

SIXTH GRADE

2021

----- *Ms. Agne* -----

2022

Dear 6th Graders & Parents/Guardians,

I would like to take this chance to welcome you to my classroom! I am extremely excited to be teaching sixth grade at Morrice again this year. Our classroom will be full of leaders who have many amazing talents and passions. I look forward to learning and growing with these students throughout the year, whatever it may hold.

Let me tell you a little bit about myself. This will be my sixth year of teaching; my fifth at Morrice. Before that, I taught 5th grade at Dwight Rich Academy in Lansing. Prior to that I did a full year of Student teaching in Walled Lake School District in 3rd grade. I did this full year of student teaching as a part of my time in the College of Education at Michigan State University. While at MSU, I was fortunate enough to be part of the Global Educator Cohort Program which provided me the opportunity to spend 2 months teaching 2nd grade in The Netherlands!

I currently live in South Lyon, a small town near Brighton, with my parents, their 2 cats, my dog, and my hedgehog. This year I am looking to getting back to many of my favorite hobbies including attending MSU Football games, going for walks with my dog, and traveling. I enjoy going new places and experiencing new things and this has led me to many amazing opportunities including traveling the states, going to Canada and Mexico, as well as visiting Europe twice.

I am honored to have all of the 6th grade leaders in my classroom this year and I hope that we will all be involved in watching your children grow in this positive, fun loving atmosphere. I firmly believe that communication and cooperation between parents, the child, and teacher are essential for a successful learning experience. I work hard to help students develop their independence in 6th grade so that the transition to Junior High is as smooth as possible. I hope you will always feel free to contact me if you have any questions, comments, or concerns!

Your Partner in Education,
Victoria Agne

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COMMUNICATION

with the teacher

- 1 Class Dojo message
- 2 agne@morrice.k12.mi.us
- 3 (734) 489 - 1719

CLASSROOM DONATION

Materials to share

- 1 Post-it Notes
- 2 Index Cards
- 3 Glue Sticks
- 4 Crayons, Markers, & Colored Pencils
- 5 All Sizes Ziploc Bags
- 6 Clorox Wipes
- 7 Healthy Snacks
- 8 Boxes of Tissues
- 9 Various Types of Tape
- 10 Rulers / Measuring Tapes
- 11 Flair Pens
- 12 Ticonderoga Handwriting Mechanical Pencils

AMAZON *wishlist*

There are many items that can make a classroom more enjoyable for students. While I would love to purchase them all for my classroom, that isn't always possible. I maintain a classroom wishlist on Amazon of items that would be great for our room. The link can be found on our Class Dojo page.

INDIVIDUAL MATERIALS

to be successful

- 1 Single Subject Notebook (6)
- 2 Folder (6)
- 3 I-in binder (2)
- 4 Headphones
- 5 USB Mouse
- 6 Highlighters (5 colors)

I recommend color coding the notebooks and folders by subject. More info about this on pg. 3

to leave at school

IMPORTANT *Announcement*

If you and your student are having trouble getting any of the individual supplies, please reach out to me. I am happy to support students in making sure they have everything they need to be successful.

I include a list of classroom donation materials because these are materials we use for projects, collaboration, and other activities throughout the year. These are in no way required, but as you do back-to-school shopping and see great deals on these items, please consider donating one or some to the classroom.

RECYCLING *Requests*

In our classroom we do many projects and activities that utilize recycled materials. Throughout the year, please consider sending in these materials to the classroom in lieu of throwing them away.

- 1 Empty Cereal Boxes & Similar Cardboard
- 2 Paper Towel Tubes
- 3 Egg Cartons
- 4 Leftover Fabric Pieces
- 5 Yarn / Ribbon / String
- 6 Buttons / Shells / Small Rocks

A Brief Overview of Sixth Grade

FOOD & DRINK POLICY

Healthy snacks and water are allowed in my class and can be consumed at any time. I ask that students get their snacks during break times and avoid getting up during lessons and work time for snack reasons. I reserve the right to change this policy if snacks become a distraction, messes are not being cleaned up properly, or if students are regularly bringing unhealthy choices.

W.I.N. TIME

Each day students are provided with W.I.N. Time. This stands for "Whatever I Need" and is a time for students to work on a multitude of tasks such as:

- Finishing assignments
- Completing late or missing work
- Catching up on absent work
- Working in small groups with Ms. Agne
- Extending their learning through a passport journey or game

During this time, students are expected to use their time wisely and make good choices for their own benefit as it is less structured than traditional class time.

HOMEWORK POLICY

Students in 6th grade receive homework almost every school day. The main goal with homework I assign is for students to revisit the ideas we covered in class for the day and reinforce the concepts. Any homework I assign is intended to be "low risk" and only counts as a few points in their overall grade, for making an effort.

A special note for math homework: students are assigned a set of problems for homework, but their assignment is to work diligently on those problems for 15 minutes. Beyond 15 minutes, there is not as much benefit to them struggling through.

ABSENCES

Many absences are unavoidable such as sicknesses or unexpected events, however in the case of planned appointments and vacations, I highly recommend that students take the initiative to ask for their work ahead of time. This helps to prevent them from falling behind during their planned absence.

I do my best to provide the work I have available for the student, however, due to the nature of classrooms it may not perfectly line up with what is done in the classroom each day. In that case, those assignments will be provided to students upon their return to school.

In cases of unplanned absences, students will receive their work upon return to class and are expected to complete their make-up work and turn it in to the teacher within the deadline (one day for each day a student was absent). Students will know what they missed by viewing the daily slides which are posted in Google Classroom. It is possible that these assignments may be notes, digital assignments, class assignments, or tests, quizzes, or projects. Students are encouraged to ask a classmate or teacher for assistance in catching up quickly.

For all absence types, I work hard to be available to students via email or a one-to-one zoom meeting to assist students. Additionally, each day students have access to the assignment slides for the day via Google Classroom. This means that they are able to view what assignments are being done and may allow students to complete any digital assignments.

In all cases of absence, the most important thing to remember is that students will be missing out on classroom collaboration environment, and will need to work hard to ensure they are taking ownership of their learning in order to succeed.

A Brief Overview of Sixth Grade

6th GRADE GOALS

My ultimate goal for 6th grade is that students are prepared for middle and high school by the end. One of the biggest problems students have moving into the middle school is organization. When students begin moving from class to class, organization becomes much more important. A lack of organization means needing to miss class time to return to their lockers and get the supplies they didn't have.

I work hard to help each student determine an organization system that works for themselves. I make sure to constantly model my own organization. I make sure to point out things that are intentional and make sure students know that this organization is what keeps my classroom running smoothly. (The first time my desk gets messy, the kids notice that it is taking me much longer to find the materials I need for class!)

The second way is by enforcing a regular organization of the classroom. Students know that in my classroom, everything has a place and they are welcome to use any of the materials I provide, as long as they can put it back in its place as nicely as they found it. I recognize that this policy can sometimes be seen as strict, however it has two purposes: developing responsibility and maintaining safety. It is important that students of this age begin taking ownership and developing the responsibility skills they need for lifelong success. Additionally, in 6th grade we face the unique situation of having bodies that are beginning to outgrow their environment. Fitting a full class of 6th grade students into our classroom requires careful planning and consideration for the safety of all students.

SUBJECT COLOR CODING

One way I help students to develop their organization skills is by color coding my classroom by subject. This is a strategy that many middle schools recommend to help students stay organized. In my classroom, I color code the schedule, the turn-in baskets, their virtual assignments, the daily slides, and basically anything else I can manage. This is why I also recommend that students color code their materials as well.

This is by no means required, however many students like it.

Math = Red

Social Studies = Orange

Science = Yellow

ELA = Green

Computers = Blue

W.I.N. Time = Purple

GAMIFIED LEARNING

Part of my philosophy of education is that you have to engage students. One of the ways I do this is by creating a gamified classroom. This is a researched based practice which turns learning into a game. Think about how Class Dojo made a game out of behavior; earning and losing points as well as earning rewards. My version of a gamified classroom is simply extending that idea into extending student learning and engagement. Gamified learning does NOT impact student grades in any way, but it does allow students to earn rights and privileges within the classroom.

FLEXIBILITY

As we have all learned in the past 2 years, things can always change. I ask that both parents and students recognize that rules, procedures, and policies sometimes change. Sometimes this is out of my control, but when it is my choice, I will always do my best to communicate my reasoning for the change.