



Curriculum Night 2013-2014

Thanks for Coming!!



Literacy

- The district's literacy framework includes several key components:
 - Content based on the Iowa Common Core
 - Instruction given both to whole class and in small, flexible groups
 - Instruction is balanced between literature and informational texts.
 - Emphasis on vocabulary
 - SSR—30 min. daily in school AND 30 min. at home 5 times per week



Writing

- 6th graders will be writing for various purposes:
 - Compare/Contrast
 - Persuasive
 - How To (connected to science project)
 - Poetry
- Use of 6 Traits to enhance components of writing (ideas, voice, word choice, sentence fluency, organization, conventions)



Writing (continued)

- Writing to analyze and share learning (inquiry/research writing)
- Grammar skill work
- For further information on PV's writing, go to the writing handbook on the district webpage
 - <http://www.pleasval.k12.ia.us/Parent/WritingHandbookforFamilies.pdf>



Spelling

- Letter graded subject
 - Standard Grading Scale (90%, 80%...)
- 10 words each week
- Individualized lists consist of words missed from previous weeks, missed pre-test words, misspelled words from writing, and challenge words
- Pre-test on Mondays, Post-test on Fridays.
(unless shortened week)



Math

- Everyday Math curriculum culminates in 6th grade
- Letter graded subject
 - Standard Grading Scale (90%, 80%...)
- Utilize the Student Reference Book
- Basic Math Fact Goal: 95% accuracy in 5 minutes for all 4 operations
- Focus on problem solving strategies



Math (continued)

- Units in 6th grade math include:
 - Data
 - Whole Number and Decimal Operations
 - Variables, Formulas, and Graphs
 - Rational Number Uses and Operations
 - Geometry
 - Number Systems and Algebra Concepts
 - Probability and Discrete Math
 - Rates and Ratios
 - More Variables, Formulas and Graphs
 - Geometry Topics



Social Studies

- History Alive curriculum
 - Early Man, Ancient Egypt, India, China, Greece, and Rome
 - This program is both interactive and hands-on. Students really “experience” history.
- Short chapters, activities, and quizzes almost weekly



Band

- If your child is in band, they should have received our band handbook
- If your child is not in band, it's not too late to join! Please go visit or contact the band director, Mr. Gartner, with questions
- Band meets twice a week for 30 minutes during the school day
- Small group lessons meet once a week for 15 minutes
- Performances – winter program, solo festival, fine arts night, district band night



Science

- The Pleasant Valley 3rd through 6th grade science program is a hands-on problem solving curriculum designed for students to actively investigate a wide variety of science topics.
- The curriculum was designed by our current science staff and focuses on the following content standards specific to each grade level:
 - Grade 3: Science Equipment and the Scientific Method
 - Grade 4: Physical Science
 - Grade 5: Life Science
 - Grade 6: Earth Science
- Outdoor Education continues as an important element of our science program with an overnight experience at Camp Wyoming for our 6th grade students.



Physical Education 4-6



PE shoes and clothes to be left in gym locker!

2 X 40 minutes per 4 days

P.E. Concepts:

1. Cardiovascular activities
2. Team Games
3. Hand-eye coordination
4. Fitness Skills/assessment
5. Challenge/Cooperative activities
6. Monthly Healthy Habits Calendar



Art

Mission Statement:

- The purpose of the elementary art program at Pleasant Valley is to give students the tools they need in order to understand, create and interact with art in our world.
- Students spend 40 minutes in art per each 4 day rotation. During that time students will experiment with a variety of materials and artistic processes.
- **The art curriculum is based on the National Art standards and benchmarks. The standards are all covered within 4 units of study.**
- **Seeing and Creating**
 - **Learning about the elements and principles of art, such as shape, color, line, balance and texture as well as others.**
- **Art Heritage**
 - **Focuses on historical artists and art movements**
- **Storytelling**
 - **Focuses on how art can tell both personal and cultural stories**
- **Art in your World**
 - **Focuses on art application found in everyday life as well as vocational art**



6th Grade General Music

Vocabulary

- Concert Etiquette
 - Rehearsal
- Accompaniment
 - Dynamics
 - Octavo

Major Unit

- Composers
- Two Part Singing
- Reading Octavos
- Basic Music Theory
- Winter Program



School Library Program

- The mission of the Pleasant Valley school library program is to provide an inviting, dynamic learning environment and services that support and enhance teaching, literacy, learning and the appreciation and enjoyment of literature.





School Counselor

Helping students develop academic, career, and personal/social skills

- Collaborates with teachers, parents, and others to help all students build 21st Century Skills.
- Teaches lessons in every classroom on topics such as friendship, conflict resolution, decision-making, and careers.
- Provides individual and group counseling & leadership opportunities.
- Advocates for children.



Homework

- Designed for reinforcement and extension of concepts
- Study weekly spelling words
- 150 minutes of reading each week
- Assignments will vary throughout the year



Study Skills

- Teaching students about good study skills, time management, and organization is also an emphasis in 6th grade.
- Please also take a look at the district's study skills website.
 - <http://www.pleasval.k12.ia.us/studyskills/studyskillshome.htm>



Helpful Hints

- Organization is a very important life skill. Students will be completing planners daily at school.
- Students will utilize Google Docs at various times of the year for shared and individual assignments



Please Stay in Touch

- It's very important to me for all of us to work together for the success of your child.
- Please feel free to email, call, write a note, etc. to discuss questions or concerns throughout the year.
- Thanks for all your help and support at home. It truly makes a huge difference!



Questions?