



St. Junipero Serra Catholic School Back-to-School Night Packet 6th Grade

Included in the Back-to-School Night Packet

- Online Contact Information
- Curriculum Outline
- Grading Policy
- Pali Adventure Science Camp Payment Coupons
- Family Life Letter and Permission Slip due by Friday, September 14th.
- Back-to-School Night Acknowledgement Form due by Friday, September 14th.

Online Contact Information

Administration:

Mrs. Angeline Trudell, Lead Principal/Administrator – atrudell@serraschool.org
Mrs. Carol Reiss, Principal Preschool - Grade 4 – creiss@serraschool.org
Mrs. Julie Radzai, Principal Grades 5 - 8 - jradzai@serraschool.org
Mrs. Ellen Burrola, Assistant Principal - eburrola@serraschool.org
Mrs. Debbie McGee, Assistant Grades 5-8 - dmcgee@serraschool.org

Homeroom Teachers:

6A Mrs. Monica Jung Language Arts - mjung@serraschool.org
6B Miss Bridget Wilhelm Language Arts - bwilhelm@serraschool.org
6C Mrs. Jessica Beckner, Math / Science - jbeckner@serraschool.org
6D Miss Rebecca Hanna, Math / Science – rhanna@serraschool.org
6E Mrs. Joleen Bassett, Religion / Social Studies – jbassett@serraschool.org

Speciality Teachers:

Mr. Noah Loungarikis, Grades 5-8 Math Advanced Plus – nloungarikis@serraschool.org
Mrs. Gina Chrisman, Grade 6 ELA Small Group - gchristman@serraschool.org
Mrs. Amy Jons, Grade 6 Math Small Group– ajons@serraschool.org
Ms. Annie Kretzmer, Grade 6 ELA Advanced Plus – akretzmer@serraschool.org

Instructional Assistant:

Mrs. Jean Leet, Grades 5-8- jleet@serraschool.org

Elective Teachers:

Mrs. Shannon Baine, Art – sbaine@serraschool.org
Mr. Brock Gozbak, Physical Education – bgozbak@serraschool.org
Mrs. Esther Guzman, Spanish – eguzman@serraschool.org
Mr. John Rodriguez, Physical Education – jrodriguez@serraschool.org

The sixth grade teachers use email as their main source of communication. For your convenience, the email addresses have been provided to you. Please allow a 24-hour response time.

Grading Policy

Final grades will be determined by the following:

80% Authentic Assessment

20% Approaches to Learning

The students will be continually assessed using both formative and summative instruments, such as rubrics, classroom activities, research papers, individual and group presentations, projects, quizzes, and tests. Activities that support learning such as group work, class work, and homework will comprise a smaller portion of the student's total grade.

Formative assessment

The goal of formative assessment is to monitor student learning and to provide ongoing feedback that can be used by teachers to improve their teaching and by students to improve their learning.

Formative assessments:

- help students identify their strengths and weaknesses as well as target areas that need work.
- help faculty recognize where students are struggling and address problems immediately.

Summative assessment

The goal of summative assessment is to evaluate student learning at the end of an instructional unit by comparing the assessment with standards and/or benchmarks.

Examples of summative assessments include:

- a chapter or midterm exam
- a final project
- a research paper /essay

Information from summative assessments can be used formatively when students or teachers use it to guide their efforts and activities in subsequent courses.

Homework and Late Work Completion of homework is an organizational skill that is critical to student success in middle school and beyond. A strict homework policy will be enforced. Assignments will be completed and submitted on the due date. The students will have two additional days to submit late work. **They will be issued a demerit to record that the assignment was not on time, but the demerit will have no value associated with it.**

In the event of a student absence, any missed work due to the absence is the responsibility of the student. Students are to use the homework document and talk to their teachers to find out what work was missed.

Students are allowed as many days as they were absent to make up the missed work without being it considered late.

Long Term Projects Long-term projects are due on the due date regardless of student absence.

Sixth Grade Curriculum

Religion

Text: *We Believe*: Sadlier

The Catholic Youth Bible: NRSV Saint Mary's Press

Family Life: Benziger

- Chapel for Mass, prayer services, rosary prayer, and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
- Diocesan Standards of Religion
- Old Testament: Foundation of the Catholic Church
- New Testament: Continued teachings of the New Covenant of Jesus; Gospel Studies
- The Four Pillars of the Catechism of the Catholic Church: Creed, Liturgy and Sacraments, Moral Life and Prayer
- Family Life: The Five Components of God's
- The Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy
- Spiritual Retreats
- On-going Service in Action: Outreach Projects and Service Opportunities
- Integration of Religion into all areas of instruction

Students will participate in reflective journal writing, study skill reinforcement, class discussion, creative projects and written assessments based on content that is faithful to the teachings of the Catholic Church and that holistically embrace the four pillars of the Catechism of the Catholic Church: Creed, Liturgy and Sacraments, Moral Life and Prayer. Students will use the Catholic Youth Bible to reinforce the material that is taught in the textbook. The students will use their laptops to complete projects and assignments throughout the year. They will also use a variety of software to answer questions regarding the Sunday Gospel, and other questions regarding the material being covered in class. Rubrics will be provided for all projects. Subject matter will consist of the study of the Old Testament, Family Life, the liturgical year, famous figures of the Old Testament, Saints, the Sunday Gospel, the school virtues, and the theme of the school year.

Social Studies

Text: *World History Ancient Civilizations*: Holt, Rinehart and Winston

Students will participate in formal and informal note-taking activities, study skill reinforcement, class discussions, creative projects and written assessments. Subject matter will consist of students analyzing the geographic, political, religious and social structures of Mesopotamia, India, China, Egypt, Greece and Rome.

Students will also compare the events that occurred in these ancient civilizations to the foundations that we have in today's civilization, as well as complete STEM projects that relate to that specific civilization. The students will use their laptops to create projects, complete assignments, take quizzes, write their notes, and find current events. Rubrics will be provided for all projects.

English Language Arts (ELA)

Part I: Literature

Text *Pearson myPerspectives*

Novels

- ***Where the Red Fern Grows*** by Wilson Rawles (*Leveled*)
- ***My Side of the Mountain*** by Jean Craighead George (*All*)
- ***Stargirl*** by Jerry Spinelli (*Adv, Leveled, Small Group*)
- ***Number the Stars*** by Lois Lowry (*Adv. and Adv. Plus only*)
- ***The Shakespeare Stealer*** by Gary Blackwood (*Adv. Plus only*)
- ***Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*** by Roald Dahl (*Small Group*)
- ***The Alchemist*** by Paulo Coelho (*Adv. Plus only*)

Elements

Literary Analysis: Our literature program prepares our students for high school literature classes and includes comprehension skills that are Common Core aligned.

- **Literature Circles:** Students will participate in guided literature circle groups. Students will meet in small groups for a designated portion of the language arts class to discuss and complete a variety of activities on their common novel. A final group project will conclude each trimester.

NOTE: ELA Small Group will also incorporate both the *Reading Plus* programs in addition to the curriculum listed above.

Part II: Composition (Writing & Grammar)

Text *Handbook:* Holt, Rinehart, and Winston

Simple Solutions Grammar

Voyages in English

- The analytical essay will be taught this year beginning with the single paragraph form and working toward the three paragraph essay. The language arts department at St. Junipero Serra uses the Jane Schaffer color-coding and structuring format to help students with this genre of writing. Students will keep a folder of materials, samples, and exercises. The majority of student writing will be completed in the classroom; however, final drafts may need to be sent home for students to print.
- Students will acquire knowledge of grammar and mechanics using the Holt textbook and other supplemental materials. In addition, grammar mechanics will be practiced and enhanced through selected creative writing tasks that focus on the components of the Six Traits of Writing: ideas, organization, voice, word choice, sentence fluency, and conventions. Assessment of writing will take place using a rubric.

In addition to the materials he or she will need for class (textbook, notebook, folder, pen, highlighter), each student should bring to class each day a book of his or her choice, since time for individual silent reading is sometimes built into the day's lesson.

ELA Enrichment

This ELA Enrichment supports the skills being developed in the ELA curriculum. These are skills that are beneficial across all content areas.

- Twenty minutes of Silent and Sustained Reading
 - Reading Vocabulary Development through Adaptive Programs:
 - Reading Plus Vocabulary for small group (www.readingplus.com)
 - Individualized support for reading skills
-

Science

Materials: *Discovery Education* online
Nitty Gritty Earth Science: STEM/NGSS interactive lessons
Scholastic Superscience magazine

Students will investigate scientific concepts, rules and principles which are associated with planet Earth. Units of study may include astronomy, earth's landforms, earthquakes, volcanoes, biomes and weather. Students will learn to use the scientific method of problem solving. A variety of methods will be used to assess how well students have met the learner outcomes as well as the content standard requirements. These methods include laboratory experiments, group activities, quizzes/ tests and Next Generation Science (NGSS) performance tasks. Occasional homework will be assigned, along with monthly assessments.

Creativity Lab

We are excited to share with and your child the St. Junipero Serra 5th-8th Grade Creativity Lab. The Creativity Lab is a 21st century learning lab for students of all interests, ages, and abilities. Creativity Labs put technology and learning resources in the hands of students, engaging learners in science, technology, engineering, the arts, and mathematics (STEAM) while building critical 21st century skills.

Creativity Labs feature project-based, student-centered curriculum supporting STEAM and other core academic content. The Creativity Lab is a powerfully integrated and comprehensive learning solution that combines technology with academics to prepare students for college and career success.

St. Junipero Serra's Creativity Lab features unique opportunities for students to explore, learn, and work in areas such as alternative energy, circuitry, computer graphics, digital communications, mechanical structure, robotics, scientific data and analysis, and software engineering. In our Creativity Labs students keep a daily record of their work, create final presentations, and self-assess their efforts. Together these records create a portfolio demonstrating the depth and breadth of your child's learning. We store the portfolio electronically so

your child may use the term, “ePortfolio” to describe the collection of work they maintain to demonstrate the skills, knowledge, and experience they gain while working in the Creativity Labs.

Math

Textbooks: *Envision Math 2.0 Grade 6, 2017 Edition*
Simple Solutions: Common Core Mathematics 6th Grade
Scholastic Math magazine

Real-world applications will allow students to see how they can use math in their daily lives, and give students the foundation for the math needed in the future. Applications in every lesson reinforces the importance of learning mathematics. High priority will be placed on note-taking and study skills. Homework will be assigned from the Simple Solutions workbook, along with problems from new material taught. All math work must be completed in pencil, with all work shown, and answers highlighted in yellow. Simple Solutions and additional quizzes will be given on a regular basis. Chapter tests will be announced several days prior to the test. Pencil, red pen, yellow highlighter, graphing notebook, Simple Solutions, digital workbook, and textbook are standard materials for class.

Digital content (homework, quizzes, supplementals) integrated into the Pearson math curriculum will be located on the following website: www.PearsonRealize.com

Specialty Classes

All Specialty Elective classes will use 4-1 Grading Rubrics

- 4 Highly Proficient
- 3 Proficient
- 2 Emerging
- 1 Deficient

Art

Text: 8½ x 11 in. spiral bound sketchbook.

Students in grades 5-8 will be introduced to a variety of historical and cultural styles, genres, and artists and will explore various media, materials, and tools to express specific meaning in works of art. Art classes will meet once a week, and the students are expected to come to class prepared with a sketchbook and any assigned materials and projects. The students will keep portfolios of their work throughout the trimester, utilizing the steps of art criticism as a tool for assessment, reflection, and appreciation of the artistic process. These portfolios and will be brought home to share at the end of the school year.

Spanish Bienvenidos 6th graders - Welcome! The goal is to provide a strong foundation of the Spanish language. We encourage parents to become involved in their students' learning experience. The class will meet twice a week. Students are to come to class prepared with their Spanish workbook, composition book, and writing materials. Material covered in class should be reviewed on a daily basis. Students will use the Spanish workbook - *¡En español–Level 1*. We are looking forward to a rewarding school year as your students successfully discovers the advantages of learning the Spanish language.

Music Worksheets and lessons will be pulled from various music texts and websites. Students will be asked to download materials from OneNote throughout the year. Students will complete their study of musical items including dynamics, tempo, tonality, music history, music theory and other musical subjects. This will include a songwriting project, dance lessons and discussion of movie and musical clips. Students will also participate in the musical portion of the annual Christmas concert and prepare for monthly Masses.

Physical Education St. Junipero Serra's physical education curriculum will teach students new and challenging activities while emphasizing and encouraging the importance of a healthy lifestyle. Strategies will be taught to promote healthy life decisions. We will challenge all students to learn and grow while maintaining good character and building positive relationships.

The Physical Education program will focus on three main areas of student development and learning;”.

1. The students will develop the values of sportsmanship and fair play, and be able to transfer those learned skills into their everyday life.
2. The students will work throughout the year to increase their total fitness level and evaluate their improvement through Fitness Testing Program.

PE Expectations

- Safety is the number one priority. Students must use the equipment appropriately and be aware of their surroundings.
- Show good sportsmanship by being respectful and responsible to other classmates and teachers.
- During prayer absolutely no talking or disrespectful behavior.
- Do not talk while the teachers are talking, or any other teacher, adult visitor or peers.
- Come ready to participate. A large percentage of your grade is on participation.
- Be at your number when taking attendance, and make sure you come prepared (dressed in your PE uniform and gym shoes).
- The St. Junipero Serra Catholic Code of Conduct will be adhered to at all times.
- Be positive, help others, enjoy and participate.

Uniform Policy

1. The PE Uniform can be worn all day if the student has PE class on that particular day (Formal Dress Day Policy Below).
2. Shorts must be worn at waist level (especially the boys) and the shorts may not be rolled up at the waist or worn too high (especially the girls), all uniform policies and decisions are made at the discretion and judgment of the Physical Education Department and Principal.
3. Students may wear the designated school sweats any time of the year, but they must wear their PE shorts underneath.
4. Closed toe athletic shoes, laced up and tied, are required for all PE classes.
5. The school policy, in regard to PE uniform requirements on Formal Dress Uniform Days is that the students are to stay in their formal uniform. Students will not change for Physical Education.

Injuries/ Sickness/ Medical Concerns

Any condition that requires a student to sit out of PE activities must have a parent signed note, or email, to excuse for that day. If there is a recurring problem with a student missing due to notes, it may require a change in grading criteria or a conference with a parent to remedy any issues that may arise. A parent note is good for only three days of excused Physical Education. A doctor's note is needed for any extended period of time beyond that. If a student has forgotten a note and is not feeling well, please have them communicate with the school nurse or the teacher. While sitting out, the student will be assigned a task (scorekeeper, timer, written assessment, etc.). During class students must notify the teacher immediately of any injury that occurs, even if they are still able to participate. During a medical absence, the student is responsible for all assignments or information given out in class.

Curricular Enrichment Activities

Retreat/Field Trip The class will participate in their grade level retreat led by one of our Catholic high schools this year. Date, location and further information will be sent out via email later in the year.

Pali Outdoor Education Monday, May 4, 2020- Wednesday, May 6, 2020 (Thursday, May 7, students will be able to arrive at 9:30 am for the start of school).

The sixth grade class will be attending the Pali Mountain Institute Science Camp. This camp provides an exploration of scientific principles, including aerodynamics, geology, and engineering. This experiential education provides progressive learning experiences that extend beyond the classroom walls. Through innovative curriculum and professional staff, students will experience the thrill of touching, seeing and learning about the world around them. At Pali Institute, textbooks are brought to life!

Additional information including medical forms and packing lists will be sent home via email.

Outdoor Education Forms and Fees

The camp fees for the **2019-2020** school year will be self-funded by families and fundraising will not take place. Participation is voluntary; however, the entire class benefits when all students are included.

The 2019-20 fee for this three day program is \$380.00.

The first payment of \$200.00 is due: 10/25/19

The second payment of \$180.00 is due: 2/7/20

Please utilize the 6th Grade Pali Science Camp payment form when submitting your payment. Financial assistance is available for those students who qualify. Please contact Mrs. Angeline Trudell at atrudell@serraschool.org for further information on financial assistance. If you require a payment plan, please contact Angie Trudell at atrudell@serraschool.org. For any additional questions, please contact Mrs. McGee at dmcgee@serraschool.org.

Just as a reminder..... ***IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT ALL PARENT VOLUNTEERS:***

All volunteers must be eligible for supervision of students by clearing the fingerprinting requirements of the Diocese of Orange and must have successfully completed the Safe Environment training. Please see Anna Merrill in Human Resources if you need to determine your eligibility.

Best Wishes to you and your child for a successful year; together we are partners in their success.

The Sixth Grade Teaching Team



**St. Junipero Serra Catholic School
Sixth Grade Pali Science Camp
Participation and Payment Coupons**

2ND PAYMENT - Due 2/7/20

Please complete this portion and return it to the School Office, attn: Debbie McGee by 2/7/20

St. Junipero Serra Catholic School Sixth Grade Pali Science Camp

Balance (\$180 - checks made payable to St. Junipero Serra Catholic School)

Student Name: _____ **Homerroom:** _____

Parent Name: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Email: _____

As a reminder: Camp fees are non-refundable and cannot be applied to any other St. Junipero Serra account.

1ST PAYMENT - Due 10/25/19

Please complete this portion and return it to the School Office, attn: Debbie McGee by 10/25/19

St. Junipero Serra Catholic School Sixth Grade Pali Science Camp

Deposit (\$200 ~ checks made payable to St. Junipero Serra Catholic School)

Student Name: _____ **Homerroom:** _____

Please check the appropriate box:

- Will be attending** Sixth Grade Pali Science Camp and have attached the \$200 deposit. I/We understand that the fees are **non-refundable** and cannot be applied to any other St. Junipero Serra account.
- Will not be attending the Sixth Grade Pali Science Camp. If not attending, it is still important to return this form.** Please note: all 6th teachers attend so students will not attend St. Junipero Serra that week.

Parent Name: _____ **Parent Signature:** _____

Cell Phone #: _____

Email: _____



**St. Junipero Serra Catholic School
Sixth Grade
Family Life Permission Slip**

Dear Sixth Grade Parents,

Our sixth grade students will complete a family life program as a part of their religion class this year. We believe that parents are the primary educators of their children and that the church and school communities are partners with the family. To fulfill our part in this relationship, our bishop has mandated that schools educate the students in Catholic morality and in the teachings of the church. Mrs. Bassett will cover the material in the religion class.

Benziger Family Life reflects and reinforces a major priority in the church today: the preservation and sacredness of the family. Through this program, your child will have an opportunity to develop and practice the healthy attitudes, moral values, and virtues of a Christian family life.

The sixth grade students will also be participating in the Kids and Company: Safety Education Program mandated by Bishop Kevin Vann for all children in Catholic schools or religious education programs.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Angeline Trudell
President

Please return the completed form to Mrs. Bassett by Friday, September 6, 2019.

Family Life Permission Slip

Student Name: _____ Homeroom: _____

Permission:

_____ I **give** permission for my child to be included in the family life program in their religion class.

_____ I do **not** give permission for my child to be included in the family life program in their religion class.

Parent Name (Please Print): _____ Date: _____

Parent Signature: _____



St. Junipero Serra Catholic School
Back-to-School Night ~ Sixth Grade
Parent/Student Acknowledgement Form

Please sign and date once you have read the Back-to-School Packet and return

to your homeroom teacher by Friday, September 6, 2019.

We have read the Sixth Grade Back-to-School Night packet in its entirety and we are affixing our signatures to verify that we (parent(s) and student) understand its content and will comply with the aforementioned guidelines to the best of our ability.

Teacher Name: _____

Grade/Homeroom: _____

Student Name (printed)

Student Signature

Date

Parent Name (printed)

Parent Signature

Date