



# Washington Square Academy

*Curriculum 2025-2026*

Grade 6

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## English

### *Objectives*

Read, analyze, and understand texts of multiple genres of increasing levels of complexity; demonstrate increasing sophistication in the production and publication of writing; generate research questions and conduct sustained research projects; create and deliver polished multimedia presentations; recognize and apply conventions of Standard English.

### *Texts & Reference Materials*

#### Literature:

(Note that selections may vary by academic year.)

#### Novels & Plays:

- *The Giver*, Lois Lowry
- *A Midsummer's Night Dream*, William Shakespeare
- *Where the Red Fern Grows*, Wilson Rawls

#### Selected Short Stories:

- "My Side of the Story," Adam Bagdasarian
- "The Gift of the Magi," O Henry
- "To Build a Fire," Jack London
- "The Scholarship Jacket," Marta Selinas

#### Selected Poems:

- "The Road Not Taken," Robert Frost
- "The Hill We Climb," Amanda Gorman
- "Casey at the Bat," Ernest Lawrence Thayer

#### Selected Works of Non-Fiction:

- *Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood* (Adapted Version), Trevor Noah



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## Language:

- *Wordly Wise* Vocabulary Study, Levels 7-8
- *The Rooted Mind*: Latin and Greek Roots Challenge
- Teacher-generated materials
- Selections from NoRedInk.com and IXL.com

## Content

### Literature:

- Cite evidence from the text to support claims about explicit and implicit meaning
- Summarize and draw inferences about the text
- Identify theme and analyze its development over the course of a text
- Review literary elements; recognize how those elements interact with each other to create meaning
- Analyze the interactions between characters and events as they support characterization, plot development, and theme
- Analyze the structure of a text; be able to explain how parts of a text support the whole
- Compare and contrast writer's point of view across multiple texts
- Understand how diction supports tone, theme, and point of view
- Trace and evaluate claims and arguments about a similar topic across multiple texts
- Understand the Ancient Greek origins of drama
- Understand and recognize the structure of a Shakespearean play: Exposition; Exciting Force; Rising Action; Climax; Falling Action; Catastrophe

### Language and Writing:

- Write argumentative, narrative, and informative essays
- Produce clear, coherent, well-developed passages of writing, with organization and style appropriate to task, purpose, and audience
- Develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach, focusing on how well purpose and audience have been addressed
- Use technology, including current web-based communication platforms, to produce and publish writing and link to and cite sources as well as to interact and collaborate with others
- Conduct research; gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources, using search terms effectively; assess the credibility and accuracy of each source; and quote or paraphrase the



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data and conclusions of others while avoiding plagiarism and following a standard format for citation

- Demonstrate command of the conventions of Standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking; retain and further develop language skills learned in previous grades
- Recognize and correct vague pronouns and shifts in pronoun number and person
- Use context (e.g., the overall meaning of a sentence or paragraph; a word's position or function in a sentence) as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase.
- Interpret figures of speech (e.g., literary, biblical, mythological allusions) in context.
- Use common, grade-appropriate Greek or Latin affixes and roots as clues to the meaning of a word (e.g., belligerent, bellicose, rebel).
- Interpret figures of speech (e.g., literary, biblical, mythological allusions) in context.
- Acquire and use accurately grade-appropriate general academic and domain-specific words and phrases; independently research words and gather vocabulary knowledge
- Coordinate phrases and clauses in simple, compound, complex, and compound-complex sentences, with emphasis on agreement of pronouns and their antecedents.
- Form and use verbs in the active and passive voices and the indicative, imperative, interrogative, conditional, and subjunctive moods to communicate a particular meaning.<sup>18</sup>
- Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.
- Use punctuation (comma, ellipsis, dash) to indicate a pause or break.



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## Mathematics

### *Texts & Reference Materials*

- [Singapore Intensive Math](#)
- [Art of Problem Solving](#)
- Teacher-generated materials

### *Math 6 Pre-Algebra Honors*

#### Number Sense:

- All operations of integers and fractions
- Fractions, decimals, and percent conversions
- Exponents
- Squares and square roots

#### Algebraic Expressions:

- Order of operations
- Translating and evaluating expressions
- Distributive property
- All operations expressions

#### Equations & Inequalities:

- Solving one-step and multi-step equations and word problems
- Solving one-step and multi-step inequalities and word problems

#### Ratio, Proportion, & Percent:

- Rates/unit rates and proportional versus non-proportional relationships
- Proportion word problems
- Scale drawings and models
- Similar figures
- Percent proportion and equation



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- Discount, markup, tax, tip, and commission
- Percent of change

## Functions & Graphing:

- The coordinate plane and graphing relations
- Graphing functions using a function table
- Multiple representations of functions: tables, graphs, equations, verbal descriptions
- Slope from a graph (positive and negative slope only)
- Slope-intercept form
- Graphing a linear function in slope-intercept form
- Slope-intercept form applications

## Geometry:

- Perimeter and area
- Composite figures
- 3D figures
- Volume and surface area applications

## Probability & Statistics:

- Theoretical probability vs. experimental probability
- Tree diagrams
- Compound probability
- Mean, median, mode, and range
- Stem and leaf plots



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## Science

WSA's Science Curriculum is informed by the [Next Generation Science Standards](#) (NGSS).

### *Objectives*

Students will understand and apply the Scientific Method using standards of measurement; learn to design, conduct, and write reports of laboratory experiments; recognize the diverse compositions and properties of organic and inorganic matter; understand the classifications of atoms on the Periodic Table; review and deepen understanding of aspects of human anatomy.

### *Texts & Reference Materials*

- Marshall Cavendish Education, *Lower Secondary: Science Matters*
- Teacher-generated materials

### *Content*

The Nature of Science:

- The Scientific Method
- Standards of measurement (metric system)
- Introduction to lab procedures and reports

Models:

- Structure and function of plant and animal cells; similarities and differences
- The microbial world
- Viruses and bacteria (functions and replication)
- Lab: Capturing and Identifying Microbes in the Air, in Antibacterial Agents, and in Soaps

Diversity:

- Densities and physical properties of matter
- The diversity of matter as shown by chemical composition
- The diversity of organisms





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## Motion & Forces:

- Understanding and describing motion
- Acceleration
- Force
- Newton's Laws
- Gravity
- Lab: Tug of War Study of Newton's Second Law of Motion

## Life on Earth:

- Components of the Earth's systems
- Plate tectonics
- The effects of human activity
- Lab: Designing an Earthquake-Resistant Structure

## Atoms & the Periodic Table:

- The Periodic Table
- Mixtures and compounds
- Metals, nonmetals, and metalloids
- Lab: Gumdrops Atoms

## Human Anatomy:

- Basic human anatomy
- Systems: cardiovascular, respiratory, and muscular
- Lab: Biomedical Engineer: Make a Grasping Robot Hand



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## Social Studies: From the Roman Empire to the Early-Modern Era

### *Objectives*

#### Research and Inquiry:

- Students develop research skills by asking questions, gathering information from primary and secondary sources, and evaluating the reliability of sources.

#### Critical Thinking:

- Students analyze historical events and multiple perspectives to develop critical thinking skills; make reasoned judgments; compare and contrast the treatment of a topic in primary and secondary sources; analyze in detail a series of events as described in a text; cite specific textual evidence to support analysis; summarize points of agreements and disagreement; and demonstrate their ability to reevaluate their thinking after exposure to new evidence and lines of reasoning.

#### Communication:

- Students respond thoughtfully to diverse perspectives; practice communicating their ideas effectively through writing, speaking, and delivering visual presentations.

### *Texts & Reference Materials*

Teacher-selected and -generated materials including historical periodicals and primary sources

#### Ancient Rome:

- Roman culture and Greek influence
- Downfall of the republic and rise of the Empire
- Roman views on the rest of the world
- Primary source analysis: Caesar's Gallic Wars
- Project: Roman Monument
- Rise of Christianity
- Collapse of the Empire



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## Early Middle Ages:

- Gothic migrations
- The rise of Islam
- Karlings and the Holy Roman Empire
- Vikings, Magyars, and Moors (oh my!)
- Project: Castle-Building

## Late Middle Ages:

- The Norman invasion of England
- The feudal system and chivalry
- The Crusades and the Reconquista
- Questions of Papal Supremacy
- The Black Death
- Primary source analysis: The Bayeux Tapestry

## Early-Modern Europe:

- The Fall of Constantinople
- Italy and the Renaissance
- Early Atlantic expeditions
- 1492 and the New World
- Primary source analysis: Columbus' journal



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## World Language: Mandarin

Students in Washington Square Academy's Mandarin Program take the Hanyu Shuiping Kaoshi (HSK) Test at the appropriate level at the end of Grades 6, 7, and 8.

HSK is China's national, standardized test of proficiency in the Chinese language for non-native speakers (similar to the TOEFL in the United States). Students who successfully complete WSA's Mandarin Program are well on their way to obtaining full HSK certification, a qualification that may open many doors for them not just personally, in terms of a love and understanding of this beautiful language and culture, but also professionally, in terms of educational and employment opportunities.

Information on the relevant levels of certification can be found [HERE](#):

Grade 6: [HSK Level I](#)

Course materials for each grade level include elements of the HSK Curriculum as well as a variety of teacher-generated sources designed to motivate and inspire each individual student. At Grade 8, these materials are supplemented with [Cheng & Tsui's Integrated Chinese](#) texts and workbooks.



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## World Language: Introduction to Spanish

### *Texts & Reference Materials*

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt: ¡Avancemos! Level 1  
Teacher-generated materials

### *Content*

#### Grammar & Vocabulary:

- Greetings
- Classroom
- Numbers, weekdays, and months
- Colors
- Body parts
- Verbs: Words as they express actions, states, or occurrences; the infinitive forms of verbs and their importance in Spanish
- Adjectives: Words as they modify or describe nouns; agreement in gender and number between adjectives and nouns; comparative and superlative
- Pronouns: Introduction to subject pronouns (yo, tú, él/ella, nosotros/as, vosotros/as, ellos/ellas) and their usage
- Nouns: Words that represent people, places, things, or ideas; the genders (masculine and feminine) and numbers (singular and plural) of nouns
- Commands
- Alphabet, accents, and conjugations

#### Spanish Culture & Daily Life:

- Clothing
- Food
- Feelings
- Spanish holiday traditions
- School and work