

Sixth Grade House Expectations

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to Terrace Community Middle School and to the sixth grade! We look forward to an exciting year of new learning experiences. We will develop our academic areas with a thematic approach to learning and make connections to other areas of the curriculum whenever possible. In order to have the most successful year, we ask that you read the following guidelines and expectations. Students are expected to follow all student handbook rules and teacher directions in order to maintain a safe, productive learning environment for all.

As members of a team, we share similar expectations for our students. We expect your child to come to class well rested, on time, and prepared to work. The following is an overview of our house expectations along with brief descriptions of each subject area expectations. Each subject area teacher will also send subject area specific expectations and directions.

Sixth Grade Expectations:

1. Respect yourself, others, and the learning environment.
2. Wear appropriate uniforms at all times; shirts must be tucked in and belts must be worn if garments have belt loops, *ID badge must be visible*.
3. Bring all required materials to every class each day.
4. Use the agenda planner each day in every class.
5. Stay seated unless otherwise given permission.
6. Do your own work. Academic dishonesty will result in a grade of zero and a detention.
7. Students will be expected to be quietly in their seats and on task when the bell rings or they will receive an unexcused tardy.

Behavior Interventions: Students will be given the opportunity to correct behaviors that are not appropriate. Please see the TCMS Student Handbook for possible interventions and/or consequences for inappropriate behaviors as the sixth grade team will be adhering to these policies for all students. Rewards and celebrations will be available for those students whose behavior is appropriate in all classes.

Homework Policies

Homework is important as a valuable tool in helping students make the most of their experience at school. Homework helps reinforce what has been learned in class, prepares students for upcoming lessons, teaches responsibility and helps students develop positive study habits.

Students are expected to do their best work on homework assignments. Homework should be neat and done independently at home. Any homework being done in another teacher's class without the teacher's permission will be confiscated. Students will be made aware of homework assignments in these ways:

1. Verbally, by the classroom teacher
2. Visually, by seeing it written on the teacher's board and then written in the planner.

Teachers will check homework assignments and record them in their grade books. Teachers will support good homework habits by giving praise and other incentives.

Parents are the key to making homework a positive experience for their children. Therefore, we ask that you make homework a top priority at home; provide necessary supplies and a quiet homework environment; set aside a time every day when homework should be done; provide praise and support; help your child get to the library when necessary; do not allow your child to avoid doing homework; and, contact teachers if you have a concern. But please remember, it is the responsibility of the student to write homework assignments in their planners and communicate this to parents. **At no time will daily homework be posted online.** Long term assignments, upcoming tests or quizzes and class events **may** be posted online either on the TCMS website or individual teacher websites. Again, however, the communication of homework, long term assignments, tests, quizzes, etc. is the responsibility of each student.

All work is expected to be turned in on time. Late homework will not be accepted. Long term assignments turned in late will be accepted at the teacher's discretion and for reduced credit. Subject specific homework information will be communicated by individual subject area teachers.

It is the students' responsibility to check with their teachers by the end of the day to turn in and pick up homework when **tardy**. As stated in the handbook, any work that is due on a day that a student is tardy must still be turned in that day regardless of presence in all classes. (For example, a student who arrives to school during second period must turn in work that was due to his or her first period class before the end of the school day.)

Paper Heading

All work must be appropriately headed in order to receive full credit. Headings are written in the top right hand corner of the paper and contain the following:

Name
Date
Subject/Period
Teacher/Grade

Exams

Students in the sixth grade will take quarter exams which will make up 10% of their quarter average. The exam will cover material for that particular quarter. It is very important for students to stay organized with all work in order to effectively prepare for exams.

Make-up policy

Students who are absent due to illness have the number of days they were absent to make up missing work. Students must make up tests and quizzes on days and times scheduled by each teacher. It is the student's responsibility to get missing work from the teachers upon their return and to turn it in within the appropriate time frame given when absent due to illness. **Please do not email teachers for make-up work in advance of an absence unless the absence has been approved by administration.** At that time, teachers will do their best to provide work to be done during the absence. Please note, however, that some work such as labs and pop quizzes may not be able to be made up and alternate assignments may be given upon the student's return.

Communication

Daily Agenda: All students are issued an Agenda Planner at the beginning of the school year. Students are required to record their class work and homework assignments in their planner daily. At no time should a planner space be blank; even if there is no homework, there will be a notation to that effect.

Grades: Each student will be given a password that will allow families and students to monitor their grades online. It is imperative that parents utilize this important communication tool every week. All sixth grade students will be required to turn in a weekly progress report each Friday to their homeroom teacher. This progress report will be completed by and signed by parents. While students should sit with their parents each Thursday evening to check

grades, students should not be completing the report. Teachers will be uploading grades to the Sixth Grade House website as often as possible. If you have a problem accessing your child's grades online, please let the homeroom teacher or the subject area teacher know immediately so that the issue can be resolved as soon as possible.

Parent/Teacher Communication: If you have a specific question or concern regarding a particular subject area which could be answered by a note or telephone discussion, feel free to email or call the teacher. Be sure that your specific question is addressed in the note and please include a daytime phone number where you can be reached. We will respond within 24 hours unless the communication falls over a weekend. Please note that teachers are often able to respond more quickly in email form than via the telephone. If you have not received a phone call or email please try again, occasionally emails will filter into a spam folder or be directed to an incorrect voicemail box.

Schedule a Conference: To schedule a parent-teacher conference with your child's academic team, please call or email the homeroom teacher. We meet as a team with parents during our conference period, so schedule your appointment as soon as you realize there is something you'd like to discuss.

Parent Contact:

TCMS Phone #: (813) 987-6555

Email Addresses:

Ms. Sari Wood, Science: sari.wood@tcmstornadoes.com

Ms. Amy Burton, History: amy.burton@tcmstornadoes.com

Mr. Adam Hough, Science: adam.hough@tcmstornadoes.com

Ms. Juliana Hite, Language Arts: juliana.hite@tcmstornadoes.com

Mrs. April Shipman, Science: april.oliphant@tcmstornadoes.com

Mrs. Karen Ott, Math: karen.ott@tcmstornadoes.com

Mrs. Marlene Schwarzmann, Math: marlene.schwarzmann@tcmstornadoes.com

Mrs. Mendy Whittemore, Language Arts: melinda.whittemore@tcmstornadoes.com

Bathroom

Uninterrupted instructional time is extremely important, so please use the restroom before or after class or during lunchtime. You don't want to miss something important. There are always exceptions, so please communicate with your teacher if you have an emergency. If you are permitted to go during class, a pass (and/or a sign out sheet) is required to leave the room.

The 6th grade teachers have discussed the information on this handout with students, but we would appreciate it if you would also review these items with your child. You can also obtain important information at the TCMS website, <http://www.tcmstornadoes.com>, in the TCMS Student Handbook and the TCMS Parent Guide. Please complete the signature page at the end of this document and have your child return to their homeroom teacher by **Monday, August 23, 2010**. We look forward to a productive and meaningful school year!

Sincerely,

The Sixth Grade Team

Please Sign and Return This Page by Friday, August 27, 2010.

I (parent's name) _____ have read the Sixth Grade House Expectations and understand the policies and procedures as stated.

I (student's name) _____ have read the Sixth Grade House Expectations and understand the policies and procedures as stated.