

HALL MEMORIAL SCHOOL

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August 17, 2023

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We hope that this letter finds you in the midst of a relaxing summer and we look forward to welcoming your new sixth grader on August 31st. Sixth grade is a year of transition for students. Our goals for students are to scaffold their independence, assist them in their development of organizational and study skills, and promote self-advocacy. These skills become increasingly important in middle school and beyond, so we strive to assist students in their development.

Students will be in mixed groupings for all CORE and unified arts classes. Students will have lockers where they will keep all of their personal and academic items. During the first few weeks of school, we walk with students to their classes, remind them of the materials they will need, and assist with any issues opening lockers. We then gradually release students who are ready toward independence.

Students will be putting together a “BFF” the first week of school consisting of a planner (provided by school), pencil pouch, and pocket folder to organize assignments. While large zippered multiple subject trapper keepers look appealing, sixth graders have a difficult time keeping it organized and storing it in their lockers.

In sixth grade, academic achievement is letter based. These grades can be accessed on PowerSchool at any time. When teaching about grades, we focus on them as an indicator of learning. We encourage students to look for patterns of progress when examining their grades, instead of simply looking for all As. Academic performance is separated into two pieces, academic achievement and responsibility. Academic achievement is defined as results on tests, quizzes, projects, classroom work and graded homework. Academic responsibility is seen in our “What’s Expected?” grade and is defined as coming to class on time, being prepared with all necessary materials, demonstrating good citizenship, participating in class and completing homework assignments.

We would like to invite you to our “Meet and Greet” which will be held on Wednesday, August 30, 2023 from 10:30-11:30. Please enter the building through the lower lobby/gym entrance. This will be an excellent opportunity for students to get rid of their first day jitters and meet their new teachers, who will be available to answer any questions that you or your student might have. For the safety of all of our students, we ask that parents/guardians accompany their youngsters throughout the building for this event.

In conclusion, as sixth grade is a great year of growth, we work hard to support student development of academic, social, and organizational skills. We look forward to the opportunity to talk with you at Curriculum Night in the fall. That meeting is valuable, as students will have had several weeks of sixth grade experience to share with you. Thank you for your support!

Sincerely,

The Sixth Grade Team

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