Introduction

We are pleased to provide this overview of the sixth grade academic program at Lexis Prep. Our carefully developed curriculum provides Lexis Prep students with a strong college-prep education in the setting of personalized instruction.

The following guide gives an overall picture of what a Lexis Prep student will learn in sixth grade. The individual learner and classroom needs will determine how the guide is implemented in the classroom.

English Language Arts and Reading

The Middle School English Language Arts and Reading curriculum at Lexis Prep is built on the *Holt McDougal Elements of Language* and *Elements of Literature* programs. These engaging and rigorous programs include reading and writing instruction based on the research of Dr. Kylene Beers, Professor of Reading at the University of Houston and Past President of National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE).

The program's chosen literature pieces were developed to motivate students to become self-directed critical thinkers, collaborators, and effective communicators. A critical part of this program is the before, during, and after reading strategies designed to facilitate each student's comprehension of literature. The curriculum also includes a core component of integrated support for struggling readers and writers. The importance of technology integration is evidenced by the wide availability and access to online resources and program pieces.

The language arts curriculum includes research-based skills and strategies in grammar (*Warriner Handbook*), language usage, and writing mechanics. These traditional methods incrementally teach parts of speech, which help students understand the intricacies, oddities, dynamic components and rules of the English language.

Coordinated with the language components is a series of classic literature studies called *McDougal Littell Literature Connections*. This series includes classic and contemporary titles that are read, studied and discussed in a nurturing setting with the classroom teacher. We encourage our students to analyze and distinguish between opinion and fact, as well as to be able to critically analyze an author's style, point of view, and influence. At Lexis Prep, we strive to nurture inspired human beings for whom a love of literature and critical thinking is essential.

Listed below are the standards which are met with the use of the Lexis Prep middle school curriculum. These standards include: Literature, Informational Text, Language, Speaking and Listening, and Writing. They offer a focus for instructional practices and strategies, help ensure students gain adequate exposure to a range of tasks, and are rigor infused throughout the requirements.

National Standards Correlation

Reading Standards for Literature

Key Ideas and Details

- Quote from a text to support statements about the text
- Determine theme of a text using characters' responses to challenges; summarize text
- Compare and contrast two or more characters, events, or settings in a text

Craft and Structure

- Identify how metaphors, similes and rhymes supply meaning and rhythm in verse, stanza, and poem
- Explain major differences between drama and prose stories, using structural writing and speaking
- Identify how a narrator's perspective or point of view influences how events are described

Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

- Explain how images, sounds, and movements contribute to an animated or live-action adaptation
- Compare similar ideas, themes, character types and patterns of events in myths and cultural literature

Range and Level of Text Complexity

- Read independently, proficiently, and fluently literature appropriately complex for fifth to sixth grade

Reading Standards for Informational Text

Key Ideas and Details

- Quote from a text to support statements about the text
- Determine two or more main ideas and how they are supported by details; summarize the text
- Explain the relationships between two or more historical events or scientific concepts

Craft and Structure

- Determine meanings of general academic language encountered in text relevant to sixth grade
- Describe how events, ideas, or information are organized in a whole text or in part of a text
- Analyze similarities and difference in two accounts of the same event or content

Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

- Use multiple print or digital sources, demonstrating the ability to locate an answer to a question
- Explain how an author uses evidence to support his or her claims in a text
- Integrate information from several texts on the same subject in writing or speaking

Range and Level of Text Complexity

- Read independently, proficiently, and fluently informational texts appropriately complex for fifth to sixth grade

Writing Standards

Text Types and Purposes

- Use organizing, writer's purpose, reasons, facts, details and closure for an opinion with defense

- Write informative and explanatory pieces with topic, observation, details, quotations, vocabulary, technical terms and conclusion
- Write narratives that establish a situation, sequence the events, use dialog and include a conclusion

Production and Distribution of Writing

- Demonstrate coherent, clear writing with organization, development, substance, and style that is appropriate to task, purpose, and audience
- Strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach
- Use technology, including the Internet, to produce, publish, and interact with others about writing

Research to Build Knowledge

- Perform short, focused research tasks of different aspects of a topic using several sources
- Gather information from experience, print and digital sources; summarize or paraphrase in notes and finished work; and provide basic bibliography
- Write in response to literary or informational sources, drawing evidence from the text to support analysis and reflection

Range of Writing

- Write routinely using research, reflection, and revision for a range of tasks, purposes, and audiences

Speaking and Listening Standards

Comprehension and Collaboration

- Initiate and engage in group discussions on sixth grade topics and texts being studied in class
- Summarize key ideas, supporting details presented graphically, visually, orally, or multi-modally
- Summarize claims, support and evidence made by speaker or presenter

Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas

- Report on events, topics, or texts in a focused, organized manner
- Incorporate visual displays and digital media into presentations when appropriate
- Adapt formal and informal speech to a variety of contexts and communicative tasks

Language Standards

Conventions in Writing and Speaking

- Observe conventions of grammar and usage
- Observe conventions of capitalization, punctuation, and spelling
- Make effective language choices

Vocabulary Acquisition and Use

- Determine word meanings based on sixth grade reading
- Understand word relationships
- Use words that are in common, conversational vocabulary as well as grade-appropriate academic vocabulary

Mathematics

The goal of the Lexis Prep 5-8 mathematics program is for our students to develop the ability to think and reason mathematically and use mathematics to solve problems in authentic contexts. The expectation is that they will achieve mathematical proficiency through the mastery of mathematic skills, concepts, and processes. This goal is met through the opportunity to develop, practice and review concepts over time. Lexis Prep students move from the concrete to the pictorial to the abstract through a deliberate sequence of instruction. Our students' regular exposure to critical thinking and problem solving prepares them for real world applications.

The Lexis Prep mathematics curriculum is aligned with both the National Council for Teaching Mathematics (NCTM) Standards and Benchmarks as well as Saxon Math. The standards outlined below show the general progression of topics over the course of the school year. Parents can be confident their child will receive thorough mathematics instruction.

Lexis Prep Math Standards Correlated with NCTM Standards and Saxon Math

Numbers and Operations

- Develop an understanding and fluency with multiplication and division of fractions and decimals
- Use meanings of fractions, multiplication and division, and the inverse relationship
- Use relationship between decimals, fractions, finite decimals and whole numbers for multiplying and dividing decimals
- Use common procedures to multiply and divide fractions and decimals efficiently and accurately
- Multiply and divide fractions and decimals to solve misstep and measurement problems

Connecting Ratio and Rate to Multiplication and Division

- Use simple reasoning about multiplication and division to solve ratio and rate problems
- Analyze extending pairs and simple drawings to whole number multiplication and division to ratios and rates
- Understand and use problem solving with fractions and ratios

Algebra

- Write, interpret, and use mathematical expressions and equations
- Write mathematical expressions and equations that correspond to given situations
- Evaluate expressions and use expressions and formulas to solve problems
- Understand variables represent numbers whose exact values are not yet specified
- Understand expressions in different forms can be equivalent and represent a different quantity
- Understand solutions of an equation are the values of the variables that make the equation true
- Solve simple one-step equations using number sense properties of operations
- Construct and analyze tables and use equations to describe simple relationships shown in a table

Number and Operations

- Understand parts of a whole using division and fractions
- Use both mixed number and decimal solutions to division problems with whole numbers

- Recognize the relationship between ratio tables and equivalent fractions
- Distinguish multiplicative comparisons from additive comparisons

Algebra

- Use commutative, associative, and distributive properties to show two expressions are equivalent
- Illustrate properties of operations by showing that two expressions are equivalent
- Develop formulas using sequences, contexts and patterns provided

Measurement and Geometry

- Understand that the length of an object can be used to find both area and volume

Science

The Lexis Prep science program provides students with opportunities to think and act like scientists. Lexis Prep students acquire scientific knowledge, practice science process skills, and apply science concepts through reading and observing, as well as by conducting investigations that have real-world applications.

Sixth grade science is organized into four disciplines: life science, physical science, earth and space science, and science and technology. All science outcomes are aligned to the National Science Education (NSE) Standards.

Lexis Prep utilizes Delta Education which provides a kit-based curriculum and instructional resources that correlate with state standards. Delta Education provides the expertise to ensure the best combination of materials are selected for each grade level in order to align the Lexis Prep curriculum with the science concepts, inquiry nature, and developmental appropriateness reflected in the state standards.

Lexis Prep Science Standards Correlated with NSE and Delta Education

Unit 1: Fungi--Small Wonders

In **Fungi--Small Wonders**, students compare various fungi with plants by extracting pigments to test for chlorophyll. They discover that fungi—with no seeds, roots, stems, leaves, or flowers—are in a class (actually, a kingdom) by themselves. They dissect mushrooms to investigate spore reproduction. Students also grow mold gardens in different cultures to test fungicides. Many activities focus on the one-celled fungi, yeast. Students observe yeast growth, budding, and fermentation (yeast at work in pretzel dough) while controlling food and temperature variables. Based on the activities and research, students debate the benefits and hazards of fungi.

Unit 2: Pond Life

Classroom aquariums simulate freshwater pond ecosystems in **Pond Life**, an observation-oriented unit. Students learn how, when, and where to look at organisms interacting with one another and with their environment. Just as important, they

develop the ability to interpret what they see. With different magnifying lenses, students study microscopic pond organisms in their aquariums and in a hay infusion. They then examine the structure and behavior of several macroscopic organisms, including the food chains that connect them. Separate activities on snails, fish, and duckweed help students identify their adaptive features and responses to environmental stimuli. Finally, they pose an original Pond Life question, propose a hypothesis, and experiment to find the answer.

Unit 3: Solar Energy

The assignment in **Solar Energy**: harness the energy of the sun to power a motor and purify water. First, students discover the concept of energy transfer from a source (the sun) to a receiver (solar collector). Then, in a series of heat exchange experiments, they test the variables that affect energy retention: covers, colors, water levels, exposure times, angles of presentation, types of solution, and uses of reflectors. Students also convert solar to electrical energy and control the speed of their solar-powered motors. In other activities, teams investigate insulation and build an apparatus that distills water.

Unit 4: Weather Forecasting

As students explore **Weather Forecasting**, they discover the importance of accurate weather forecasting and record keeping, and how to do both. Student partners build weather stations that are the headquarters of their unit work. They fill the station with temperature, rainfall, and wind data. Then they add barometric pressure and relate it to weather conditions. Students plot fronts and other large-scale factors on weather maps, differentiate cloud formations, and research weather folklore. With the help of a video, they delve into severe weather for which forecasting is especially valuable including hurricanes and tornadoes.

In the Delta Science Reader *Weather Forecasting*, students are introduced to the world of weather forecasting and the data, instruments, and science that make forecasting accurate. Students read about the six weather factors (temperature, air pressure, wind, humidity, precipitation, and cloudiness) as well as the difference between weather and climate. The reader contains a biographical sketch of tornado expert Tetsuya Theodore Fujita. Students also learn about two other kinds of weather scientists: climatologists and hurricane hunters. Students learn about different types of winds and how a weather satellite works.

Unit 5: Earth, Moon, and Sun

Studying **Earth, Moon and Sun** helps students distinguish between the apparent motions of the sun and moon versus the actual motion of Earth. In Solar and Lunar Journals, students record daily observations about time and position of sunrise and sunset, moon shape, daytime visibility, and elevation. Their data point to interactions among the Earth, sun, and moon that explain day and night, seasons, moon phases, length of day, tides, and more. Scale models of the solar system dramatize its massive distances and its planets' relative sizes. In the final activity, students go onboard famous ocean voyages, relying on celestial navigation to stay on course.

Social Studies

Lexis Prep students enjoy *The Ancient World*, the TCI *Social Studies Alive!* curriculum for sixth grade. *Social Studies Alive!* consists of a series of instructional practices that allow students of all abilities to master key social studies concepts. The approach is characterized by eight features consisting of: theory and research based active instruction, standards based content, preview assignments, multiple intelligences teaching, considerate text, graphically organized reading notes, processing assignment, and assessments to inform instruction.

The National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS) has organized grade level content into Ten Thematic Units of Instruction that form the framework of the social studies standards. All ten themes are found at each grade level of *Social Studies Alive!* with specific themes enhanced at different grade levels. The focal themes in sixth grade are bolded below.

- **Culture**
- **Time, continuity, and change**
- **People, places, and environments**
- Individual development and identity
- Individuals, groups and institutions
- **Power, authority, and governance**
- Production, distribution, and consumption
- Science, technology and society
- Global connections
- Civic ideals and practices

The Lexis Prep social studies curriculum is content and benchmark aligned with the NCSS thematic units. Where objectives overlap with other grade levels, the objectives are met using different age-appropriate content and activities at each grade level.

Lexis Prep Social Studies Standards Correlated with NCSS and *Social Studies Alive!*

Unit: Early Humans

- Examine artifacts to learn how social scientists reconstruct the lives of early hominids
- Analyze images containing clues paleoanthropologists use to study how various hominids lived
- Understand life during the Neolithic Age from hunting and gathering to farming
- Examine the problems faced by ancient Mesopotamians to understand how Neolithic farming villages evolved into complex Sumerian city-states
- Analyze artifacts from ancient Sumer to determine if ancient Sumer was a civilization
- Study the four empires that ruled Mesopotamia from approximately 2300 to 539 B.C.E

Unit: Ancient Egypt and the Near East

- Understand the physical geography of ancient Egypt, Kush, and Canaan
- Study the sites along the Nile River including the monuments and the pharaohs associated with construction
- Describe life for the five social classes in ancient Egypt including the social pyramid and a contemporary comparison

- Analyze important events and leaders from four periods in the history of Kush
- Understand key figures in the history of the ancient Hebrews and the development of Judaism
- Describe the central beliefs of Judaism and how they are maintained during the Diaspora

Unit: Ancient India

- Explain the geography of Indian subcontinent and how it influenced the placement of early settlements in India
- Explore the site of Mohenjodaro, an ancient city in the Indus-Sarasvati region
- Create mandalas representing the five core Hindu beliefs
- Analyze and discuss the life of Siddhartha Gautama and the emergence of Buddhism
- Interpret one of nine excerpts from Mauryan king Ashoka's edicts to learn about Indian unity
- Describe the achievements of the Gupta Empire during the period known as India's Golden Age

Unit: Ancient China

- Study about and create a relief map of China's five important geographic regions
- Examine a Shang tomb to learn about government, social structure, religion, writing, art, and technology
- Read and study about Confucianism, Daoism (Taoism), and Legalism
- Examine images of and read about the emperor's political and cultural unification of China, efforts to protect its northern boundaries with the Great Wall, dispute with Confucian scholars, and death and burial
- Examine the ancient Chinese practices, discoveries, and inventions of warfare, government, agriculture, industry, art, medicine, and science
- Describe the Silk Road during the rule of the Han dynasty

Unit: Ancient Greece

- Understand the influence of geography on settlement and culture in Ancient Greece
- Examine the principles of four forms of government: monarchy, oligarchy, tyranny, and democracy
- Illustrate one aspect of life in either Athens or Sparta
- Analyze images, visual details and written information of key personalities and results of each battle
- Describe Athens during the fifth century B.C.E., a period known as the Golden Age of Athens
- Speculate about the ambitions of two Macedonian kings: Philip II's plan to conquer the Greek city-states and his son Alexander's plans to conquer and unite the diverse peoples of a huge empire
- Match descriptions of modern arts, government, entertainment, scientific beliefs, and practices with images showing the Greek achievements

Unit: Ancient Rome

- Examine an artistic rendition of Roman life and identify Etruscan and Greek influences
- Assume the roles of plebeians and patricians and negotiate how to work together
- Create columns to commemorate four key periods of growth of the Roman Empire
- Explore eight aspects of ancient Roman life as well as food, drink and education
- Match Biblical passages depicting one of five key events in the development of event
- Understand aspects of Roman culture such as art, engineering, or language

National Standards for Arts Education

The National Standards for Arts Education were developed by the Consortium of National Arts Education Associations. They describe the learning outcomes recommended as an integral part of a comprehensive K-12 education for all American students. The content standards for 5-8 visual arts education include:

- Understand and apply media, techniques and processes
- Use knowledge of structure and functions
- Choose and evaluate a range of subject matter, symbols, and ideas
- Understand the visual arts in relation to history and cultures
- Reflect upon and assess the characteristics and merits of their work and the work of others
- Make connections between visual arts and other disciplines

National Standards for Music Education

The National Standards for Arts Education were developed by the Consortium of National Arts Education Associations. They describe the learning outcomes recommended as an integral part of a comprehensive K-12 education for all American students. The content standards for 5-8 music education include:

- Sing, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music
- Perform on instruments, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music
- Improvise melodies, variations, and accompaniments
- Compose and arrange music within specified guidelines
- Read and notate music
- Listen to, analyze and describe music
- Evaluate music and music performances
- Understand relationships between music, the other arts, and disciplines outside the arts
- Understand music in relation to history and culture

National Standards of Physical Education

The National Association for Sport and Physical Education (NASPE) defines five major focus areas specifying what a physically educated person is capable of performing. These focus areas are:

- Learn skills necessary to perform a variety of physical activities
- Be physically fit
- Participate regularly in physical activity
- Know the implications of and the benefits from involvement in physical activities
- Value physical activity and its contribution to a healthful lifestyle

The Difference Maker: Lexis Accent

Customizing is the Key to Success for Each Child

The hallmark of a Lexis Prep education is our personalized approach called Lexis Accent. We know some students need an extra emphasis in their academic program and Lexis Accent is our tool to do that. This customization may include special one-on-one and small group sessions during the school day. These specialized sessions give the Lexis Prep staff the opportunity to focus on the particular learning needs of every child.

LEXIS Accent

Writing - Students receive extra support in the writing process from draft to final copy, including areas such as voice, style, conventions, and research skills.

Reading - A focused time spent on phonemic awareness, systematic phonics instruction, decoding, fluency, and comprehension.

Math - Students use manipulatives while receiving extra instruction in order to ensure mastery of all mathematics concepts.

Social Skills - Students learn practical strategies for developing appropriate friendships, understanding social nuances, and being comfortable in social situations.

As part of the enrollment process, your child will be evaluated to determine if he would benefit from personalized time in any of these areas. If so, it will be included as part of his education plan. There is no additional charge for these classes as we have found the Lexis Accent program is key to ensuring success in a college prep program.

Your child may also work with an Occupational Therapist, Speech Therapist, Physical Therapist, or Counselor at Lexis Prep. These are provided by a third party and there is an extra charge for these services.

Executive Function: Prepare for a Lifetime of Success

The ability to self-regulate is essential for success in life. At Lexis Prep, we call this executive function, a well-known concept that entails many different skills and abilities. Children with ADD or ADHD frequently struggle in this area so we put special emphasis on developing this skill in all our students.

According to Joyce Cooper-Kahn and Laurie Dietzel (*Late, Lost and Unprepared*), executive function can be defined as "a set of processes that all have to do with managing oneself and one's resources in order to achieve a goal. It is an umbrella term for the neurologically-based skills involving mental control and self-regulation." Skills and abilities that make up executive function include self-monitoring, planning, organization, emotional control, initiation, shifting, and working memory.

All Lexis Prep students spend time each day learning and practicing these critical executive function skills. Executive function is built into our curriculum and is also explicitly taught with the goal of helping every student effectively develop and utilize these important life skills.

10 Essential Elements of the Lexis Prep Success Model

UHA!

At Lexis Prep, our mission is summarized by UHA!: To Understand, Honor and Accommodate diverse learners and do it with a passion! Everything we do flows from the UHA! principles. This includes the 10 Essential Elements of the Lexis Prep Success Model.

1. A Customized Curriculum

Each child has a unique learning style. A child learns best when teaching is personalized to fit the way he learns, rather than forcing him to learn the way the school teaches. At Lexis Prep, every teacher strives to understand how your child learns best and to utilize that style in every teachable moment. Our Lexis Accent Program customizes the educational program further by strengthening those specific areas that need more attention.

2. High Academic Expectations

A Lexis Prep education is never watered down. It is a solid, age-appropriate, college preparatory experience that will prepare your child well for further studies. Our academics are research-based and multisensory.

3. Integrated Executive Function Skills

Executive function is the ability to plan and organize oneself to accomplish a goal. Your child will learn executive function skills in every aspect of his education to best prepare him for future education opportunities as well as life beyond school. It is the first thing we think about when we interact with a child and it is the last thing we teach at the end of every day.

4. Painless and Intelligent Homework

It is imperative that your child learn how to effectively manage homework before entering high school and college so we focus on developing these critical skills. Homework at Lexis Prep is individualized, manageable, and relevant. It is never busy work and should not be a source of frustration.

5. Passionate and Highly Qualified Teachers

Our teachers are passionate, experienced, and dynamic. Most of our teachers have specialized training, a masters degree or both. They receive regular training in order to continually develop their teaching and assessment skills.

6. Collaboration with Medical and Educational Providers

At Lexis Prep, we are part of a team working together to ensure your child's success. This includes coordination with other professionals, including physicians who are managing medication, psychologists and counselors, speech and language specialists, occupational therapists, and outside tutors.

7. Constant Evaluation of Academic Progress

Our teachers constantly evaluate each student's academic progress. This is done through daily assessments, anecdotal observations, and more formalized testing such as the NWEA MAP assessment given three times each year.

8. Manage the Environment, Not the Child

At Lexis Prep, we believe success is largely dependent on managing the environment. We emphasize routines and transitions throughout the day. When a difficulty arises, we analyze the antecedents in order to determine where changes might be needed.

9. Partner with Parents

A strong partnership with parents is critical to the success of each student. This partnership begins with the initial interview and continues with daily communications, a monthly open forum for all parents, and parents visiting the classroom.

10. We Make It Fun!

Learning should be enjoyable. Children who pursue education (rather than endure it) will be far more successful in the future. At Lexis Prep, we provide a great college prep education and enjoy ourselves every day in the process.