

**Sixth Grade Information Packet
Holy Rosary School
2017-2018**

Malia Santucci, Teacher

Welcome to Curriculum Night
Holy Rosary School
Sixth Grade-Mrs. Santucci
Parent Information

I am very pleased to have your child as one of my students this year. I look forward to the many learning adventures we'll take together. My role is to support you, the primary educator, in providing your student a well-balanced curriculum and appropriate instructional approach. As a team, we'll make this sixth grade year a great success.

Behavior Expectations

Good behavior will always be reinforced in my class. Rewards include verbal praise, team points, occasional tiny treats, and parties. These positive incentives provide the students a variety of ways to shine and be recognized.

I encourage each student to use his/her best self-control in our school environment. Our classroom rules are:

1. Follow directions the first time they are given.
2. Raise your hand and wait for permission to speak.
3. Change tasks quickly and quietly.
4. Show respect.

Consequences

If a student makes an unwise choice and does not follow these rules, I will give the student a verbal reminder. Quietly redirecting the child's behavior through restating what needs to be done gives the child the opportunity to follow directions properly with no negative consequence. If disruptive behavior continues, the child is moved to a better learning space within the classroom. If his/her behavior continues to disturb the learning environment the child is removed from the classroom for 5 minutes. After a brief conference with the teacher privately, the student may return to the class, working in a space most conducive for the learning environment for all. If these three steps fail to stop the misbehavior, the student will make a phone call to the parent and/or I will send an email at once to notify a parent of the student's need for behavior adjustment. Should additional intervention become necessary, the student will meet with the principal and a Holy Rosary School discipline report will be filed in the Principal's office and mailed home.

Homework

Your child will have homework each night. This homework will reinforce skills that we are working on in class. New material will not be introduced as homework. Homework should last between 45-90 minutes each night. Excessive chatting and off-task choices during class may add to homework time in the evenings. Assignments will be considered Late if not completed and turned in by the time they are collected in class. Late assignments may impact the overall subject grade.

Your child has a student assignment planner. Students are guided through the process of filling out their planner at the end of each day and are expected to follow the model. I document daily the assignments given for homework. These assignments are also posted to the school's website nightly. It is readily available for students and parents to review. Please reinforce this challenging organizational skill by reviewing your child's planner regularly and checking for work completion.

Uniforms

Your child must have a uniform sweater or vest available at school each day. Please be sure vests and sweaters are clearly labeled. A sweater must be worn for all Masses.

Absences and Tardies

Please send a note or call the office if your student will be absent, is to go home with someone else, or if there are any restrictions in the child's activity. If you will be gone for several days for family reasons, your child's work will be saved for you when you return. The student will be given the same number of days they were absent in order to complete the missing assignments.

The tardy bell rings at 8:15 AM. Any student arriving at school after the tardy bell must check in first at the office and have a note indicating the reason for being late. Tardies will be considered "Excused" for such things as dental or doctor appointments, illness, travel, and certain extenuating circumstances.

Report Cards

Holy Rosary is on a trimester schedule. Report cards will be passed out approximately one week after the trimester ends. The final letter grade in each of my classes is comprised of a weighted average of all their In-class and Homework Assignments (75%), and Tests/Projects (25%). I stress to the students that less than satisfactory letter grades on any particular assignment, test, or report card subject indicate that the skills for that item have not yet been mastered and that further development and practice will be necessary. It does NOT mean that he/she isn't smart, nor is a lower letter grade a reflection of my feelings about him/her. It simply means that it is an area we'll need to work on to help grades improve.

Students may REFINE any assignments or test scores below passing(67%) to raise the overall subject grade and to demonstrate mastery of the content. REFINING means a student may redo or make corrections to their errors in order to clearly state the essential concepts of the lesson in their own words, either in written or oral form, to indicate a true understanding of the material. All refined work must be submitted at least three (3) days before any reporting period in order to allow ample time for adjustments to be made to the grade book. Please encourage your child to do their best job in everything, and to take the RESPONSIBILITY to make better that which can be improved. Please do not place onto the children undue stress about their performance. Help them view lower scores as an invitation to improve rather than a mark of failure. Let's work together to support the learning needs your child may have to help him/her be successful and to celebrate their achievements.

Parent-Teacher conferences will be in November and we will review individual progress at that time. If for any reason you feel a conference is needed before that time, please email, send a note, or call the school and I will happily schedule one.

Birthdays

Each student will receive a special gift from the teacher and enjoy certain privileges on their birthday. Summer birthdays will be celebrated on the half birthday. Any treats you desire to send in will be served only at lunch time in the cafeteria. Please be mindful of those with food allergies, like dairy and any nuts.

Thank you very much for being such a warm and supportive parent community. I am truly blessed to have the opportunity to share my gifts with the children at Holy Rosary School. It will be a fabulous sixth grade year!

God Bless,

Malia Santucci

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Subjects your sixth grader will be exploring are:

Religion

Our Religion instruction will come from two texts: *God's Merciful Love: The Old Testament* by Ignatius Press, which explores the Bible stories of the Old Testament and familiarizes students with the different forms of literature found within; and *Blest Are We: Faith in Action* by RCL Benziger, which connects our Old Testament Scriptures to our Catholic Church teachings and faith traditions. Students will engage in a variety of prayer formats and have the opportunity to lead the class in prayer. Supporting our Catholic schoolwide expectations is our *Steps to Respect* curriculum which teaches how to make and keep friends, resolve conflicts peacefully, and diminish bullying behavior. In addition to our participation in school Masses, we will enrich our faith by learning the prayers of the Rosary as well as by writing letters of support to the Seattle Archdiocese's seminarians.

Social Studies

I am excited to teach the sixth grade about ancient cultures of the world using our Harcourt text *Social Studies: Ancient Civilizations*. We will explore pre-historic times, and see what cultural developments took place in ancient Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greece, Rome, and other intriguing peoples that lived long ago.

Reading Literature

With a strong foundation in the Common Core Standards, the class will analyze a variety of literary forms including fiction, non-fiction, essays, and poetry. Students will expand their critical reading skills both in a large group and small discussion groups using the *Read Sided by Side C.I.A.* curriculum. Alongside this we will explore the Houghton Mifflin Harcourt series *Collections* that stresses the importance of close reading strategies and using specific text evidence to support inferences and opinions in a variety of literary forms. We will also develop our vocabulary through *Word Wisdom*. It is expected that every sixth grader engage in frequent, consistent, independent reading and that they regularly take *Accelerated Reader* quizzes to help monitor their reading level and comprehension growth all year.

Writing

We will utilize the *Step Up to Writing* program to build school-wide consistency in writing instruction. A portfolio containing each piece the student composes is kept in order to provide opportunities for year-end review. Integral to writing instruction, I'll include lessons using *Voyages in English* grammar exercises.

Listening and Speaking

In alignment with the Common Core State Standards, students are assessed on these literacy areas within the Language Arts umbrella. We will directly address effective strategies for each with content across the curriculum.

Math

Mr. Brian Flanagan and Ms. Jamie Mulvihill are excited to have the Sixth grade for Math with our Singapore Math curriculum *Math in Focus*. They have hit the ground running already learning to use the hands-on manipulative tools and taking advantage of the many ways to solve problems visually. Please share any questions or concerns about your child's Math performance directly with Mr. Flanagan.

Science

We are happy to have Mr. Mike Montanari as our Science instructor. Using curriculum is based on Next Generation Science Standards, he will teach the students how to conduct investigations using the Scientific Method, and then apply that approach to the topics of cell structure, and an exploration of the galaxy. He is glad to be able to encourage their natural curiosity and guide them through interesting lab studies!

STEM/Technology

Each Sixth grader will be able to independently fine tune the skills taught in the previous levels of computer instruction. Microsoft Office applications are used to complete class projects in several content areas. Mrs. Sheila Walde and I will lead our lessons and align the assignments with our Social Studies, Math, Science, Writing, and Religion projects. Also, we will incorporate ongoing keyboarding practice to learn proper finger placement and improve speed and accuracy.

The Science portion of STEM is led by Mr. Montanari during science lab. STEM principles will be incorporated into many of the lab activities. Students will incorporate the 3D printer for the Engineering portion of STEM, learn how to program with the LEGO Robotics, and learn the basics of Internet safety.

Spanish

Hola! Our Spanish instructor is Mrs. Julie Gibson and we are very glad to have her build upon our school's excellent instruction in the Spanish language! Señora Gibson's focus this year will be on developing conversational basics, and expanding their vocabulary. She will also lead some cultural studies of ancient Mesoamerican peoples, like the mighty Aztecs, the fascinating Mayans, and the amazing Incas.

All curriculum materials are available for you to peruse. If you have any questions about the content, please ask Mrs. Santucci.