



Welcome Back!

August/September 2015

All About Sixth Grade

You're a sixth grader now! Congratulations! In sixth grade you will build on the knowledge you have gained throughout all of your school years.

Throughout our social studies units we will study the Western Hemisphere with a focus on our neighbors: Mexico, South America, and Canada. We will learn about the cultures, geography, and colonization of these lands. Current events will also be discussed in class.

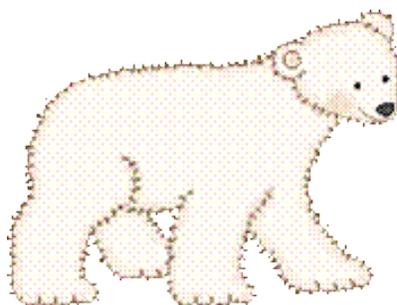
Students will focus their science studies in the areas of Earth, physical, and life sciences. A study of Earth's waters will stress the importance of a clean freshwater supply and emphasize the vastness and diversity of the intriguing ocean biome and it's effect on climate. Students will become familiar with the characteristics of Earth's atmosphere including characteristics at various levels, the movement of air, the phenomena of weather, and the significance of air quality. Studying sound and light will enable students to describe the properties of waves, the movement of energy, and their importance in the natural world. A life science unit will include an in depth understanding of cell structures and functions and an introduction to heredity.

Language is a year of writing a variety of genres. Students will master the complete paragraph and strengthen knowledge of vocabulary, word choice, voice, and build confidence in the many facets of writing. Mechanics will be reviewed and polishing will promote author's craft through revising and editing. Students will develop public speaking skills through practice and presentation. Grammar is a key component throughout the sixth grade year with an emphasis on pronoun usage.

A love of reading is the priority. Students develop an awareness of genre choices and

discover hidden adventures in all books. Exposure to short stories, poetry, biographies, memoirs, Scope Magazines, trade books, plays, and more.

In math, students will work through the Connected Mathematics series (CMP3). CMP3 helps students to organize and consolidate their mathematical thinking through communication with peers and teachers. Students will also analyze and evaluate their mathematical thinking as well as the strategies of others and use the language of mathematics to express mathematical ideas precisely. Being able to critically discuss mathematics and have a deeper understanding of math takes time and effort. Student homework is practice of concepts taught that day or from a previous day to reinforce what students need to know. When students bring math homework home, please do not allow your child to *actively* struggle through the math for more than twenty minutes. If they are struggling, sign their assignment and encourage them to talk to their math teacher as they may need more time with their teacher. If your child is understanding the assignment, and you feel he or she has an understanding of the work, please have him or her complete the assignment. Our goal as math teachers is for students to develop an understanding of mathematical concepts and a love of math.



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- Voice Mail at night or before school 779-7922
- During the school day call 779-7922
- Write a note in the assignment notebook
- If you have an urgent message to give your child, please contact **the office**.

Welcome Back!

Skyward Family & Student Access

As we continue to encourage organization and self-management, teachers keep their grades updated to help students and parents be informed of student progress. Students will receive their own Skyward password the first week of school. Please check Skyward at least once a week with your child and discuss their progress.

Teachers encourage students to check Skyward frequently at school during their Help period. Late/Missing Assignments are marked as such in Skyward.

There's also a free Skyward app that students and parents can download to access grades from anywhere!

Go to HASD.org for the link on the left-hand side of the home page.

There are two
lasting bequests
we can give our
children. One is
roots. The other
is wings.

~Hodding Carter,
Jr.

Classroom Rules

Our classroom will use the following common sense rules:

1. Follow directions the first time.
2. Raise your hand to be recognized before speaking.
3. Keep your hands, feet, and objects to yourself.
4. Be responsible for your belongings and assignments.
5. Be considerate of others-No "put downs".

Positive Consequences

Positive consequences are great rewards students choose to receive by behaving appropriately. These rewards recognize students who display appropriate classroom behavior, while at the same time, prompt those students presenting discipline problems to change their behavior.

Students choosing to be responsible will also have opportunities to help set up class activities and projects. Responsible students may be asked to help with special situations such as helping teachers deliver messages, assisting substitute teachers, and more.



Assignment Notebooks Save Sanity

Hortonville Middle School provides each student an assignment notebook at the beginning of the school year to help students with organization.

Students should carry their assignment notebooks to each class and should write down their assignments in their planners. This will help them remember due dates and stay organized throughout the school year.

This is a wonderful communication tool between home and school. For the first few weeks all notebooks will be checked by homeroom teachers. Sixth grade is a transition year where we expect students to take responsibility for their learning and organization. If a student is struggling with organization we will continue to check their assignment notebook. Please contact your child's homeroom teacher if you have concerns.



Late Assignments and Correcting Assignments

All assignments are due at the beginning of each class period. The first time a student does not turn in an assignment on time, a note will be sent home to parents in the assignment notebook and recess privileges will be taken away until the work is completed.

Absent students have the same number of days as their absence to make up their work. If you're going on vacation, we'll be glad to get work together ahead of time.

We also want children to understand the concepts and skills taught in class. Our goal is for

your child to learn at their highest level. If a student does poorly on an assignment or test, we will require them to **correct** the assignment/test. It's very difficult to move on to new concepts if the previous concepts are not learned. Let's strive for quality the first time!

It is not only for what we do that we are held responsible, but also for what we do not do.

John Baptiste Molière~



Corrected work is returned frequently. Please check your child's take home folder for corrected assignments. **Students are able to correct all assignments to improve their grades and retake tests (after extra practice).**

The take home folder will have pockets labeled. In the "To Do" pocket will be practice work, permission slips, etc. These will need to be brought back to school. The "Done" pocket will have graded work to share with parents as well as information for home.

Snack Time

We will have a morning snack time daily during **third hour**. Please send healthy snacks such as fruit, vegetables, peanut butter or cheese crackers, yogurt, etc. with your child. Candy is unacceptable as a snack because it will not help children stay energized for long. Special treats for birthdays or other events are welcome.

Students can also bring water bottles to drink water throughout the day. Please no additives and wash bottles frequently.



Students will be graded on a percent scale. Individual teachers will give their students more information about how they will be graded. The Hortonville School District Grading Scale is shown below.

A+	97-100%	B-	80-82%	D	63-66%
A	93-96%	C+	77-79%	D-	60-62%
A-	90-92%	C	73-76%	F	59% and below
B+	87-89%	C-	70-72%		
B	83-86%	D+	67-69%		

Other Important Information

- Library will be once a week during reading classes on Thursdays.
- Students are required to go outside all school year during recess. Please make sure they dress accordingly.

Visit the Sixth Grade Website at www.hasd.org

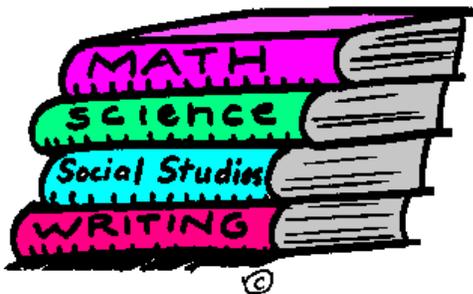
Polar Bear Way

Hortonville Middle School's whole school behavior policy is the "Polar Bear Way". Students and parents will receive copies of the Polar Bear Way matrix at the beginning of the school year so that they understand school expectations. Students who break school rules may receive discipline referrals to the principal or school counselor.



Grading Scale

Help Period Expectations



Students should bring their assignment notebooks, all unfinished work and supplies, take home folder, pencil box, and an independent reading book to Help period each day. This is a time for them to finish assignments, notes, and study for future tests.

Students needing additional help can go to other sixth grade classrooms to receive extra instruction. They must check in with their homeroom teacher first. Sixth graders should not go to other grades/exploratories during this time unless they have a pass and their homeroom teacher has given her permission.