

6th Grade Computer Applications Course
North Boone Upper Elementary
2014-2015

Background:

Over the past two years, 6th graders at North Boone Upper Elementary School have received one hour a week of computer instruction over the course of the school year. This has been roughly the equivalent of one quarter of instruction. Beginning in the fall of 2014, sixth grade students will meet for one hour of computer instruction a day for an entire semester. This will provide greater continuity and allow students the chance to practice their skills on a regular basis and therefore achieve at a higher level.

Content:

This course will focus on the following topics:

- Advanced Desktop Publishing
- Google Sites
- Electronic Presentations
- Spreadsheets
- Google Draw
- Digital Storytelling

Units of Study:

Unit 1: Advanced Desktop Publishing: As the name implies, this unit will teach students advanced desktop publishing techniques. Some of these techniques include columns, layout design, layering, image formatting, and linking multiple textboxes and panels. Documents to be created include a one page school newsletter, a magazine cover, and an informational tri-fold brochure.

Unit 2: Web Design – In this unit, students will learn basic concepts of website design through the creation of a five page website in Google Sites. Specific topics to be covered include home page design, text and image formatting, organizing content through tables, creating hyperlinks, and using Google Gadgets.

Unit 3 – Electronic Presentations – In this unit, students will learn to create effective presentations using both MS PowerPoint and Google Presentations. Concepts to be covered include modifying templates, organizing text information, using graphic objects (images, clipart, tables, and diagrams), and using transitions and animations. Time will also be spent learning to prepare for and give an oral presentation. Students will practice these concepts by creating and giving two presentations.

Unit 4 – Spreadsheets – In this unit, students will learn a variety of basic spreadsheet techniques. Concepts to be covered include spreadsheet creation, data editing and formatting, formulas, functions, and charts. Students will practice these concepts by completing two spreadsheet projects. The first will use formulas and functions to track expenses for a fictional class party. The second will be completed in conjunction with the completion of the online lemonade stand

business simulation. Students will complete the simulation and use a spreadsheet to display their results in both numerical and chart form.

Unit 5 – Google Draw: In this unit, students will learn to design detailed drawings using the Google Draw program. Upon completion of this unit, students will demonstrate their skills by designing the exterior of their “dream house” in Google Draw.

Unit 6 – Introduction to Digital Storytelling: In this unit, students will learn the basics of visual storytelling including image/frame creation, content/story editing, titles, timings, video effects, transitions, and sounds. In this unit, students will create three videos including an image montage and adaptations of a fable and a children’s book. Students will get a chance to share their work by participating in a class film festival that will occur at the end of the unit.

Software to Be Used:

- MS Word
- MS Publisher
- Google Sites
- MS PowerPoint
- Google Presentations
- MS Excel
- Windows Movie Maker
- Animoto