

Maltby Intermediate  
6th grade  
Eldred/Miller//Zalusky Team

WELCOME! We are all so excited to be sharing this 6th grade journey with you! Here is some information about what you will study this year, and how our team will work.

## **Math**

**Textbook:** Everyday Math Program

### **Course Description:**

The sixth grade math curriculum follows Common Core State Standards and consists of the following topic areas: ***ratio & proportional relationships, number system, expressions & equations, geometry, statistics and data display or distributions.***

This course will provide the skills and practice necessary to reason logically, apply mathematical skills to real-world activities, communicate about and through mathematics and make connections to their lives. Through a hands-on, investigative approach, students will develop an understanding of the different strands of mathematics and their relationships to other content areas.

### **Math Grading Policy:**

Grades are calculated based on students successfully mastering standards for each unit. A detailed letter about this style of grading is on the back page. 100% of their grade in Math comes from the formal assessments, and subsequent retakes, given at the end of each unit.

## **Science**

### **MiStar Program**

### **Course Description:**

Using NGSS, the students will explore the units: Body Systems, Digestion, Forces and Motion and Water Cycle and the Environment. The students will gain a greater understanding of science process skills as they investigate the nature of science and improve their critical thinking skills. The sixth grade science curriculum is designed to provide students with inquiry based learning, scientific principles, lab procedures, and problem solving techniques.

### **Grading Policy:**

Grades are calculated based on the following:

- Labs/Investigations = 40%
- Classwork/Homework = 20%
- Quizzes, Projects, & Tests = 40%

## **Geography**

**Textbook:** Geography Alive-TCI/Teachers Curriculum Institute via School Clever Accounts

### **Course Description:**

The 6th grade social studies curriculum introduces students to the cultures of the Western World. Emphasis is placed on the contemporary geography of North America, South America, Europe, and Russia with a look at Australia/Oceania. In addition to the study of geography, students will explore cultural and natural features that characterize each region; trace movement of people, ideas and products within the regions; study the differences in governments and economics of each region; and study global issues. Historical background is provided to enable students to understand how these regions developed from the past to the present.

Current events will be covered throughout this school year via Scholastic News Magazines and the use of various media.

### **Grading Policy:**

Grades are calculated based on the following:

- Practice tasks -20%
- Performance tasks- 30%
- Assessments & projects- 50%

## **Language Arts**

The sixth grade Language Arts class is designed to promote skill development in the area of reading, writing, speaking & listening. Reading instruction will be delivered using the workshop model and will include individualized guided reading practice through the use of the Accelerated Reader program. This year, students will study many different genres, including fantasy book clubs, information writing, non-fiction, personal narrative and social issues. Included with the study of each of these genres, students will engage in literary discussions about a variety of ideas including the comparing and contrasting of ideas, theme, characterization, plot, point of view, dialogue, and suspense.

### **ELA Grading Policy:**

Grades are calculated based on the following:

- Practice tasks -20%
- Performance tasks- 30%
- Assessments & projects- 50%

**Accelerated Reader Information:** Parents are able to view their student's AR goals and progress by accessing it through the Maltby web page.

## **TEAM POLICIES**

### **Expectations/Citizenship:**

Students are expected to be prepared for class, be prompt, courteous and considerate of others. Active participation is expected in all class discussions and group work. All Maltby Handbook rules and classroom rules are enforced.

### **Make-up Work:**

It is the student's responsibility to obtain all missing work the day you return from an absence. Daily agendas are listed on the board and our teacher websites and any worksheet can be obtained in the extra copy bins or from the teacher. Please have your student contact the teacher for explanations or help with any assignments. You have the number of days you were absent, plus one, to complete and turn in the work. It should be marked as 'Absent' work. Please see the teacher to schedule any make-up tests, labs or quizzes.

### **Late Work:**

Assignments that are not turned in on the due date are considered to be late, unless the student has made prior arrangements with the teacher; students are given 24 hours without grade penalty to turn in the assignment. If not turned in on time, students will then fill out the Missing Work Google form and a "Pink Slip" the day the assignment was due. The Pink Slip is signed by a parent and returned the next morning. The student may choose to complete the work at home that evening or at lunch/recess the next day. If after 24 hours, the assignment is still not turned in, a reduced grade may be given (generally a 10% grade reduction for each day late) and a lunch/recess detention may be given. We will always find time at school for your student to complete work when they fall behind.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to get in touch. Our email addresses are:

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# Standards Based Grading Information

Standards Based Grading is a style of teaching/grading designed to give students more directed feedback about their comprehension through the use of specific learning targets. Students will know the areas that they have performed well in and be aware of any areas that need improvement. The following procedures outline how this teaching strategy operates and what students can expect:

1. For each unit, students will receive a list of learning targets. These targets specify the key concepts that students must master in each unit. Students will be assessed throughout the unit and track their progress on homework to monitor their understanding of each target. This information will provide feedback to the teacher and student on the progress being made and what they focus their academic energy on.
2. At the end of each unit, students will be assessed on their understanding of the learning targets. Unit assessments are structured so that each problem is organized by the learning target it applies to. Students will receive a separate score for each learning target that is assessed.
3. After receiving feedback on their performance, students will have an opportunity to retake a new version of the assessment. This will allow students to show if there has been an improvement in their understanding of any learning targets they initially had trouble with. If students show improvement on a learning target, their score on that target will increase. If improvement is not shown, their grade remains the same (i.e. their scores will never be reduced).
4. A student who still does not demonstrate proficient understanding will be allowed to retake additional versions of the assessment to show increased comprehension. They may retake a previous assessment up until new unit assessments are given. It is the student's responsibility to create time (lunch/recess time) to retake assessments after the first retake opportunity is given.
5. Tests will be worth 100% of your student's grade in math this year. Homework is expected to be completed as practice toward the test. Students will follow our classroom procedure when homework is not turned in on time.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to e-mail me.

Thank you,

~Mrs. Eldred~