards

Grade 6

Grade 6 Art, Music, PE

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What is the Simsbury Language Arts Program?

The Simsbury Language Arts Program is a balanced literacy approach to language arts instruction, fostering the integration and transfer of literacy strategies and skills across multiple genres and subjects. Inspired by the ongoing work and research of Teachers College Reading and Writing Project, teachers provide a range of daily reading and writing experiences that actively engage students in the practices of reading and writing through a variety of units of study. Students participate in a variety of instructional components including a teacher-led minilesson, independent reading and writing, interactive read aloud, and word study instruction.

READING

Unit of Study	*In this unit students will…*
Launching Reading Workshop	• make appropriate book choices and strengthen reading strategies • read with a variety of lenses to broaden comprehension and gain insights into the author's intentions • infer and interpret a variety of texts to deepen thinking
Character	• identify significant moments when characters change and the lessons they learn based on the character's actions and decisions in the text • analyze the craft and structure of text • draw inferences from text • synthesize text to develop and revise theories about characters • identify themes in literature
Nonfiction Reading and Research	• read a variety of nonfiction books and articles to increase knowledge and develop expertise on a specific topic • determine author's point of view and bias • read across and synthesize texts to discover key concepts and multiple central ideas • use technical vocabulary in conversations and writing • support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence • conduct short research projects to answer a question, drawing on several sources and refocusing the inquiry when appropriate • share research-based learning with others

(Continued on page 45)

READING

Short Text Unit	• closely read and respond to a variety of short texts (poems, short stories, pictures books, articles) • apply comprehension strategies (rereading, questioning, inferring, making connections, envisioning, synthesizing, monitoring for understanding) to enhance understanding of the text • identify themes in literature • demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings
Social Issues Book Clubs Unit	• read thoughtfully to deepen interpretation of text • read critically for power, perspective, and stereotyping • learn how authors craft stories to convey messages • write across texts and genres to compare ideas and revise understandings • engage in text based discussions and writing to develop ideas about social issues
Fantasy Book Club Unit	• identify the unique structure and elements of fantasy • read closely to build the word of the story • develop thematic understanding by comparing and contrasting themes across texts and authors • develop ideas and deepen thinking through conversations in book clubs • revise theories about text by looking at it from multiple character and author's perspective

WRITING

Students begin the year with a writing unit that taps into what they already know and invites them to share important aspects of themselves.

Unit of Study	*In this unit students will…*
Launching Writing Workshop	• implement the structures, rituals, and routines of writing workshop • recognize the importance of writing in their lives and the lives of others • recall and apply previous learning and knowledge about writing • share important elements of identity through writing various types of texts

The Integration of Writing Instruction

Writing instruction is integrated throughout the content areas of reading, science, and social studies and our curriculum addresses the three major types of writing. Throughout the curriculum, students write routinely over extended time frames and shorter time frames for a range of discipline-specific tasks, purposes, and audiences.

Type of Writing	STANDARDS Students will...	Integrated within the following curricular units:
Informational	• write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information through the selection, organization, and analysis of relevant content • produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience	• **Social Studies:** Geography and Human Movement • **Science:** Growth and Reproduction

(Continued on page 46)

Type of Writing	STANDARDS Students will...	Integrated within the following curricular units:
Narrative	• write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective techniques, relevant descriptive details, and well-structured event sequences • with some guidance and support from peers and adults, develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach	• **Social Studies:** Human Rights
Argument	• write arguments to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence • gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources, assess the credibility of each source, and quote or paraphrase the data and conclusions of others while avoiding plagiarism and providing basic bibliographic information for sources	• **Reading:** Nonfiction, Literary Essay • **Science:** Cell Structure and Body Systems

Grade 6 Mathematics

Elementary Report Cards

Grade 6

Grade 6
Art, Music, PE

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What is the Simsbury Grade 6 Mathematics Program?

In sixth grade...

Students will learn the concept of rates and ratios and use these tools to solve problems. Students will build computational fluency to be able to quickly and accurately divide multi-digit whole numbers and to add, subtract, multiply, and divide multi-digit decimals. Students will extend their previous work with fractions and decimals to understand the concept of rational numbers. Students will also learn how to write and solve equations. The chart below provides an overview of the broad areas of mathematics students will be studying in sixth grade. In addition to these broad concepts, instruction in discrete math skills will be provided as well.

Areas of Focus	*Students will...*
Ratios and Proportional Relationships • Ratio • Rates • Percent	• understand ratio concept • interpret unit rates • represent proportional relationships as fractions, decimals, and percents • solve real-world problems using ration, rate reasoning, and percents
The Number System • Positive Numbers and the Number Line • Negative Numbers and the Number Line • Multiplying and Dividing Fractions and Decimals • The Coordinate Plane	• find common factors and multiples • fluently add, subtract, multiply, and divide multi-digit decimals using the standard algorithm for each operation • understand ordering and absolute value of positive and negative numbers • apply and extend previous understanding of multiplication and division to divide fractions by fractions • solve real-world problems involving fractions and decimals
Expressions and Equations • Algebraic Expressions • Equations and Inequalities	• apply and extend previous understanding of arithmetic to algebraic expressions, equations, and inequalities • use variables to write expressions when solving real-world problems • analyze relationships between two quantities that change
Geometry • Area of Polygons • Surface Area and Volume of Solids	• solve real-world problems involving area of polygons • solve real-world problems involving surface area and volume of prisms with fractional edge lengths
Statistics and Probability • Introduction to Statistics • Measure of Central Tendency	• develop an understanding of statistic variability • summarize and describe distributions

Grade 6 Science

Elementary Report Cards

Grade 6

Grade 6
Art, Music, PE

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What is the Simsbury Grade 6 Science Program?

In sixth grade...

Students will learn about science and engineering practices as they seek to answer questions to explain natural phenomena. Students will engage in experimentation, researching and designing solutions as they build understanding of scientific ideas.

In addition to the units of study, students have opportunities throughout the year to investigate and learn about scientific concepts through reading, videos, and activities that build their abilities to:

- make observations and ask questions
- find information from a variety of sources
- design and conduct investigations
- collect, analyze, and interpret data
- propose and test solutions
- communicate findings
- use measurement tools, mathematics, and technology

Unit of Study	*In this unit students will…*
Energy Transfer	• learn that temperature is a measure of kinetic energy • explain the relationship between energy and states of matter • discover that energy spontaneously moves from hotter regions or objects to colder ones
Cell Structure and Body Systems	• learn that all living things are made of cells; some consist of a single cell where others have many and varied types of cells • understand that within cells are special structures that are responsible for particular functions • discover that all multicellular organisms are organized into multiple, integrated systems and sub-systems
Growth and Reproduction	• learn that organisms reproduce and transfer their genetic information to their offspring • identify genetic factors as well as local conditions affect the growth of plants • discover that plants reproduce in a variety of ways; some dependent on animal behaviors or specialized features

Grade 6 Social Studies

Elementary Report Cards

Grade 6

Grade 6

Art, Music, PE

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What is the Simsbury Grade 6 Social Studies Program?

In sixth grade...

Students will explore and analyze world geography by studying human interactions and human rights. The sixth grade social studies curriculum focuses on Tanzania, Brazil, and Australia. By studying these countries, students will develop the foundations to learn about other places in the world and how those places compare, contrast, and connect with the United States. This curriculum complements the seventh grade world geography curriculum and provides multiple opportunities for students to integrate reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills.

Unit of Study	*In this unit students will…*
Geography and Human Movement	• examine the interactions of humans with their geography • investigate the inter-relatedness of various world civilizations and communities • analyze culture and how it impacts human decisions and daily life • compare and contrast various forms of economies and governments
Human Rights	• compare and contrast the rights and responsibilities of people in various parts of the world • investigate and analyze the interactions of the United States with other parts of the world • connect the impact of world events with the rights and responsibilities of individuals • understand their own rights and responsibilities as global citizens

If you have any questions on the material contained in this handbook, please contact:

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