



Welcome to 6th Grade!

August 202 6

Dear Parents/Guardians & 6th Grade Students,

We are excited to begin this 2026 -27 school year! The goal of the Sixth Grade staff is to provide your child with rigorous content that requires his/her maximum potential in preparation for seventh grade and future career training. **The first day of school is Wednesday , August 26th .** Below you will find some important information regarding 6th grade as well as recommended supplies for the year.

Please hold any questions you might have until **Meet the Teacher Night on Monday, August 24th .** If you have something that requires more urgency, please contact the middle school office at (814) -684-4240.

If you have not yet done so, please access your schedule online through the Sapphire portal at <https://tyrone-sapphire.k12system.com/CommunityWebPortal/Welcome.cfm> . Students in sixth grade will follow a modified block schedule, seeing a variety of teachers throughout the school day. They will have ELA and Math for 86 minutes apiece and social studies and science for 43 minutes. Students will also follow a six -day rotation for special classes like music, physical education, and art. Finally, we will have a WIN period (What I Need) in the middle of the day to work on any skills where a student may need an extra boost or enrichment. A brief outline of the schedule for 6th grade is as follows:

Advisory	7:55 – 8:14
Period 1	8:17 – 9:00
Period 2	9:03 – 9:46
Period 3	9:49 – 10:32
Period 4	10:35-11:18
B Lunch	11:21– 11:51
Period 5 (WIN)	11:54 – 12:37
Period 6 (Rotation)	12:40 – 1:23
Period 7	1:26 – 2:09
Period 8	2:12 – 2:55

The Sixth-Grade teaching staff includes Jim Koller, Shelly Toto, Jenna Clark, Matt Germino, Krista Getz, Tina Lewis, and Samantha Raabe. Our team of teachers meets each week to plan academic programs, address issues of concern, and to discuss the progress of individual students.

Looking carefully at how well your child is performing in all subject areas allows us to make his/her program as challenging as possible, as well as pick up on problem areas and address them quickly so that your child may experience success.

Here is a list of highly recommended, but not required, supplies for the school year. Many parents enjoy back-to-school shopping, but please know that students will be provided with items needed for their success in school.

- Binder/Trapper Keeper and Folders (5 subjects)
- Pencils
- Highlighters (at least 2 different colors)
- Dry-Erase Markers (at least 4 –does not have to be colored)
- Headphones (for chrome book) * *ear bud or over the ear style. No bluetooth.*
- Crayons, markers, or colored pencils

Provided below is a list of general comments related to important issues affecting your child's program:

Organization



Your child should use a three-ring binder or trapper keeper with rings 1½ to 2 inches in size, four one-subject notebooks, 4 pocket folders, highlighters, pencils, and dry-erase markers. The binder serves as an important organizational tool allowing most of your child's materials to be placed in one location that is easy to transport and harder to lose. The spiral notebooks will be used for note taking and pocket folders for homework in each individual class. All these items can fit into the three-ring binder along with the agenda.

Homework and Cheating Policy



The importance of homework is to allow students to practice skills that are to be mastered for assessments as well as to learn important time management skills that will be needed throughout life. For that reason, the completion of assignments is taken seriously. Each teacher has developed his/her homework policy and will share those expectations as part of the course syllabus. You will be able to identify late or missing assignments on the Sapphire Grading Program. We ask that you please check Sapphire regularly to review your child's grades, upcoming assignments and possibly missing assignments he/she may have.



If, for some reason, your child is unable to complete an assignment due to a family issue or unexpected circumstance, please let us know by writing a quick note, calling or emailing his/her homeroom teacher. We understand that situations occur from time to time and will gladly give your child additional time to complete the assignment. Also, if you find that your child is having difficulty completing homework or taking hours to do the work, please inform us so that we can try to help and correct this situation.

When a student cheats, copies an assignment, or plagiarizes a paper, the student has lost the opportunity to master the skill being taught. In addition, those students who choose to do the work are robbed of the reward honest effort deserves. For that reason, members of our Team will enforce a strict cheating policy (see *Cheating* in the Parent-Student Handbook). Any student who is caught copying work or plagiarizing material will be reported to that



academic teacher. In addition, the student who provided them with the answers will also be reported. We all need to encourage and reward honest effort.

We recognize the increased use of A.I. tools, such as Grammarly, ChatGPT, MagicSchool, etc., among students. While these tools can be used in a positive and engaging manner in the classroom, they are not to be abused. If students are found to be using these tools to complete work without permission or guidance from their teacher, they will fall under the cheating policy referenced above. Below are examples of acceptable and unacceptable uses of A.I. in the classroom:

Allowed

- Getting help with grammar
- Brainstorming story ideas
- Using approved AI tools in class

Not Allowed

- Copying full answers or essays
- Asking AI to do your homework
- Using AI secretly or without permission

Sapphire Grading Program

Many of you may have used Sapphire last year when your child was in Fifth Grade so you will be able to access that information just as you had done in the past. If you have not used Sapphire, you must enroll through the district web site in order to ensure that only you can access your students' account. Students also have the ability to check this daily during advisory. It is extremely important for students to take ownership of this so that they can develop the responsibility and accountability needed to succeed.

Teachers are given two weeks after an assignment's due date or test to enter that grade. If you wish to verify if an assignment is late, please contact the teacher via email.

Contacting Teachers

The best communication method is by e-mail. All teacher email addresses are available on the TASD home page by selecting *Choose a School: Middle School* then *Staff Pages*. Just click on the teacher's name to open a web page that includes the email address.

Phone messages are also an option. Call the school at 684 -4240 and use the classroom room number as the extension where you can leave a message (incoming messages cannot be sent to a classroom during the school day). For emergencies, select the operator.

Sixth Grade Classroom Rules and Procedures

In 6th grade, developing a greater sense of accountability and responsibility for our work and our actions are paramount. Students will encounter an increase of expectations, most notably when it comes to time management with assignments. While each child is working here at school, we expect behavior that does not interfere with his/her learning or the learning of other students. The following procedures are intended to encourage success:

1. Each child is expected to come to class prepared to work. This means having the right attitude and materials including the three -ring binder, notebook, folders, agenda, books, and a pencil.

If a student does not have his/her necessary materials, he/she will lose privileges due to not being prepared.



2. Homework is designed to practice skills and to help you prepare for future assessments. Each teacher will explain his/her homework expectations and how homework will be incorporated into that class.
3. An adult is often asked to sign items such as the agenda, tests, or papers. A student will have a minimum of two days to have an item signed before it is marked as an incomplete assignment.
4. Different teachers have different rules about chewing gum since gum can become a distraction and a source of litter. Each student will be expected to follow the rules of his/her individual teacher.
5. As is stated in the handbook, students are not permitted to eat or drink during classes or in the halls. Also, food may not be taken out of the cafeteria. The only exception is a student may have water that is in a closed container. To avoid spills and possible accidents, the container must have a lid and should be closed when in the halls.

In addition to the Team procedures, each teacher will have specific rules for his/her classroom. A student will need to meet the expectations each teacher has identified as he/she goes from class to class. Just like in a real job, we all are expected to follow the directions of our boss. If someone has a question about a rule, he/she may talk with that teacher or, if it is more comfortable, write a note explaining the concern.

Thank you for your interest in your child's education, and we look forward to working with you throughout this special year.

Mr. Koller
Mr. Germino
Mrs. Lewis

Mrs. Raabe
Mrs. Toto

Mrs. Getz
Mrs. Clark

Please sign and return this page to your advisory teacher!

Dear Parents,

Please read the attached information then sign and return this first page only. Your signature is a way of letting us know that you received this letter. Thank you for your assistance.

Student Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Please provide us with up-to-date contact information in order that we can share details about your child's progress throughout the year.

Email Address: _____

Preferred Telephone Number: _____

Thank you.