

Welcome to Sixth Grade!

The Lord created each one of us and this wonderful world for us to explore and love. Respecting the Lord is to use the talents we have for good and to recognize each person as a creation of the Lord's. Our school theme this year is from the book of Deuteronomy.

“Arise, begin your journey...”

As we go through each day both at school and at home, we should know that we have choices in how we want to react. The choices we make create our spiritual body and affect those around us. When we choose to put good ideas, thoughts and feelings into our daily lives, we are able to create a good learning environment.

The Lord has asked us not to take His name in vain.
Keeping the Lord's name holy allows us to ask Him for help and guidance in our lives. This is a foundation for all of us as we build our relationship with the Lord.

This is a booklet of information that will help you find your way around the classroom and become familiar with the routines.

When you get to school:

- The classroom is open at 7:45. At 8:00am you need to be in the classroom or you will need to get a late slip from Mrs. Lambertus. Repeated lateness results in consequences.
- Every other Monday we help the first graders at the beginning of the morning, so you need to be on time.
- Repeated lateness results in consequences (never fun, so just be on time, ok?).
- **Greet Mrs. Friesen first thing each day.** Come straight over to my desk or wherever I am and say good

morning before you do anything else. This is good manners and it starts the day off right! If I have to ask you to do it, it is no longer good manners.

- Always read the board when you come in. You will always find instructions. Be sure to get right to work.

General classroom procedures:

- **“Always leave a place better than you found it.”** This applies to everywhere you go! Clean up after yourself and others if you need to. Leave each person you encounter better than you found them. Treat classmates with kindness and respect at all times.
- The whole school has a **“hands off” policy**. This means you are supposed to keep your hands to yourself at all times.
- **Sharpen pencils** *between* classes.
- **Drawing on your desk, labels, folders or binders, is not permitted. Nothing should be taped or stuck to your desk. You will clean your own desk and chair at the end of the year.**
- Please raise your hand when you need to get a drink or you need to use the bathroom. Take advantage of your breaks! If you are desperate, try to wait until after instructions are given.
- When Mrs. Friesen rings the bell, claps her hands, or asks for your attention in any way: all movement and speech is to **stop immediately and you need to be quiet and listen.** (This is a great way to earn marbles!)
- Only 4 people in the lofts so we can all be safe and keep the privilege of lofts.

- When working in the hall, I expect you to work, using your **quiet voice**, or your hallway privileges may be revoked.
- We walk silently, work quietly in the hallways.
- Be familiar with the **dress code** in the school handbook and make sure all your clothes meet the requirements. If you have a question about something, bring it to school and we will figure it out together.
- If you lose a **photocopied piece of homework** you need to make a plan! Call a friend? Have someone send you a picture of it? Take responsibility for your mistake.
- Please take regular **showers** every night or morning and **wash your hands EVERY** time you use the washroom. This habit greatly reduces the risk of spreading unwanted germs. Soap is best - otherwise you are just giving the germs a drink☺
- There is hand sanitizer available by both doors: you may choose to use these after blowing your nose, etc.
- **Cell phones are to be powered off until you have left the school building. You may not use them in any form until after you leave the school building. They may be taken from you if you use them in the school, even to call home.**

Trash:

- Please put food trash in the large **black trash-bags**. This will be emptied regularly so that our classroom doesn't get stinky! The **clear bags** are for paper recycling only. We do not use plastic water bottles or utensils in this classroom as they are difficult to recycle and plastic waste is dangerous to our planet. If you bring these in with you, they will need to go home with you to be recycled.

Classroom jobs:

- A list of jobs is posted at the back of the room. They are to be done on Fridays during clean-up time. **Trash and chalkboard people need to check each day to see if they need to do their jobs.**
- Jobs are assigned for a month, by color groups. That way you can get really good at it!
- There is a card that explains how to do each job. Read the whole card at the beginning of the month because many of the jobs have several parts to them.

You will **also** be asked to clean your desk every Friday during clean up time. First do your classroom job and then you need to clean your desk before you can go home. If your desk is a real mess, you may have to stay late on Fridays which can be a real pain if all of your friends are going out the door and you are stuck there with a pile of junky papers. Remember that your desk is for school. Toys belong at home. ☺

Weekly Due Dates:

Recitations:

- *You are responsible for memorizing the current recitation by the **Thursday** of the week you receive it. That way you will have a whole week of saying the recitation from memory at chapel. A copy of it will be posted.*
- *After you say the recitation, you will get a star to put on the chart.*

MTPs:

- *These are math pages assigned on Monday and due on Wednesday*

Spelling:

- *The workbook pages are due on Thursday.*
- *You will take a yellow study sheet home on Wednesday night. This will either be completed or signed by a parent to say that you studied for the test. The test will be on Thursday each week (unless we have a short week.)*

Study Halls:

- *Study halls are given for incomplete /not handed in homework.*

Drills:

- When the fire alarm goes off, all talking is to immediately stop. Sometimes instructions are given over the intercom and they can be hard to hear, so the classroom needs to be quiet so we can all hear what we are to do.
- Usually we will line up at the back door to go out to Simons's Field.
- Be still, quiet and co-operative and remember not to talk until I give you permission. **Even if other classes are talking or playing clapping games we will not. I expect you to set an example and remain completely silent until we are walking back. Learning how to stay quiet and remain calm is part of the drill. You are in 6th grade and I just expect you to be able to do this.**

Color Groups and Class Numbers:

- Every student in the class has been assigned to one of four color groups. I will be using these groups to organize you throughout the year. For instance, I may say, "I will conference with the yellow students this

week about the books they are reading." These groups stay the same for the whole year.

- Also, each student has been assigned a class number for the year. Your number will be with a six before it for 6th grade. **Please memorize your class number.**
- These numbers are written on many of your school materials (textbooks, calculators, etc) and identify them as yours. You are responsible for taking care of these things. If you lose or damage them, you will need to bring in money to replace them.

Binders:

- You should have a tabbed section in your binder for all subjects.
- Place all sheets of paper given to you directly into your binder when you receive it (i.e. history in history section, etc.). **DO NOT JUST STUFF IT IN YOUR DESK!** If you can learn this habit you will always be grateful. 😊
- All papers are to be kept until you have been tested on that unit. After a test is passed, all papers can then be removed from that section of your binder and **taken home.**
- Please note that sometimes we have open note tests and you will really need to have good notes that are well organized.
- Binders are to be kept neat at all times. Occasionally I will check everyone's binders to see:

- that papers are where they should be
- there aren't loose papers floating around
- old papers have been thrown away
- If I see that your binder is messy, I will put you on a "Binder Check". This means that your name goes up on the board and you have 24 hours to show me your beautifully organized binder. If it isn't neat, you will stay after school until it meets my approval. Binders are also to be kept clean.

Lunch:

- Lunch is to be eaten at your desk, sitting down.
- No trading food. Your parents think you are eating what you bring to school.
- No asking other people for their food. No begging. It is really hard to enjoy a delicious lunch if 8 friends are drooling over your food!
- Reusable plates and utensils are provided for you in 6th grade as you old enough to take responsibility for them.
- When using a utensil, plate or mug, please wash it with dish soap and a sponge and set it in the strainer to dry. Everyone cleans up after themselves in sixth grade!
- Please note: you cannot put food in the sink! I'd love to have a disposal, but we don't! First scrape food into the

trash and then clean your bowl, mug etc. and leave to dry. You are capable of cleaning up after yourself.

- **Each student will be assigned a day** that they can use the microwave for lunch. The list of days will be posted on the microwave by color groups.
 - Do not bring food that requires more than 2 1/2 minutes of cooking time. There just won't be time for everyone to cook if you do. This is really important.
 - Clean the microwave if your food spills in it.
 - Be careful not to overcook your food (it stinks!) and/or burn yourself (ouch!).
 - The privilege of using the microwave can be taken away if you do not use it responsibly.
 - If it's **not** your day you may choose to take a chance and wait in line as long as you understand **you may not get a turn.**
- I also have a toaster you can use any day.

Reward/ Discipline System:

- Marbles are earned for useful behaviors and lost due to rude or unhelpful behaviors.
- I do not award marbles if students ask for them.
- Here are examples of behaviors that may earn marbles: staying on task, being helpful, doing an extra good job on an assignment, finding a spelling mistake, coming up with a good idea, being kind, positive attitudes,

entering into a class discussion, getting 100% on a spelling test, etc.

- The following are examples of behaviors that could make the class lose marbles: not settling down, students **talking out of turn which is unfair to your classmates who may also want a chance to talk**, other uncharitable behavior.
- When the container is full we will have some sort of celebration like: pizza party, movie, extra play time etc.
- If your personal behavior is not acceptable, the whole class will not usually lose marbles. Instead, a **card system** is used. After each warning, you will flip a card at the front of the room. Every day you start with a green card. The following cards are blue, yellow and red. If you flip to a red card, you will be serving a 30-minute detention in the detention room the next day. Each additional infraction on a red card day will result in more detentions.
- An email will be sent to your parents, letting them know this. You may not be allowed to participate in after school sports the day the detention is served.
- Several detentions in a short amount of time may result in an in-school suspension.
- Please remember that when a card is flipped that **is** your reminder that your behavior is not acceptable and it gives you time to **change what you are doing** so that our classroom can be a safe and happy place to learn. If you **choose** to continue **you are choosing** a detention.
- Please note that at a teacher's discretion you may go straight to detention.

- Try to keep your mind open as to which country you might like to study. There are so many places to learn about and it can be fun to learn about something new!
- Most of the Independent Country Study work is done at school. We do lots of different projects like pretend travel journals, charts, maps, and collecting pictures. The final written project is a 5-7-page paper that covers three topics of your choice. It is a wonderful opportunity to learn about new places, become an expert on them and share your knowledge with other people! 😊

Homework:

*Homework is used to practice, prepare and enrich work we are doing in class. Homework is a tool for teaching independent organizational skills, responsibility and accountability. It is a great time for you to realize whether you understood something we covered in class or did not! **Remember this is YOUR education, your journey. Please let me know if you don't understand something or need more help. I want to help you; that is why I am a teacher😊.***

- You may have up to 60 minutes of homework Monday through Thursday nights. My goal is to not have more than 60 minutes a night. I want you to have time to be with your family and enjoy other interests. This is a good year to learn good study habits. **If you leave long term assignments until the last minute, you will have more than an hour of homework on some nights.**
- This includes 15 minutes of credit reading that is **required** every night. Reading from the WORD each day is such a valuable habit. Each page from the Old, New and Third Testaments is = 3 pages of credit reading.

- You **must** have an ongoing book to read in class.
- Every student works at a different pace. The above time is geared for students working at a steady pace without watching TV and/or taking regular breaks. I don't intend for anyone to spend more than an hour doing homework per night. *A good trick is to set a timer and stop it if you get up to make tea or play with the dog etc. That way you will know how much time you are spending on homework.*
- There is usually no homework over the weekend, but occasionally you may need to work on a long term assignment, or there may be a test the next week and you choose to study over the weekend. That is up to you.
- All homework is expected to be handed in by 8:00 a.m. the day it is due, with your name on it. **NO EXCUSES!** Well, okay there are actually two excuses! 1. A note from your parents saying that you worked really hard for too long (or some other good excuse) 2. An excuse from me over the phone because you called me and I said it was okay. Both of these excuses demonstrate to me that you have been **accountable** and **responsible** for your work even if you could not get it finished. Do not give me an excuse on the day it is due; that does not count and I have to give a study hall. You will still be expected to complete the work you did not hand in.
- Late assignments often result in a grade deduction. ***Each day it is late the grade will get lower and lower.***
- If a homework assignment is not handed in by 8am, you will be expected to do a 30-minute study hall in the upper computer lab the following day. You may need to do the assignment prior to that time. Each missing homework assignment earns a study hall. Ten study

halls in a term results in a daily study hall for the remainder of the term.

- An email will be sent to your parents, letting them know this. You may not be allowed to participate in after school sports and programs the day the detention is served.
- I will try to give you at least one week's notice for big tests; cramming at the last minute is rarely successful!
- If you have a question about homework, **please first call a classmate**. If you are still unsure you can call me here at school in the afternoons usually until 5:00 p.m. (215-370-3341) Your parent may also email me at Melinda.Friesen@bacs.org. You may call me at home in the evenings until 8:30pm, but I cannot guarantee that I will be able to speak to you at that time.

Food for thought: I would say that a successful year is 80% up to you, and 20% up to your teachers. You get out of any situation what you are willing to put in!

Let's have a great year in Sixth Grade!