Moulton Middle School
Sixth Grade! Expectations!

Dear Parent/Guardian:

We are looking forward to a great year of learning with your child.

The sixth grade year can be a challenging transition as it is one of the most significant developmental stages children experience in middle school. Your student will be adjusting to a schedule with several new teachers and the increased expectations of the sixth grade state learning standards. In an effort to ease this transition from Elementary to Middle School the following is a list of the sixth grade expectations that will help us facilitate your child's learning. Please review the following information with your child.

Assignment Books/Student Planner: (Received at Registration)

- Homework assignments are written on the board of each classroom daily. Time is provided for students to copy the assignments in their planner during class. Flex teachers will check assignment books at the end of the day to ensure assignments are written down correctly.
- Students will use their assignment books to record all homework assignments, as well as upcoming tests and project due dates. Students are to take their assignment books to every class period every day.
- If a student loses their assignment book she/he will need to get another one from the office.
- Please check your child's assignment notebook nightly so you are aware of all homework assignments, unfinished class work that needs to be completed as homework, and upcoming tests and project dates.

Homework Load:

The goal in assigning homework is to help students increase basic skills such as spelling, reading, and math, to review and practice what they've learned each day at school, prepare for class the next day, and/or research topics in more depth than time in school allows. Please encourage your child to be responsible and accountable for his/her assignments. This is an important year of transition as your child learns to adjust to the demands of homework. It is important for students to form good independent work-study habits, organization, and time management skills that will help him/her as he/she continues in school.

Checking assignment books nightly will inform you of your student's assignments. However, here is a brief overview of what type of homework assignment load to expect in each class.

Reading - All assignments are designed to be finished in class. However, if a student does not complete work in the class time allowed, it is assigned as homework. Students will also be expected to study at home for the quarterly literary terms tests.

English - Students will receive weekly spelling assignments on Monday that are due on Friday, the day of their spelling test. Students will occasionally receive grammar assignments for homework. Students may also need extra support studying for quizzes and tests as well as practicing speeches. All writing projects are completed in class.

Science—Science labs and activities will be completed in class. Students will occasionally have a quiz to study for at home.

Math - Homework will typically be assigned at the completion of each lesson. The number of problems will vary from 5 to 15, depending on their complexity. Students should expect 3 to 4 assignments per week. They will be given class time to get started on their homework and to ask any questions. Flex time at the end of the day can also be used to complete homework. Anything not finished at school will need to be done at home. We usually end our week with a short quiz and therefore we rarely have homework over the weekend.

Social Studies - The social studies curriculum that has been developed for 6th grade students is intensely focused on reading and writing skills. The curriculum is divided into 18 units of study. Each unit has a set of *identifications* (pictures) that are reviewed at the start of each lesson. Students are given participation points for answering the questions correctly. Students are also given what we call *historical questions*. They work on these questions in the classroom and at home. An appropriate writing response requires students to restate the question, answer the question accurately, and to include evidence that supports their response. In addition, students are required to complete a *semester project*. The students are given 10 separate project options to choose from and must create an original representation of their time and talent. In our professional opinion, we believe that this teaching strategy is the most beneficial to students at this grade level.

Student Absences:

We request that you ask for class work/homework **prior to any anticipated absence** so that your student will be caught up with work when he/she returns to class. Please understand that we cannot always predict exactly how much of a lesson will be covered while your student is gone so some flexibility may be required. Upon returning from any **unanticipated absence**, it is each student's responsibility to obtain the make-up work packet which will be located on the make-up work stand across from the office. Make-up work is due within two days of return to school.

Grading Practices:

All class work and homework should be completed and turned in by the due date. An assignment is considered late when the student:

- does not complete the assignment.
- does the wrong assignment.
- leaves the assignment at home or on the bus.
- loses the assignment.

If your student has a late assignment he/she will be sent to the Library during lunch so that he/she will have an opportunity to make up the assignment without penalty. If your student does not complete the assignment during lunch a grade deduction will be made. Refusal to attend will result in a zero on the assignment.

If a student takes three zeroes in any one class they will receive a three zero slip which will be mailed home to notify you of the concern.

Tyler SIS:

Parents and students may view a teacher's grade book online by visiting the Tyler SIS portal on the school Website and entering the login name and password you were given at registration. Teachers typically update

their grade books multiple times a week. Please check the grade book regularly to make sure your child is staying current with assignments and meeting expectations.

Responsibility Recess:

At the end of each week we like to celebrate our responsible students by having a Responsibility Recess. Responsible students come to class prepared and ready to learn. Students are expected to bring the following things to every class each day:

- Assignment book
- Pencils
- Appropriate folder or binder
- Completed homework assignment
- Appropriate textbook
- JFF book

It is also the responsibility of the students to put their First AND Last names along with their Section number on each paper. This heading helps teachers ensure that credit is being recorded appropriately and alleviates any confusion over students who share first names.

If a student fails to come to class prepared with the required items or neglects to put their name on a paper he/she will receive a responsibility check, and the student will be unable to attend the Responsibility Recess on Friday.

PBIS:

Moulton Middle School utilizes a PBIS program. Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) is a proactive approach to establishing the behavior and social culture needed for all students in a school to achieve social, emotional and academic success. Students who exhibit appropriate behaviors will be rewarded with special opportunities and privileges throughout the school year.

Class Information:

Reading:

This year your child will be exposed to a variety of reading material that addresses a wide range of topics and themes. Your child will also learn the literary terms and skills necessary to fully enjoy reading. Your student will not have a textbook for reading class. We use a variety of different texts in class. If there is an assignment that requires the use of the text it will be sent home with the assignment. All assignments, study tools, and copies of texts can be located on our class website at https://sites.google.com/shelbyville.k12.il.us/6th-grade-reading.

English:

Students will receive grades based on a weighted point system. This means that tests, speeches, quizzes, and writing projects will be given a higher point value than homework assignments. In addition to your student's portfolio, students will be keeping a journal for written responses and reflections in class. Students will need a one-subject notebook for this. We will be focusing on vocabulary, spelling, grammar, speech, and different forms of media this year! We will also focus on informative, narrative, and persuasive writing. More information is available on our class website at mrspoguesroom.weebly.com.

Science: We will be doing some exciting things this year as we explore the Scientific World around us.

Students will have a "Science Reading Packet" for each unit. This packet is a copy of the Textbook chapter. We use the copy of the textbook so that students can highlight important information and write notes directly on the packet. This is kept in their science folder.

Math: The math curriculum is divided into modules which include: ratios, fractions & decimals, rational numbers, and expressions & equations. Students will receive a copy of each module, as we cover it, that includes all lessons, notes, and homework. The module we are currently working on needs to be kept in their math binder and brought to class with them every day. This year I hope to help my students develop mathematical resilience while appreciating and enjoying math.

Social Studies: The social studies curriculum has been developed with the intent to develop and enhance the reading and writing skills of our student population. The curriculum teaches students how to investigate historical questions by employing reading strategies such as sourcing, contextualizing, corroborating, and close reading. Instead of memorizing historical facts, students evaluate the trustworthiness of multiple perspectives on historical issues. They learn to make historical claims backed by documentary evidence.

Communication:

The sixth grade team understands that this is a year of transition and that there will be frequent questions or concerns. Open communication is key to ensuring that there are no misunderstandings and that each student is successful. Please do not hesitate to contact us.

We are looking forward to partnering with you to provide your child with an exciting year of learning. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

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