

# **Sixth Grade**

## **Parent Orientation Packet**

**2011-2012**

**Dr. Cheryl Reichel, Principal  
Mrs. Susan DiGiorgio, Assistant Principal**

### **Faculty Members**

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade:**

**Mrs. Debra Kroger - Rm. 126 (Science, Religion)  
Mrs. Judy Cady – Rm. 128 (Math, Religion)  
Mrs. Michelle Currin - Rm. 129 (Social Studies, Reading)  
Mrs. Maureen Horwath - Rm. 130 (English, Reading)  
Ms. Katie Seifried – Intervention Specialist**

**Specials:**

**Mrs. Corrie Weckesser – Gym  
Mrs. Charmaine Boggs – Art  
Mrs. Sherri Masline – Music  
Mrs. Becky Suhr – Band  
Mrs. Vicki Wissel - Orchestra  
Madame Carolyn Shockey – French  
Senora Kim Ferraro – Spanish  
Frau Sam Burkman - German**

## Sixth Grade Policies

We will be following the policies outlined in the Incarnation Student Handbook, however we would like to direct your attention to the following:

**Mass:** A school Mass will be held on Fridays at 9:00 A.M. in the church. School Masses will also be held on Holy Days.

**Absent Students:** All sixth grade students will be responsible for making up missed assignments. It is the students' responsibility to check Edline while absent and obtain any additional work upon returning to school. Absent work and textbooks can be compiled for students. This involves many teachers, so we ask that the parents email the homeroom teacher by 11:00am. Upon request, work and books will be sent home with siblings or placed outside the office for pickup after school.

A dated note must be sent with your child when he/she returns to school after any absence, in addition to calling the office on the morning of the absence. These notes must be kept on file by the homeroom teacher, as required by the State of Ohio.

**Lunch Period:** Sixth grade students will have lunch and recess from 12:10-12:45. Only with a note from the parent/guardian will a child be permitted to remain inside during noon recess due to illness or injury. If you are bringing a lunch to your child, please bring it directly to the office.

**Books:** Books must be securely covered at all times. Students may only cover their books with paper. Textbooks that are the property of the school may not be covered with contact paper, including "removable" contact, which leaves a sticky residue upon removal. *Cloth covers are only permitted in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade if they are over top of a paper cover, and do not bend the edges of the book.*

**Lockers:** Students in the sixth grade are not permitted to have decorations, magnets, mirrors, etc. in their lockers.

**Gym Uniforms:** In sixth grade, gym uniforms are required. These may be purchased through spirit wear.

## Classroom Rules

To insure a pleasant and productive learning atmosphere in our classrooms, the Incarnation Sixth Grade has adopted the following classroom rules for this school year. These will be thoroughly explained by each homeroom teacher and are posted for the students to review in each classroom.

1. Maintain a quiet courtesy in the hallways.
2. Enter the classroom quietly and prepare to work.
3. Be prepared for class with supplies, textbooks, workbooks, assignments.
4. Raise your hand and wait to be recognized before speaking out in class.
5. Stay on the assigned task.
6. Use language and conduct that is courteous and appropriate for our school.

## Marking Code

| Percentage | Letter Grade |
|------------|--------------|
| 93-100     | A            |
| 85-92      | B            |
| 77-84      | C            |
| 70-76      | D            |
| 69-below   | F            |

## Assignment Policies

**Missing Assignments:** Late or incomplete assignments that are one day late will receive a grade reduction of 10 points. When this occurs, parents will be emailed, and the student will serve a recess detention. It is the student's responsibility to turn in late or incomplete work on the **next school day**. Failure to turn in late work after the second day will result in a grade of zero. For absent students, work must be made up in a reasonable amount of time to be determined by the individual teacher. Students who serve 3 recess detentions (for late work or behavior issues) will receive a before or after school detention for their next late assignment.

**Signed Tests:** Tests may be sent home for parent signatures. If so, tests should be returned the next day to the teacher. Grades will be updated on Edline for parents to review every 3 weeks. We will also utilize email to keep you updated on pertinent grade information. Parents may email teachers in regards to any test to request that the test be sent home for review.

**Detention:** A student who has misbehaved in the classroom, in the lunchroom, or on the playground may be asked by the teacher to stay for detention. This could be a recess detention, or for more serious or multiple offenses from 3:25 until 4:00 PM or 8:00-8:25 AM. A detention notice will be sent home concerning this detention at least one day prior to the date it is to be served. The parent(s) must sign this slip and the child will return it to the teacher on the day the detention is to be held. Without this signed note, the child will be sent home on the bus and a new detention date will be scheduled. Parents are asked to pick up their child promptly at 4:00 P.M. at the northwest doors of the school for after school detentions. Students not picked up on time will be sent to After School Care.

**Thank you for your help and cooperation in these matters. May this 2011-2012 school year at Incarnation be a very happy and productive one for us all!**

Sincerely,

**The Sixth Grade Teachers**

**Science, Grade 6**  
**Mrs. Debbie Kroger**

Text:

- *Interactive Science*, Pearson Education, Inc.

Curriculum Program Objectives:

- The sixth grade curriculum offers an in-depth exploration of the Life Sciences. Each quarter will focus on one of the four branches of a Life Science beginning with a study of the microscope and cells. Subsequent quarters will be spent studying genetics and the classifications system with an emphasis on plants.
- Sixth grade students will study the major organs, structures and functions of ten animal/human body systems as well as ways to keep them healthy. The students will also learn refusal skills that can be used to say “no” to any risky behavior. They will take part in a program entitled Project Alert to help reinforce refusal skills.

Classroom Procedures:

- Note taking: Several styles of note taking will be introduced and used throughout the year. The students should be able to take their own notes by the end of the third quarter. The science section of the binder will include vocabulary lists, outlines, notes, diagrams and study guides. The sections will be collected and checked periodically.
- Homework: Homework will consist of defining vocabulary words, completing review worksheets, completing two or three projects and gathering information from outside sources. (computer, encyclopedia, interview, etc) Although there is not a large quantity of written homework, I recommend that the students review their vocabulary and notes several evenings each week in preparation for quizzes and tests.
- Labs and Group Projects: Some major science and health projects and all labs are cooperative group efforts. Students of all abilities and interests can benefit from the sharing of information and ideas that results from group activities. Even more important is the fostering of an atmosphere of cooperation. No student will be permitted to jeopardize the group’s performance of an assigned task. Any student who is repeatedly disruptive or who misuses lab materials will be asked to leave the group for that class period and will also be given an after-school detention.
- Participation in lab activities is contingent upon the completion of all preparatory classroom and homework assignments. Therefore, any student who has not completed the required work will not be permitted to participate until the assignments have been satisfactorily completed.

**Mathematics, Grade 6**  
**Mrs. Judy Cady**

Texts:

- *Connected Math*, Prentice Hall
- *Mathematics, Structure and Method*, Houghton Mifflin

Curriculum Program Objectives

- This year the students will further their understanding of fractions, decimals and percent. Various algebra concepts will be covered along with strengthening skills in geometry, measurement, ratio and proportion.
- In the second semester students will master the 13, 14, and 15 multiplication facts.
- The Iowa Test will be given during the year. During class time we will prepare for the mathematics portions of this test to reinforce and review important mathematics skills.

Classroom Procedures:

- As a general rule, the students in sixth grade will have math assignments three or four times a week. The students may be given pages of work that correspond to their textbook material. Students are encouraged to use calculators to check homework. The students will be required to bring their calculators with them to class daily. The students will be required to keep an accurate record of all of their math grades. This enables both the students and their parents to keep a watchful eye on their progress.
- Again this year help sessions will be scheduled to assist students who are having difficulty and/or to prepare for major chapter tests. This fall a letter will be sent home to let you know when the sessions will take place. They will be held two mornings per week.
- The contest for grade six is sponsored by the Ohio Math League. This will be our twenty-sixth year to participate in this contest. Sixth graders throughout Ohio take this test in late February. This contest has a multiple-choice format with a thirty-minute time allotment. A large part of the contest problems can be done by detecting patterns and using clever thinking rather than strictly mathematical computations. Calculators are permitted for this contest.

**Religion, Grade 6**  
**Mrs. Judy Cady**  
**Mrs. Debbie Kroger**

Texts:

- *Blest Are We*, Faith and Word Edition, RCL Benziger 2008
- *Catechism of the Catholic Church*

Curriculum Program Objectives:

- The primary emphasis in sixth grade religion is to gain insights into our Christian beliefs and traditions through an exploration of the Old Testament. This year the students will learn about many Old Testament figures, about God's covenant of love with humankind, and how God continues to reveal himself in everyday life. The covenant with Abraham and Sarah, the role of Moses in the Exodus of the Israelites, the gift of the Ten Commandments, and the calling of the prophets are some of the major topics that will be covered.
- Prayer and Scripture readings will be a part of our daily classes. Students will have a special unit and video about the Mass during the fourth quarter.
- During Holy Week, it is a special tradition in sixth grade to celebrate a Christian Passover meal.

Classroom Procedures:

- Each chapter in the student text begins with a take home page entitled "Family Time." These pages provide an overview of the doctrine being studied and offer suggestions for family activities that can be used to reinforce the lessons being taught at school. At the end of the textbook are two very important sections entitled "Feasts and Seasons" and "Our Catholic Heritage." The first section shares information about the liturgical seasons and how and why Catholics celebrate them. The second section provides an excellent reference for both parents and students by providing in summary fashion the basic teachings of the Catholic Church. This is designed to complement the information and topics that are presented in the sixth grade text. We encourage all parents to read these pages and to take an active role in your child's religious education through participation in Sunday Mass, parish prayer services, family religious activities, and service projects.
- Because Religion is taught as a subject in a Catholic school and students are accountable for learning specific doctrine at each grade level, occasional homework will be assigned. Students will need a Catholic Bible at home to complete some of their assignments. Tests are given at the end of each chapter and unit. To prepare for these tests, students will be given certain material to be mastered including: vocabulary terms called "Faith Words," the "We Believe" doctrine statement for the chapter, and key points covered in the text and classroom discussion. Students will also be asked to demonstrate mastery of prayers that are an important part of our Catholic faith. We will explore the options available for service at home, at school, and within the parish community.

**English, Grade 6**  
**Mrs. Maureen Horwath**

Texts:

- *Writer's Choice Grammar and Composition*, McGraw Hill Glencoe
- *Exercises in English, Level F*, Loyola Press

Curriculum Program Objectives:

- Excellent reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills are essential for our students, enabling them to contribute to the world as well-educated communicators. While all these skills are integrated in both English and reading classes, in English the emphasis is on writing, the mechanics of composition, and grammar usage.

Classroom Procedures:

- Students will work as individuals and in small groups to learn and apply the steps of the writing process, from pre-writing to publishing. They will learn to evaluate and improve their compositions based on knowledge of the six traits of writing as applied to narration, description, information, persuasion, exposition, poetry, research, and newsletter writing. Students will also prepare and deliver an oral presentation.
- Students will learn grammar, usage, punctuation, good sentence formation, and mechanics through activities using the text, the workbook, other supplementary material, and one-sentence-a-day proofreading.
- Students will also learn through the methods of assessment of achievement in this class. Assessment will be based on the quality of final drafts of writings evaluated using a rubric, meeting deadlines on all drafts, effort and completion of writer's notebook, grammar activities and tests, the quality of student presentations, effort and improvement in computer skills, and class participation. At the end of the year students will enter the National Language Arts League Olympiad.

**Social Studies, Grade 6**  
**Mrs. Michelle Currin**

Text:

- *The World*, Scott Foresman
- *World History Ancient Civilizations Through the Renaissance*, Holt McDougal

Curriculum Program Objectives:

- The sixth grade year focuses on the study of World History from the fall of the Roman Empire to the present times including topics such as: Byzantine Empire, Feudal Japan, Middle Ages, Renaissance, French Revolution, Industrial Revolution, WWI, WWII, Cold War, and various Modern Conflicts. Students learn that each historic event is shaped by its geographic setting, the culture of the people, the economic conditions, governmental decisions, and citizen action. Connections are made to the present-day including characteristics of culture, governments and economic interactions.
  
- Our geography focus in the sixth grade is on the continent of Asia.

Classroom Procedures:

- Note taking: Students are required to keep up-to-date notes for Social Studies. Some notes will be given in class and others will be taken by the students. Notes will include important historical information and vocabulary.
  
- Homework: Homework will be given during the week. There will be ample time given to complete all assignments. Occasionally class time will be given to work on these.
  
- Projects: Students in the sixth grade will complete several Social Studies projects. They will be informed on the specifics of these projects in detail and in advance of the due date. Occasionally class time will be given to work on projects. However, some work will need to be completed at home.
  
- Tests: Tests will be given periodically as we progress through the material. Tests will cover material taught in class and will include vocabulary, names of people and places, sequence and importance of events, compare/contrast of ideas, and giving and supporting of opinions. Review should be done regularly at home during the course of the units. Students should utilize study guides that will focus them to areas of their notes, texts, and other materials that are important for the tests. Often in class reviews will be held to further focus and reinforce concepts.

**Reading, Grade 6**  
**Mrs. Maureen Horwath**  
**Mrs. Michelle Currin**

Texts:

- *Elements of Literature*, Holt, Rinehart, and Winston
- *Where the Red Fern Grows*, Wilson Rawls
- *The Cay*, Theodore Taylor
- *Roll of Thunder Hear My Cry*, Mildred Taylor
- *The Giver*, Lois Lowry
- Various fiction and non fiction works of teacher and student selection

Curriculum Program Objectives:

- Build lifelong interest in reading for information and enjoyment
- Acquire skills needed for proficient, intelligent reading
- Increased vocabulary
- Analyze literature through writing and speaking

Classroom Procedures:

- Through a variety of projects and assignments, students will be encouraged to enjoy reading and sample a variety of genres. These assignments will be designed to enrich the students' understanding and promote the use of reading skills across the curriculum.
- Students will take tests throughout and following the reading of novels and stories.
- Classes will visit the library regularly to select books for use during designated silent reading time. Students are required to have a book with them for silent reading at all times.

## **Spelling, Grade 6 Homeroom Teacher**

Text:

- *Spelling Connections*, Zaner- Bloser, 2004 edition

Curriculum Program Objectives:

- The word lists and vocabulary studies found in *Spelling Connections* are the result of the most thorough word analysis ever accomplished. At each grade level the Zaner- Bloser textbook has been designed with the belief that spelling growth is a developmental process and should be taught systematically with the right words presented at the right time. Another belief that is incorporated into this series is that the words a student needs to learn to spell should be the same words that they most commonly use in their writing.

Classroom Procedure:

- In each unit the activity pages that the students will complete will connect the words in the spelling list to their thinking, vocabulary, reading and writing. A weekly spelling test will be given.

**Field Trips and Activities  
Grade 6**

We have many fun activities planned for this year. The price listed next to some of the activities details the cost of that particular activity

**INCARNATION SCHOOL ACTIVITY FEES  
2011-2012**

**GRADE SIX**

The Activity Fee is a one time fee that covers field trips, class parties, materials, retreats, and other events that occur throughout the school year for your child's grade. Centerville busses are used for all field trips, except our Alter trip, and some fees are for busses only. This fee does not include Mission Collections or the Library Book Fair.

**Itemized List**

|   |       |
|---|-------|
| Assignment Notebook   | 5.00  |
| Homeroom Fees   |       |
| Science lab Fee   | 1.00  |
| Mothers and Grandmother's Mass/<br>6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Retreat                                  | 8.00  |
| Current Events Magazine   | 10.00 |
| Holiday Homeroom Treats   | 10.00 |
| Presidential Fitness Patches  | 2.00  |
| Religion Textbook and Composition Book  | 20.50 |
| English Workbook  | 16.75 |
| French Classroom Magazine   | 8.00  |
| Field Trips   |       |
| Dayton Art Institute - Norman Rockwell  | 10.00 |
| Renaissance Festival  | 20.00 |
| Cincinnati Zoo - Adaptations Tour   | 10.00 |
| Christmas Field Trip -<br><i>A Christmas Carol</i> at Victoria Theater<br>and UD Nativity Display | 8.75  |
| Total   | \$130 |

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Activities:

- Book Buddies
- Middle Ages Festival
- Frog Dissection
- 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Retreat
- Mass of Thanksgiving for Mothers and Grandmothers
- Young Author's Club

This is for your information as to the upcoming activities in sixth grade. More information regarding each activity will come home as the time approaches!

August 21, 2011

Dear Parents,

The sixth grade is an important time to instill responsibility and accountability in our students, and we are asking your support in working on this during the school year. Please take some time to carefully review our Parent Orientation Packet with your student. It includes important rules that will be stressed during the year and previews topics we will be working on.

In an effort to keep you and your child informed, the 6<sup>th</sup> grade teachers will be using Edline to update homework and announcements daily. Please check this frequently for important information and make sure your students are utilizing it to stay on top of their school work. When absent, it is the student's responsibility to check Edline and obtain information regarding what work was missed. Parents may email the homeroom teacher by 11:00 am to have their child's books and worksheets compiled to be picked up at the office, or sent home with a sibling or another student.

Also, to help enforce our policies on late work and behavior, we would like to contact you as soon as possible about any incidents which occur during the day. We will be using your email so we can immediately inform you of pertinent information. Students will receive a recess detention on the day of the incident. Late work will receive a 10% deduction the first day, and be considered a zero on the second day late. After a student's 3<sup>rd</sup> late assignment or behavior recess detention, their next late assignment/behavior incident will result in a before or after school detention rather than just a recess detention. Any student receiving three or more behavior detentions will not be permitted to accompany us on the next field trip. We will start with a clean slate after each field trip in regards to behavior detentions and the next field trip.

This year, tests may be sent home for parent signatures. If so, tests should be returned the next day to the teacher. Grades will be updated on Edline for parents to review every 3 weeks. We will also utilize email to keep you updated on pertinent grade information. Parents may email teachers in regards to any test to request that the test be sent home for review.

Please complete and return this letter to your child's homeroom teacher by **Monday, August 29<sup>th</sup>**.

Note: Please sign this form in a manner in which you will sign anything throughout the year. We will use this as a reference for your signature if there is ever a discrepancy. When two parents share responsibility for the child, we ask that both parents read this letter and the Open House Packet and sign this letter. Another packet and letter can be provided if there are two separate households.

*We have read the policies in this letter and the Parent Orientation Packet and will support the contents.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Parent Signature*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Parent Signature*

*I realize that my job in school is to learn. I will try to the best of my ability to follow the classroom rules and the school policies so that I can be a contributing member of my class.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Student Signature*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

Thank you so much for your support at home. Together we can help to make this a positive and productive year for our students!

*The Sixth Grade Teachers*