

August 18, 2010

Dear Parents,

This week begins a brand new school year for all of us. We would like to welcome all of you to the sixth grade. As always, the start of a new school year holds the promise of new discovery and learning, as well as the prospect of personal growth in all areas.

We have put together a handbook of information to help you and your child become familiar with our expectations for the school year. We have done this to ensure success for every student. Please take a day or two to read through this information and then sign your names on **the last page of this book**. This page will be **returned to the homeroom teacher**. You may want to keep the handbook in a special place so that you may refer to it throughout the year.

We are committed to providing your child with the best possible learning experiences. Please keep in touch with us regarding any questions, concerns, or situations that will help us in reaching our goal. You can get in touch with us by email or calling the school office and leaving a voice mail. We hope you and your child have a great school year.

Sincerely,

Katie Bennett	Social Studies and Religion
Sr. Sharon Blank	Literature and Language Arts
Angela Langenkamp	Math and Science

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Math and Science – Mrs. Langenkamp

Science

The book used in science is Prentice Hall Earth Science. It is new this year. This is the same series that the 7th and 8th grade is using. It is a challenging series and home study of the information presented in class is extremely important. **It will be necessary for the student to study in advance for quizzes and tests.**

Each chapter contains three to four sections. Because of the number of topics I must cover from the curriculum framework, we will spend about a week for each section. Typically for each section, I will present the same information several ways to help in mastery of the material. One activity will be to read, do vocabulary, and take notes on the material. Other activities may include but are not limited to: on-line work, discussions of the material; labs; foldables; lecture; answering questions; review worksheets.

The student who does not have internet may request an interactive CD-ROM with the complete science book on it for use at home. It will be collected at the end of the school year. Any misplaced or damaged CDs will be required to be replaced for a nominal fee.

Some of the activities/labs may have the student working with solutions and materials that are safe if they are used properly. It is therefore extremely necessary that all students follow all directions and procedures. Violations will be issued for anyone not following proper guidelines as this becomes a safety issue.

Quizzes will be given after every section in each chapter. Announcements will be made on Thursday and Friday for upcoming quizzes or tests for the following week. Use the information on the quizzes and the worksheets to help focus your study for the chapter test.

Math

We will continue using the Prentice Hall Mathematics as we have in the past. These are new books this year and so I am in the process of learning all that the online resources have to offer. The book and other programs are available on line at www.PHSchool.com. I have provided this link on my website for your use. Please take some time to go over the pages in the beginning of the student text pages xxiv-xxix as these pages will discuss the layout of each chapter and the on line resources that are available to you and your child if extra help is needed at home.

The class will be designed using whole group instruction, small group instruction, cooperative group learning, peer tutoring, and independent work time. Math quizzes will be given after every two to three lessons. These are typically shorter and are designed to help the student monitor his/her progress

Grading Scale:

The following grading scale will be used for math and science:

Home work

For math, I grade for completeness, meaning I look for work that is **complete and corrections made** but do not give an actual percentage grade.....20%

Quizzes.....30%

Class work and participation (including having all necessary materials).....10%

Tests.....40%

***** A note about extra credit: I do not accept extra credit but I will drop the lowest quiz grade.**

***** A note about missing homework: I do not accept late work but will drop the lowest homework grade in math each quarter. Please note that homework is considered missing if it was left in the student's homeroom.**

Social Studies and Religion – Mrs. Bennett

Social Studies

Focus: The World and Its People

We will use a textbook and workbook this year. It is very important that students read the material assigned. This material may, or may not be, familiar. Therefore you need to read it to have the background knowledge in order to discuss it in class. Students will be expected to take notes during class or at home for any material that is covered. The focus will be on different places in the world, their culture, environment, government and other issues. The majority of the class will be set up in the following format:

- Tests will be given at the end of each chapter
- A short quiz will be given after each section. 1-2 quizzes will be given weekly
- Computer projects will be given periodically

- You may check my website for dates. **Please study in advance!**
- you will have written homework 3-4 nights/week
- I will write notes on the board or overhead projector, or SMART board and you will need to copy these completely
- use any notes and the chapter reviews to prepare for tests
- some quizzes may be given, these may be announced or unannounced (normally they are announced)
- you will be asked to participate in group assignments in class
- individual computer assignments will also need to be completed. (These will be completed at school, yet may need to be finished at home).

Grading Scale

Home/class work.....	30%
Projects.....	30%
Quizzes and Tests.....	40%

I will give further instructions in class and answer questions.

Religion

Focus: The Old Testament and Family Life.

Once again please read any assigned material. Class participation will be especially important in this class. In class assignments will be given.

- tests will be given periodically, yet not necessarily at the end of each chapter
- Homework will studying/preparing tests.
- advance notice will be given for all tests (a week) and for all assignments.

Extra Credit

Extra Credit will be given in both of my classes. I will post this on my website.

Grading Scale:

Classwork.....	50%
Quizzes/Tests.....	50%

Literature, English and Writing – Sr. Sharon Marie Blank

Literature Book and Novel Studies

The sixth grade uses *Prentice Hall Literature. Penguin Edition*. This literature series introduces the students to various authors and literary genres, such as fiction, non-fiction, poetry, folk literature, etc.

The homework given in literature is a necessary part of preparation for class the following day. Students who do not prepare properly will likely not do well in related class assignments and on tests. Credit will be given for completion of homework rather than the number correct or incorrect since homework is part of the learning process.

In addition to the literature book, the sixth grade will read several novels geared to their interest and reading ability throughout the year.

From time to time there may be a book project assigned. The project directions and grading rubric will be sent home 4-5 weeks before the project's due date. Examples of the expectations will be given in class.

Grading Scale

Class work and participation	20%
Homework	10%
Quizzes	30%
Tests and projects	40%

English/Writing

English

The Houghton Mifflin English Series continues in the sixth grade. The curriculum consists of grammar and writing skills as outlined in the Archdiocese of Louisville's Curriculum Framework. Periodic quizzes and tests will be given to monitor your child's progress in mastering these skills.

Writing Skills

The book, *Write Source*, will be our guide in learning good writing skills this year. The students will be learning the 6 traits of good writing and will have the opportunity to practice many of the various forms of writing. Not all of the writing will be formally assessed but those pieces that are assessed will have a scoring guide.

Grading Scale The English grade will be based on the evaluation of your child's progress in writing as well as mastery of grammar and usage skills.

Spelling and vocabulary are included as part of the language arts curriculum. A word list will be given each week for study. A practice test will be given each Thursday. Those who receive a 100% on Thursday will not have to take the final test on Friday.

Grading Scale

Homework	10%
Class work and Participation	20%
Quizzes	30%
Tests	40%

General Information

Homework/Makeup Work Policy

Daily homework will be given to the students. The homework will consist of written work as well as studying and reading. The assignments are expected to be returned the next class day unless otherwise stated. On average there will be one to one and half hours of homework and study time each night. The homework for each teacher will be posted on our individual website daily for those who are absent or for those who need clarifications. You can get to each teacher's web page by logging on to www.stgabriel.net. From there go to school, then staff, then sixth grade. Please see each teacher's class information regarding missing homework.

Class work

Class work should be completed in cursive and ink with the exception of math. Math work should be completed with a pencil. Class work not turned in the day it is due will have points deducted from it. The teacher will not remind the student of missing work.

Progress Reports

Graded work and quizzes/tests will be sent home as they are graded. We **will not** be sending them home in a packet. **It is the student's responsibility to show you this work.** Please ask to see this work if it is not being shown to you. We will **NOT** be requiring a signature on quizzes or tests as has been the procedure in the past because the grades are posted on Power School.

In addition to the conferences and report cards you normally receive, you will again be able to access your child's progress/grades via the program the school purchased several years ago called Power School. Grades will be made current by the 15th and 30th of each month. This is a wonderful tool and we **strongly encourage** both the student and parent to use this to monitor academic progress. **Did you know that you can have your child's grades emailed to you?** To get signed up for this service, log onto Power School and look at the top section. Click on email and follow the instructions to set it up.

Absences:

It is the student's responsibility to make up and turn in all work missed because of illness. **If a quiz or test is given the day of the absence, the student is expected to make it up the day of their return if possible.** For a long-term illness, extra time will be given to make up missed work and tests.

Birthday Celebrations and Treats:

Because **of new school requirements**, we will **NOT** be able to celebrate birthdays as we once were able to do. We must now celebrate all birthdays and other holiday celebrations on only one day a month. If your child wishes to celebrate his/her birthday, please do so on the designated day of the month. If treats are brought in on another day then we won't be able to give it out in class and must send it home with the students when they leave for the day. This will be difficult to do at the end of a busy day! Typically we have decided to do all birthday celebrations on the **third Tuesday of the month.** The exceptions are: October 31st, December 18th, and February 14th.

Long-term projects

Points will be deducted each day that a long-term project is late. If it is more than two days late, a zero will be given. If the student is absent the day the long-term assignment/project is due, the assignment must be turned in that day (the due date). If it is not turned in, then the project falls into the late project category.

Proper headings for all schoolwork.

It is very important to put a proper school heading on **all** assignments. Without this, credit for doing the work cannot be given. Papers turned in with no names, will automatically be deducted 5%-10% points off the final grade if the owner of the paper can be identified. If the owner cannot be identified then a zero will be given.

EXAMPLE of PROPER SCHOOL HEADING:

Name	Date
Assignment title and page #	HR

Behavior Expectations

We consider the right to learn fundamental for everyone. For that reason we hold to high behavioral standards as stated in the student handbook .Please read these carefully. If a student violates the rights of others or doesn't follow the rules of the class or school, then a behavior form (minor or major) will be sent home to be signed and returned. **This must be returned the next day or a detention will be given.**

Please see the handbook for Minor Infractions of School Policy and the consequences.

Conduct Grades

Conduct grades are determined by the number of minor and major violations obtained by the student.

Uniforms:

We'd like to clarify what is considered "neatly dressed and well groomed" (p18). This would include things such as **shirt tails tucked in completely** so that the waist is clearly visible, belts worn with pants or shorts, and ties properly worn at all times. We **will** be following the consequences set forth by the school board. You can find these in the school handbook on page 20.

Book Covers

We are asking that your child have his/her books covered. Please use brown paper bags or cloth covers. Do not use any book covers that contain adhesives. This type of book cover has damaged the covers of many books. When taping the book cover, please tape the flaps of the book cover together and not tape the cover of the book to itself. Make sure your child writes his/her name, subject, and homeroom teacher's name on the front outside book cover. **Periodically throughout the year these will need to be checked and recovered as necessary.**

Please sign and return this page to the homeroom teacher

If both parents live in the home, a signature is required of both.

We have read the 6th grade student handbook.

parent or guardian signature

parent or guardian signature

student signature

Please check all that apply. We will use this information to help us decide how much we will use the computer and Internet for projects and assignments.
Thanks.

_____ We have a computer in the home.

_____ We have Internet service.

_____ We do **not** have a computer in the home. In this case, an alternate activity may be given, or the activity will be printed out by the student at school to take home and complete.