



6th

# Grade Parent Night



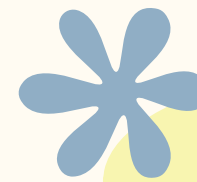
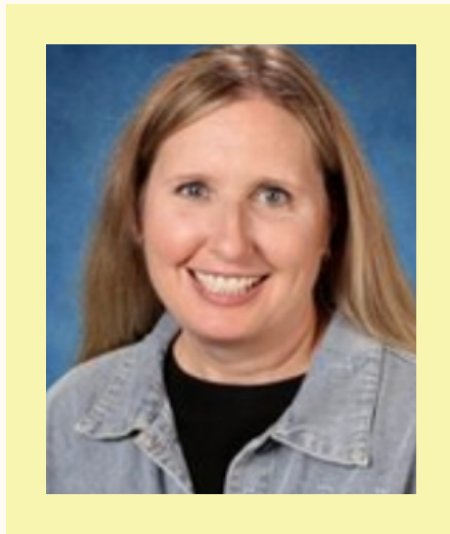
May 6,  
2026



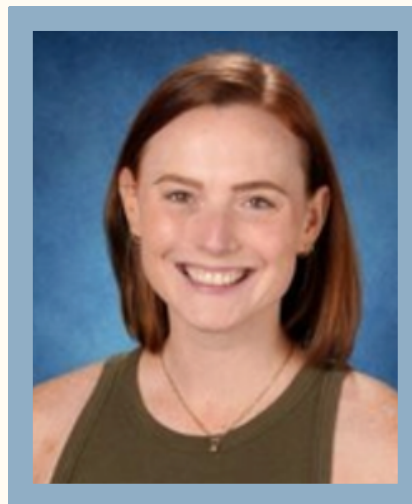
## Agenda

- **6 Essential Skills for Middle School Success**

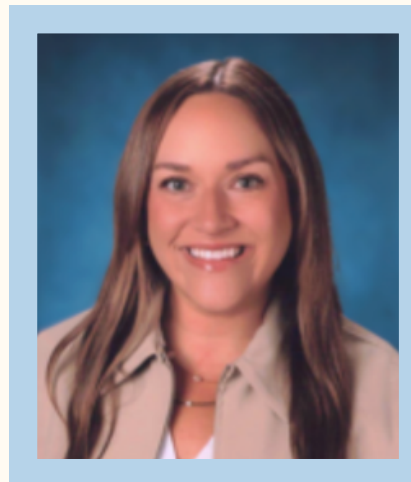
# Who's Here?



*Mary Jo Budzius  
Principal*



**KAT KUSZAK  
TECH COACH**



*Whitney Swope  
Teacher*



# Onboarding Your 6<sup>th</sup> Grader

## Programs

*WEB*

*Gator for a Night  
Back 2 School Day*



## Executive Functioning \*

*Lessons in 6<sup>th</sup> grade  
Social Studies classes*



## Gator Time Lessons

*6 essential skills for  
middle school success*

### Leveling Up: 6 Essential Skills for Middle School Success

- Communication & Self-Advocacy**
- Professional Digital Communication**  
Students must master writing professional emails and using messaging platforms like Schoology.
- Proactive Problem Solving**  
Identifying strategies to persevere through academic challenges and asking for help when needed.
- Resource Awareness**  
Knowing when to notify parents or guardians about necessary school supplies.
- Campus Navigation & Safety**
- Independence & Organization**
- Logistics & Time Management**  
Using a planner to track assignments and organizing physical material needs.
- Digital Responsibility**  
Managing device charging independently and maintaining an efficient digital file system.

We have layers of supports for your incoming 6<sup>th</sup> grader to help them transition smoothly to IMS!



# Lessons in Gator Time!

The idea: 6<sup>th</sup> grade students would have a rotating series of lessons in Gator Time to help onboard them as Gators.

*The Idea*

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- Campus Navigation & Safety**  
Using maps to navigate the building and transitioning between classes independently and safely.
- Independence & Organization**
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© Notebook!



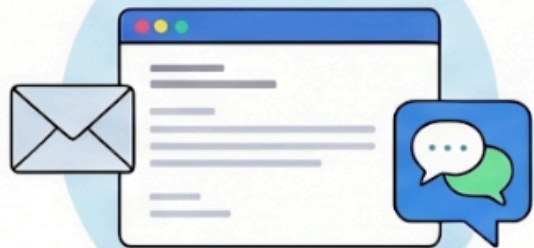
# Gator Time Lessons

## Leveling Up: 6 Essential Skills for Middle School Success



### Communication & Self-Advocacy

#### Professional Digital Communication



Students must master writing professional emails and using messaging platforms like Schoology.



#### Resource Awareness

Knowing when to notify parents or guardians about necessary school supplies.



#### Proactive Problem Solving

Identifying strategies to persevere through academic challenges and asking for help when needed.



### Independence & Organization

#### Campus Navigation & Safety



Using maps to navigate the building and transitioning between classes independently and safely.



#### Logistics & Time Management

Using a planner to track assignments and organizing physical material needs.



#### Digital Responsibility

Managing device charging independently and maintaining an efficient digital file system.



## Communication & Self-Advocacy

### Professional Digital Communication



Students must master writing professional emails and using messaging platforms like Schoology.



### Proactive Problem Solving

Identifying strategies to persevere through academic challenges and asking for help when needed.



### Resource Awareness

Knowing when to notify parents or guardians about necessary school supplies.

# Lessons

CATEGORY

1

## COMMUNICATION & SELF-ADVOCACY

01

PROFESSIONAL DIGITAL COMMUNICATION

03

RESOURCE AWARENESS

02

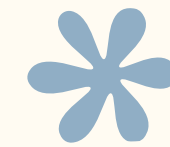
PROACTIVE PROBLEM SOLVING



# Resource Awareness

TEXTBOOKS

SCHOOL SUPPLIES



DIGITAL RESOURCES

WHAT TO BRING TO SCHOOL

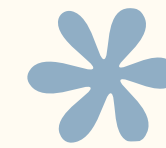


Click the backpack for a “backpack checklist” you can use with your student!

# Professional Communication

SCHOODOLOGY

TEACHER EMAILS



GROUP  
PROJECTS

LEARNING  
"SCHOOL TONE"

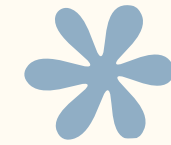


Click the email for the Parenting Mercer Island Guide "Technology for Your 11-Year-Old"

# Proactive Problem Solving

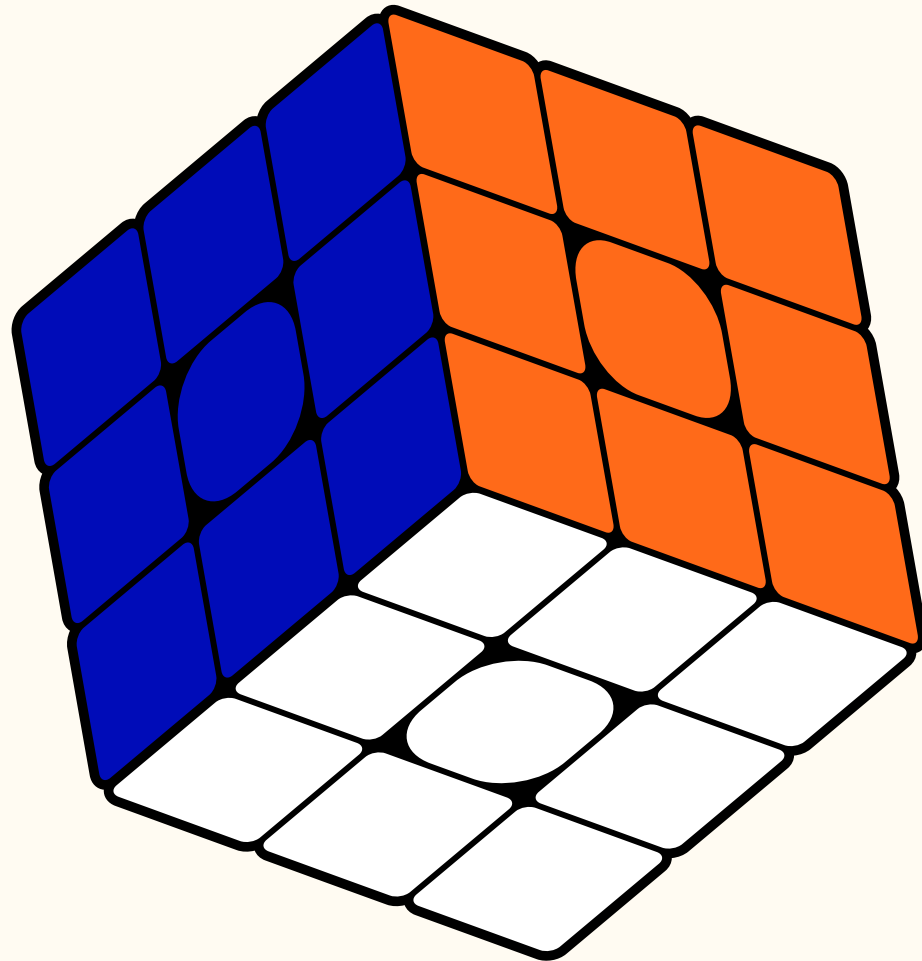
COUNSELORS

FRIENDS



TEACHERS AND  
STAFF

ASKING FOR  
HELP



Click the rubix cube for the Parenting Mercer Island Guide "Intentional Communication"

**Independence & Organization**

**Campus Navigation & Safety**  
Using maps to navigate the building and transitioning between classes independently and safely.

**Logistics & Time Management**  
Using a planner to track assignments and organizing physical material needs.

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# Lessons

CATEGORY

2

## INDEPENDENCE & ORGANIZATION

01

CAMPUS NAVIGATION & SAFETY

03

DIGITAL RESPONSIBILITY

02

LOGISTICS & TIME MANAGEMENT



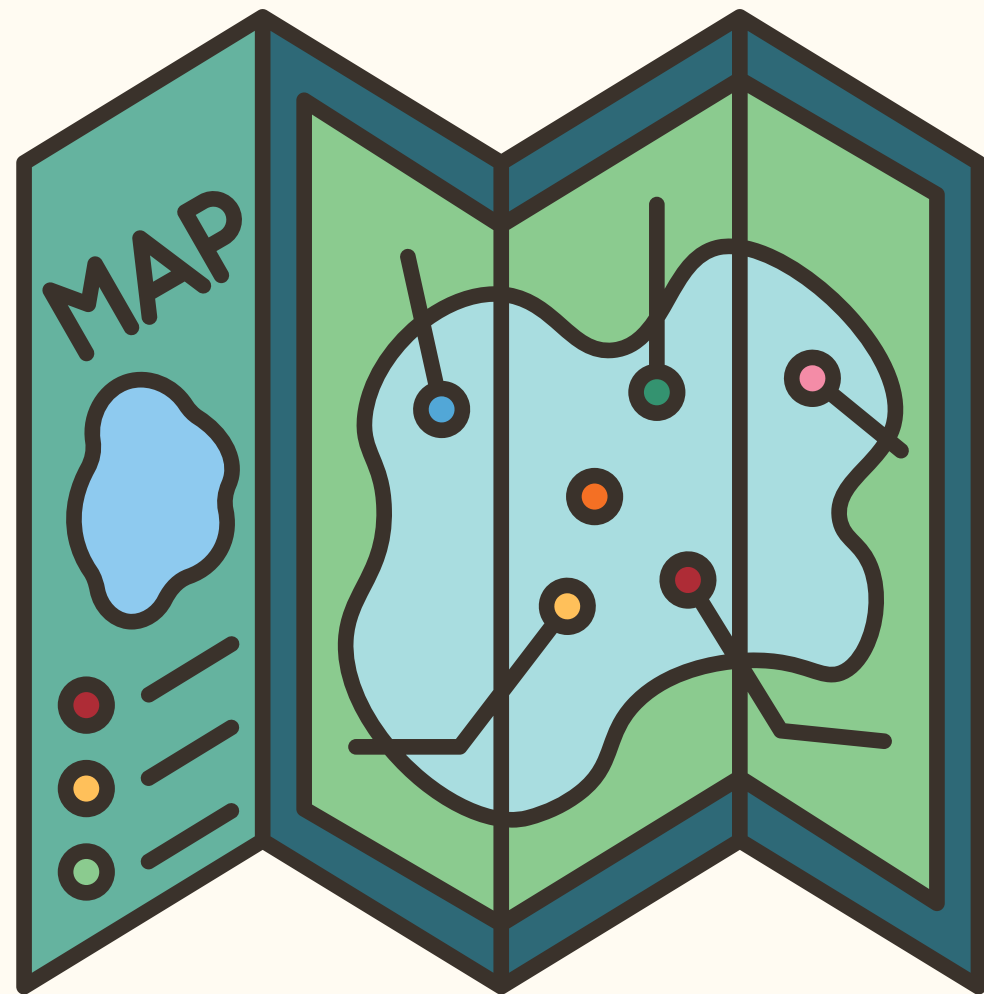
# Campus Navigation

CAMPUS  
SAFETY

SCHOOL  
NAVIGATION

MOVING  
BETWEEN  
BUILDINGS

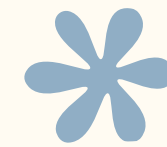
SCHOOL BELL  
SCHEDULE



Click the map for a copy of the IMS Bell Schedule.

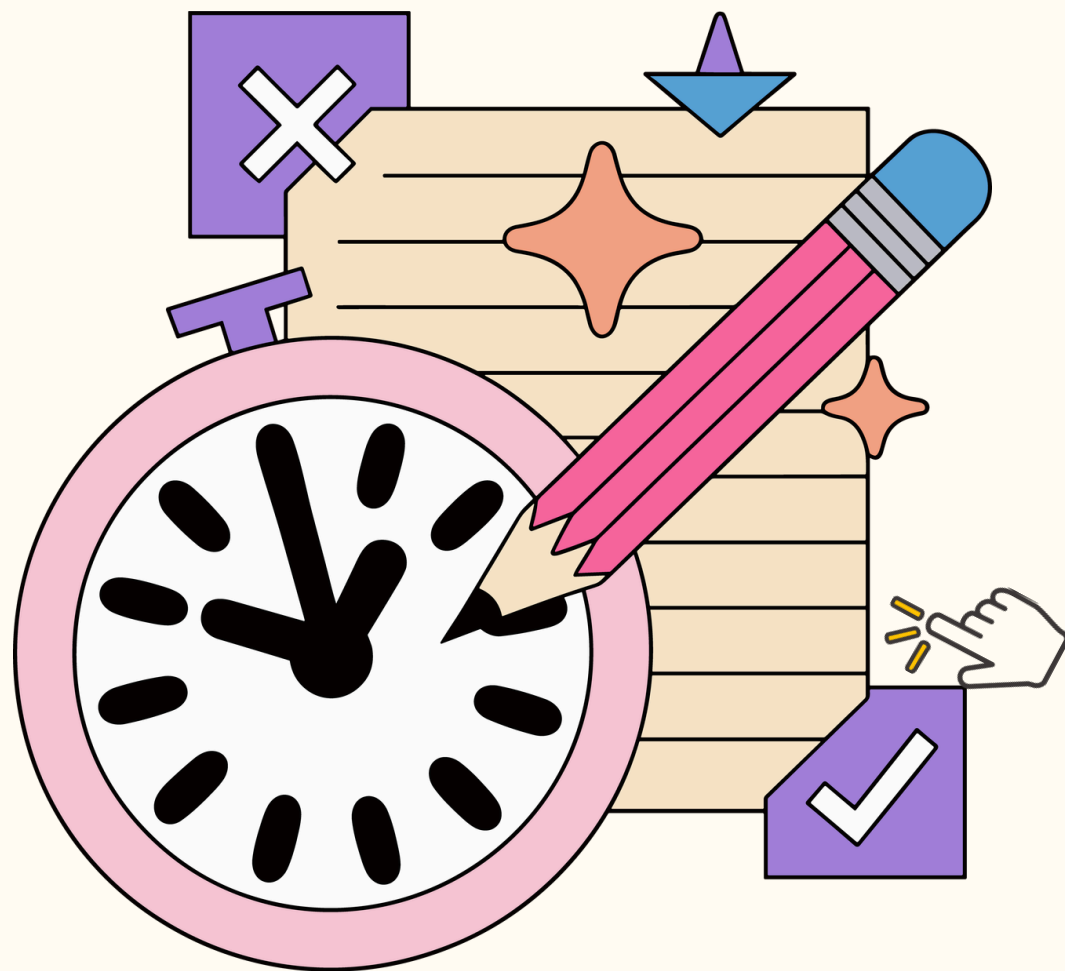
# Time Management

SCHOOLLOGY



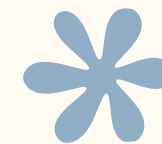
GROUP PROJECTS

LEARNING "SCHOOL TONE"



Click the image for Parenting Mercer Island's Homework guide for 11-year-olds.

# Paper Planner



All 6<sup>th</sup> grade students will be supported in using a paper planner to track their work.

# Digital Responsibility

DIGITAL ORGANIZATION

RESPONSIBLE TECH USE



DIGITAL ORGANIZATION

WHEN TO GO TECH FREE



Click the image for tech resources and other helpful links.

# Supplies List

6TH GRADE

FALL 2026



ESSENTIAL

MUST HAVES

Our Goal: Communicate effectively with families, help students to have what they need to be successful, while trying to keep the backpack as light as possible.

How do we streamline?  
What are the absolute materials our kids need across their day?

\* Example  
Lesson  
Snapshot



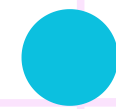
# Student Messages



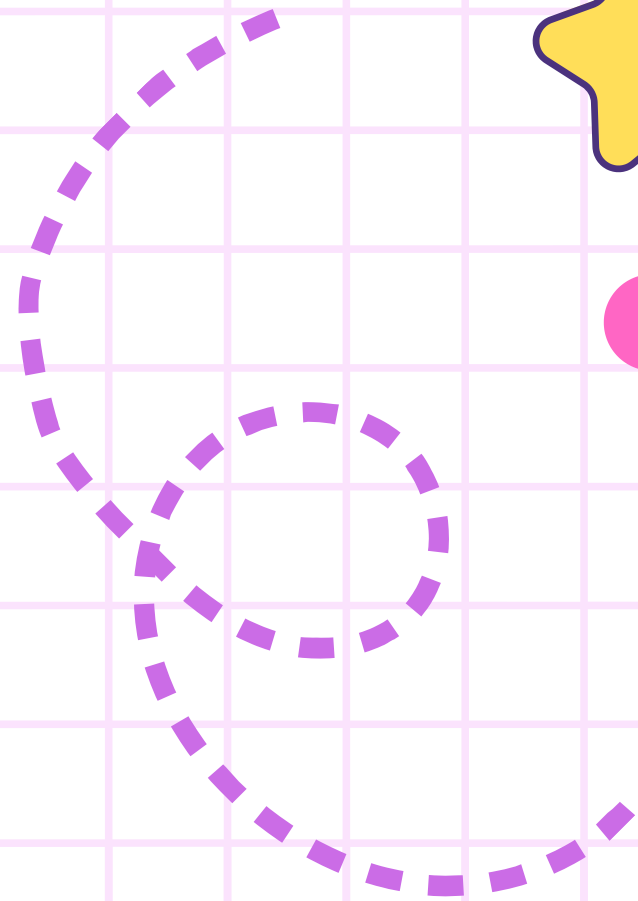
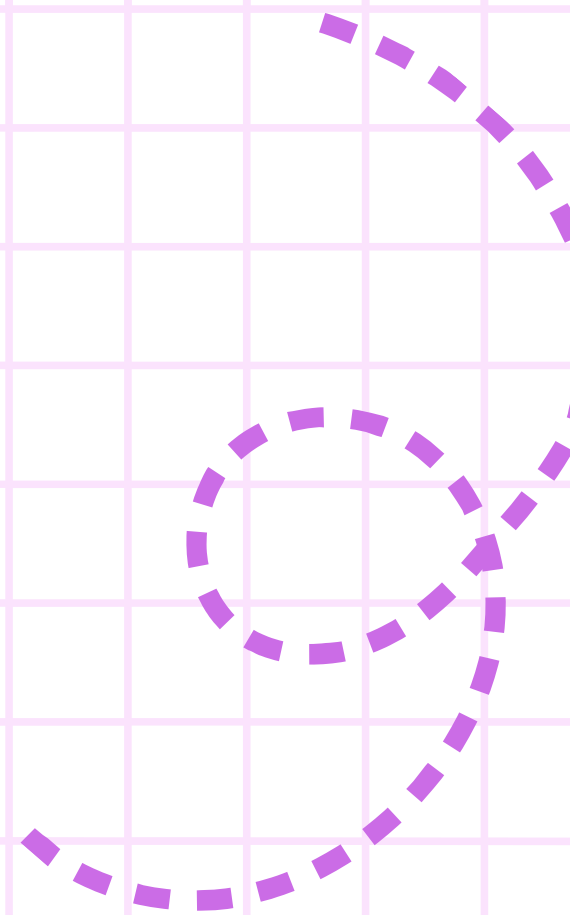
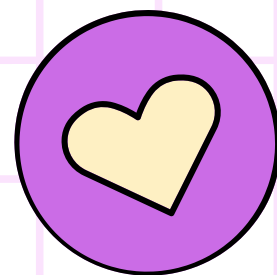
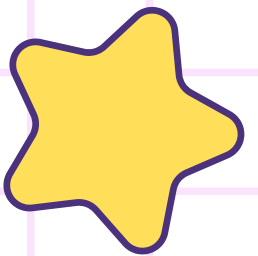
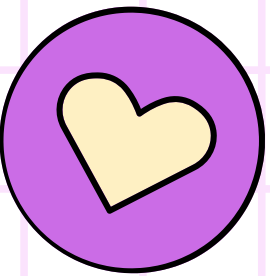
While you are watching, pay attention to what goes wrong in these messages. What could these students improve to make their messages more effective?



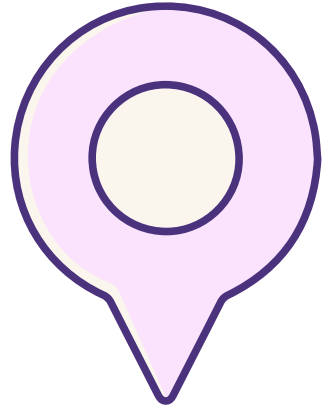
# Student Messages: what went wrong?



As a class, brainstorm the issues you see in the student messages:



# Your Electronic Messages Should be..



**Clear: “The What”**



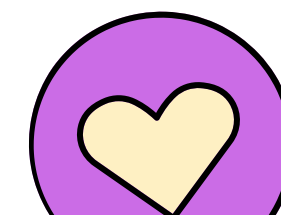
**Concise: The “Speed”**



**Courteous: The “Vibe”**



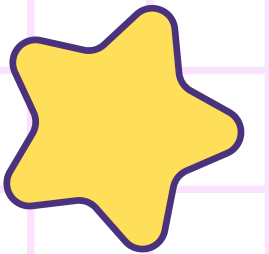
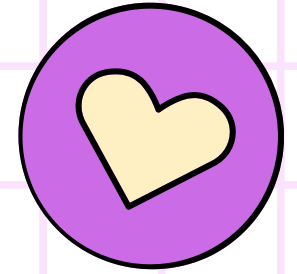
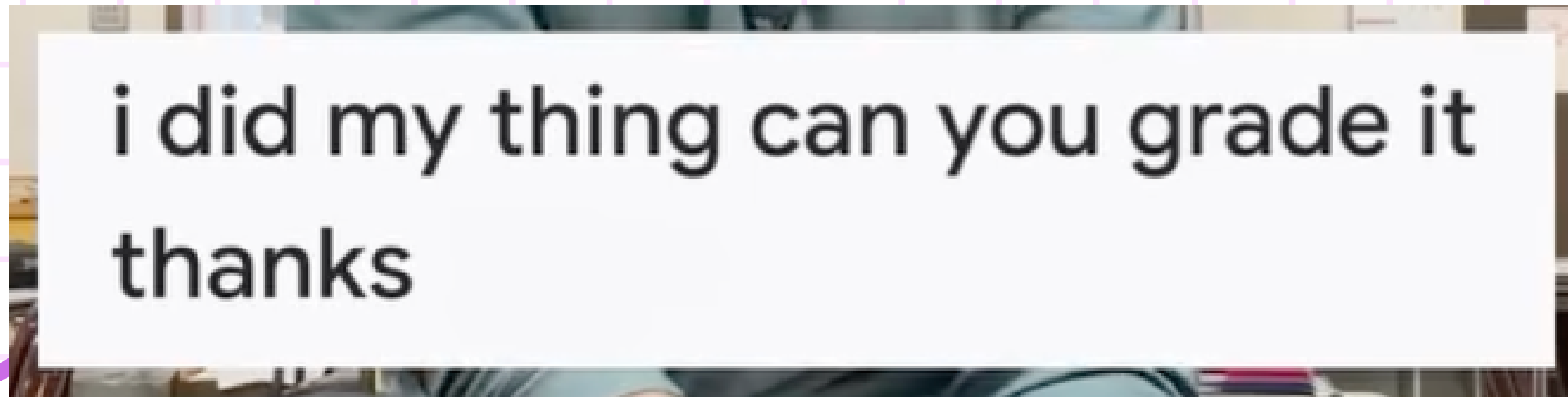
**Constructive: The “Solution”**





## Clear: (The “What”)

What questions will the teacher have about this message?



A clear message doesn't make the teacher play detective.

- Include the exact assignment, the period number, and the specific problem or need.

- Unclear: "Grade my assignment."
- 
- Clear: "I completed Photosynthesis Worksheet #2 and submitted it on Schoology."

