

Welcome to the Travelers Team!

Expectations

Middle school students are at an age where they know exactly how they are expected to behave in a school setting. In sixth grade, this means that we can expect to give students more responsibilities, as well as more choices and privileges. Failure to behave appropriately must result in not getting those responsibilities, choices, and privileges.

A very important aspect of being a middle school student is attendance. It is important to be present for presentations, daily-point assignments, and activities that are impossible to make up. If a student must be absent, parents may call Mrs. Parson at 523-2628 to request homework from team teachers. Otherwise, students should be sure to visit core teachers during Home Room the first day back to find out what was missed. Assignments will not be prepared in advance for planned elective absences.

We expect assignments to be turned in on time, in the correct place. Late work will result in the docking of points and time spent in study hall making up work, rather than getting to attend ICMM on Fridays.

Students are expected to bring writing utensils, their planner, and a free reading book EVERY DAY to EVERY CLASS, with no exceptions! Students are also expected to bring anything else needed for class.

Middle school is a time where parents need to ease back and let their children become more responsible for themselves, but students still need their parents to check in once in awhile to make sure things at school are going the way they should. Please check our web site and the online grade books at least once a week.

Course Descriptions

Sixth Grade Social Studies

This course focuses on ancient world history and geography. The fundamentals of geography and the Five Themes of Geography will be examined in the Middle East, Africa, and Asia. Exploration of the regions will be accomplished through the strands of citizenship, culture, current events/issues, history, economics, and government. Included in this course will be:

- Map reading skills
- The study of how people interact with their environments.
- The study of characteristics and development of major political ideologies and types of government.
- The study of economic development and distribution of resources.
- The study of the characteristics and qualities of a good citizen.
- The history and culture of Mesopotamia, China, India, Egypt, and Ancient Greece and Rome.

Sixth Grade Science

A combination of hands-on investigations, reading, and use of technology is used to help sixth grade science students complete the following major instructional goals:

- Apply concepts of scientific inquiry.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the influence of scientific discovery on society.
- Investigate and understand the properties and structures of matter.
- Identify source of energy and their interaction with matter.
- Investigate relationships between force, motion, and energy.
- Discover the properties of various rocks and minerals. Travelers Team Syllabus 2

Sixth Grade English

This course includes a systematic reinforcement and extension of communication arts skills begun in elementary school. Sixth grade English is structured around development of communication skills which include listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Students will have the opportunity to develop strategies and knowledge to:

- Strengthen reading comprehension and the ability to analyze various types of text.
- Build vocabulary and spelling skills.
- Use grammar as a tool for analyzing reading and writing.
- Demonstrate the writing process and 6 Traits of writing by producing various forms of writing.
- Incorporate effective speaking and listening techniques for the purpose of evaluating and communicating ideas orally with partners and/or groups.
- Select and use appropriate reference sources to interpret and apply information.

Sixth Grade Mathematics

This course focuses on problem solving strategies for both routine and non-routine problems. In order to solve problems, sixth grade students will:

- Develop number sense and order relations for whole numbers, decimals, and fraction.
- Extend the operations to fractions and decimals.
- Develop estimation and mental computation strategies.
- Develop and apply number theory.
- Solve simple equations.
- Select and use English and metric measurement.
- Classify, compare, and describe geometric shapes.
- Collect and analyze statistical data.

Sixth Grade Reading

The purpose of the middle school reading program is to provide students the opportunity to extend and refine the habits, attitudes, skills, and competencies of a life-long reader. Strategies and skills will be developed to assist the learner in developing independence with the reading process.

Sixth Grade Health

The intent of the SPS Health Program is to help students understand the physical, mental, and social changes of early adolescence. They will analyze and select acceptable ways of expressing emotions and interaction with other that are consistent with a healthy, non-violent lifestyle. Students will also explore the functions of the human body systems, nutrition, hygiene, and emergency procedures such as basic first aid.

World Cultures Exploratory

In order to help students understand the similarities and differences between cultures throughout the world, classes will explore the language, folk tales, festivals, music, art, games, and food of three world regions of their choice.

This exploratory is on a pass/fail grading system, based solely on student participation. Students who focus on activities and what is being learned, created, and discussed will pass this exploratory.