

HERE'S TO GREAT BEGINNINGS: 6B With MRS. REID!



Welcome to the 6th grade (more specifically, 6B)! I cannot believe how quickly the summer has come and gone, but I'm excited and look forward to a happy, productive school year. I hope that you are excited too! I have lots of fun things planned for this year and cannot wait to share them all with you. Be sure to visit my class website and save it to your "favorites". I will be updating, as much as possible, with important information, pictures, fun links and much more! <https://sites.google.com/a/landmarkacademy.net/dreid6/> Please make sure that you go over the rest of this information with your parents, since it will provide a sneak peek into 6th grade. At the end of this packet, you will find a spot where both you and your parents can sign, letting me know that you have read it and understand it all. If you have questions, be sure to contact me!

DAY IN THE LIFE OF A 6TH GRADER

Switching over to the middle school is a big change from last year. This year you will have a "homeroom" teacher that you stay with for the majority of your day. You will have your homeroom teacher for English Language Arts (ELA) and Literature. You will then be in my class for Science and Social Studies. You will be in Miss Frasier's class for Math and Math Essentials. This year lunch will be at 12:38 pm Monday through Thursday and 12:02 pm on Fridays. We do have a designated "snack time" (please read snack policy page). **Please check the student handbook for the rest of the schedule.**

UNITS OF STUDY

Ultimately, you are all here to become leaders of your own learning. Your education is important and you all have the power to become lifelong learners! It is my job to provide you with a comfortable and nurturing learning environment, as well as provide you the tools and knowledge that will lead to success. As students, it is your job to use those tools to set goals, try hard, and achieve your personal best. During each unit, you will work towards becoming proficient on a specific set of objectives. At times, extra assistance and practice may be needed in order to meet proficiency. However, as a supportive and collective team (*students-parents-teachers*), it is more than possible! Here are some of things that you can look forward to:

ELA: In order to meet some of the set objectives in ELA, you will be writing a variety of narratives, expository, and persuasive essays that will include a personal essay, comparative essay, adventure story, folktale, research paper, and more.

Another way that 6th grade works at reaching proficiency is by practicing spelling. A weekly spelling list and practice packet will be sent home on Fridays. A *pretest* will be given on Wednesday and a *Final Test* on Fridays. The practice packet will be due at the same time as the *final test*.

Literature: In order to meet the some of the set objectives in *Literature*, we will be practicing comprehension strategies and other techniques, while reading **four** novels as a class: *Shiloh*, *Hatchet*, *Number the Stars*, and *Maniac Magee*. In addition, you will be responsible for reading *at least* 60-minutes of independent reading every week. All independent reading minutes must be recorded on a provided reading log.

Science: In order to meet the set objectives in Science, we will be investigating specific concepts during the following units: *Introduction to Science, Matter & Energy, Organization of Living Things, Composition & Changes of the Earth, Plate Tectonics, and Fossils & Geologic Time.*

Social Studies: In order to meet the set objectives in *Social Studies*, we will be exploring the wonderful world of geography. During the first semester, we will mainly focus on "traveling" around the eastern hemisphere, in turn, finishing up the year in the western hemisphere.

What is all of this talk about grades?

This year, grading will look a little different. In order for Landmark Academy to fulfill its mission, it is necessary to recognize the performance of each student in two critical areas: academic achievement and development of a strong work ethic. With that being said, the report card will show two important scores for each course at the end of a term: an *Objective Mastery Grade* and a *Work Ethics Rating*.

Objective Mastery Grade: Your *Objective Mastery Grade* will reflect what you **know** or in other words, your "academic achievement". It will include only *Summative Activities* (see below) and will **not** include extra credit or bonus points, group scores, work completed with teacher assistance, or tasks assigned for *formative assessment* or practice purposes.

Work Ethics Rating: Your *Work Ethics Rating* will reflect what you **do**. Your rating (*exemplary, proficient, or inadequate*) will be assigned at the end of each term based on a rubric (see attachment). This rating may be used for participation in sports, extracurricular activities, or special events as determined by staff.

Formative Activities: Formative activities include all of the activities that are done to help you reach the objectives of a given unit. They include but are not limited to: exploratory projects, practice worksheets, games, writing prompts, notes, etc. Formative activities **will not** be included in the final objective mastery grade, but will be recorded and progress will be shown on Skyward.

Summative Activities: Summative activities will be used to assess whether or not you have mastered the objectives of a given unit. They include but are not limited to: tests, final projects, final portfolios, etc. All summative activities **will be** used to determine the objective mastery grade. *All summative activities must be completed in order to receive an objective mastery grade.*

Late Work Policy

Being a student is a *big job*! As part of your job, you are expected to complete all assignments **on time**. As I mentioned before, learning is our goal, and in order for me to do my job, you need to do yours, as well. Ultimately, if you do have assignments that are not completed on time, it will not affect your objective mastery grade. However, it may impact the work ethics rating. Even if assignments are not completed on time, they are still expected to be completed. Completing your work helps me to meet your learning needs!

HOMEWORK POLICY

It is not typical for additional homework to be assigned. However, extra practice may be sent home if needed. On the other hand, all work that is not finished during class is still expected to be turned in on the designated due date.

ABSENT POLICY

If you are absent (be it, unexpectedly or planned), it is your responsibility to get the work that you missed while you were out. You will have the total number of days absent plus one day to turn in any class work that was missed (i.e. A student absent 2 days will have 3 days to turn in their assignments).

At the beginning of the year, you will pick a buddy who will be willing to collect your work while you are out. With that being said, it is also your responsibility to collect their work when they are absent. All work will be collected and placed into a designated "absent" folder. At the end of the day, the absent folder will be placed in the absentee's "In-Progress" file folder (located in the crates at the front of the room).

If you know that you will be absent, be proactive and check with me ahead of time so that you do not get behind. Also, if you are planning on being out for an extended amount time (2+ days), you are responsible for notifying hospitality and will be required to fill out an extended absence form.

COMMUNICATION

Every day when you enter the classroom, the first thing you will do is fill out your planner. Planners have been provided by Landmark Academy as a resource to utilize on a daily basis. It serves as an organizational tool, as well as a form of communication between students, parents and teachers. Each day, an agenda will be written on the board that indicates what will occur during class. In addition to the daily agenda, you will be responsible for recording assignments/homework and important dates (due dates, tests, etc.).

When it comes to checking your "status" in a specific class, your parents have the ability to access your progress on Skyward (see Hospitality if you need a log-in and password), at *any* time. Weekly progress reports will be sent home via email, as well. Report cards are distributed at each term.

In becoming a leader of your learning, you will be required to designate one folder for easy access to very important documents (parent/teacher notes, newsletters, completed and/or graded class work, Scholastic Book orders, etc.). It will be your responsibility to put these important documents in your V.I.D. folder (i.e. when graded work is passed back). Newsletters containing important information will be sent home *periodically*, but not always. Share these documents with your family to let them know how you are doing! With that being said, it will also be your responsibility to pass any notes/communication. I **will not** check your V.I.D., so if a parent sends a note in, be sure to pass it along!

If you need to contact me, feel free to e-mail me at reidd@landmarkacademy.net or call Landmark Academy (ext. 416).

Conferences

It is important to know that parent/teacher conferences are held in November and February. If an additional conference is needed, it is *critical* to have your parents email or call ahead of time. Due to other obligations, I will not be able to conference afterschool unless the meeting is scheduled ahead of time.

Energy Bucks

This is the currency of our (6A/6B) classrooms. Energy Bucks may be earned for academic accomplishments and assisting in the classroom. Energy Bucks may be spent on classroom privileges (i.e. Hallway Work Pass) and may be needed to pay fees (i.e. Renting a pencil from the teacher).

Exit Passes

Each marking period, you will receive 15-exit passes. You may use these exit passes in order to go to the bathroom, drinking fountain and/or your locker. You will have several opportunities to earn or "buy" more exit passes, if needed. Keep in mind, there are breaks in between classes. You will have plenty of time to "take care of business"!

Electronics

Electronics (cell phones, ipods, mp3 players, etc.) are not permitted in my classroom. If it is seen, then it will be confiscated immediately and will need to be picked up by a parent or guardian. In providing a comfortable and nurturing learning environment, I often play music within my classroom. I strongly feel that by not isolating ourselves with our ipods/mp3s, we create and support a greater sense of classroom unity. However, throughout the year, there *may* be opportunities where you could earn the use of an ipod/mp3 as a reward. **This will not be typical and you will be notified in advance if they are permitted.**

PLEASE! PLEASE! PLEASE! READ the HANDBOOK!

- Dress Code (It looks a little different than elementary!)
- Attendance/Tardy Policy
- PBIS
- Detention
- Information on "Grades"
- Medication Policy
- Much, much more!

PLEASE! PLEASE! PLEASE! READ the BACK to SCHOOL BROCHURE!

- To get to know me!
- Contact Information
- Supply Lists
(Required/Recommended/Donations)

Last but not least...we participate in...

- Scholastic Book Orders
- Jean Day (Please see handbook for more information)
- Box Tops for Education
- Science Fair
- Field Trips (Typically at the end of the year)
- Special Classroom Events (i.e. "Geeked for Reading")

"Sow a thought and you reap an act. Sow an act and you reap a habit. Sow a habit and you reap a character. Sow a character and you reap a destiny." {Samuel Smiles}



Dear Parents & Students,

I WOULD JUST like to SAY...THANK YOU! I understand that the beginning of the year is a busy time for all of us. Parents, I appreciate the invested time and interest that you are taking in your child's education, as well as entrusting me to challenge and provide support on the path to academic excellence. Students, I appreciate all of the hard work that you have put forth so far, getting you here to this point. I look forward to this upcoming year and have high-hopes for the great minds that will share this adventure with me. Thank you once again for reading through and taking a brief look into 6th grade! Please, do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely, **Mrs. Reid**

reidd@landmarkacademy.net

PLEASE RETURN THIS PAGE (ONLY) AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

I have read and understand the policies and procedures mentioned above. I understand that it is my responsibility to request clarification, as soon as possible.

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Signature: _____ Date: _____

_____ Date: _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

IMPORTANT!

In middle school, communication is mostly done via the internet. If your family does not have the internet, please check this box: ☐