



September 12, 2018

Dear Sixth Grade Parents,

Welcome to our classrooms! We are looking forward to a new year. We plan to enjoy our time together with the students as we explore new avenues.

Of course, we are all filled with ideas and plans about how to make this year a memorable one. As the year begins, both parents and teachers want the children to succeed academically, spiritually, and socially. We know that in order to accomplish our educational goals it is important for us to be on the same wavelengths when it comes to the children.

This year, the students will be transitioning between classes as they did last year. Mrs. Savage will be the homeroom and religion teacher for 6-1, as well as the ELA and Social Studies teacher for both sixth grade classes. Mrs. Lugones will be the homeroom teacher for 6-2, as well as the Math teacher for both sixth grades; Mrs. Delmonte will be teaching Science. We work very closely together and have a curriculum that stresses skills that will be used across disciplines.

It is our hope that by reading this, you and your child will understand what is expected of them each day of this school year.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Savage & Mrs. Lugones

Having a set routine is a major school-wide theme!



Morning Routine

Mornings are a great way to start the day off on a positive note! Students arrive in our classrooms beginning at 7:45AM. At this time, students are responsible for putting away their books and personal belongings as well as handing in notes and other forms. They take out necessary materials for their morning classes, which are displayed in the front of the classroom each day on the SmartBoard. This leads to a smoother transition from one class to the next. After their materials are ready, students engage in independent reading until morning prayers and announcements. **It is required for students to bring an independent reading book with them each day.** It is imperative that students arrive in homeroom by **8:00AM** to avoid being marked late. It is also important for students to arrive on time daily so that they do not miss classroom activities and lessons.

Sixth Grade Core Subjects

Due to the implementation of the Common Core Curriculum, the sixth grade team has focused on implementing cross-curricular integrated units. Each core subject's units are aligned with one another throughout the sixth grade. Vital skills will be reinforced in all classes to improve literacy and problem solving. To ensure a line of communication between teachers and parents, a bi-weekly letter will be written twice each month. The email addresses that we will use are ones you've provided on Option-C. If you would like to include another email address, please be sure to give us this information before you leave tonight. In an effort to "go green," these letters will be emailed to the address that you provided as well as placed on our class page. Please look for the "Bi-Weekly Letter" Folder in the "Resources" section of the website.

ELA

Mrs. Savage will be teaching ELA to both sixth grade classes. ELA includes reading, writing, vocabulary workshop, and grammar. Students will be expected to read to determine meaning of text, use correct strategies to assist in comprehension and maintain a personal reading list to reflect reading goals and accomplishments. Each night the students are expected to "read and respond". Students can select a book of their choice and should read independently for approximately 45 minutes. Following their reading, they are required to respond on post-it notes. At the end of the week, they will have a writing assignment pertaining to their week's reading.

In addition, students are expected to observe the rules of punctuation, grammar, capitalization, and spelling. Students will be taking a state assessment in ELA this year. This assessment will be given over a three day period in April/May 2019.

Social Studies

Mrs. Savage will also teach Social Studies to both sixth grade classes. The curriculum for this year will deal primarily with Ancient Civilizations. We will focus on early man and the development of ancient civilizations. We will study ancient Egypt, Greece, and Rome. Through the use of projects, primary sources, art, and literature, students will learn how earlier cultures grew and thrived and how these civilizations have impacted our society today.

Science

Mrs. Delmonte will also teach Science to both sixth grade classes. The curriculum this year focuses on Physical and Chemical Sciences. Through modeling, lab work, and research, the students will learn the science of the world around them. We will be making use of our STEM Lab this year to complete experiments and engineering projects. Our STEM program director, Mr. Frank Signorello, will be joining us again this year from the New York Hall of Science. He will be assisting with most STEM projects and experiments this year. Typically, students will be attending STEM once a week. This means that we will be either visiting the lab to complete an activity or we will be working on an activity during this time in our classroom.

Math

Mrs. Lugones will be teaching Math to both sixth grade classes this year. Students will be building upon skills that they have learned previously in earlier grades as well as learning important skills that they will utilize in future grades. They will be studying topics in the following areas: Numerical Expressions, Fractions and Decimals, Algebraic Expressions and Properties, Geometry, Ratios and Rates, Integers and the Coordinate Plane, Equations and Inequalities, Statistics, and Data Displays. Students will be presented with real world applications in which they need to solve a problem they may be faced with in their everyday lives. Typically, each unit will be assessed using a test and/or quiz. Basic fact quizzes will be given throughout each trimester. All forms of assessments will be scored using a numeric grade.

It is imperative that students review basic mathematics skills as we move forward in math this year. You are encouraged to practice multiplication facts and rules for long division with your child at home. As we move through the rigorous curriculum, you are also encouraged to review topics previously taught with your child. Students will be taking a state assessment in math this year. This assessment will be given over a three day period in April/May 2019.

Homework

Homework is an essential part of the learning process and is meant to reinforce what is studied in class. Homework will be given on a daily basis and work will never be assigned that has not first been covered in class.

Students are required to bring their planners with them to each class in order to record the homework for each subject. There is a homework board located in each homeroom to ensure students are informed of daily and ongoing projects and assignments. We encourage you to review the planner nightly with your child. In case the planner is left in school or an assignment was not recorded, you may utilize our class web page that lists each night's homework, upcoming assessments and due dates, and important dates to remember. Because our website is currently under construction, it is important for students to rely on their planners for this information for the first few weeks of school. It is ultimately the students' responsibility to write down their homework each day and not rely solely on the class page.

Assessment

Students will be assessed periodically through various means, including tests, quizzes, projects, presentations, group work, and participation in class discussions. Typically, most tests and quizzes will receive a percentage grade AND rubric grade while projects, essays, and laboratory reports will follow a rubric guideline. A rubric is a format that allows for more than one aspect of the project or assignment to be graded, rather than just the final product. For daily assignments (i.e. homework), we will be using a general rubric. For projects and papers, students will be provided with guidelines for completing the project, as well as the rubric with designated outcomes. The basic breakdown of rubric scores are as follows:

- 1 = Did not meet requirements/expectations
- 2 = Somewhat met requirements/expectations but some more work is still needed
- 3 = Met requirements/expectations
- 4 = Met requirements/expectations with distinction

ELA - Grading Policy (Math Grading-see attachment)

Grading is geared to reflect the student's academic performance and effort throughout the trimester. Students' report cards will reflect grades in each subject on two scales. The number grade in each subject reflects the student's cumulative performance for the trimester. The final number grade will be written as the actual grade. (i.e, 88%, 94%). Within each subject, there will also be grades for individual skills, which will be calculated on a 1-4 scale, where 4 exceeds standards, 3 meets standards, 2 is approaching standards, and 1 is below standards. Some individual assessments throughout the trimester will receive standard number grades (i.e. quizzes and tests), but most assessments will be graded using a rubric. Rubrics will always be provided to the students concurrently with the related assignment. Such assignments will be graded on a scale of 1-4. The conversion chart from a rubric score to a numerical grade is shown below:

1 = 70	3 = 85-89
1.5 = 71-74	3.5 = 90-94
2 = 75-79	4=94-100
2.5 = 80-84	

Strategies For Success

Please make sure that your child prepares for each school day. They should always have at least 2 sharpened pencils and 2 black or blue pens with them, their planner, any books they have taken home the night before and, of course, a healthy lunch. If they have a special or extracurricular activity the next day, please be sure that they have the necessary items for the subject (gym clothes, musical instrument, art supplies, Spanish homework, etc.).

Help your child develop organizational skills, responsibility, and independence by providing a homework area and scheduling a study time each night.

Remember that your child's academic success is our priority, and that it is important for us to work together to make his or her experience this year a rewarding and enjoyable one.

Contact Information

If you feel the need to speak with us about your child's progress or if you have questions regarding our curriculum, please feel free to write us a note or call the office, and we will get back to you as soon as possible. You may also email us using our school email addresses: llogones@dwcaonline.org and gsavage@dwcaonline.org. While we are all to check our email a few times over the course of the school day, we are not always as accessible once the school day is finished. Therefore, if you do email us after 2:45PM, please be aware that we may not get back to you until the following morning. We look forward to an exciting year with you and your child!