**6th Grade Policies and Procedures**

We are excited to teach your students this year and are looking forward to having many rewarding experiences. Please take a moment to review the items in this letter which will help you and your student become better acquainted with sixth grade policies and curriculum.

**Attendance**

It is imperative that students arrive at school on time every day and are not checked out early. Academic instruction starts immediately after the bell rings and continues until 3:20. Please help your student establish the good habit of being on time. Consistent daily attendance is necessary for your child to be able to make good academic progress.

**Discipline Policy**

Our discipline procedures and rules are consistent with the school-wide discipline plan. After two verbal warnings, if a disruptive behavior continues within the same day or a serious infraction occurs, the incident will be documented in Educator’s Handbook and will be referred to administration. You will be informed if this occurs. Students may earn the privilege of participation in a special activity at the end of each term. If a student is referred to administration three times within a quarter, he or she will not be allowed to attend the end of term activity. The fourth quarter activity will be a year-end celebration at Lagoon. We hope that every one of our students earns the privilege to participate. Supervised academic work will be assigned to those students not participating.

 It is our goal to recognize the accomplishments of each individual student. This may come in the form of verbal praise, Trips to the Principal, Cougar Paws for Crestview’s 200 Club, as well as positive reinforcements within the classroom.

**Homework and Late work**

Sixth graders can expect to have homework most nights. With the proficiency- based grading system, doing homework will impact student progress, but will not be recorded as part of their grade. Each night students are expected to read a **minimum** of 20 minutes. This nightly reading will be necessary to complete in-class assignments. Crestview will also be participating in the reading incentive program called Battle of the Books.

Please check Gradebook often to monitor your child’s progress. Check our class websites for important information regarding dates, projects, tests, etc. To help keep parents and students informed of missing assessments, the following policy will be in affect this year.

1. Each Friday, notes with missing/late assessments will be given to your child. It is your child’s responsibility to share this with you.
2. Partially completed assessments will not be accepted and will be counted as missing.

**Vacation Homework Policy**

 We strongly discourage families from taking vacations during school; however, we also understand that once-in-a-lifetime opportunities occasionally come your way. Please inform your child’s teacher prior to a vacation. **We will not give work in advance**, but work will be gathered for the student during the absence. When a child returns from vacation, he/she should check with the teachers for missing work. They will be accountable for the missed content and assessments that took place when they were gone.

**Curriculum**

 This year we will implement a new model. There are three teachers on our sixth grade team. Each of us will focus on one content area. Mrs. Criswell will teach Language Arts, Mrs. Shuman will teach Science, and Mrs. Varoz will teach Mathematics. Social Studies, PE, Art, etc., will take place in homeroom.

In math, students will continue building on concepts presented in prior years, with a new focus on algebraic thinking. In science we will study astronomy, stability and change in ecosystems, weather patterns and climate, and how energy affects matter. In language arts, students will gain exposure to various texts through novel study. The main focus in writing will be argumentative and informative essays, and citing evidence. Our social studies program will cover how ancient civilizations developed and their important contributions to the world and the transformation of cultures during the Middle Ages and the Renaissance. Students will also develop an understanding of how revolutions and events in the 20th century have impacted the modern world.

To save time, students will be asked to hand back student work. If you are not okay with this, please let us know in writing or email by Friday, August 30.

 Our goal this year is to help our students develop confidence in their abilities while engaging in worth-while learning activities. If there are any questions or concerns at any time this year, please contact us by email. We will respond as quickly as possible.

**Teachers’ email/webpage addresses:**

**acriswell@graniteschools.org** **& mrscriswell6.weebly.com**

**dshuman@graniteschools.org** **& mrsdshuman.weebly.com**

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 We thank you for your support. Working together, we can help your child enjoy a successful and rewarding sixth grade experience.

Sincerely,

Anna Criswell, Denise Shuman, and Stephanie Varoz