

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to sixth grade at Ida Middle School. We, the sixth grade staff, hope to make your son or daughter's experience an enjoyable one. Listed are a few common items to help your child be a successful student in all of our classes.

Policies for all 6th grade classes:

- **Planners** The school provides assignment books to all students for the purpose of keeping track of assignments. Since a great deal of parent/teacher communication is generated through the Planner, we strongly encourage you to read and sign these daily. Assignment books allow parents to see homework assigned and any teacher notes.
- **Grades and Attendance** The sixth grade teachers will use the school computer system, Infinite Campus, to input grades at least every two weeks. Paper copies of progress reports will not be sent home with your son/daughter. If you do not have access to a computer, if you do not know your password, or if you would like a paper copy of your son/daughter's updated progress, please contact the Middle School Office at 734-269-2220.
- **Homework** Late assignments will receive a reduced grade. Assignments turned in one day late will be reduced 10%, two days late will be reduced 50%, and a zero will be given after that. This policy will also apply should we go to online learning.
- **Absent Work** If a student is absent, it is his/her responsibility to check Google Classroom and complete any tasks that may be assigned. Not all work will be available on Google Classroom. When students return to school, they should ask for and complete any additional classwork and assignments missed during the absence.
- **Homework Help** Teachers are available to answer students' homework questions from 7:45-8:00 AM, during Skills Seminar, and immediately after school before students leave for the day.

Sixth Grade Classroom Rules

Come to class **prepared**. Bring all materials to your classes. Bring a book to read if you finish work early.
Listen and follow directions.
Raise your hand to respond to discussions and ask questions.
Respect others and their property.

Advice from former students:

Always do your class work and homework, and don't forget to turn it in!

If you don't understand something – **ASK** a teacher.

Pay attention during class.

Stay organized – it's much easier to find stuff that way.

If you have a test coming up, practice for it.

ELA 6 - 2022-2023 Teacher: Renee Merkel

Mode of Communication: My main mode of communication with the students will be Google Classroom. My email address is merkel@idaschools.org. Parents/Guardians can contact me with any questions regarding their child's learning. If you would like to speak with me directly, my planning hour is from 2:18 - 3:10 @ (734) 269-9003 extension 2030.

Curriculum: In Sixth Grade English, we will practice communication skills. These skills include reading, writing, speaking, and listening and building vocabulary. We will practice writing narrative, expository, and argumentative, and many smaller pieces throughout the year. Students will also explore prefix, suffix and root word meanings.

Modes of Instruction: All weekly agendas will be posted on Google Classroom on Monday. If a student is out of the classroom for an extended period of time, I will arrange for some of the work to be posted on Google Classroom or picked up in the office. No Red Ink will be used for supplemental grammar practice for many homework assignments.

Classroom Management: I will be implementing a "Teams and Themes" approach to classroom management this year. Each class will be put into teams of four with various roles for each team member. The teams will be competing for points for a 9-week period. At the end of 9 weeks, the two teams with the most points will be awarded coupon books that can be used in the classroom. At no time will I award or subtract points on individual grades. At the start of the second marking period, everyone on the two teams with the most points will be team leaders of their own teams. I have two major themes in my classroom: respect and responsibility. I feel every violation of classroom expectations will fall under one of these categories. I will issue two warnings that a student violated a theme of class. On the second warning, their name will go in my book and a call will be made home. On the third warning, the student will be expected to write a 3-paragraph essay outlining the theme, how they went wrong and how they will improve their behavior. This essay will be reviewed, corrected for mistakes and returned to the student for correction. I will not accept an essay as complete until there are three or fewer mistakes.

Materials Needed:

- Two spiral-bound notebooks
- Two-pocket folder
- Multi-colored highlighters and colored pencils
- Pencils, regular or mechanical
- One box of tissues

I look forward to working with your child this year. My focus will always be to try and understand what is best for him or her. You can play a vital role in helping me give the best education to your child by being in communication with me about any concerns you or your child may have in my class. I will do my best to reach out to you with more praises than concerns.

6th Grade Social Studies, Mr. Wintersteen Rm 29

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to sixth grade Social Studies at Ida Middle School. I'm excited to start a new school year and hope to make your son or daughter's experience an enjoyable one. Listed below are a few items to know in order for your child to be a successful student in my class.

Curriculum and Required Materials

- The curriculum for 6th grade Social Studies is aligned with the Michigan Department of Education's Content Standards for Social Studies.
- The social studies curriculum is a geography-based course which introduces students to the physical and human geography of the world. Beginning with a spatial way of thinking, students will explore a variety of thematic maps to illustrate how the earth is represented, the tools of geography, along with the Geographic Inquiry process to answer geography related questions. Students will examine a variety of global issues that come from human activities such as population change, migration, urbanization, resource use, globalization and economic interdependence, and the interactions among nations. Furthermore, students will explore how humans have used, adapted, or modified their environment and the consequences of those actions.

Assignment book	Colored Pencils	Highlighter	Filler Paper
Blue and black pen	Pencils	1-1.5 inch binder	5 pack of dividers with tabs

Google Classroom

- Google Classroom will be used periodically throughout the school year. The weekly agenda will be posted on Google Classroom on Monday. Extra copies of maps, lesson notes, [the Geography Alive textbook](#), and additional course material will be posted on Google Classroom.

Grading

- Social Studies grades will be updated using Infinite Campus. You can monitor your child's grades using your Infinite Campus account. If you do not know your password please contact the Middle School Office at (734) 269-2220.
- Assignments should be completed and turned in the next time students are in school. Late assignments will result in a reduced grade. Assignments turned in one day late will be reduced 10%, two days late will be reduced 50%, and a zero will be given after that.
- Tests, quizzes, and projects/investigations will count for **60%** of the overall grade.
- Classwork and Homework will count for **40%** of the overall grade.

Contact Information

- mwinters@idaschools.org
- 734-269-9003 Ext. 2029

Skills Seminar/Enrichment (for students not in band class)

This will be a 12 week class for students that will focus on;

- Introducing students to as many careers and career clusters as possible. Additionally, students will examine their skills and interests to determine a career cluster that best suits them.
- Students will practice informational reading and informational reading strategies
- Students will also check and reflect on their grades once a week.

Materials- assignment book, pencils, folder

Thank you,

Mr. Winterton

Mr. Green's 6th Grade Math-

Curriculum and Required Materials

➤ The curriculum for 6th grade math is aligned with the Michigan Department of Education's Content Standards for math.

➤ The Saxon math curriculum is a spiraled approach which means many topics will be repeated throughout the year. This approach allows students to review topics that they may have struggled with in earlier lessons and keeps them from "forgetting" topics throughout the course of the year. It's a wonderful and very effective method.

Materials

3 Ring Binder

Spiral Notebook

Protractor and Ruler (optional)

Pencils

5 tab dividers (optional)

Grading

➤ Grades will be updated using Infinite Campus. You should monitor your child's grades by logging into their account. If you do not know your password, please contact the Middle School Office at (734) 269-2220. Be aware, Infinite Campus is a new program this year that will be taking the place of Home Access Center. Not all assignments will be graded, and many will be self-checked (with the exceptions of test). All homework assignments are worth 5 points and test are worth 10. It is set up like this to help prevent dishonesty on homework assignments. For example, if you get a 100% on your homework but fail the quiz your grade will reflect the fact that you truly do not understand the concept for whatever reason. Please don't let this intimidate you. I am here to help. If you put in the effort and do your own work, **you will be successful! I promise😊**. Students in the past have really liked the points system that I use. It allows for mistakes to be made on the homework without a major drop in your grade. See the example below and let me or your child know if you have any questions. It will be explained to them in class.

Homework Scale

Actual Percentage	Points Earned
81-100	5
61-80	4
41-60	3
21-40	2
0-20	1

Test/Quiz Scale

Actual Percentage	Points Earned
91-100	10
81-90	9
71-80	8
61-70	7
51-60	6
41-50	5
31-40	4
21-30	3
11-20	2
0-10	1

Google Classroom

➤ Google Classroom may be used periodically throughout the school year. Videos, review work, and additional practice may be posted for students to use as supplemental help. Google Classroom is also a great way to keep track of the weekly assignments as they will be posted each Monday. The posted videos may also be helpful for reviewing or if a student is absent.

Contact Information

➤ green@idaschools.org

➤ 734-269-9003 Ext. 2031

Mrs. Harmon 6th grade Science and Skills Seminar

Contact Information: harmon@idaschools.org

734-269-9003 Ext 2033

Communication: Planners, Google Classroom, School e-mail

Please check and sign the planners daily after reviewing the student work.

Grades: Infinite Campus

Curriculum:

Science- In sixth grade at Ida, we study all the Michigan Middle School Life Science Standards (Ecosystems, Body Systems, Cells, Heredity, Adaptations and Survival, Investigations, Communication)

Skills Seminar (Semester class for those not in band) – We study science skills – informational reading, writing, scientific method, metric system, and investigations.

Assessments: Both formative and summative assessments will be given. Formative are grades given for assignments, activities, and quizzes that guide learning toward the goal. Summative grades are activities, tests, and projects that show if the concepts and skills have been mastered.

Student Responsibilities

- Check Planner/Google Classroom daily. Read all assignment directions.
- Complete your assigned work by the due date.
- Study vocabulary and concepts as they are learned and review them often so that you are prepared when a test comes.
- Please don't get stressed. Ask clarifying questions when you need help or don't understand.
- Be respectful to yourself, teachers and peers.

Parent/Caregiver/ Family Responsibilities

- Help students establish and follow regular daily routines
- Review work assigned to the student. Encourage them to tell you about what they are learning.
- Encourage students to **get enough sleep**. Keep regular bedtimes.
- **Set sensible time limits for technology use. I suggest making sure there is No Access to technology during the night.**
- **Please don't get stressed. Communicate** with me if you or your child is struggling.

I am looking forward to a great year with your wonderful children!

Mrs. Harmon

Reading 6 (Students will rotate every nine weeks)

Curriculum and Required materials

- Assignment books (Planners)
- Folder
- Pencils
- Silent Reading Book

We will be reading four excellent novels this school year. We will dive deep into each novel and have discussions about the stories. All of the literature standards will be met through the use of these texts. The novels we will be reading include:

- My Side of the Mountain by Jean Craighead George (Mr. Green)
- Hatchet by Gary Paulsen (Mr. Wintersteen)
- Tuck Everlasting by Natalie Babbitt (Mrs. Merkel)
- The Boys Who Challenged Hitler by Phillip Hoose (Mrs. Harmon)

Students will be given 15 minutes each day to read silently. They need to come to class with their books each day, prepared to read. In addition to the time they get in class to read they should also be reading at least 20 minutes each night. Students will have access to the school library to get books for silent reading.

Please **sign and return** to acknowledge that you have received and read this letter.

Print Student's name _____

Print Parent's name _____

Parent Signature _____

Date _____

Are you interested in being notified to help with dissections in science?

_____ Yes, I would possibly be interested in assisting with labs this year.

_____ No, thank you.

E-mail address or Telephone Number if interested _____