



De Soto Unified School District 232
Monticello Trails Middle School
6100 Monticello Rd.
Shawnee, KS 66226

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Jennifer Smith
Principal

Mary King
Associate Principal

Kelly Robinson
School Improvement Specialist

Cara Olson
Roman Lopez
Counselors

Dear 6th South Families,

Welcome to the 2024-2025 school year at Monticello Trails Middle School. We anticipate an exciting year! Working together, we can provide your child with opportunities for academic and social growth.

Communication is the key to any good relationship. Feel free to reach out to us whenever you have a question or concern regarding your child's education. **If your email needs to be updated, please contact the MTMS office to get your contact information updated in Skyward.** Please feel free to call or email us whenever you have a question or concern regarding your child's education.

A copy of the sixth grade policies and course guidelines are included in this team packet. Please take time to review these procedures with your child. We look forward to working with you and your sixth grader this year at Monticello Trails Middle School.

Sincerely,

6th South Team

Mrs. Alicia Goetting - Social Studies agoetting@usd232.org *Team leader

Ms. Isabel Munrain - Math isabel.munrain@usd232.org *Team leader

Mr. Tyler Watts - Science tyler.watts@usd232.org

Ms. Sarah Gilbert - ELA sgilbert@usd232.org

Mrs. Sarah Katsbulas - Pathways skatsbulas@usd232.org

****Please contact team leader with any general questions/concerns***

Team Policies

Key Websites to Bookmark:

- 1) Team Website
- 2) [Digital E-Genda](#)
- 3) [Parent Cheat Sheet](#)
- 4) [K12itc information](#)

Communication

-Please send content concerns to the content teacher.

-Email is the fastest mode of communication. We will communicate with you within twenty-four hours of initial contact. **Our plan period is from 1:04-1:47pm.**

-You can also reach us through our district phone: **913-422-1100.**

Mr. Tyler Watts - Science tyler.watts@usd232.org ; ext. 3131

Mrs. Isabel Munrain - Math isabel.munrain@usd232.org ; ext. 3436

Ms. Sarah Gilbert -ELA sgilbert@usd232.org ; ext. 3208

Mrs. Alicia Goetting- Social Studies agoetting@usd232.org ; ext. 2295

Mrs. Sarah Katsbulas - Pathways skatsbulas@usd232.org ; ext. 2416

-Please direct general questions or concerns to Mrs. Goetting and she will communicate with the team.

Note: Per district policy, we are unable to communicate with parents via text message or social media.

-Our team will communicate with you weekly via Skyward Messenger. **Please be on the lookout for Skyward emails from Mrs. Goetting that will contain the major information from the team for the upcoming week.**

E-genda: [Link HERE](#)

Keeping an agenda is an important skill to help with organization and time management. To facilitate this, we have created an online tool known as the E-genda. This is where we post 1) a snapshot of the daily objective for all core classes, and 2) upcoming homework/due dates.

Location **Students will BOOKMARK THIS the first full week of school**

1. On team webpage
 - a. Accessing e-genda: mtms.usd232.org Click on TEAMS tab. Select 6 South.
2. Canvas
 - a. Under Modules for all teachers

Pairing the E-Genda with their Agenda

They will be required to write down assignments in the agenda through the first quarter.

- ☐ Completed work: When assignments are complete, they will draw a line through the completed work.

- ☐ If students have No Homework written, they should have the daily objective included. Many times you'll see assignments listed that are not due for immediately as we are trying to help them with time management.
- ☐ Missing work: Will be written at the bottom and highlighted.
- ☐ The E-genda will be projected in ELT, which provides them with another time to fill out their agenda at the end of the day.

Skyward: Digital Gradebook

Skyward reflects your student's grade for each class. **While assignments might generate a grade on Canvas, that score is not indicative of their overall grade in the course.** Skyward reflects assignments that have *already* been graded. We encourage checking Skyward on a weekly basis.

Skyward Codes

Code	Definition	How to Proceed
NHI	Not handed in. Typically accompanied by a score of zero.	The teacher has NOT received the assignment. The student might have completed it, but it did not get submitted. Please check with your child first. Encourage your child to send an email to their teacher first.
INC	Incomplete. Assignment was turned in, but it does not meet basic requirements.	Encourage your child to redo the assignment for a higher score or to reach out to the teacher and ask how to move forward.
LATE	Assignment was received, but not on time.	This will be accompanied by a reduction in the total grade. If it was received outside of the boundaries of the grading time frame, then it will remain a zero.
*	Not graded. Please assume we have the assignment.	Wait to contact the teacher. The teacher is in the process of entering grades.

Recommendation: Download the Skyward App!

Canvas: Digital Classroom

Canvas is essentially the digital version of your son or daughter's classroom. This is where they will go to access lessons, resources, and assignments. As a result, this is also where they will be required to submit assignments. We will provide video tutorials and guidance to help students know how to submit assignments.

How do I know if my student submitted their assignment? All assignments receive a timestamp. If your child did NOT receive a timestamp, they did NOT submit their assignment.

Want to know what's happening in Canvas?: We encourage you to get the pairing code from your student so you can be synced with their Canvas account. ([Click here for more information on parents connecting to canvas](#))

Student Absences

-Students are responsible for completing the work they missed while absent. With a large number of students, they need to approach their teachers to get caught up.

“Did I miss anything while I was gone?” Yes, yes you did.

When Absent:

- 1) Check the E-Genda to see what we've done that day.
- 2) Get on Canvas and complete anything that you can.
- 3) Email teachers with any questions you might have.

Absent for an extended period of time?

- 1) Communicate with the team so we can create a game plan to help get students caught up.
- 2) Stay after school the week upon your return to get caught up.

Team Grading

-All core classes will base grades off total points. Please note, the more intensive the assignment/assessment, the higher the point value.

LATE Assignments

-Assignments will receive a maximum deduction of 10% if submitted past the due date. All assignments for each unit are accepted up to the assessment day (end of unit/module).

Note: Absence policy still applies, but teachers will work with the student to help get them caught up.

-Once the assessment has been taken, assignments for that unit will remain a zero in the grade book. Retakes are per teacher discretion.

Missing Work

- ☐ If a student turns in an assignment past the due date, there will be a maximum deduction of 10% on the deserved grade.
- ☐ If an assignment is not turned in, the student will receive a zero on the assignment.
- ☐ If your student has missing work, they have the opportunity to attend Timberwolf Success Program (TSP) in the library from 3:05-4:30 Tuesday, Wednesday, and/or Thursday every week. There is no school transportation provided after the conclusion of TSP.

Behavior Expectations

Basic supplies needed every day:

- 1) Charged Macbook
- 2) Binder
- 3) Pencil
- 4) Agenda
- 5) Independent Reading Book (once we go to the library until the middle of May)

Behavior Consequences

See student handbook (student behavior expectations section) for behavior consequences.

Tardies

Students are expected to be in their class by the bell (unless they have a pass). If they arrive after the bell with no pass, they will be marked tardy.

USD 232 Middle School Class Tardy Policy

	Intervention
1st tardy	Warning
2nd tardy	Assigned consequence
3rd tardy	Assigned consequence and parent contact
4th tardy or more	Office referral resulting in disciplinary action

Lockers

- 6th grade WILL use lockers.
- 6th grade will NOT have backpacks in the classroom.
- Locker codes/combos can be accessed on Skyward (if students forget).

Technology Policies (building)

-There is a **zero-tolerance policy for cell-phones in the classroom**. The expectation is for cellphones to be powered OFF during the academic day. However, students will be allowed to check cell-phones during passing periods at their locker.

Emergency: Contact the office. They will get a hold of your child.

-MacBook integration and expectations will follow the student handbook. Please see the handbook for further information.

- Expectations: Charged computers, appropriate applications, and in their possession on a daily basis.
- It is their responsibility; they are to care for and protect their property in accordance with student

Ways Of The Wolf - RESPECTFUL, RESPONSIBLE, SAFE

The purpose of Monticello Trails Middle School is to educate and empower students to become responsible citizens.

policies.

- This is the Macbook they will have until they graduate high school. They need to care for it appropriately.

-Per Kansas testing protocol, **students are required to have WIRED earbuds/headphones** that are compatible with their Macbooks. **We do NOT use wireless headphones** as they are small and are easily misplaced/stolen. Whatever outside technology students bring to school, they are responsible for.

Technology Issues?

If your child experiences an issue with their MacBook, please contact **K12itc**. [Link to K12 Help Desk](#)

Phone: 816-382-4840.

Hours of Operation: Monday - Friday, 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Students have all vital Macbook information written in their Agenda in their Cheat Sheet. This is glued on the inside of the front cover of the agenda. They will need this information when speaking with K12.

WELCOME TO

Mr. Watts' Classroom



About Me

Hello! I am Mr. Watts and I teach 6th grade Science, which is Physics and Chemistry. I am married to Tara and a father to Kai - a 3rd grader at CCE. I have a science degree in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology from KU. This is my 15th year teaching, and second year at MTMS. I co-lead my son's Cub Scout Den, and I coach Science Olympiad at MTMS. For fun, I enjoy reading, playing board games, and watching Star Wars and Marvel media. My goal is to inspire students to better understand their world through Science, and to do their best!.

Contact Me

Room 109

email:

tyler.watts@usd232.org

Please be aware I usually check my email as often as I can, but I cannot always get back to you right away. I will try to respond within 24 hours.

Welcome to Science!

Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3	Unit 4
<u>What is Science?</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Independent, Dependent and Control Variables. Making Claims Scientific Testing and Data Analysis Metric Measurement 	<u>Chemistry</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Atoms and Molecules Chemical and Physical Changes Chemical Reactions Heat Transfer 	<u>Waves</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sound and Mechanical Waves Light and the Electromagnetic Spectrum 	<u>Motion</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential and Kinetic Energy Speed, Velocity, and Acceleration Newton's Laws Magnets and Magnetic Fields Electrical Circuits

Daily Supplies Needed

Essential Standards

Technology in our Class

Students should always have a pencil and their Science folder/binder. Students need to be **curious** and ready to **learn!**

1. Planning and carrying out investigations.
2. Analyzing and interpreting data.
3. Developing and using models

No phones are allowed in class. Students will use their Macbook at times to **enhance learning.**

Grading Policy

AI Policy

All work should be original. Copying and pasting from any source, including AI, will be considered plagiarism and will result in the disciplinary actions listed in the MTMS handbook.

Assessment

Grading is based on various class activities, coding activities, review questions, student journaling, larger coding activities, and group projects. Students may re-do/re-take assignments or projects to improve upon their learning.

Late Work

- Work submitted **within 2 weeks** of the due date, that is unexcused, will result in a .5 point reduction taken from the total score.
- Work submitted **after 2 weeks** of the due date, that is unexcused, will result in a 1 point reduction taken from the total score. The assignment will be locked on Canvas and the student will have to ask the teacher for a hard copy. In addition to a hard copy, a late work form will be given to the student. Students must have the late work form filled out and signed by a parent or guardian before the assignment will be accepted.

Bellwork

(1 point) Assigned weekly on Monday and due at the beginning of class the following Monday.

Homework / Classwork/Labs:

Homework and classwork will be graded on a 4 point mastery scale.

- 4 - Turned in on-time, done in full with best effort
- 3- Significantly late (past two weeks), and/or some parts left blank or containing minor errors
- 2-Significantly late, and/or work done incorrectly and missing substantial amounts of the assignment..
- 1-Significantly late, and/or work done incorrectly and missing a majority of work required.



Quizzes:

- (Point values will vary) Students will be able to use their notes on quizzes.

Tests:

- (Point values will vary) Students will be able to use their notes on the test. Study material will be provided.

Behavior Policy

The basic expectation in this class is respect.

- You should respect your teacher by being a good listener, participating when asked, and giving your best.
- You should respect your peers by not being distracting, avoiding gossip, no leaving others out, and being a good teammate.

Safety is very important in this class. You will sign a safety contract and are expected to follow the guidelines discussed in class each day.

What happens if I can't/won't do these things?

1. Non-Verbal Cue
2. Verbal Redirection
3. Detention - Lunch, then after school
4. Parents and office are contacted.

Reference the CHAMPS cards for help in knowing how you should be acting!

English Language Arts (ELA)

2024-2025

Ms. Gilbert- sgilbert@usd232.org

6th Grade: South

Room: 112

What will we learn?

KSDE English Language Arts Sixth Grade Essential Standards:

RL/RI. 6.1 Cite textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.

RL/RI.6.3 Describe how a particular story's or drama's plot unfolds in a series of episodes as well as how the characters respond or change as the plot moves toward a resolution.

RL.6.12 Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.

W.6.4 Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience

W.6.8 Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources; assess the credibility of each source; and quote or paraphrase the data and conclusions of others while avoiding plagiarism and providing basic bibliographic information for sources

How will we learn?

Each of us has a unique experience, which allows everyone to bring their own strengths to the ELA classroom. This gift allows everyone to read the same story, yet interpret it differently.

As a result, we will focus on learning how to **defend our opinion/perspective with evidence** as well as engage in **open-minded discussions**. We will also take time to reflect and express our connections through the written and spoken word.

What is the focus each quarter?

<u>Quarter 1</u>	<u>Quarter 2</u>	<u>Quarter 3</u>	<u>Quarter 4</u>
→ Characterization/Elements of Literature → Class novel: <i>Charlie and the Chocolate Factory</i>	→ Research → Unit Theme: Human Rights	→ Text Analysis → Class Novel: <i>The Giver</i>	→ Close-Reading Skills → Class Novel: <i>Percy Jackson</i>

Digital Expectations for Learning

- Macbook charged daily
- No games during class
- **All work should be original. Copying and pasting from any source, including AI, will be considered plagiarism and will result in the disciplinary actions listed in the MTMS handbook.**

Ways Of The Wolf - RESPECTFUL, RESPONSIBLE, SAFE

The purpose of Monticello Trails Middle School is to educate and empower students to become responsible citizens.

Grading:

Your grade should be a reflection of your learning within a timely manner. With that in mind the policy is as follows:

Late Work:

- Homework submitted **within 2 weeks** of the due date, that is unexcused, will result in a .5 point reduction taken from the total score.
- Homework submitted **after 2 weeks** of the due date, that is unexcused, will result in a 1 point reduction taken from the total score. The assignment will be locked on Canvas and the student will have to ask the teacher for a hard copy. In addition to a hard copy, a late work form will be given to the student. Students must have the late work form filled out and signed by a parent or guardian before the assignment will be accepted.

Bellwork

(1 point) Assigned weekly on Monday and due at the beginning of class the following Monday.

Homework / Practice:

Homework and practice will be graded on a 4 point mastery scale.

- 4 - Turned in on-time, done in full with best effort
- 3- Significantly late (past two weeks), and/or some parts left blank or containing minor errors
- 2-Significantly late, and/or work done incorrectly and missing substantial amounts of the assignment.
- 1-Significantly late, and/or work done incorrectly and missing a majority of work required.

Quizzes:

- (Point values will vary) Students will be able to use their notes on quizzes.

Tests:

- (Point values will vary) Students will be able to use their notes on the test. Study material will be provided.

Retake Policies:

Homework / Practice: Students make redo and make corrections to receive their desired grade up till two weeks after the assignment's original due date.

Quizzes/Tests: If the original score is lower than 70% students may make corrections to receive half-credit back.

What will you need?

To be successful in class each day, you will need:

- A charged Macbook
- A choice book (from home or library)
- A pencil
- ELA Binder

6th Grade Pathways SYLLABUS

Mrs. Sarah Katsbulas



WHAT IS PATHWAYS?

Pathways is a way for you to begin thinking about and looking into careers once you leave high school. In 6th grade, we discover just who we really are and what our strengths are. Second semester, we'll begin looking more closely at some different careers to learn about where some of our interests align.

CLASS OBJECTIVES



Use Technology



Practice Critical Thinking



Foster Creativity

Collaborate



Communicate Effectively



Explore Careers



KEEP IN TOUCH

skatsbulas@usd232.org

TWITTER & INSTAGRAM

@mrskatsbulas

KEYS TO SUCCESS



Respect others, the classroom, and yourself



Give your best effort



Have a positive attitude



Be honest, even when it's tough



Cooperate! Encourage, support, and show kindness to EVERYONE!

A.I.

Students will be required to utilize their macbooks regularly. It will be expected that students adhere to student guidelines and policies, as noted in the Technology Policy/Procedures document and the Acceptable Use Policy. Students are expected to complete their own ORIGINAL work in this class. Any plagiarized work will result in a 0 and will be required to be redone.

LATE WORK? Hope not, but just in case...

Always communicate with me so we can create a plan for



Turn in late work as soon as possible so that your grade accurately reflects



On all projects, there will be scoring for work not completed on

6th Grade Math

with Mrs. Isabel Munrain



About the Teacher

Hi, my name is Isabel Munrain, and I'm so excited you're in my class!

This is my 4th year teaching math, and my 3rd year at MT. My family includes my husband, Brad, and our boxer, Jax! We are big fans of the Pittsburgh Panthers and are a split household between the KC Chiefs and Pittsburgh Steelers!

When I'm not at MT, I love cooking and hiking in new national parks. My husband and I are 23/63 of the way through the parks!

My goal is to teach you something new and show you math is fun. Be prepared to learn a lot this year!

Materials Needed

- ☐ Math notebook
- ☐ Pencils
- ☐ Macbook
- ☐ Earbuds
- ☐ Assignments



Technology + AI

Students will be required to utilize their macbooks regularly to enhance math instruction and practice.

It will be expected that students adhere to student guidelines and policies, as noted in the Technology Policy/Procedures document and the Acceptable Use Policy.

Students are expected to complete their own ORIGINAL work in this class. Any plagiarized work will result in a 0 and will be required to be redone.

Contact Info

MTMS Room 113

Email:
isabel.munrain@usd232.org



Plan Time

8:45 - 9:30
1:05 - 1:40



Need some help?

W.I.N.

Time every day to complete assignments and get help

Mrs. Munrain

Email questions
Ask during class

T.S.P.

Tues/Wed/Thurs
3:05 - 4:30 in media center



Grading Policy

Calculated by **Total Points** in the following categories:

- **Independent Practice**
 - Grow in understanding
- **Knowledge Checks**
 - Monitor progress and guide instruction
- **Assessments**
 - Check for mastery

Point values vary depending on intensiveness of work

In math we strive to ensure academic reporting represents student learning and mastery of standards

Corrections and reassessments will be encouraged until mastery is achieved

Units of Study

- ☐ Number System
- ☐ Ratios & Proportions
- ☐ Expressions & Equations
- ☐ Geometry
- ☐ Statistics & Probability

[*Link to 6th grade math goals](#)



Reassessment

Most assignments and assessments can be re-done to demonstrate better understanding of concepts. The best score will be taken.

Assignments:

Students must sign "redo" at the top of their assignment and turn in to show their new knowledge.

Assessments:

1. Tell teacher you want to reassess
2. Make test corrections on previous test and turn in
3. Complete reassessment (new test but same content) at a pre-scheduled time with teacher.

Essential Standards

- Decimal Operations
- Fraction Operations
- One Step Equations

Students required to reach 80%+ mastery on these topics



Behavior

In math we are respectful, safe, and responsible learners



Social Studies Syllabus

6th Grade Social Studies: Ancient Civilizations

Teacher Contact



Alicia Goetting

Email-

agoetting@usd232.org

Essential Standards:

1. Identify causes and effects of an event.
2. Draw a conclusion based on evidence, making a claim and supporting with evidence
3. Demonstrate the ability to read, interpret and analyze a primary source.

Units of Study:

- *Review Skills (Geography and Timelines)
- *Early Humans and the Rise of Civilization
- *Ancient Egypt and the Middle East
- *Ancient India
- *Ancient China
- *Ancient Greece
- *Ancient Rome



Late Work Policy

Work will be accepted until the end of the unit. Once the unit is completed, work from that unit will no longer be accepted and will result in a zero in the grade book.

Course Materials:

- √Binder/Accordion File
- √Pencils
- √Macbook (will not need this everyday)
- √Headphones/earbuds (will need with MacBook)
- √Social Studies Folder (keep class papers in, keep in classroom)

Other optional items :

*Colored pencils, markers, highlighters, notecards, and a glue stick.

Course Evaluation:

Students will be graded by total points. Assessments and assignments are not weighted, however they will be worth different point values.

Grading Categories:

- Participation/Daily Work
- General Points
- Common Assignment



A.I. Expectations:



Students will be required to utilize their macbooks regularly to enhance Social Studies instruction. It will be expected that students adhere to student guidelines and policies, as noted in the Technology Policy/Procedures document and the Acceptable Use Policy. Students are expected to complete their own ORIGINAL work in this class. Any plagiarized work will result in a 0 and will be required to be redone.

Classroom Expectations:

Follow the Ways of the Wolf-BE RESPECTFUL, RESPONSIBLE, AND SAFE!

- Be Prompt and Be Prepared: Be ready to learn when class begins with all materials.
- Be a Polite and Positive Participant: Speak in a normal tone of voice, and listen attentively.
- Be Productive: During activities or class time; Turn in work on time, and always do your best.
- Be a Problem Solver: Correct problems quickly and peacefully before they escalate.

• HAVE FUN!!

