

August 18, 2006

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. Then 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. We hope you have a great school year.

Sincerely,

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

School Phone – 239-5535

Fax - 239-2641

email addresses – kbennett@stgabriel.net  
sblank@stgabriel.net  
alangenkamp@stgabriel.net

## Math and Science – Mrs. Langenkamp

### Science

The book used in science is Glencoe's Earth Science. This is the same series that the 7th and 8th grade are using. It is a very 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.**

The book is set up in Units. We may or may not cover the entire unit since the book has more information than we have school days. Each chapter contains three to four sections. We will spend about a week to a week and a half on each section. Typically for each section, I will present the same information four to five different 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: discussions of the material; labs; foldables; lecture; answering questions; review worksheets. Notes will be given as a way to focus their study for the quizzes.

The student 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. The following cooperative lab rules are designed to provide the best learning environment while keeping safety in mind.

**LISTEN** — Listen to all teacher instructions and ask for clarifications.

Listen to the ideas of your group members.

**FOLLOW** — Follow all directions exactly as stated.

**TRY** — Do your assigned job and work cooperatively in your group to meet the desired activity goal.

**RESPECT** - Respect members of the group and class. Use kind words and actions. Remember: what you do/don't do may keep you and your group from learning the concept.

**CARE** — Care about others AND yourself. Have fun BUT remember the purpose of the activity is to LEARN.

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 to help focus your study for the chapter test.

Extra credit: **Up to five points extra credit** will be given to anyone who turns in a well written summary on a **current** science topic. It must be neat and written in ink and in cursive. I will also need a copy of the article stapled to your summary. The article may come from the newspaper, a science magazine, or from the Internet if it is a reputable site (NASA, Glencoe...). The Courier Journal has a Science page that runs every week (in Monday's edition I believe). Please stay away from very short articles, as it will be hard to write a good summary on these. The points will be added to the test average. It is due on the day of the test. **NO EXCEPTIONS!**

## Math

We will be using the Prentice Hall Mathematics. This is a series for 6-8<sup>th</sup> grades. The seventh and eighth grades are using the same series. It focuses on problem solving and computation skills. The class will be designed using whole group instruction, small group instruction, cooperative group learning, peer tutoring, and independent work time.

The book and other programs are available on line at [www.PHSchool.com](http://www.PHSchool.com). I have provided this link on my website for your use. For those that do not have the Internet available to them, I have a CD that may be checked out for the year that also contains the book. Again any lost or broken CD's will need to be replaced by the student.

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.

Extra credit: **Up to five points extra credit** will be given to anyone who turns in a well written summary on a **current** science or math topic. It must be neat and written in ink and in cursive. I will also need a copy of the article stapled to your summary. The article may come from the newspaper, a science magazine, or from the Internet if it is a reputable site (NASA, Glencoe...). The Courier Journal has a Science page that runs every week (in Monday's edition I believe). Please stay away from very short articles, as it will be hard to write a good summary on these. This will be added to the average on the test. It must be turned in the day of the test. **NO EXCEPTIONS!**

## Grading Scale:

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

Home work .....	20%
Quizzes and Classwork (labs, participation, projects, and assignments).....	30%
Tests.....	50%

## Social Studies and Religion – Mrs. Bennett

### Social Studies

Focus: Ancient Civilizations

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. The majority of the class will be set up in the following format:

- tests will be given at the end of each chapter
- you will have written homework 2-3 nights/week
- I will write notes on the board or overhead projector, you will need to copy these completely
- I normally will give a study guide a week in advance for the test. Also use any notes and the chapter reviews to prepare for tests
- some quizzes will be given, these may be announced or unannounced
- 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).

#### 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

Once again please read any assigned material. Class participation will be especially important in this class. In class assignments will be given; some large, yet others will not be as detailed.

- tests will be given periodically, yet not necessarily at the end of each chapter
- some chapters will connect with the Social Studies, therefore we may skip a chapter and return to it later
- advance notice will be given for all tests (a week) and for all assignments.

#### Grading Scale

Classwork.....	40%
Participation .....	10%
Quizzes and Tests .....	50%

Extra Credit will be offered in both subjects **per quarter**. Five points can be earned in Religion. This will be based on class participation. For Social Studies, the student may read an article on line or in the newspaper on a topic discussed in class. A form will need to be filled out and turned in. I will have the forms for this in class. This will be worth 10 points. This must be turned in on time.

### **Literature, English, and Vocabulary – Sr Sharon Marie**

#### **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, short stories, poetry etc. Students will build vocabulary and spelling skills through the literature series and these skills will be evaluated as part of the literature grade.

Much of the homework given in literature will not be graded as such but will be 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.

In addition to the literature book, the sixth grade has several novels geared to their interest and reading ability which we will be using at various times throughout the year.

From time to time there may be 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, homework preparation and participation	30%
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 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.

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.

## Grading Scale

Development of Writing Skills	40%
Homework, classroom participation, quizzes	20%
English Tests	40%

## Extra Credit

There will be opportunities available for extra credit each quarter in both Literature and English. These may be given as part of the test or as an extra written assignment related to the topic that is currently being studied. Directives for earning extra credit will be given, in writing, to the students. It will be necessary for the student to follow the directives and turn in the assignment **on the date requested**. A student may earn up to 5 points on an extra credit assignment. The points will be added to the test average.

## 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](http://www.stgabriel.net). From there go to school, then staff, then sixth grade.

If homework is not turned in the day it is due a zero will be issued. If it is turned in on the following day, partial credit will be given. Turning in homework is the responsibility of the student. The teacher will NOT remind the student to turn in his/her late work.

All 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. Again, 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 again access your child's progress/grades via the program the school purchased two years ago called Power School. Grades will be made current by the 15<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of each month. This is a wonderful tool and we **strongly encourage** both the student and parent to use this to monitor academic progress.

**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 31<sup>st</sup>, December 15<sup>th</sup>, and February 14<sup>th</sup>.

**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 and Field Trips**

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.**

Any student who has the following in a term will automatically lose the next field trip privilege: one major, five minors, or three detentions.

### **Conduct Grades**

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

### **Uniform**

We'd like to clarify what is considered "neatly dressed and well groomed" (p22). 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 22/23.

### **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.

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parent or guardian signature

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parent or guardian signature

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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.