

June, 2009

Dear Families:

We want to welcome you to the sixth grade! We're looking forward to working with you and your children for the coming year.

In this packet you will find the curriculum for next year, a supplies list, a study habits survey, and a multiplication table.

Each child is required to read Old Yeller

We'll start the year by working with this novel, so it's very important that your child has it read before the beginning of school in September. We encourage visits to the public library and reading for fun over the vacation.

Please practice the multiplication facts in order to be ready to start the year off right in math!

We hope you all have a safe and fun summer. We'll see you in September.

Sincerely,

Todd Brunn
Richard Larsen

Reading

Students will show gains in the basic skills of reading, listening, viewing, speaking, writing, thinking logically, critically, and creatively. This will be accomplished through the practice of specific skills, independent and group activities, and a program that allows for both academic challenge and creative freedom.

Units of Study

Novels
Text (short fiction, non fiction)
Poetry
Newspaper
Public Speaking
Basic Skills/Study Skills

English

Sixth grade English is an interdisciplinary program integrating grammar, language, and writing with Art, Literature, and the Library. Activities including listening, speaking and writing are coordinated with the English textbook (*McGraw Hill-Language Arts*) as well as the material covered in reading class.

Math

New York State Coach Book covers the following:

Whole numbers, fractions, decimals, percents, geometry, algebra, measurement, ratio and proportion, statistics and probability

Other activities that will help prepare the students for the 8th grade State Math, as well as the Sixth Grade State Test, will be covered throughout the year.

Social Studies

The sixth grade social studies program consists of a study of the Mediterranean Community and the Eastern and Western Community from an economic, geographic, social, cultural, political, and historical point of view. The major units covered are:

Ancient Civilizations

Prehistory

Ancient civilizations in the Middle East and Egypt

Ancient Greece

Ancient Rome

Medieval Era

Science

The Science program has been designed to teach students how to understand important relationships, processes, mechanisms, and application of concepts. The 6th, 7th, and 8th grade program is a sequenced program emphasizing inquiry based learning. The following is a description of the key ideas to be taught.

Living things are both similar to and different from each other and from nonliving things.

Organisms inherit genetic information in a variety of ways that result in continuity of structure and function between parents and offspring.

Individual organisms and species change with time.

The continuity of life is sustained through reproduction and development.

Organisms maintain a dynamic equilibrium that sustains life.

Plants and animals depend on each other and their physical environment.

Human decisions and activities have a profound impact on the world in which we live.

The Earth and celestial phenomena can be described by principles of relative motion and perspective.

Many of the phenomena that we observe on the Earth involve interactions among components of air, water, and land.

Matter is made of particles whose properties determine the observable characteristics of matter and its reactivity.

Energy exists in many forms, and when these forms change, energy is conserved.

Energy and matter interact through forces that result in changes of motion.

Sixth Grade Supplies List

Please do your best to come to school in September with the following supplies:

Please purchase on your own:

- ** A two inch, 3 ringed binder with pockets (or pocketed folders for holding loose paper if you cannot locate a pocketed binder)
- ** 3 holed binder separators (to separate different subjects of the binder)
- ** 3 white marble composition books
- ** 3 pocketed folder (preferably red, yellow, and white)
- ** 1 box of colored pencils
- ** 2 boxes of #2 pencils
- ** 2 packages of pens (blue or black)
- ** Glue stick
- ** Small scissors
- ** Smock for art
- ** 2 highlighters

Children should have a supply of loose-leaf paper at home.

Your Child's Homework and Study Habits
A Survey for Parents

Please complete this survey and drop it off at the school during the summer or return it with your child in September. Thank you.

Student name: _____

Please answer the following questions (A) Always, (S) Sometimes, (R) Rarely, (N) Never. Feel free to add comments. Please be as honest as possible. This will enable us to understand your child better which will give us the opportunity to help him/her in the areas needed.

1. Does your child keep folders and other materials well-organized? _____
2. Does your child gather all the materials needed for homework before starting it?

3. Does your child keep the television on while doing homework? _____
4. Does your child have a set time for beginning homework? _____
5. Do you enforce a set homework time? _____
6. Does your child spend what seems like too much time doing the assigned work?

7. Does your child get discouraged or upset with homework/studying? _____
8. Does your child have difficulty concentrating? _____
9. Does your child finish assignments on time? _____
10. Does your child engage in active study strategies when studying for tests (writing, reciting, drawing, listing, etc.)?

(over)

Please complete the following statements:

My child's biggest homework problem is:

At homework time, my child and I always disagree over:

I wish my child's teachers knew that:

Please make a note of any information that you feel we should know regarding your child. (Illnesses, allergies, strengths, weaknesses, likes, dislikes, etc.)

Additional comments you would like to make: