

Tuesday, September 8, 2010

Dear Sixth Grade Parents/Guardians,

I am writing a summary of the sixth grade academic expectations, so you may be able to help your student to succeed.

I am also including our discipline plan, homework and assignment policies, grading system, and the progress report and report card schedule.

Our communication is based on the weekly email and letter/folder I will be sending home every Monday. Please remember to look for the purple folder and sign the letter and that need to be signed. Send the folder the very next day.

Math Tutoring is available every Tuesday in the fifth grade classroom from 3:00 to 3:45 P.M., general tutoring in the eighth grade classroom on Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday, and Homework Center in the sixth grade classroom on Tuesday and the seventh grade classroom on Wednesday from 3:00 to 3:45 P.M.

RELIGION:

Students need to attend Mass every Sunday and write a reflection based on the homily. The reflection should be between 8 and 10 sentences. This work is graded only the first quarter. If your student is unable to go to Mass, he/she may read that Sunday's gospel and write a reflection on it. Please monitor your student to write **about** the homily or the gospel but never to copy the exact words from the gospel. The *Sacred Scriptures* for the Sunday Mass will be posted online every Friday.

Sixth grade students study mainly the *Hebrew Scriptures or Old Testament*. The chapter contains between five to seven lessons. At the end of every chapter, the students take a test. Please encourage your student to study after every lesson and not to wait until the day before the test to study the chapter.

School Mass is scheduled every Wednesday at 8:30 A.M. Girls must wear their skirts and white knee socks; boys must wear long slacks.

Parents are invited to attend Mass with us.

LITERATURE:

Students read and analyze literature from a textbook or one of the following novels: *Number the Stars*, *The Miracle Worker*, or *Dragonwings*. Students receive a questionnaire about the story they are reading every Friday. They need to answer the questionnaire by Tuesday or Wednesday of the following week in order to discuss those answers as a group. After the group discussion on the answers, students write the final draft in complete powerful sentences in a notebook which is due on Friday. Students receive extra points if the test is handed in on Thursday.

Vocabulary tests are part of the literature grade. A vocabulary list, based on the story they are reading, is given to students on Thursdays. The vocabulary tests are usually scheduled every Thursday; so, students have a whole week to study for this test.

Accelerated Reader is also part of the literature grade. Students must read at least four A.R. books per quarter and pass the test of those books with 80% score or higher.

LANGUAGE ARTS:

It is very important that students learn and distinguish all parts of the speech, as well as use punctuation/mechanics properly. For this reason, language homework is assigned almost every day. The tests are usually given in the middle and the end of the unit. Students also need to keep studying the prepositions all year long. They will have test on the prepositions at least once a month.

Writing is part of language arts. Students will be guided to write clear powerful sentences first, then powerful paragraphs, and hopefully 500-word essays.

SPELLING:

Students work on their spelling books or spellers in the classroom. We check the answers every Tuesday. Students need to write each word five times before the midweek test on Wednesday. This assignment may be done on the weekends. If your student doesn't get 100% on the test on Wednesday, he/she needs to write all the words again three times to be ready to retake the test on Friday.

MATHEMATICS:

My goal is to help student to love math. I will be guiding students to learn or review math concepts on a daily basis. They will have homework every day, but I give enough time to work on the assignment in the classroom. Encourage your student to ask questions until the concept is understood. Students don't have to follow my method; so, you may want to help your student using your method. Remember the goal. Let's help our students to love this subject. The tests are scheduled for the middle and the end of every chapter.

SOCIAL STUDIES:

The sixth graders will be studying the ancient cultures of the Eastern Hemisphere. After I explain each lesson, students receive a study guide. A test comes after the study guide. The test is based on the study guide; therefore it is very important that the students study this study guide right after it is corrected. The students take a chapter test at the end of every chapter. A long-term ancient culture project will be assigned in April or May. Instructions and details on this project will be sent home a month before the due date.

SCIENCE:

I follow the same format that in social studies. However, instead of a long-term project, some experimental activities will be done in the classroom or assigned to be done at home.

IMPORTANT :

Remember that every piece of work counts for your student's grade. Please make sure your son/daughter makes up ALL work not submitted due to illness or other kind of absences. Homework will be posted daily and tests every Monday on our web site www.school.saintpiusx.org. Schoolwork that is not finish in the classroom becomes homework automatically unless otherwise advised.

Any homework on any subject with a low score can be redone the following day. Encourage your student to take advantage of this opportunity to improve his/her learning and therefore his/her grades.

Should you have any question or concern, please contact me. Remember to call the office in advance for an appointment at 619-422-2015 or send me an email at gvecchitto@saintpiusx.org .

Please continue your prayers for a wonderful successful school year.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Vecchitto

**PROGRESS REPORTS & REPORT CARD
SCHEDULES
2010 - 2011**

First Quarter

Progress Report – October 8
End of 1st Quarter – November 5
Report Card Conferences – November 17-19

Second Quarter

Progress Reports – December 10
End of 2nd Quarter – January 21
Report Cards go home – February 4

Third Quarter

Progress Reports - February 25
End of 3rd Quarter – March 25
Report Cards go home – April 8

Fourth Quarter

Progress Reports - May 13
End of 4th Quarter – June 17
Report Cards go home – June 17

Demerits in a Quarter

0 - 5 A

6 - 10 B

11 - 15 C

16 - 20 D

21 or more F

GRADING SYSTEM

All homework and classwork will be checked off daily and given 35% of the total grade. Every single piece of work counts. Tests and quizzes are given 65% of the total grade.

Letter grades are based on the following percentage:

Grade	Percentage
A	100-93
A-	92-90
B+	89-87
B	86-83
B-	82-80
C+	79-77
C	76-73
C-	72-70
D+	69-67
D	66-63
D-	62-60
F	59-0